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ANAMBRA'S STAND ON AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY AGITATION: A CALL FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS

The Anambra State Government's decision to put an end to agitation for the creation of additional autonomous communities deserves commendation, particularly in a state where community identity, traditional institutions and grassroots development play vital roles in the lives of the people.

At its 16th meeting on Monday, October 12, 2026, the Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC), under the leadership of Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, welcomed the Supreme Court ruling against the creation of autonomous communities in the state. The council aligned itself with the court's position that permitting such a process could lead to the fragmentation of large communities, generate confusion and fuel avoidable conflicts.

The government's position raises an important question: should the quest for autonomous status take precedence over the need for unity, peace and sustainable development?

Autonomous communities have traditionally served as important structures for cultural preservation, traditional leadership and community administration. However, the pursuit of new autonomous status can become divisive when it generates competing claims over land, boundaries, leadership and communal identity. Where such disputes are not properly managed, the consequences may include prolonged litigation, strained relationships and the diversion of resources that should otherwise be invested in development.

It is against this background that the Anambra State Government's appeal for restraint should be understood. The council has advised those agitating for autonomous communities to abandon the campaign and redirect their energies towards uniting and developing their communities as presently constituted.

This advice deserves the attention of community leaders, traditional rulers, town unions, youth organisations and other stakeholders.

Development is not necessarily determined by the number of autonomous communities a state or locality has. Rather, it depends on the quality of leadership, the strength of communal cooperation, the effective use of available resources and the willingness of the people to pursue common goals.

A community divided by disagreements over autonomy may find it difficult to reach an agreement on essential matters such as roads, schools, healthcare, security and economic opportunities. Conversely, a united community is better positioned to mobilise its people, attract investment, resolve internal disputes and work constructively with the government.

Nevertheless, the call to abandon agitation must be accompanied by deliberate efforts to address the legitimate concerns that may have given rise to it. Some communities may feel marginalised or believe that their cultural identity and developmental interests are not adequately recognised within existing arrangements. Such concerns should not be dismissed without dialogue. The government and relevant traditional institutions should encourage inclusive engagement, strengthen existing community structures and ensure that development opportunities are distributed fairly.

Respect for the Supreme Court's ruling is equally important. The rule of law requires citizens and institutions to respect judicial decisions, even where some parties may be disappointed by the outcome. Any further discussion of the matter must remain within the framework of the law and should not be allowed to degenerate into hostility, intimidation or communal confrontation.

At the same time, public communication on the ruling should be guided by clarity and accuracy. The precise scope and legal implications of the Supreme Court's decision should be properly explained to affected communities so that misunderstandings do not deepen existing tensions.

Governor Soludo's administration must therefore go beyond declaring the agitation settled. It should promote reconciliation, strengthen local institutions and demonstrate through tangible projects and equitable development that communities can prosper without pursuing further fragmentation. Community leaders, for their part, must resist the temptation to allow personal ambitions or narrow interests to override the collective welfare of their people.

Ultimately, the future of Anambra State should not be held hostage by endless contests over communal status. The more urgent task is to build

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peaceful, cohesive and prosperous communities capable of contributing meaningfully to the state's development.

The message is clear: where the law has spoken, the appropriate response is to respect it. Where disagreements persist, dialogue should take precedence over confrontation. And where development is the common aspiration, unity must be the foundation.



ANAMBRA GOVT PUTS TO REST AGITATION FOR AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES, GEARS UP FOR 'ONWA DEZEMBA'

On Monday, October 12, 2026, the Soludo government's second-term Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC) met for the 16th time at Light House, Awka, and took several far-reaching decisions, including award of projects.

Autonomous Community Agitation Put To Rest

Council welcomed the Supreme Court ruling against creation of autonomous communities in Anambra State and aligned with the apex court that allowing it would splinter many large communities in the state and create confusion and conflict. Council advised those pushing for autonomous communities to perish the idea in line with the Supreme Court judgement and channel their energies to uniting and developing their communities as presently constituted.

No Plans to Reclaim Mission-Returned Schools, To Enforce Quality Assurance In Schools

Council debunked fake news that government is planning to reclaim mission-returned schools, reiterating that government has no such plan.

However, Council frowned at the poor standard in which some mission-returned primary schools are run and noted that these schools were voluntarily returned by government. It was also noted that many primary schools are currently under renovation as part of the counterpart-funding agreement between Anambra State and the Federal Government.

Council resolved to establish irreducible minimum standards of operation for both private and public primary schools in the state, after which schools that fail to meet the standards will be shut down.

For the record, Anambra State Government has so far recruited 8,115 teachers for public primary and secondary schools and deployed 3,500 of them to mission-returned schools, while still paying their salaries and emoluments.

Update on 'Onwa Dezemba'

Council received satisfactory update on the 'Onwa Dezemba' programme, with focus on carols, musicals, Christmas decoration of strategic locations, cultural fanfare and general preparedness to receive Ndi Anambra and friends and give them a memorable yuletide.

Update on Onitsha Main Market Regeneration

Council also received update on the Onitsha Main Market Regeneration project and noted that it is on course to meet the December deadline. The regeneration embarked upon by the Soludo administration aims to restore the market's master plan, image and reputation.

Signed:

Law Mefor, PhD
Commissioner for Information & Value Reformation,
Anambra State

October 13, 2026

SOLUDO'S GOVERNMENT RULES OUT RECLAIMING MISSION SCHOOLS, TARGETS POOR STANDARDS



By Stella Obi

The Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC) has dismissed reports that the state government plans to reclaim mission-returned schools, describing them as false. It also resolved to shut down public and private primary schools that fail to meet prescribed minimum operating standards.

The decisions were taken at the Council's 16th meeting, held on Monday, in Awka, and presided over by Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR.

The Council expressed concern over the poor management standards in some missionreturned primary schools, noting that the schools had been voluntarily returned to the missions by the state government.

At the meeting, the Council noted that several primary schools were undergoing renovation under the counterpart-funding agreement between the Anambra State Government and the Federal Government.

It resolved to establish minimum operating standards for public and private primary schools across the state, warning that schools that fail to meet the requirements would be shut down.

The Anambra State Government has so far recruited 8,115 teachers for public primary and secondary schools and deployed 3,500 of them to mission-returned schools, while continuing to pay their salaries and other emoluments.

Education remains one of the pillars of Governor Soludo's development agenda. Through ongoing reforms in the sector, the administration aims to reposition education and restore its place as a key driver of the state's development.

The governor's vision is to provide quality and accessible education for all Anambra children, irrespective of their backgrounds.

The Council also reviewed the Onitsha Main Market Regeneration project, noting that it remained on course to meet the December deadline.

The regeneration initiative, undertaken by the Soludo administration, aims to restore the market's master plan, image and reputation.

In addition, the Council received a satisfactory update on preparations for the Onwa Dezemba programme, which will feature carol services, musical performances, Christmas decorations at strategic locations and cultural festivities.

The preparations also include measures to ensure that Ndi Anambra and their friends are welcomed for a memorable yuletide season.

ANAMBRA EDUCATION COMMISSIONER HIGHLIGHTS GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS



By Obiageli Nwankwo

The Anambra State Commissioner for Education, Dr. Ekene Ogugua, has emphasised the importance of connecting educational reforms with global academic opportunities to prepare students for international competition. He made this known at the 2026 IDK-Southeast Global Education Fair, held at the IDK Learning Centre Complex, Awka, where he commended the organisers for providing a platform for students and parents to explore international university admissions, scholarships and global career pathways.

Ogugua said the initiative aligned with the vision of Governor Chukwuma Soludo to reposition education as a key driver of Anambra's digital and technology-driven economic transformation. He noted that preparing students for the future required not only sound academic foundations but also the knowledge, skills and exposure needed to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

The commissioner explained that global education platforms would help students and parents make informed decisions about studying abroad, understand university admission requirements and access information on scholarships and other opportunities. He added that such initiatives could complement ongoing efforts to improve educational standards in the state by exposing learners to international academic practices, emerging technologies and broader career possibilities.

He commended the convener, Mrs. Chinwe Nweke, IDK and its partners for organising the fair, urging students, parents and educators to maximise the opportunities provided. Ogugua reaffirmed the Ministry of Education's commitment to supporting initiatives that promote innovation, expand learning opportunities and equip Anambra students with the competencies required to succeed in a competitive global environment.

The event, themed “The Future of International Education in Nigeria: Unlocking Global University Opportunities for Nigerian Students,” attracted the Secretary to the State Government, Mrs. Chiamaka Nnake; the Special Assistant to the Governor on Education, Hon. Dr. Christian Eleojo Chukwuemeka; and other government and private-sector stakeholders. The fair featured discussions and guidance on international university admissions, scholarships, visa processes and global career opportunities, bringing students, parents and educators together to explore pathways to international education.

NJIKOKA COUNCIL INSTALLS CCTV, PROVIDES INTERCOMS FOR OFFICIALS

By Obianuju Enujioke

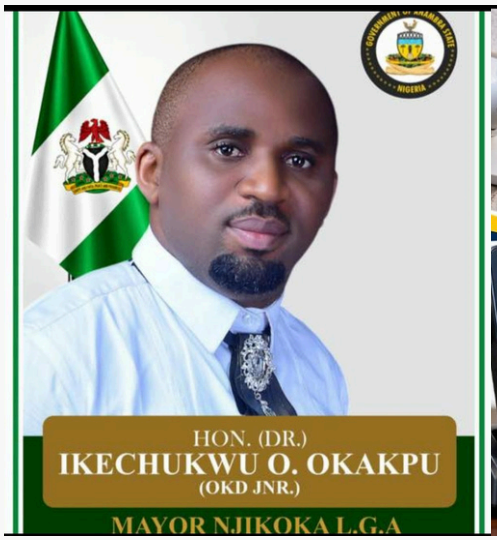
The Chairman of Njikoka Local Government Area, Hon. Ikechukwu Okakpu, has introduced information and communication technology (ICT) tools to strengthen security, improve internal communication and enhance administrative efficiency at the council.

The initiative involves the installation of closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras at the council secretariat in Abagana, and the provision of intercom systems for members of the executive council and the Head of Local Government Administration (HLGA).

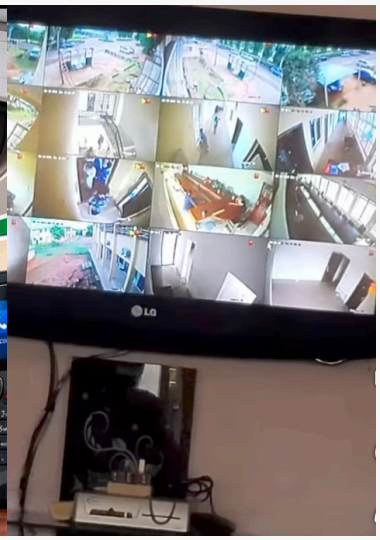
The CCTV cameras are intended to improve surveillance and security within the council premises, while the intercom systems will facilitate communication and coordination among officials.

The initiative aligns with the Anambra State Government’s e-governance drive under Governor Chukwuma Soludo and the council’s efforts to integrate technology into its administrative operations.

The measures are expected to support accountability, streamline administrative processes and improve service delivery to residents of the local government area.







ANAMBRA, ARGENTINA EXPLORE TRADE AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

By Ebele Iyke Odili

The Anambra State Commissioner for Commerce, Hon. Nomso Chukwuma Ebonwu, has discussed opportunities for trade and commercial cooperation with the Argentine Ambassador to Nigeria, Nicolás Naón.

The meeting, held in Onitsha, brought together representatives of the organised private sector and chambers of commerce to explore market access and potential business partnerships between Anambra and Argentina. Discussions focused on agriculture and agro processing, manufacturing, and the wine and beverage industry as possible areas of collaboration.

The meeting, held in Onitsha, brought together representatives of the organised private sector and chambers of commerce to explore market access and potential business partnerships between Anambra and Argentina. Discussions focused on agriculture and agro processing, manufacturing, and the wine and beverage industry as possible areas of collaboration.

Participants included the presidents of the Anambra State Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ASACCIMA), Sir Humphrey Ngonadi, and the Onitsha Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ONICCIMA), Sir Chinedu Nwonu, as well as representatives of Cutix Cables, Ekulo Group and Transonil Nigeria, associated with Henkell Wines.

The meeting was part of efforts to explore international business partnerships and expand market opportunities for Anambra based enterprises.

The ambassador also committed to rescheduling a proposed visit to Governor Chukwuma Soludo in the first quarter of 2027, to discuss areas of mutual interest and possible cooperation. The engagement provided a platform for government officials, diplomatic representatives and private sector stakeholders to identify potential trade partnerships and areas of industrial collaboration.



MOFUNANYA URGES ONITSHA SOUTH RESIDENTS TO COLLECT PVCS

By Juliana Nwachukwu

The Mayor of Onitsha South Local Government Area of Anambra State, Hon. Ikechukwu Peter Mofunanya (Ezeoba), has urged eligible residents to collect their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) as the collection exercise commenced on October 9. Mofunanya made the appeal in Onitsha, emphasising the importance of voter registration and PVC collection in promoting active participation in the democratic process.

He encouraged eligible constituents who were yet to collect their cards to visit designated collection centres and complete the process in line with the guidelines provided by the electoral authorities. The mayor noted that the PVC is an essential document for eligible Nigerians seeking to exercise their constitutional right to vote during elections.

According to him, participation in the electoral process gives citizens the opportunity to contribute to decisions on leadership and the future development of their communities. He urged eligible youths and first-time voters to take the exercise seriously and ensure they collect their cards within the period stipulated by the electoral authorities.

Mofunanya also called on community leaders, town unions, market associations, religious organisations and other stakeholders to help sensitise residents across the various communities and wards in Onitsha South about the importance of PVC collection. He emphasised the need for peaceful and orderly conduct throughout the exercise, advising residents to comply with the official guidelines of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and obtain accurate information from authorised electoral officials.



The mayor further reminded constituents that civic responsibility begins with individual participation, urging them to take the necessary steps to prepare for future elections. He called on residents to share the information with their families, friends and neighbours to ensure that every eligible person has the opportunity to collect their voter card and participate in the democratic process.

ANAMBRA TRAINS, CERTIFIES SPORTS PRACTITIONERS TO STRENGTHEN GRASSROOTS TALENT DEVELOPMENT







By Ifeoma Aniagbado

The Anambra State Government has launched a state-wide capacity building and certification programme for sports practitioners to strengthen grassroots sports development, improve professional standards and nurture young athletic talent.

Launched on October 8, the programme is designed to equip coaches, administrators and other sports professionals with the knowledge and practical skills needed to identify, train and manage emerging athletes.

Launched on October 8, the programme is designed to equip coaches, administrators and other sports professionals with the knowledge and practical skills needed to identify, train and manage emerging athletes.

Declaring the workshop open, the Commissioner for Youth Development and Sports, Mr. Patrick Agha Mba, said the initiative aligned with Governor Chukwuma Soludo's vision of using sports to empower young people, create wealth and expand career opportunities. He explained that the ministry's recent state-wide data-capturing exercise had established a database of sports practitioners to support effective planning and targeted interventions. The workshop attracted key stakeholders, including the Chairman of the Anambra State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB), Dr. Anyadiegwu Justin, and the Director of Sports and Youth Development, Mr. Emeka Obidinma.

Presenting a paper on grassroots sports management, Dr. Nwokedi Ikenna urged practitioners to embrace their responsibilities as coaches, administrators, talent managers and role models. He identified five pillars of sports management: planning, organising, staffing, funding and control, while stressing the importance of early talent identification and sustained training, summarised in the principle, "Catch them young, train them right, and keep them long." On athletes' health and safety, Dr. Uwa emphasised proper supervision during training, camping and competitions, alongside adequate nutrition, hydration, rest and safe sporting facilities.

Speaking on coaching ethics and career development, Prince Oliver Chijioke stressed the need for continuous learning, personal development and adherence to professional standards. He noted that effective coaching depended on the knowledge and competence of practitioners.

In another presentation, Princess Alban discussed sports laws, regulatory compliance and the differences between sports clubs and academies, emphasising the need to

obtain parental consent for underage athletes and comply with relevant legal requirements to safeguard their welfare.

The programme highlights the importance of professional training, ethical conduct and athlete safety in building a sustainable grassroots sports system capable of identifying and developing talent across Anambra State. Through the initiative, the state government aims to strengthen the capacity of sports practitioners and improve the management and development of emerging ath

SOLUDO UNVEILS YOUTH REFORMATION MESSAGES AT UMUERI AIRPORT, URGES RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

By Judith Oraeki-Anigbogu

The Anambra State Government has unveiled public messaging displays at Chinua Achebe International Cargo and Passenger Airport, Umueri, as part of efforts to promote responsible citizenship and youth reformation.

The displays feature two messages: "What Have You Done to Make Anambra Greater?" at the departure lounge and "Anambra Is Our Home" at the arrival lounge.

The messages, championed by Governor Chukwuma Soludo, aim to encourage residents to contribute to the state's development, protect public facilities, promote peace and uphold civic values. The unveiling was performed by the National President of the Radio, Television, Theatre and Arts Workers Union of Nigeria (RATTAWU), Prince Emeka Kalu, who commended the governor for promoting youth reformation and urged young people to contribute meaningfully to Anambra's progress.

The initiative also seeks to promote integrity, enterprise, innovation and community service, emphasising the importance of collective responsibility in building the state.

Those present included the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the airport, Mr Martins Emeka Nwafor; the Vice-Chancellor of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Prof. Kate Omenugha; and the Anambra Chairman of the National Youth Council of Nigeria, Comrade Nonso Nwaebili.

Other attendees included student union presidents of tertiary institutions across the state, academics, security personnel and media professionals. Partners and sponsors were also acknowledged for their support towards the initiative, which seeks to strengthen civic consciousness and encourage residents to take ownership of the state's development.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Youth Reformation, Dr Nelson Omenugha, said the initiative reflected the administration's commitment to promoting positive values, building character, creating opportunities and encouraging responsible citizenship. He urged residents to make youth reformation a collective responsibility by contributing positively to their communities, demonstrating integrity and creating value wherever they found themselves, stressing that every Anambra indigene had a role to play in building a better future for the state.







ANAMBRA PERMANENT SECRETARY TASKS INFORMATION OFFICERS ON DILIGENCE, TIMELY REPORTING



By Ebele Egoh

The Permanent Secretary, Anambra State Ministry of Health and Supervisory Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Value Reformation, Pharm. (Dr) Obiageli Uchebo, has charged information officers in the state to be diligent, proactive and effective in reporting government activities and programmes.

She gave the charge on October 12, during a meeting convened to remind the officers of their responsibilities and the need to improve the timely dissemination of information within their respective areas of assignment.

Dr Uchebo stressed that every worker receiving a salary must demonstrate commitment to duty through measurable performance and prompt reporting of official activities. She explained that effective information dissemination would keep residents informed about government policies, programmes and interventions, enabling them to understand and access services provided by the state government.

She urged the officers to remain committed to their duties, warning that failure to perform their responsibilities diligently could attract disciplinary measures. She also advised them to respect constituted authority, comply with lawful directives and cooperate with their superiors to ensure the effective discharge of their responsibilities.

The Permanent Secretary reminded the officers that leadership was a continuous process, noting that some of them might occupy leadership positions in the future. She therefore urged them to demonstrate the discipline, commitment and professionalism they would expect from others when entrusted with leadership responsibilities.

In their response, the participants acknowledged her advice and pledged to improve their performance and discharge their duties more effectively in support of the state government's development agenda. The Acting Director of the Ministry of Information and Value Reformation, Mr Emmanuel Emmanuel, was present at the meeting.

ANAMBRA TO LAUNCH DIGITAL ROAD TRACKER FOR MONITORING, REPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE DEFECTS

By Ebele Egoh

The Anambra State Ministry of Works and Infrastructure is set to launch a digital Road Tracker platform to enhance the monitoring and maintenance of road infrastructure across the state.

The Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Arc. Okey Ezeobi, disclosed this during a media briefing at his office ahead of the launch of the digital platform on Oct. 22, which is designed to promote accountability, public participation and timely intervention in road maintenance.

Ezeobi explained that the platform would enable residents to report damaged roads, faulty drainage systems and other infrastructure defects while providing a channel through which relevant authorities could investigate reported issues and take appropriate action. He noted that the platform would be designed to facilitate prompt feedback, adding that roads and other public infrastructure belonged to the citizens, who should take collective responsibility for their protection and maintenance.

According to the commissioner, roads are public assets that should not be treated as instruments for personal recognition or unnecessary controversy. He urged residents to move beyond criticism and work with the government to identify infrastructure challenges and develop lasting solutions. Ezeobi said the Road Tracker would provide an avenue for collective responsibility by allowing citizens to report road defects and other related problems directly to the relevant authorities for necessary action.

He encouraged residents to participate actively in the initiative, stressing that responsible reporting of infrastructure defects would help the government identify problem areas, prioritise maintenance and improve road conditions across the state. The commissioner further disclosed that the platform would become fully operational in the coming days, expressing optimism that it would strengthen collaboration between the government and the public in safeguarding road infrastructure.

In his remarks, the Managing Director of the Anambra State ICT Agency, Chukwuemeka Fred Agbata (CFA), said the platform would integrate project tracking and maintenance to promote accountability, effective monitoring and public ownership of infrastructure projects. The initiative is expected to strengthen the state's road maintenance system by providing a digital channel for reporting defects, tracking infrastructure challenges and supporting timely responses to road-related problems.





ANAMBRA MOVES TO FORMALISE WASTE PICKING, PROMISES BETTER PROTECTION FOR WORKERS

By Stanley Onunkwor

The Anambra State Commissioner for Environment, Dr. Clem Aguiyi, has commended waste pickers for their contributions to environmental sanitation and sustainability, describing them as environmental heroes whose activities promote recycling, waste recovery and cleaner communities.

The Anambra State Commissioner for Environment, Dr. Clem Aguiyi, has commended waste pickers for their contributions to environmental sanitation and sustainability, describing them as environmental heroes whose activities promote recycling, waste recovery and cleaner communities.

Aguiyi conveyed Governor Chukwuma Soludo's goodwill and reaffirmed the state government's commitment to recognising, empowering and protecting waste pickers in line with the environmental objectives of the Solution Agenda. He explained that formalising the sector would address the stigma and discrimination workers face by providing recognised identities, professional training, appropriate equipment and better protection, while creating opportunities for improved earnings and sustainable livelihoods.

The commissioner stressed that waste pickers deserved dignity, respect and recognition for their essential services. He noted that integrating them into an organised waste management system would strengthen environmental

governance and improve recycling and resource recovery. He also urged them to use personal protective equipment, including face masks, safety boots, reflective jackets and gloves, to minimise exposure to hazardous materials, communicable diseases and other occupational risks, thereby protecting their families and communities.

Aguiyi disclosed that a draft law on waste pickers and the formalisation of their activities was in place. According to him, the proposed legislation would establish operational standards, promote accountability and require waste contractors to provide workers with appropriate protective equipment and other essential safety materials. He commended TechnoServe for supporting efforts to transform the sector, describing the initiative as a significant step towards an inclusive, professional and sustainable environmental management system in Anambra State.

Earlier, Yerima praised Aguiyi's environmental leadership and commitment to improving environmental management in the state. He said WAPAN had been monitoring the commissioner's activities since his appointment and expressed appreciation for his professional experience and dedication to environmental protection. He described the formalisation programme as a significant development that would improve the recognition, welfare and working conditions of waste pickers while strengthening their contribution to environmental sustainability.



ATANI COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS COMMENDS SOLUDO FOR EDUCATION REFORMS

By Ndidi-Chibueze Gloria



The Headmistress of Community Primary School 1, Atani, Mrs. Maureen Ukamaka, has commended the administration of Governor Chukwuma Soludo for its efforts to transform the education sector in Anambra State.

Ukamaka gave the commendation during an inspection visit to the school in Atani, Ogbaru Local Government Area, where she praised the governor's commitment to quality education, improved school infrastructure, recruitment of qualified teachers and provision of free basic education.

According to her, the Soludo administration has renewed hope in public schools across Ogbaru, particularly in riverine communities such as Atani, which she said had previously experienced neglect.

She noted that the provision of learning materials, renovation of classroom blocks and improved security around schools had contributed to increased enrolment and better academic performance. The headmistress also applauded the governor's developmental initiatives across the state, particularly in road construction, youth empowerment and healthcare delivery.

She added that the administration's policies and programmes reflected progressive governance and were creating opportunities for Ndi Anambra to enjoy improved public services. Ukamaka prayed for God's continued wisdom and strength for the governor to sustain his developmental efforts, especially in the education sector, for the benefit of Anambra children and future generations.







WHO PAYS ADVOCACY VISIT TO ASPHCDA, SEEKS STRONGER PARTNERSHIP FOR PRIMARY HEALTHCARE DELIVERY IN ANAMBRA



By Nnedinma Okeke

The World Health Organization (WHO) has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening collaboration with the Anambra State Government to improve primary healthcare delivery, immunisation coverage, and access to quality healthcare services across the state.

The commitment was reiterated during an advocacy visit by the WHO South-East Zonal Coordinator, Dr. Chukwumuanya Igboekwu, and his team to the Anambra State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (ASPHCDA) at the Agency's office complex in Awka.

Speaking during the visit, Dr. Igboekwu explained that the engagement was aimed at strengthening the existing partnership between WHO and the state's health sector, with particular emphasis on revitalising the State Primary Healthcare Task Force on Primary Healthcare and Immunisation.

He stressed the importance of inaugurating and periodically reactivating the task force to ensure continuity, effective coordination, and the inclusion of new members as changes occur within the health system. He described the task force as an important platform for advocacy, strategic oversight, and improved coordination of primary healthcare and immunisation activities.

The WHO Zonal Coordinator commended the Anambra State Government, under the leadership of Prof Chukwuma Soludo, for its significant investments in healthcare infrastructure and ongoing health sector reforms. He noted that the state's achievements were reflected in its successes at the Primary Health Care Leadership Challenge Awards in 2024 and 2025.

While applauding these strides, Dr. Igboekwu encouraged the Government to sustain and expand its investments in the health sector, particularly in extending quality healthcare services to rural and underserved communities. He emphasised that strengthening primary healthcare facilities remained essential to achieving equitable access to healthcare for all residents of the state.

He also highlighted the need to continue expanding the state's health workforce, noting that inadequate staffing in some health facilities could undermine service delivery and limit the effective utilisation of existing infrastructure. He therefore encouraged sustained attention to the recruitment, equitable deployment, and retention of qualified health personnel across primary healthcare facilities.

In his remarks, the WHO Anambra State Coordinator, Dr. Bonos Mohammed, outlined the organisation's key areas of intervention in the state, including polio eradication, routine immunisation, disease surveillance, outbreak investigation and control, emergency preparedness, and the promotion of the health and well-being of Ndi Anambra.

Dr. Mohammed reaffirmed WHO's readiness to continue supporting the State Government in strengthening the health system. He further emphasised the importance of effective oversight and accountability in immunisation activities, noting that regular supportive supervision and sustained commitment from ASPHCDA would be critical to improving programme performance and health outcomes.

Responding, the Executive Secretary of ASPHCDA, Dr. Chizoba Prisca Ezeasor, expressed appreciation to the WHO delegation for its continued partnership, technical support, and contributions to improving the health and well-being of the people of Anambra State.

Dr. Ezeasor reaffirmed the Agency's commitment to working closely with WHO and other development partners to strengthen primary healthcare services across the state. She noted that ASPHCDA remained committed to ensuring that primary healthcare centres are accessible, functional, responsive to community needs, and adequately positioned to deliver essential health services.

Dr. Ezeasor reaffirmed the Agency's commitment to working closely with WHO and other development partners to strengthen primary healthcare services across the state. She noted that ASPHCDA remained committed to ensuring that primary healthcare centres are accessible, functional, responsive to community needs, and adequately positioned to deliver essential health services.

The Executive Secretary further underscored the importance of sustained collaboration among government institutions, development partners, healthcare workers, and communities in addressing existing gaps and consolidating the gains recorded in the State's health sector.

The visit reaffirmed the shared commitment of WHO and ASPHCDA to advancing a stronger, more coordinated, and resilient primary healthcare system in Anambra State, with a common goal of improving immunisation coverage, strengthening disease prevention and response, and ensuring that quality healthcare services reach every community.

ONYEKESI CHAMPIONS INCLUSION, EMPOWERMENT OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS

By Amaka Isikala

The Anambra State Commissioner for Women and Social Welfare, Mrs. Chinyere Esther Onyekesi, has reaffirmed the state government's commitment to the welfare, inclusion and empowerment of visually impaired persons.

Mrs. Onyekesi gave the assurance when the executive members and representatives of the Nigeria Association of the Blind (NAB),

Anambra State Chapter, led by its Chairman, Comrade Okamelu Ernest, paid her a courtesy visit in her office at Women Development Center, Awka.

The delegation congratulated commissioner on her appointment and introduced the association's leadership, outlining its mission to empower visually impaired persons and improve their quality of life across the State.

The team also informed the commissioner of preparations for the 2026 International White Cane Day celebration scheduled for October 17.

Responding, Mrs. Onyekesi commended the association for its resilience and advocacy in promoting the rights and interests of persons with visual impairments.

She emphasised that social welfare interventions must be inclusive and responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups, including persons living with disabilities.

The commissioner assured the delegation that her ministry would work closely with the association to strengthen support systems and promote the dignity, independence and wellbeing of its members.

She noted that sustained collaboration between government and disability-focused organisations was essential to removing barriers and creating opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate fully in society.

The visit highlighted the importance of stronger partnerships in advancing disability inclusion and ensuring that visually impaired persons are not left behind in Anambra State's structure.



ANAMBRA NEEDS TO BE PART OF THE NATION'S GAS MASTER PLAN TO POWER INDUSTRIALISATION – MEFOR TELLS NCDMB

By Rose Oranye

The Anambra State Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr. Law Mefor, has said the state must gain direct access to its vast gas reserves to drive industrialisation and power generation, which the state cannot do despite being an oil and gas producing state for not being part of the nation's gas master plan.

Mefor stated this while delivering a goodwill message at the Nigerian Content Capacity Building Workshop for Media Stakeholders in Anambra State, organised by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in Awka.

Speaking on behalf of the state government, Mefor thanked the board for hosting the workshop in Anambra, noting that the state should feel its impact more, and promised to escalate the issues raised to Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo.

The commissioner lamented that Anambra, which sits on one of the biggest gas reserves in Nigeria and Africa, has not benefited from its status as an oil-producing state and is

yet to feel the impact of Nigeria's Gas Master Plan, and described as unacceptable a situation where the state expected to drive development cannot access its own gas.

He noted that with President Bola Tinubu's signing of the law moving electricity generation, transmission and distribution from the exclusive to the concurrent legislative list, Anambra now has the legal and governance framework, including a constituted Electricity Board, to generate its own power, but needs gas as a critical enabler to light up the state, power its industries and sell excess to other states.

Mefor said the Soludo administration is determined to transform Anambra into a smart mega city and a destination of choice to live, work, invest and relax, driven by the private sector.

He also called for a review of Nigeria's educational system in line with the future of work, arguing that the country needs quality graduates who are creators and employers of labour, not just job seekers. He urged the NCDMB to ensure its training programmes produce manpower that can feed industry and support the shift from a consumption to a production economy.

Earlier, the General Manager, Corporate Communication of NCDMB, Dr. Obinna Ezeobi, expressed the board's desire to establish a stronger platform in the South East and collaborate beyond the workshop to improve the quality of media reportage on local content.







RTEAN CHAIRMAN WARNS PARENTS, SCHOOLS AGAINST TAKING CHILDREN THROUGH HEAVY RAIN

By Chizoba Njaka

Parents, guardians and school authorities have been urged to prioritise children's safety by avoiding taking them to school or allowing them to travel through heavy rainfall that could result in flooding and other road hazards.



The warning was issued by the Anambra State Chairman of the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN), Amb. Chinedu Nwabueze, who cautioned that heavy rainfall could trigger flash floods and make roads unsafe for schoolchildren.

Nwabueze, who also serves as the Treasurer of the Trade Union Congress (TUC) in Anambra State, emphasised the need for parents and school authorities to exercise caution during periods of intense rainfall.

He noted that taking children through flooded roads could expose them to serious dangers, including being swept away by floodwaters, accidents and other unforeseen incidents.

The RTEAN Chairman stressed that the lives and safety of children must take priority over school attendance, urging parents and guardians not to take unnecessary risks when weather conditions become dangerous.

He also called on school authorities to consider the safety of pupils during heavy rainfall and make appropriate decisions to prevent children from being exposed to hazardous conditions on their way to and from school.

According to the safety message, heavy rainfall can lead to flash floods, while some roads may become impassable or dangerous for pedestrians and motorists.

Nwabueze further appealed to parents, guardians and schools to cooperate in preventing avoidable tragedies, stressing that taking precautionary measures could help protect children from flood-related dangers.

MATRON WARNS BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS AGAINST ALCOHOL, CITES RISKS TO INFANT HEALTH





The Matron of Comprehensive Medical Centre, Akwuzu, Mrs Appolonia Meze, has cautioned breastfeeding mothers against alcohol consumption, warning that it can interfere with breast milk production and expose infants to alcohol through breast milk.

Meze gave the warning while addressing nursing mothers during a routine immunisation session at the health facility, highlighting the importance of breastfeeding in supporting infants' nutrition, growth and development.

She explained that alcohol can affect milk production and the milk ejection reflex, making it more difficult for babies to receive adequate breast milk. Alcohol also passes into breast milk, with an infant's level of exposure depending partly on the amount consumed and the timing of breastfeeding.

According to her, reduced milk intake may compromise an infant's nutritional needs and contribute to inadequate weight gain and poor growth if the problem persists.

The matron warned that alcohol exposure could affect an infant's feeding and sleep patterns, while repeated exposure raises concerns about the developing nervous system, particularly during early infancy when the brain is undergoing rapid development.

She, therefore, encouraged breastfeeding mothers to make informed decisions that protect their babies' health and seek guidance from qualified health professionals on alcohol use during breastfeeding.

By Ginika Oguji

OLUATUEGWU AS A TRUE PROGRESSIVE FOR GREATER GOOD

By Christian ABURIME

The appointment of Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR, as the Anambra State Coordinator of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu/APC 2027 Presidential Campaign Council is a welcome development worth reflecting on. It is a statement about the kind of unifying politics Nigeria needs. It is an affirmation that shared purpose counts for more than party affiliation.

The fact is well known that Governor Soludo was elected on the platform of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), while President Tinubu leads the All Progressives Congress (APC). As the President's campaign for 2027 re-election has now co-opted the Governor of Anambra State to coordinate its efforts in Anambra State, it is a big deal. It shows that Progressives, whatever their party differences, can work together for the greater good of the country. It also implies how much weight Governor Soludo carries, in the Southeast and well beyond it.

But that weight did not come overnight. Long before he became Governor, Professor Soludo was one of the central figures in Nigeria's economic story. He led the banking consolidation reforms that reshaped the country's financial sector, and he served in the economic leadership of the federal government at critical times.

He knows how the centre works, how federal and state interests meet, and how policy becomes results for ordinary people. This is heavily reflected in the State's Executive Council meetings where anyone who is privileged to be a member could easily qualify for a doctoral degree after four years!

Yet few state governors bring that depth of experience of statecraft management to the table as Oluatuegwu has done over the years.

Besides, Governor Soludo's relationship with President Tinubu is also one of long standing, built on mutual respect over many years. Both men have been prominent in national affairs for decades, and both are known for sharing serious ideas with a practical commitment to delivery.

Since taking office in Anambra, Governor Soludo has kept a constructive working relationship with the federal government. Cooperation of this kind can pay long-term dividends in infrastructure, security, investment, and opportunity. It is a model of how a state can advance its own interests without drifting from the national project.

The appointment also reflects the confidence that Anambra people have shown in their Governor. Having earned a fresh mandate from his people, Governor Soludo now takes on a wider task: helping to mobilise support in his state for a President whose reform agenda he has seen at close range.

For the Southeast, the symbolism matters too. Anambra's voice is being brought into the heart of the national conversation, with the region seen as a full partner in Nigeria's progress.

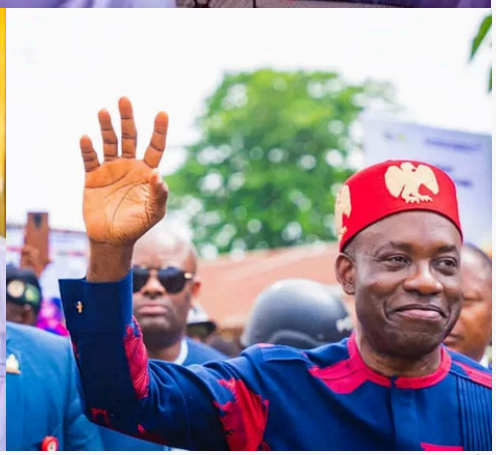
Governor Soludo is well placed to carry that message with credibility. He can speak to the aspirations of Ndigbo and make the case for inclusion, equity and shared prosperity within one united Nigeria.

Therefore, congratulations are in order for Governor Soludo, whose appointment is a wellearned vote of confidence. Congratulations are also due to President Tinubu and the campaign council for the wisdom of their choice. Above all, congratulations to Nigerians, who are reminded that when leaders put the country first, the politics of division gives way to the politics of purpose.

Indeed, the task ahead will be challenging, but Governor Soludo has shown time and again that he is tirelessly equal to serious tasks. Isn't that why he is rightly called 'Oluatuegwu'? Anambra and Nigeria will be watching, with confidence. And without a doubt, Oluatuegwu will deliver!







SOLUDO'S OPEN TO FAIR CRITICISM, NOT CRIMINAL FABRICATION - MEFOR

• PLEDGES PARTNERSHIP WITH PRESS COUNCIL

By Rose Oranye

The Anambra State Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr. Law Mefor, has assured the Nigeria Press Council (NPC) of the state government's full partnership in its mandate to sanitise the print media and fight fake news.

Mefor, who gave the assurance when the Council's Liaison Officer in Anambra State, Mrs Vivian Okafor, paid him a courtesy visit in Awka, said accommodating the Press Council within the ministry was a demonstration of the government's desire for a healthy working relationship.

The commissioner said the ministry's job is strategic communication - taking government information to the people and correcting negative perceptions driven by mistrust, and explained that Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo's administration is working for Anambra 2070, building on the Anambra Vision 2070 document formulated under former Governor Willie Obiano and chaired by Soludo himself, with foundations being laid in roads, hospitals and schools, among others.

He stressed the need for the media to report fairly and tell the truth, stressing that Anambra remains the freest state in Nigeria where criticism is tolerated, but warned against criminal fabrication, citing false claims that the Ekwulobia iconic flyover has integrity issues without any technical test.

"While fair criticism is needed in democracy and helps government adjust, deliberate falsehood damages reputations and misleads the public," he said, adding that the ministry will collaborate with the Press Council to train journalists on the difference between fair criticism and criminal fabrication.



The NPC Liaison Officer, Okafor, had earlier disclosed that the Council, whose core mandate is checking false news in the print media, will from next week begin reaching out to newspaper houses in Anambra to collect and monitor their publications for authenticity.

She also said the Council plans to collaborate with the South East Development Commission to train journalists on election monitoring and reportage, and expressed readiness to work with the ministry in any area of support.

ANAMBRA BOOSTS INNOVATION WITH ₦2.5M GRANT AT INNOVATENAIJA AWARDS IN ABUJA

By Chukwuemelie Chinedu

Anambra State has reaffirmed its commitment to indigenous innovation, technology development and youth empowerment with a ₦2.5 million matching grant presented to the state's InnovateNaija champion at the InnovateNaija and Future Makers Awards held at the State House, Abuja.

Governor Chukwuma Soludo was represented at the ceremony by his Special Adviser on Innovation and Business Incubation and Chief Executive Officer of the Solution Innovation District (SID), Ms. Chinwe Okoli, who delivered a goodwill message on behalf of the state.

The President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, was represented by the Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, Dr. Kingsley Tochukwu Udeh, SAN.

Organised by the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), the event brought together government officials, innovators, researchers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to recognise Nigerian ingenuity and promote technology driven development.

Among those present were the Minister of Youth Development, Comrade Ayodele Olawande; Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe; and NASENI Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Khalil Suleiman Halilu, alongside representatives of AfriLabs and NARDA.

Delivering the state's goodwill message, Okoli reaffirmed Anambra's commitment to creating an enabling environment for innovators to develop their ideas into practical solutions, sustainable businesses and employment opportunities.

She presented the state's ₦2.5 million matching grant to Anambra's InnovateNaija State Champion, bringing the total support to ₦5 million.

The intervention reflects the state government's efforts to strengthen its innovation ecosystem through the Solution Innovation District, a flagship initiative supporting Governor Soludo's "Everything Technology, Technology Everywhere" agenda.

"Building a thriving innovation economy requires celebrating ideas, building infrastructure, forging strategic partnerships, creating access to finance, and enabling policies that translate innovation into viable businesses, jobs and real-world solutions," Okoli said.

The ceremony featured the presentation of more than ₦400 million in cash prizes to innovators, researchers and Future Makers across various categories. These included the Future Makers Recognition and Awards, NASENI inter agency and intra agency innovation awards, and the unveiling of state and national InnovateNaija winners.

The awards highlighted the growing emphasis on indigenous research, engineering, technological advancement and youth led innovation as tools for economic development.

For Anambra, the occasion provided an opportunity to showcase its efforts to nurture local talent and strengthen partnerships that can help innovators access funding, develop their ideas and compete in wider markets.

The state government reiterated its commitment to building an innovation driven economy in which home grown ideas can generate practical solutions, create jobs and contribute to sustainable development.







APGA STAKEHOLDERS URGE UNITY, GRASSROOTS MOBILISATION AHEAD OF 2027 ELECTIONS

By Chukwuemeka Orji

Stakeholders of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) in Awka South Local Government Area have urged women leaders and non Indigene residents to strengthen unity and grassroots mobilisation ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The call was made by the Deputy Mayor of Awka South, Sir Paul Iheme, who represented the Mayor, Hon. Prince Chinedu Okafor, at a stakeholders' engagement meeting held at the local government secretariat.

The meeting brought together members of the Awka South Non Indigene Women Residents and other women leaders to discuss grassroots mobilisation and participation in the party's campaign activities.

Iheme, who also spoke on behalf of APGA's flag bearer for Anambra Central Senatorial District, Hon. Dozie Nwankwo, described women as an important voting bloc whose participation could influence electoral outcomes.

He urged the participants to remain united and mobilise support for the party in their respective communities.

"The strength and power of women go a long way in determining electoral outcomes. Women constitute a significant voting bloc and should be at the forefront of mobilisation efforts to ensure the success of our party," he said.





Iheme expressed confidence in the party's candidates and urged the women to canvass for votes and encourage eligible voters to participate in the electoral process.

He also encouraged them to use their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) and monitor electoral activities in their wards and polling units to safeguard the integrity of the voting process.

The deputy mayor said APGA remained committed to good governance, improved citizens' welfare and grassroots development in Awka South, adding that inclusive development and the delivery of democratic dividends were central to the party's agenda.

Also speaking, APGA's flag bearer for Awka South Constituency II (Obizi), Hon. Egbutu Onyedikachukwu, represented by the council's Supervisor for Security, Hon. Maduka Chukwunenye, highlighted proposed community welfare initiatives.

Maduka announced plans for a health outreach programme in November and urged residents, particularly women, to participate when the date was officially announced.

He also encouraged the participants to disseminate information about the party's activities and programmes within their wards and communities.

The meeting ended with participants pledging their support for the party's grassroots mobilisation efforts ahead of the 2027 general elections.


THE FUTURE OF AVIKA SOUTH
BALLOT PAPER
APGA





2027 ELECTIONS: ANAMBRA ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CONGRATULATES SOLUDO ON TINUBU CAMPAIGN APPOINTMENT

By Anastasia Agunwa

The Speaker of the Anambra State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Somtochukwu Udeze, has congratulated Governor Chukwuma Soludo on his appointment as the Anambra State Coordinator of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's 2027 presidential election campaign. The congratulatory message was made available to newsmen by the Chief Press Secretary and Senior Special Assistant, Mr. Emma Madu on Oct. 12.

Udeze emphasised the importance of Anambra State maintaining strong ties with the Federal Government, noting that such collaboration would continue to create opportunities for development and deliver benefits to the state and its residents.

He observed that the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), as a progressive political party, considered it necessary to work with the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the interest of the people and the overall development of the country.

The speaker also commended the APGA National Working Committee for congratulating the party's National Leader, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, on his appointment. He equally praised President Tinubu for considering the Anambra governor worthy of the responsibility.

Udeze further commended Soludo for promoting collaboration between the state and the Federal Government through his vision for Anambra's development. He highlighted several federal government interventions and projects that he said had contributed to the state's development.

Among them were the appointment of Amb. Bianca Ojukwu as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Dr. Mark Okoye as Managing Director of the South-East Development Commission.

He also cited the ongoing reconstruction of the Enugu-Onitsha Expressway, rehabilitation of the First Niger Bridge to the required standard, and the award of contracts for the construction of the Aguleri-Lokoja Road and the Nnewi-UgaArondizuogu-Okigwe Road, among other projects.

The speaker urged well-meaning citizens, particularly APGA supporters in Anambra State, to give Soludo the necessary support to enable him to discharge his responsibilities effectively as the state coordinator of President Tinubu's 2027 presidential campaign.

