





#### **Production Team**

Last Month (December 2024), the Abia State Government, brilliantly led by His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, continued with her intentional effort to deliver dividends of democracy to Abians.

To sustain the gains recorded by his administration in 2024, Governor Otti presented and signed into law after approval by the Abia State House of Assembly the 2025 budget of 750.2 billion. The budget christened "Budget Of Sustained Momentum" allocated 82% of the entire budget to capital expenditure and 18% to recurrent expenditure.

Within the month in review, Governor Otti commissioned 5 roads reconstructed by his administration in Aba for use. He equally flagged off the reconstruction and dualization of Abia Express Tower to Onu-Imo Bridge and the Reconstruction of the long-abandoned Umuopara Ring Road totaling 12.87Km.

To efficiently and effectively serve Abians, the Governor made new appointments and also reassigned portfolios. The Governor also appointed members of the State's Muslim and Christian Welfare Boards.

In the Education Sector, Governor Otti announced salary increments for teachers in the State and also approved the establishment of 20 Smart Schools across the 17 LGAs of the State, among others.

The Governor approved the payment of N250,000 monthly stipend to every Traditional Ruler in the State and a sitting allowance of 100,000 for the Executives at the State and Local Government levels.

The State Government procured 53 Transformers for distribution to different communities to boost power supply across the State.

The details of these and many more you will see inside this December edition.

#### **Nwahiwe Chinonyerem Cleverson**

Information Officer and Head of Production Unit, Office of the CPS.

#### Jedidiah C. Ndubuisi

Media and Graphics Personal Assistant to the Governor





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Governor Alex Otti, OFR, presented before the Abia State House of Assembly 750.2 billion 2025 proposed budget estimate for the State, christened "Budget of Sustained Momentum." A total sum of N611.7 billion, representing 82% of the budget is for capital expenditure while N138.6 billion representing 18% of the budget is for recurrent expenditure. The figure (725.2 billion) represents about 30% increase in the 2024 budget which was N523 billion.



In fulfillment of his promise to rejig the security architecture of the State during the last Security Council Meeting, Governor Otti presented 20 brand new Toyota Hilux trucks, equipped with modern gadgets to security agencies in the State to enhance their operations and ensure a continued safe and secure Abia State. While presenting the vehicles to the Security Agencies, the Governor said that every other plan of the government will fail without security. He assured the security agencies in the State of 100 percent support of his administration to enable them discharge their duties effectively and efficiently, but warned them against breaking the laws they are meant to enforce.













Governor Otti signed into law a budget of Seven Hundred and Fifty Billion, Two Hundred and Eighty-Two Million, Two Hundred Thousand Naira (750,282, 200,000) only for the 2025 fiscal year. Christened "Budget of Sustained Momentum", the Governor said that the allocation of 82 percent of the total envelope to capital expenditure and a meager 18 percent to recurrent expenditure demonstrates his administration's push for infrastructural development of the State.



The Governor made new appointments and reassigned portfolios as well.

APPOINTMENTS: Barr. Chijioke Nwankwo - Deputy Chief of Staff, Deputy Governor's Office; Mr. Emmanuel Okpechi, FCA - Special Adviser, Internally Generated Revenue; Dr. Emeka Enyiazu - Special Adviser, Education (Tertiary); Mr. Chinasa Frank Iheanyi - Liaison Officer, National Assembly; Mr. Ndubuisi Ike - Special Adviser, Finance & Economic Development; Dr. Eric Egwuibe - Special Adviser, Budget and Planning; and Mr. Osinachi Nwaka - DG, Ministry of Finance Incorporated.

**REASSIGNMENTS**: Mr. Chimereze Okeigbo - CEO, Abia SME Microfinance Bank; Urenna Abazie - DG, Abia State Orientation Agency; Mrs. Chinwe Kalu Uba - Special Assistant, Industry & SMEs; and Mrs. Matilda Anyamele - Special Assistant, Arts, Culture & Creative Economy.







The Governor also swore in 9 new Permanent Secretaries, 7 females and 2 males. They are Mrs. Chibuzo Ehiemere, Mrs. Jane Ngarasi, Mr. Ihemanma Okechukwu, Mrs. Ekeoma Chigozie, Mrs. Ekaite Eyo Oha, Mr. Ejikeme Emmanuel Ekwueme, Mrs. Jane Olanma Awa, Mr. Chinyere Juliet Okeziem and Ukandu Adaojie Obinma. One of the Permanent Secretaries, Mrs. Ekaite Eyo Oha hails from Akwaibom. With the swearing in of Mrs. Ekaite

Eyo and Mr. Benson Ojeikere from Edo State who was among the first set of Permanent Secretaries appointed by the administration of Governor Otti, Abia now has two permanent Secretaries who are not from Abia nor the South East, a

practical demonstration of Governor Otti's believe that once you live, work and pay your taxes in Abia, you are from Abia.



OFFICE OF THE CPS







His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, inaugurated the Abia Drug Control Committee headed by wife of the Governor, Her Excellency Mrs. Priscilla Otti. Some members of the Committee include the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Professor Kenneth Kalu, Some Commissioners including Prince Okey Kanu, the Commissioner for Information, Sir Prince Uzor Nwachukwu, Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Sir Nwaobilor Ananaba, Commissioner for Sports and Youth Development, Prof. Enoch Ogbonnaya, Commissioner for Health among others, HRH Eze Linus Ntoo Mba, Chairman Abia State Council of Traditional Rulers, Stakeholders from relevant agencies and NGOs.



Abia State Executive Council under the leadership of Governor Alex Otti, OFR, approved 2024 Business Environment and Reforms Action Plan (BERAP) for 2025 Fiscal Year. According to the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the Governor on the Ease of Doing Business, "This approval is a significant step towards enhancing the business environment in Abia State and promoting economic growth and development. The BERAP is designed to improve the ease of doing business in the state, increase investment, and create jobs."





The State Government held her 2024 Christmas Carol of Nine Lessons at the International Conference Center (ICC) Umuahia. Governor Otti used the opportunity to thank Abians and residents for their sustained support to his administration and declared that the Christmas Carol will henceforth be an annual event.





His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, approved the appointment of the following persons as Chairman and members of the Abia State Muslim Pilgrim Welfare Board: Shiek Ali Ukiwo – Chairman (Chief Imam), Imam Musa Iro, Yusuf Ukaegbu, Nwakanma Abubakar Igwe, Imam Bashir Idris, Imam Usmar Tukur, Adamu Audu, Okikiade Yusuf, Said Umar, Hajia Azeezat Jimoh, Hajia Hadiza Usman Pepe.

His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, also approved the appointment of the following persons as Chairman and members of the Abia State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board: Apostle Dr. Emmanuel Otutubuike Agomuo — Chairman, Archbishop Dr. Chikezie Emmanuel Elekwa (JP), Rev. Prof. Mosy Madugba, Rev. Ojo Ojo Uduma (JP), Bishop Manasses Okere (JP), Bishop Dr. Udo U. Nmeregini, Most Rev. Dr. Uma Onwunta, Pastor Uche Nwokeohuru, Rev. Fr. Gabriel Kalu, Pastor Ugochukwu Kingsley Chimereze and Pastor Chioma Ibezim, Ph.D.



### OFFICE OF THE WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR



December began with Her Excellency intensifying her campaign against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) during the 16 Days of activism against GBV, themed "Unite to End Violence Against Women and Girls." This initiative highlighted the critical need for collective action to address the alarming prevalence of GBV through strategic partnerships and targeted interventions.

The campaign commenced with a courtesy visit to the Commissioner of Police to strengthen collaboration between her office and law enforcement agencies, ensuring a united front against GBV. Her Excellency also led an awareness walk in partnership with the Ministry of Women Affairs, culminating in a press conference to raise public consciousness about GBV's devastating impact.









## OFFICE OF THE WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR





The grand finale of the GBV campaign was a Summit at the International Conference Center, Umuahia, themed "Advancing Gender Justice and Child Protection through Strategic Partnerships." At the summit, Her Excellency outlined key initiatives, including: the inauguration of the GBV Response Team and GBV Management Committee; Provision of victim support funds; and the translation of the VAPP Lawintolocallanguages.





In the spirit of the festive season, Her Excellency hosted a Christmas party for children at the Government House, Umuahia. The event was a joyous celebration filled with drama, games, quizzes, and dance, providing a memorable experience for the children of Abia State. Gifts were distributed, and Her Excellency urged parents and guardians to prioritize creating safe and nurturing environments for children, free from abuse, exploitation, and trafficking. She emphasized the collective responsibility of ensuring every child feels loved and protected.



## OFFICE OF THE WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR







The 2nd edition of the Renewed Hope Initiative Elderly Support Scheme (RHIESS), themed "Total Wellness: Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous Lifestyle," was a notable event in December. Her Excellency provided #200,000 each to 250 elderly persons, alongside food items, to ensure their comfort during the festive season. In her remarks, she expressed gratitude to Nigeria's First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, for her dedication to elderly welfare and reaffirmed her commitment to enhancing the dignity and well-being of senior citizens in Abia State. Additionally, Her Excellency unveiled the #OneNigeria/Unity Fabric in Abia State, a symbolic gesture to promote national identity and unity. She encouraged its adoption during national events to foster a shared sense of belonging.

Demonstrating her commitment to supporting vulnerable women, Her Excellency distributed food items to widows at her home in Nvosi. She later participated in the inauguration of the Abia State Advisory Council of Widows Organization International at Aba South Local Government Area. Her Excellency urged the council to focus on actionable strategies to empower widows and eradicate harmful cultural practices. She also called on NGOs, civil society organizations, and government agencies to advocate for widows' rights and ensure their inclusion in socioeconomic initiatives.







### OFFICE OF THE WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR



At the World AIDS Day Commemoration, organized in partnership with the Abia State Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS (ABSACA), Her Excellency served as the Special Guest of Honor. She emphasized the importance of sustaining the HIV/AIDS response, eliminating pediatric HIV, and combating stigma. She called on individuals to get tested, ensure treatment, and leave no one behind in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Her Excellency, in collaboration with the Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI) and the Abia State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB), launched the distribution of free exercise books to students across the state. This initiative is part of her continued commitment to promoting quality education as the cornerstone of societal development.

Through her impactful initiatives in December, Her Excellency, Mrs. Priscilla Chidinma Otti, demonstrated unwavering dedication to advancing gender justice, protecting children, promoting education, and supporting the welfare of the elderly, widows, and vulnerable groups. Her efforts have continued to inspire progress and hope for a more inclusive and equitable Abia State.















Governor Otti Commissioned and Opened for Use, the Obiora Road, Aba, reconstructed by his administration with Double Drains and Solar Streetlights.



The Governor equally commissioned and opened for Use Abak Street, off Aba Owerri Road, Salad Market bypass, and Toonak Drive, Aba, constructed by his administration with Double Drains and Solar Streetlights.











Governor Otti flagged off the Reconstruction and Expansion (Dualization) of the 5.95km Abia Express Tower to Onu-Imo Bridge in fulfillment of his promise to make every entry point into the State an epitome and face of the New Abia. The Governor said that the Onuimo -Abia Tower of Peace road would be expanded to a 4-lane dual carriageway to not only reduce road accidents but create a boom in the economy of the people. He said that the concern of his administration is to ensure that every entrance into Abia is put in good shape, adding that the issue of whether it is a Federal or State road does not matter. He thanked the federal government and particularly the Minister of Works for the necessary approvals.





The Governor also flagged off the Reconstruction of the long-abandoned 6.92km Umuopara Ring Road with Drains and to be fitted with Solar Powered Streetlights at about built areas. The project covers the recovery of parts of the Road ravaged by erosion. He said that the reconstruction of the Umuokpara ring road is in line with his infrastructural development agenda aimed at boosting the economy of the State.







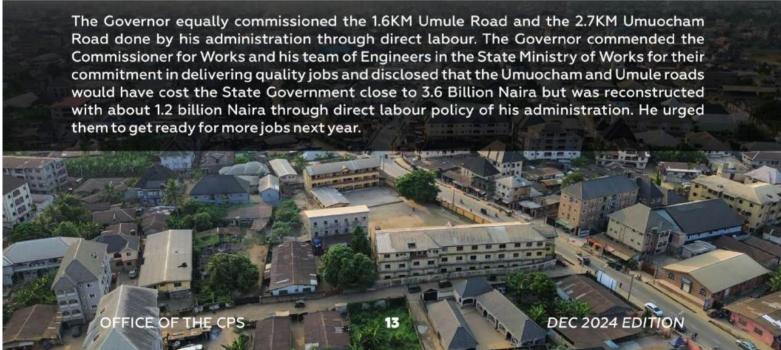




Governor Otti commissioned the phase 2 of the newly reconstructed cemetery Road in Aba South LGA done by his administration after about 20 years of total dillapidation. Speaking during the commissioning, the Governor said, "Our focus is to deliver world class urban infrastructure to the city so that it becomes one of the most inviting destinations for individuals and families and of course businesses in West Africa and beyond." Governor Otti charged residents, traders and other road users to assist the Government in protecting the roads.











Governor Alex Otti, OFR, approved the reconstruction of the long abandoned iconic Omenuko bridge at Ozuabam, Arochukwu LGA. The bridge links Abia North and Abia Central senatorial zones.



#### **MINISTRY OF TERTIARY EDUCATION**



Governor Otti attended the 19th, 20th, and 21st Combined Convocation Ceremony of Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Aba (formerly Abia State Polytechnic, Aba) where he performed the foundation laying of the perimeter fencing of the intended new site of the institution in Osisioma LGA. He commissioned the newly renovated Rector's lodge abandoned to ruins by the previous administrations; commissioned the newly reconstructed DOOPOLY Gate; and also commissioned the newly renovated Administrative building of the State polytechnic among other projects executed by the management of the polytechnic under his administration. He restated his administration's commitment to transforming educational institutions in Abia State to ensure that students are capable of being employment creators on graduation. He announced that he would give one million Naira business grant to each of the 150 best-graduating students participating in the convocation - 50 persons from each of the 3 sets of graduands at the convocation.



#### MINISTRY OF TERTIARY EDUCATION

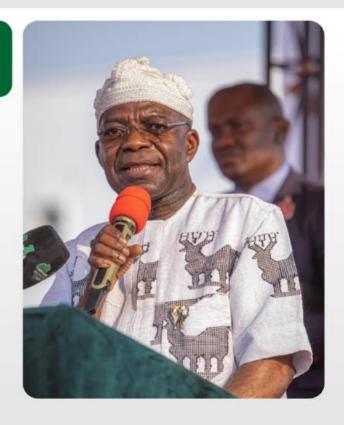


Governor Otti approved the appointment of the following persons as additional members of the Governing Council of Abia State University, Uturu: Elelenta Nwabuisi Elele, PHD, Stanley Onyekachi Okonta, Idris Korform Wabara, Rt. Rev. Nkechi Udunma Nwosu PHD, Eng. Kalu Nto, Monday Ubani, SAN, and Chinyere Juliet Okeziem-Nwoko.

### MINISTRY OF BASIC AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Governor Otti approved the establishment of 20 Smart schools across the 17 LGAs of the state.

Governor Otti announced that effective from 2025, teachers in the State will start receiving discriminatory compensation welfare packages. The Governor made the statement during the 2024 Aro Day celebration. "I also do know that a lot of schools don't have qualified teachers. What we have done to attract people to the teaching profession is that from the year 2025, just a few days from today, teachers are going to be getting what I call a discriminatory compensation package. And what that means is that if a teacher was earning 20,000 before, he would be earning 50,000", Governor Otti declared amidst applause from the happy crowd.





#### MINISTRY OF POWER AND PUBLIC UTILITIES



To actualize its vision of independent stable power supply, the State Government sent the Abia State Electricity Bill to the Abia State House of Assembly for considerations.







As part of boosting electricity infrastructure in the state, the Abia State Government (ABSG) procured 53 electric transformers for distribution to 53 communities.

#### **FABRICATION OF POLES AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR STREETLIGHTS:**

**In Progress:** Okpu Umobo Aba; Pound Rd – ABA; River Layout to East – Aba; Uturu Rd ABSU; ABA Road (P. office - FMC) – Umuahia; Adelabu Str – Umuahia

**Completed Jobs:** Winners Close (CCS) – Umuahia; Ndi Uduma Awoke– Ohafia; Umuchime Close – Umuahia; Senate Building, 2 X hostels @ ABSU – Uturu; BATA Junction to Opobo rd. Juct – Aba; Ugwu Enuda & Enuda Primary sch – Abiriba; Barracks Environs – Arochukwu – Umuahia; and Amuzukwu Ext. – Umuahia; Obioma Quarters – Umuahia







## MINISTRY OF POWER AND PUBLIC UTILITIES



#### **ELECTRIFICATION: Completed**

Extension of 33KVa line + Installation of 1 X 500Kva Transformer at Emeka Omerua; Extension of 33KV line + Installation of 1 X 500Kva Transformer ICC & Civil Service Commission -completed; Transformer Installation at Civic Centre (Arochukwu) - Completed; Rehabilitation of substation & installation of 1X300Kva 33Kv transformer at NYSC Camp Igbere; and Connection of Abia Newspapers to grid -completed

**In Progress:** Extension of 11 KV line + installation of 300KVA Transformer to Enyimba Garments in progress; and Installation of 500Kva / 33KV transformer and substation at Fed Poly Isuochi in progress.





The Light Up Abia Initiative is still on and has gone beyond the major cities of Aba, Umuahia and Ohafia to other areas like Bende, Ugwunagbo and Osisioma LGAs, reaching 28 areas within the State.

### Abia Integrated WASH Accelerated Program

i. Rehabilitation of Water Scheme at State Secretariate 95%

ii. Aro-Ajatakiri Community – Ikwuano Rehabilitation / Conversion to Solar Power Water Facility & Reticulation Water Project to major locations in the community 90%

iii. Aro-Achara — Isiala Ngwa North: Installation of Solar Powered water facility and Reticulation to some locations within the community 60%

iv. Umuetegha Nvosi – Isiala Ngwa South: Installation of Solar Powered Water Facility and reticulation to designated locations in the community 30%





#### **MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT**





Governor Otti, alongside Nigeria's Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development Barr. Festus Keyamo, SAN, performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Abia Airport, Nsulu, Isiala Ngwa North LGA. The Federal Government had initially proposed and made provision for an Airstrip in the 2024 budget but consented to Abia State Government's request to make it a full-fledged Airport. The Airport Project is being handled by Craneburg Construction Company.



In a bid to sanitize and modernise the State's transport sector and introduce an organised logistics system in the major cities of Aba, Umuahia, and Ohafia to create a very effective and sustainable transportation system for the State, the Abia State Government has concluded plans to partner with COSCHARIS to roll out Electric Vehicles for Intra City and State transport services. Governor Otti disclosed this during a business meeting with the Founder, President, and CEO of COSCHARIS Group, Dr. Cosmas Maduka, and his team. "Our decision to go electric was a well thought out decision, we didn't

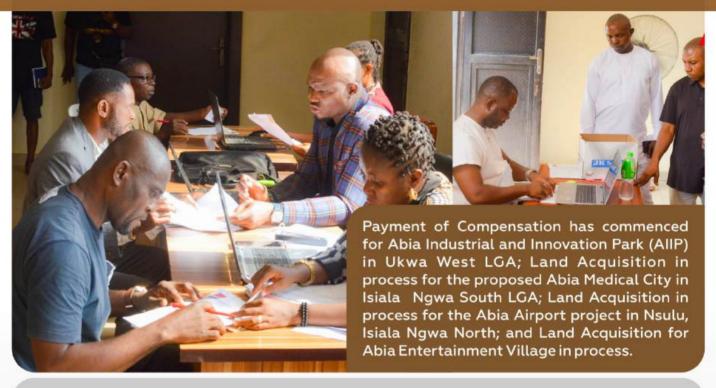


just jump into it, we looked at everything," Governor Otti stated. He told the COSCHARIS Group that what was important to the State Government "is not selling vehicles, anybody can sell vehicles, even without understanding the vehicles. But what is important is the entire ecosystem, and that is why your presentation is like music to our ears because that is actually what we are looking for. So, in the next few days, I will want you to sit down with my team so that we can move this to the last mile and get it started."



### MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING





C's of O (Certificates of Occupancy) - 1,565 signed in 2024 (more than the total number signed from 2019 - 2023).

Some Public Buildings like the Abia State Orientation camp, Opara auditorium etc, are currently undergoing renovation.

The Office of the Surveyor General was re-equipped with modern equipment including a Drone.









#### MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS



Governor Otti also approved N250, 000 monthly stipend for every Traditional Ruler in Abia state except the Traditional Rulers in Aba South, who would receive an amount different from others. This is effective from December 2024. This is in addition to his earlier approved 150, 000 Christmas Package for each of them. In a release endorsed on behalf the Traditional

Rulers in the state, the Chairman Abia State Council of Traditional Rulers, Eze Linus Nto Mbah applauded the friendly disposition of Governor Alex Otti to the Traditional Rulers and described his relationship with Ndi Eze Abia as unprecedented, noting that no former Governor in the state has so far honoured the traditional institution like Dr. Otti.

Governor Otti inaugurated the Abia State Local Government Service Commission which has Elder James Nwokocha as the Chairman. Other members of the Commission are Mr. Allen Nwogu, Dr. Godwin Chinedu Duru, Dr. Mrs. Ngozi Nwagbara, Chief Joe Ezearu, Dr. Orji Kalu Ukah, and Hon. Jerry Uzosike.

#### MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS



Having earlier commenced in Abia Youth Empowerment through the Advanced Computer Literacy program tagged "Abia Digi-Skill up Program", the program was also flagged off in Isiala-Ngwa North and South, at Edward and Mercy Nwokocha CBT Center, Mbato Secondary School, Umugalagu Eziama Nvosi precisely, on the 11th of December, 2024, to cover Abia Central while the program will start in Ohafia this year to cover Abia North.



The Abia State U-15 Table Tennis emerged victorious at the Daniel Ford International Elite Youth Invitational Table Tennis Championship held in Lagos State on December 20th and 21st, 2024 as the state won both Gold and Bronze medals at the competition.





#### MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT





The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) national expert delegation embarked on an assessment visit to Abia State to ascertain her readiness as part of the European union (EU) funded project, "Advancing Nigeria's Green and Just Transition to Net Zero through Circular Economy Practices". The delegation engaged with stakeholders from various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies of



the government and also engaged with selected private firms in Abia state to discuss their experiences, challenges, opportunities for adopting circular economy practices and their expectations from the government and other stakeholders. Some of the companies visited are; Solaris Tech hub, Clintonnel Technology, Star Rich, Inner Galaxy steel company and New age company Ltd.

The Ministry visited host communities of the State's Forest Reserves during the period under review and re-established relationship with them. The Forest Reserves visited include; Ukpom Bende Forest Reserve Okwoyi Section, Nkalunta Forest Reserve Ikwuano, Eme River Forest Reserve Uzuakoli, AnyaoguEzenta Forest Reserve Isuikwuato, Amabata Ovim Forest Reserve, Obeaku Forrest Reserve, Ohambele Forest Reserves Ukwa East, Umuelem Isuochi Forest Reserve, UmuelemIsuochi Ext 1/Umuelem Isuochi Forest Reserve Ext 11, Arochukwu Forest Reserves, OruoOkpo Forest Reserve, Uburulhie Forest Reserve, NdiOkpo Forest Reserve, Achara Forest Reserve, Ngele Forest Reserve

The Ministry closed the year with the 2024 final statewide Environmental Clean-Up exercise carried out on Saturday December



21, 2024, which is essential for maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment.



### Appointee's Corner

### ENGR. IKECHUKWU MONDAY

#### Honorable Commissioner for Power and Public Utilities

Engr. Ikechukwu Monday has over 20 years' experience in engineering, field / shop service operations, sales support, leadership, project and P&L management in power generation, utilities,



manufacturing, oil, and gas businesses involving the installation and maintenance services of gas turbines, steam turbines, compressors, generators, and ancillary equipment.

He holds a Chemical Engineering Degree from Federal University of Technology, Yola now known as Moddibo Adama University, Yola and MBA from Roehampton University, London.

Engineer Ikechukwu is presently the Commissioner for Power and Public Utilities, Abia State – Nigeria charged with the responsibility of providing Electricity, Water, and other Public Utilities to Abians.

Prior to the above role, he was the Field Service and Engineering – Regional Service Head for SulzerServices (EMEA) based out of Venlo Service Centre located in The Netherlands that support customers in variety of sectors such as Oil and Gas, Power Generation, both renewable and conventional, Transport, Petrochemicals and General Industries in more than 40 locations in five continents.

He was responsible for managing the business P&L to drive a flawless engineering support, execution, and delivery of field service projects in EMEA region with a target to drive operational excellence, improve project/program delivery and customer.

Previously, he worked as a General Electric Certified Gas Turbine Expert / Site Project Manager with over 10 years of technical and project management experience in several Power Plants, LNG, Oil and Gas Projects involving General Electric Gas Turbine of various Frames for Process Utilities and Power Generation across countries in the Middle East and Africa. He is a certified Site Manager and Lean Six Sigma Green Belt.