

ABIA STATE GOVERNMENT

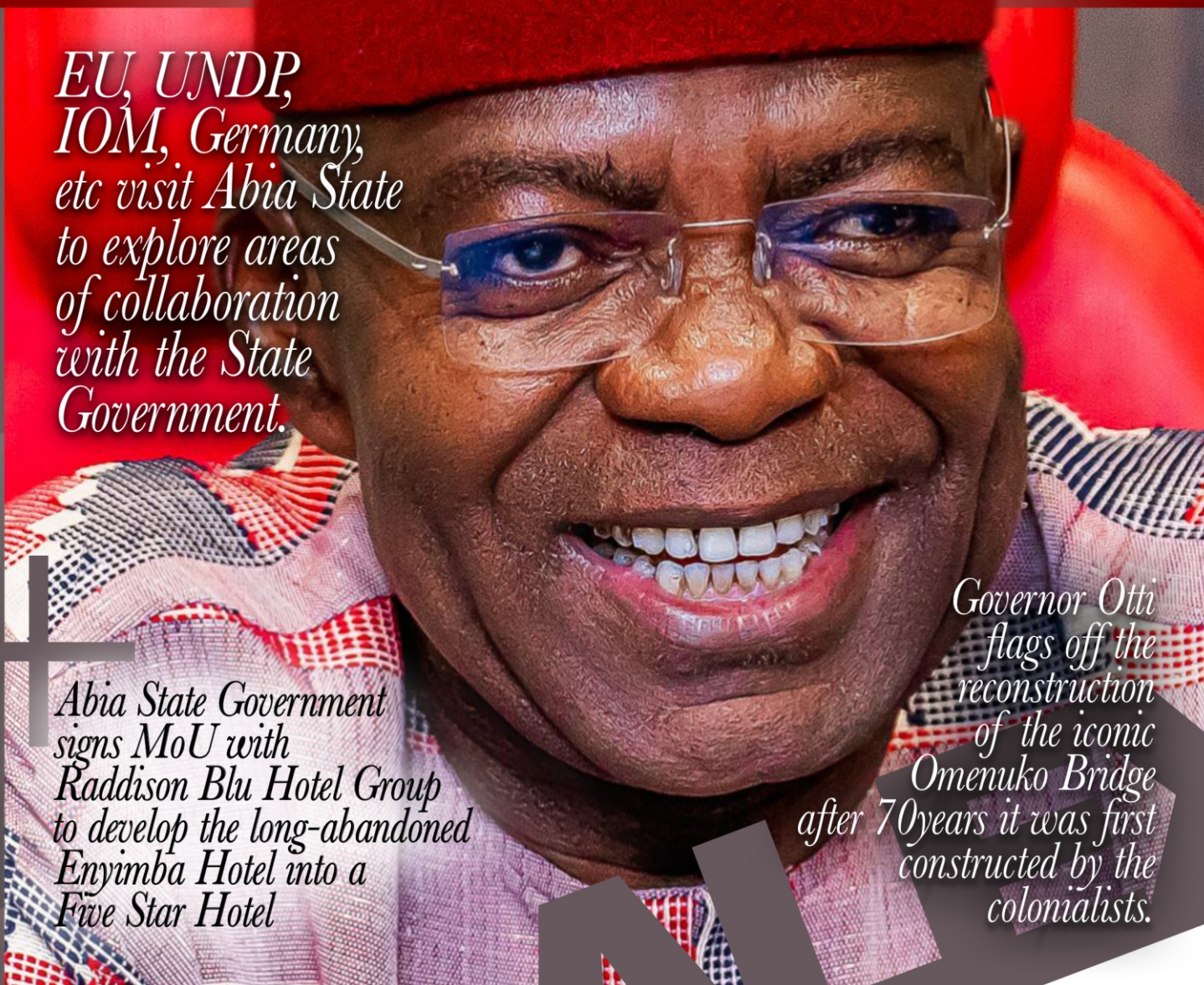
# Monthly Update

FEB  
2025

*EU, UNDP,  
IOM, Germany,  
etc visit Abia State  
to explore areas  
of collaboration  
with the State  
Government.*

*Abia State Government  
signs MoU with  
Raddison Blu Hotel Group  
to develop the long-abandoned  
Enyimba Hotel into a  
Five Star Hotel*

*Governor Otti  
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colonialists.*





## PRODUCTION TEAM

February was another month filled with the execution of people-centered programmes and activities under Governor Otti's focused and visionary leadership, aimed at delivering the dividends of democracy to the people of Abia State and its residents.

During this month, the German Government sent their Consul General to Nigeria to explore areas of collaboration with Abia State for mutual benefits. Reputable international organizations such as the European Union (EU), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also visited for similar purposes.

Governor Otti has transformed Abia State into a vast construction site, continuing his strategic infrastructural revolution to socioeconomically link and open up communities and local government areas (LGAs). After years of neglect that have cost many lives, the Governor launched the reconstruction of the iconic Omenuko Bridge—originally built by the colonialists 70 years ago. This initiative is in addition to several other road projects that were also flagged off for reconstruction by the Governor.

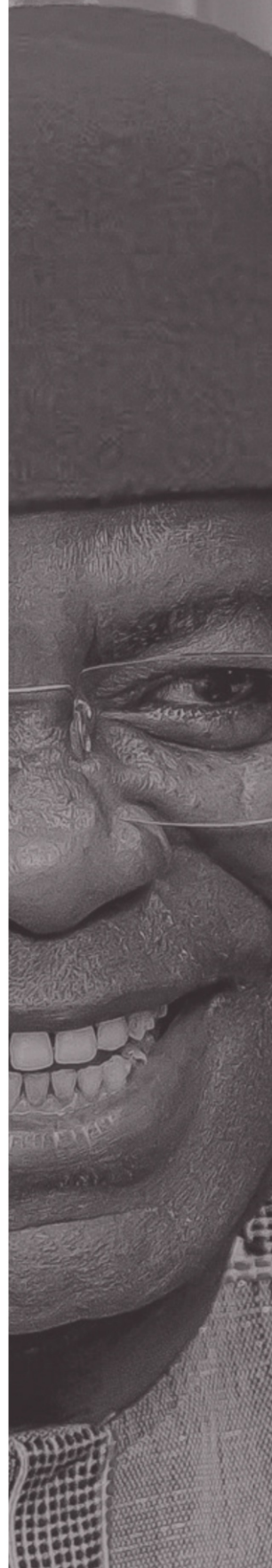
In response to the significant enrollment increases resulting from the implementation of his out-of-school policy, the Governor approved the recruitment of 5,000 teachers, doubling the initially announced figure of 2,500. Additionally, he launched the Abia Fostering Innovation Reform School Transformation (Abia FIRST).

Governor Otti made strategic progress in his effort to transform the long-abandoned Enyimba Hotel into a five-star establishment, as the state government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Radisson Blu Hotel Group to facilitate this development.

This February edition provides a summarized update on about 60 initiatives undertaken by Governor Otti's administration in February 2025.

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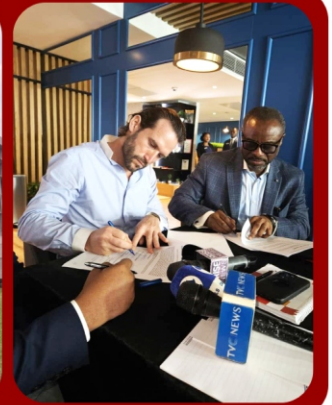




Governor Alex Otti, OFR, signed into law the newly amended Abia State Security Trust Fund. Speaking while signing the bill, Governor Otti said that the members of the trust fund have now been empowered to swing into action.

He explained that most of the security funding in the State has been from the Government, but with the establishment of the Abia State Security Trust Fund, the State would have more institutionalized ways of funding

Abia State Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Global Hospitality Industry Giant Radisson Blu Hotels Group for the Development and Management of Enyimba International Hotels, Aba. An International Convention Centre will be built within the Space. The Execution of the Agreement was endorsed and witnessed by various Stakeholders; Aba Investment Limited and Aba Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ACCIMA).



His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, visited Obingwa LGA council headquarters, where he inspected and assessed the level of damage done by the inferno that razed down a part of the Council's Secretariat housing the Court registry, Works Department, and National Youth Council Office. The Governor thanked God because no life was lost and ordered immediate fencing of the parts of the Council premises not fenced. He instructed the Chief Security Officer (CSO) to deploy armed security men to secure the place.

The Governor also inspected the ongoing construction of a Court building in Obingwa, which is one of the 17 Court buildings, (one in each of the 17 LGAs) being built by his administration. He expressed displeasure over the slow pace of work by the contractor handling the project and instructed that pressure should be put on him to increase the pace of work.





His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, **declared open a two-day retreat** organized by the State Government for members of the enlarged Abia State Executive Council held at the International Conference Centre, Umuahia, with the theme, "Sustaining the Momentum: Accelerating Execution". He charged members of the enlarged Abia State Executive Council to approach their assignments and governance with a sense of urgency. In a speech titled **"Eyes On The Ball"**, he said that the retreat is designed as a leadership exposition, interactive session, and agenda-setting meeting aimed at identifying operational bottlenecks and proffering solutions to ensure effective governance in the State. *"This administration is not going to be judged by the mediocre standards of the past administration because we were elected to raise the bar and raise it very very high,"* the Governor stated.



Governor Alex Otti, OFR, received in audience **the new Commander of the Nigerian Army, 14 Brigade Ohafia**, Brigadier General Hassan Muhammed Bello who took over from the outgoing commander, Brigadier General Olusola Diya. The Governor applauded Brigadier General Diya for his tireless efforts in helping to make Abia peaceful and safe while he served in the State. He described his record of performance as excellent and urged his successor to build on what the outgoing Brigadier General has done to ensure a continued peaceful Abia. The new Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Hassan Muhammed Bello, while expressing joy to be in the state, promised to work with other security agencies to sustain and improve on the gains of his predecessor as well as support the vision of Governor Otti in making Abia the most peaceful and secured state in Nigeria.





The Governor Alex Otti, OFR, **received in audience a delegation of the EU**, led by Mr. Massimo De Luca, Head of Cooperation who came to the State on a working visit. Governor Otti took the EU delegation on a tour of the State which started with the flag off of road projects in Obingwa and Isiala Ngwa LGAs and a round table discussion with some members of his cabinet on Wednesday. The tour continued on Thursday, 13th February, where the Governor led them to interface with the management of Aba Integrated Power. The Governor identified the power sector, restoration of public water schemes, health, agriculture, and trade (easy access to raw materials for Aba manufacturers, standardization of made-in Aba goods for export to European markets), etc, as areas the State will need support and collaboration with the EU.



The State Government **signed a Memorandum of Understanding to roll out a roadmap instrument between it and the United Nations International Organisation for Migration (IOM)**. Governor Otti, who expressed the readiness of his administration to work with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), said that the State Government is much more committed to deploying strategies that encourage reverse migration rather than migration. The leader of the delegation and Chief of Mission, United Nations International Organisation for Migration, Ms. Paola Pace said that the MoU signed would strengthen the Diaspora engagements between Abia State Government and the IOM.



Governor Otti **received the Consul General of the Republic of Germany to Nigeria**, Mr. Weert Borner who paid him a working visit. During their meeting, he informed Mr. Borner that a lot of opportunities abound in Abia, yearning for partnership with credible organisations. The Consul General of Germany to Nigeria, Mr. Weert Borner expressed strong interest in fostering economic collaboration between German companies and Abia State.





Governor Otti has **announced plans to establish an export growth lab in Aba**, the commercial nerve center of the State. Governor Otti made the disclosure while receiving in audience the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Elsie Attafuah, who came to Abia to explore ways of collaboration and rendering support to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Governor expressed optimism that there is a lot the Abia State Government can do together with the UNDP.



Governor Otti **received a delegation of the newly posted Comptroller of Correctional Services**, Abia State Command, Ogbeifun Josephine Ighiwiyisi, who called on him in Government House, Umuahia. Represented by his Chief of Staff Pastor Caleb Ajagba, Ph.D, the

Governor charged the Correctional Service Commanders to care for inmates in the correctional facilities and to contribute their quota in driving the new narrative in Abia and support in making sure that the State is crime free.

Governor Alex Otti, OFR, after prolonged discussions and engagements with **the authorities of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration (NAFDAC) at the highest level, secured the commitment of the Agency to reopen/unseal all the sections of Ariaria International Market, Eziukwu Market and Tenant Road Drug Market** who have been investigated and proven not to be involved in the production and selling of adulterated, expired and fake drugs including consumable products to the public. He assured NAFDAC of his administration's support to rid the State of fake drugs and other related products.



**Governor Alex Otti, OFR, received in audience, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 82 Division, Nigerian Army, Enugu, Major General O.T. Olatoye**, who was in the State for official and familiarization visit to the security formations under the jurisdiction. He told the GOC that security remains a top priority of his administration, stressing that without security, every other plan and programme of the Government will fail. Maj. Gen. Olatoye assured Governor Otti that he would do his best to sustain and upscale the existing peace and security in Abia State and other areas under his sphere of responsibility.



His Excellency Governor Alex Otti OFR, received into the fold of the Labour Party the Lawmaker representing Isiala Ngwa South State Constituency in the Abia House Assembly, Hon. Rowland Chinwendu Dennis popularly known as Caesar, who joined the Labour Party alongside thousands of other PDP members in the LGA through an open declaration held at Group Primary School, Umuoba Isialangwa South LGA. The Governor assured them of equal treatment with every other member of the party. *"In Labour Party, we do not discriminate, so if you're joining today, you will be given the same status with those who joined a long time ago,"* the Governor assured.



The Abia State Government **honoured and celebrated the immediate past Abia State Head of Service (HoS), Dr. Mrs. Ngozi Queen Obioma** for the meritorious service she rendered to the State. While underscoring the need for meritocracy in public service, Governor Otti said that his administration said that his administration would keep honouring those who have performed well in their service to Abians. *"We will keep honouring those who have performed. If she didn't do well, I wouldn't come here tonight and probably this place wouldn't be open this evening. And because she has done well, it is something for all of us to emulate. If you do well, we will honour you; if you don't do well, we may not say so, but you would see our action,"* Gov. Otti noted.





The month began with **an intensified campaign against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**, a harmful and illegal practice that continues to threaten the well-being of women and girls. At various engagements in Obingwa and Isuikwuato Local Government Areas, Her Excellency, Mrs Priscilla Otti reaffirmed the government's resolve to eradicate FGM, condemning it as a grave violation of human rights and a severe form of gender-based violence. Addressing stakeholders, community leaders, and residents at the Obingwa LGA Secretariat—an event marking the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM—Her Excellency, represented by the Commissioner for Women Affairs, Mrs. Maureen Aghukwa, called for the total abandonment of the practice. She warned that the law would take its full course against perpetrators and emphasized that Abia State remains steadfast in its commitment to awareness campaigns, legal enforcement, and community engagement to eliminate FGM.



In pursuit of agricultural transformation, **Her Excellency convened a meeting with key stakeholders of the Agricultural Support Programme**, an initiative under the Renewed Hope Initiative. She urged them to approach their responsibilities with diligence, stressing that increased food production is vital for economic growth and food security. Represented by the wife of the Deputy Governor, Mrs. Adaeze Emetu, she assured the stakeholders of the government's unwavering support. At a separate event, she commended female farmers participating in the FARMAT for Dr. Alex Chioma Otti Programme at the BCA Field, applauding their resilience and contributions to food security in Abia State.







Recognizing that education must extend beyond theoretical learning, **Her Excellency** took her empowerment advocacy to Clifford University, Owerri, where she delivered a compelling lecture titled

Beyond the Classroom: Building Skills to Break the Cycle of Poverty and Compete in a Changing World. Addressing students, scholars, and policymakers, she underscored the importance of balancing academic excellence with practical skills acquisition. She reiterated that while education provides a foundation, real-world skills drive economic empowerment and self-reliance. Highlighting Governor Alex Otti's commitment to educational reform, she outlined key government initiatives, including investment in infrastructure, free and compulsory education, and the recruitment of 2,500 new teachers now increased to 5000. These efforts are designed to reduce the number of out-of-school children and equip young people with the skills needed to thrive in a competitive world.



Determined to address the rising threat of drug abuse in Abia State, **Her Excellency** convened a **strategic meeting with the State Action Drug Control Committee** at the Banquet Hall, Government House, Umuahia. As Chairperson of the Committee, she emphasized the urgent need for intensified public awareness campaigns, comprehensive rehabilitation programs, and preventive policies that prioritize education over punishment. She reaffirmed the government's commitment to tackling substance abuse through collaborative efforts with key stakeholders.





Furthering her commitment to community-driven development, **Her Excellency commissioned an asphalted main entrance road and solar-powered lights at Igberre Secondary School**, a project initiated by Barr. Mrs. Ngozi Ekeoma. She commended the role of women in driving change, emphasizing that women are indeed change-makers who deserve greater inclusion in decision-making at all levels. She reaffirmed Governor Alex Otti's dedication to supporting initiatives that enhance infrastructure and improve the quality of life for Abians.



Closing the month with a landmark empowerment initiative, **Her Excellency spearheaded a transformative project for 100 entrepreneurs with disabilities**, equipping them with solar-powered systems to support their small-scale businesses. Launched at the Banquet Hall, Government House, Umuahia, this initiative—a collaboration between the Renewed



Hope Initiative and TUDU Energy—aims to promote economic self-sufficiency and access to sustainable energy. Addressing the beneficiaries, she urged them to embrace their potential, strive for excellence, and refuse to be defined by limitations. She commended them as trailblazers, change-makers, and symbols of resilience.





Abia State Government and the **land owners of the proposed Abia Airport Project** agreed on **certain grey areas** and consequently inaugurated a joint technical committee to further make progress on the project. In a communiqué jointly signed by the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Pastor Caleb Ajagba on behalf of the government and Rt. Hon. Uzor Azubike, on behalf of the Nsulu Airport land owners, the government, and the Nsulu people, agreed to work together to address any concern that may arise in the future in the course of the execution of the project. This was the outcome of a crucial meeting between Abia state government and community leaders, village and compound heads of land owners and technical team of the Nsulu Land Owners Forum of the proposed Abia Airport Nsulu.

The state government has **adopted a deliberate policy of providing ramps in all public buildings and special parking lots** to make life easy for persons with disabilities.

## MINISTRY OF WORKS



Governor Alex Otti, OFR flagged off the **reconstruction of the long-abandoned single-lane Igwu river bridge, popularly called "Omenuko Bridge,"** which has claimed lives and remained a death trap for decades. Speaking during the flag-off at Ozuabam in Arochukwu LGA, the Governor said that though the bridge is located on a federal road, his administration is committed to working for the people, not minding whether such projects belong to the federal or state government. The Governor equally disclosed that in the next few weeks, work would start on the 23 kilometres Abam ring road from the two ends. He also granted the request of the people of the area to build a health center for them which he said he thought was in existence as he was made to understand that every Electoral Ward has at least one Primary Health Center.





Governor Alex Otti, OFR, **flagged off the construction of the 12.6KM Ohanze - Ntighauzu - Obete - Umuoha - Oberete - Abiaka - Akirika Obu Road in Obingwa and Ukwu East LGAs of Abia State.** Speaking at the Orie Agalaba Junction in Obingwa LGA, the venue of the flag-off ceremony, Governor Otti, who titled his speech, *"Still On The Crusade To Connect Our Communities,"* described the road as economically strategic whose abandonment for several years by past administrations shows profound neglect that parts of the State have suffered. He explained that the project aligns with his administration's development vision for the expansion of Aba, by extending quality infrastructure to the outskirts of Aba, the Enyimba City.

The Governor **flagged off the Reconstruction, Expansion and Dualization of the 5.5KM Owerinta - Umuekaa Federal Highway in Isialangwa South LGA of Abia State.** In a speech titled, *"A Gateway to the New Abia,"* Governor Otti declared that never again would bad roads be used to describe Abia State. He stated that on completion, the road would create an inviting experience for road users coming into Abia from the neighbouring states of Imo and Anambra.



Governor Alex Otti, OFR, **flagged off the construction of the 11.27 kilometres Mbala - Umuaku - Ngodo Road in Umunneochi LGA.** While flagging off the road, the Governor explained that Umunneochi LGA occupies a unique place in the geography and socio-economic evolution of Abia State in particular and the South East region in general. He directed the Commissioner for Works to go and inspect the Njang Bridge which the stakeholders from Umunneochi requested him to fix for them. He assured that no part of the State would be left out in his administration's development agenda.





Governor Alex Otti, OFR, alongside a delegation from the **European Union (EU)** led by the **Head of Cooperation of the EU, Mr. Massimo De Luca**, visited **Geometric Power, Aba**. During the visit, the Governor commended the management of Geometric Power for the significant progress made in its effort to supply Aba and its environs with stable power. *"I am happy to hear the progress*

*that you have made. If you have 75 megawatts, that means there is still some power left in the second turbine, and I think it should be over 90 megawatts if you are operating at full capacity."*

*The third turbine should also come on stream anytime soon because anytime it is not working, you are losing money," Gov. Otti stated.*



Governor Otti received a briefing on **the initial due diligence report on the planned acquisition of 60% stakes in the EEDC Umuahia** ring-fenced area to improve power distribution in Abia state. Reacting to the due diligence report presented on Friday, 14th February, at the Governor's office by four reputable organisations that handled different aspects of the assignment: Deloitte and Touche (Lead Consultant and Financial-Tax-Commercial Adviser), Ken Ahia SAN & Associates (Legal Adviser), Kosem Nigeria Limited (Technical Adviser), and Heritage Capital Markets Limited (Accounting Experts) in the presence of Afriexim Bank (Financier), Governor Otti underscored the importance of ensuring a fair deal, both for the Government and the Seller, Interstate Electrics Limited.



**ELECTRIFICATION:**

- I. Rehabilitation of 11 KV X 300kv transformer substation at the Office of the Head of service completed.
- II. Rehabilitation of 500Kva/ 33KV transformer and point load substation including reticulation of Low Tension Power Lines at Abia State College of Education Technical - Arochukwu commenced.
- III. Energizing of the 500KVa:33KV transformer substation at JAAC building completed.

**ABIA INTEGRATED WASH ACCELERATED PROGRAM (AIWAP):**

I. Rehabilitation of Water Scheme at State Secretariat and conversion of water scheme at Commissioners quarters- Umuahia to Solar Power - 100%

II. Aro-Ajatakiri Community – Ikwuano Rehabilitation / Conversion to Solar Power Water Facility & Reticulation Water Project to major locations in the community 100%

III. Aro-Achara – Isiala Ngwa North: Installation of Solar Powered water facility and Reticulation to some locations within the community 92%

IV. Umuetegha Nvosi – Isiala Ngwa South: Installation of Solar Powered Water Facility and reticulation to designated locations in the community 45%

V. Okwoyi Isieke Ibeku Umuahia North: Installation of Solar Powered water scheme and Reticulation to 1km within the community with Fetching Points 60%

VI. Construction of Modern WASH Facilities in Aba & Umuahia in progress.

**ABIA INTEGRATED ENERGY PROGRAM (RE-ENERGIZE ABIA) PROJECT**

World Bank Renewable Energy Program via REA:

- Collaborative Partnership with a Developer in Progress (DARES Project Started).
- Inauguration of Technical steering committee of REA E-HEART program done in Abuja and selection of state steering committee selected.

**LIGHT UP ABIA:**

DSS Office – Umuahia: 100%, Governors Lodge Rd – Aba: 80%; Club Rd – Aba: 100%; St Michaels – Aba: 100%; Umuahia St – Aba: 100%, Uturu Rd ABSU – 100%; and Ikot Ekpene Rd (Umudike Junction – Orpet) – Umuahia: 100%.





The ongoing **renovation and remodeling of 200 Primary Healthcare Centers across the 184 Wards** of the State tagged “Project Ekwueme” have reached different levels of completion; some have been completed and ready for public use.

The State Government has **approved the upgrading of the Umunneato General Hospital** to a specialist hospital to serve Abia North senatorial zone.

## MINISTRY OF TRADE & COMMERCE

Governor Otti **received in audience Dr. Paul Obanua, the Greenfield Assets Limited Group Chairman and owners of the Aba Mega Mall** in Osisioma LGA of the State. Dr. Obanua expressed joy and excitement over his deliberations with the Governor after watching an investment he borrowed USD10 Million to make fallow for 10 years with a huge debt profile to settle with the banks. *“We are very excited that the Governor, His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti has granted us the audience we’ve not had in this State in the last 10 years, we are very excited....You know what is important in every leadership is the political will to do the right thing. If the leader is willing, the people will be willing and would follow... But, what we found in His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti is that he has that political will to bring in development to this State”* Dr. Obanua stated. The Governor ordered for deeper discussion between the Government and the Greenfield Assets Limited Group to see how to put the place to use.



• THE CPS, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR







Governor Otti received in audience a delegation from the National Education Loan Funds, (NELFUND) Engr. Nneamaka Okafor who came to the State for a working visit. He called for adequate sensitization on the merits of the National Education Loan Funds (NELFUND) for Nigerian students in institutions of higher learning.



## MINISTRY OF BASIC EDUCATION

In response to the massive enrolment of pupils in our public schools as a result of the free education and enforcement of out-of-school policy of Governor Alex Otti, OFR, the Governor gave **approval for the recruitment of 5000 teachers instead of the initially announced 2500.**

The State Government **IGBO language was made a compulsory subject** in the state's school system from primary school to SS2.

Governor Otti Alex Otti launched the **Abia Fostering Innovation Reform School Transformation (Abia FIRST)** initiative and unveiled its logo aimed at providing functional and qualitative education. Speaking during the event, Governor Otti said, "*AbiaFIRST Transformation Education programme is focused on strategic initiatives aimed at transforming the education sector in the State through sustained investments in the development of school infrastructure, training and retraining of teachers on new trends, recruitment of quality teachers to cater for the rise in enrollment figures in our public schools.*"

*"Never again will the Government play second fiddle with the education sector as we shall lead from the front in terms of investments in infrastructure, recruitment of the best to teach and educate our children, and personnel remuneration," Gov. Otti stated.*





Abia State Government through the Ministry of Sports and Youth Development has **signed Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) agreement with Sports Nigeria LTD/ GTE** for the establishment of Abia State Sports Special



Economic Zone (ASSEZ). This initiative is designed to unlock the economic potential of sports, create employment opportunities for youth, and enhance sports infrastructure, talent development, and private sector investment.



In preparation for the **hosting of National Handball Federation Competition in Abia State** scheduled from 18th - 28th March, 2025, the Abia State Ministry of Sports and Youth Development welcomed the National Handball Federation delegation on an inspection tour to ascertain the level of preparation ahead of the competition.



The Abia State U-15 Table Tennis Star girl, **Chinenye Grace Okafor** won a gold medal in the 56th Molade Okoya Thomas National Table Tennis Championship held in Lagos State. Abia State Table Tennis athlete, Chinenye Grace Okafor defeated her Delta state counterpart, Miss Peace by 3 - 2 sets to win the gold medal. This is the 1st medal Abia has won in this 2025 Sports season.

The Abia State Cricket Association participated at the **6TH NATIONAL U-17 (PWC) CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP SOUTH EAST ZONAL ELIMINATION IN AFIKPO, EBONYI STATE FROM 7TH - 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025**. The stellar performances of 4 Abia players led to their selection to join other players to represent South East at the National Finals while Abia State Cricket Secretary, Ochea-Idika Olivia Uju was appointed as the South East Team Chaperone.







Abia State Government and Organized Labour **resolved the discrepancies on the new Minimum wage and signed an agreement for its implementation in the new National Minimum Wage** and its consequential adjustments. It could be recalled that Abia was one of the States that implemented the new minimum wage as soon as Organized Labour reached an agreement with the Federal Government. NLC complained of some discrepancies after implementation began, and Governor Otti ordered that the discrepancies be resolved immediately through negotiation with the NLC. The State Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Abia State Chapter, Comrade Okoro Ogbonnaya, appreciated Governor Otti for keeping to his promise to the workers, stressing that the move demonstrates the government's sincerity and dedication to workers' welfare.

## MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT



The Ministry **participated in the workshop on policy development** on advancing Nigeria's green and just transition to net zero through circular economy practices by EU/UNIDO. The objective is to produce a comprehensive federal policy draft on the management of used off-grid energy equipment.







The Director General Of National Council on Climate Change Secretariat (NCCCS) visited the State for amplifying nature based solution In Nigeria. She visited Ohambele Forest Reserve and Isiugwu Ohafia for assessment of the mangrove.

The Commissioner for Environment Mr. Philemon Asonye Ogbonna led the Department of Flood and Erosion Control to an on the spot assessment/inspection of some erosion and flood sites proposed for remediation in 2025.



IBERENTA EROSION SITE IKWUANO LGA



IBERENTA EROSION SITE IKWUANO LGA



IBERENTA EROSION SITE IKWUANO LGA

The Ministry recorded **high level of compliance in the February 2025 environmental sanitation exercise** as monitored in Aba and Umuahia. Abians urged to take the environmental sanitation seriously.







Facts finding and verification on **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Green Hero's Project** geared towards planting not less than Twenty Four Thousand (24,000) Seedlings in the state.



## MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY & SME

Governor Alex Otti OFR has **started engaging with different stakeholders for the revitalization of moribund Star Paper Mill in the State.** *"In the last six months, we have been engaging to see how we can bring it back to production. I have had to visit AMCON and I think we are at the point where evaluation is being done.*

*"So, hopefully, before the end of the year, we will be able to have a landing because growing up around here, Star Paper Mill was a behemoth, employing so many people, and it operated on a 24-hour basis and one of the most important factors, if I remember correctly, was power", the Governor stated*

## UMUAHIA CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

In a bold move to **transform Umuahia the State capital into a smart city**, Abia State Government (ABSG) has embarked on many urban renewal and beautification initiatives including the relocation of illegal traders from Isigate to Okwulaga -Afara, Umuahia. The idea is to decongest Isigate and make way for the new bus terminal under construction and other transport and beautification projects around that part of the capital city.



The State Government has also moved to **remove the projections in front of buildings** as it has **through the Umuahia Capital Development Authority (UCDA)** standardized the projections in front of buildings across the state. According to Abia State Commissioner for Information, Prince Okey Kanu, *"Going forward, landlords will be allowed to project their buildings and the specification is about 1.5 meters. The idea is to standardize the design for the projections across the length and breadth of the state particularly in Umuahia, Aba and Ohafia."*



## MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM



The state government, together with the Petroleum Technology Association Of Nigeria (PETAN), have jointly floated a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** called **ABTAN ENERGY LTD.** This is to enable them tap into the rich Oil and Gas Resources of the state.



## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The Ministry has commenced the **State Government's pilot rice cultivation programme on 150 hectares of State farm land** at Owerrinta, Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area of the State.

Sequel to the **signed MOU with Nimbel Shaw on the 10,000 hectares oil palm development project** valued in excess of \$120million, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Lands and Housing are currently carrying out joint

survey and valuation of the plantations (Ohambele and Ulonna) to determine their actual size and value – a critical requirement for determining government equity in the SPV structure being set up for the project.

To achieve targeted and precise interventions in the Agric Sector, the Ministry has **commenced the statewide farmers' enumeration program** to build a credible database on farmers and agriculture generally in order to have a dynamic Agric map of the state; carry out commodity by community mapping as well as, farm by farmer mapping.



The Honourable Commissioner for Transport, **Dr. Chimezie Ukaegbu** made an **on the spot visit to some parks and loading bay** to enforce traffic Laws, & promote safety on our roads, reduce

illegal act in our various parks, enhance Internally Generated Revenue of the State (IGR) and ensure government's policies are adhered to.

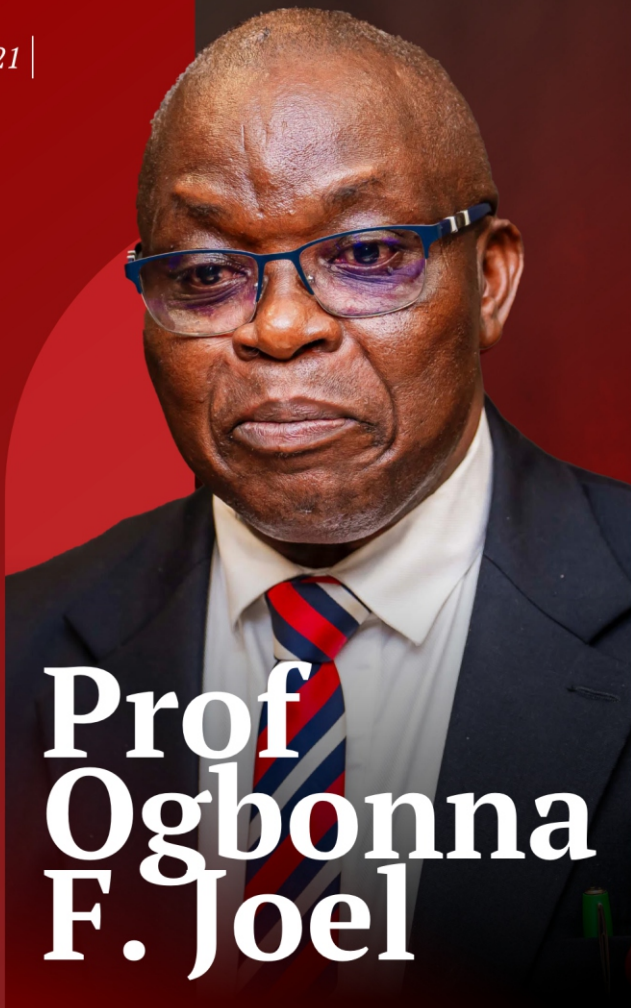


The Commissioner for Transport alongside the management staff of the Ministry **inspected the ongoing building of Mega Bus Terminal in Umuahia** the State Capital by Planet Project in Umuahia, junction improvements, bus shelters, and bus stops.



To ensure sanity on our roads, **the operation stop littering our roads with dirt's from vehicles** is still ongoing. The ministry has provided waste buckets for commercial motorists and monitoring will soon commence.





# Prof Ogbonna F. Joel

**P**rof Ogbonna F. Joel, is a Professor of Petroleum Engineering with the University of Port Harcourt. He is the Africa Regional Representative of National Registry of Environmental Professionals (NREP), USA. He holds a PhD degree in Chemical/Petro-Chemical Engineering. He was former Head of Dept of Petroleum and Gas Engineering and Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Port Harcourt. He was the Centre Leader for the World Bank Africa Centre of Excellence for Oil field Chemicals Research, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria before his appointment as a Commissioner for Petroleum and Minerals Resources in Abia State, Nigeria.

Prior to moving to the University of Port Harcourt, he worked with Halliburton Energy Services, Nigeria for 18 years where he held various Senior Management positions ranging from Technology Manager to Scientific Advisor. He has several years of international exposure with Halliburton Research Centre, Duncan, USA, where he worked with experts in oilfield chemicals and developed global best

practices in Research Management and developed several local oilfield chemicals substitutes for deployment in Nigeria. He is a subject expert in Oilfield Chemicals Research and applications. While in Halliburton Energy Services, he pioneered several researches on the use of local cement and other chemicals for oil field application in Nigeria. He specializes also in the management of environmental and pollution control issues in the Oil and gas Industry.

He is a member of various professional bodies, a Registered Engineer with (COREN), Registered Environmental Manager and Auditor with (NREP), USA, Fellow of the Institute of Safety Professional of Nigeria (FISPON), Fellow of Nigerian Institute of Environmental Engineers (FNIEE), Fellow of Nigerian Institute of Petroleum Engineers (FNIPetE), Fellow Oil and Gas Trainers Association of Nigeria (OGTAN) and Fellow of Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers (FNSChE). He has published over 180 papers in international and local journals and given numerous presentations both local and International in area of his expertise, supervised and graduated over 40 PhD candidates spread over Africa to his credit.

In collaboration with other team of researchers developed two patents and a recipient of many grants. He is also a member of Technical Advisory Board for Research and Development of Nigerian Content Development Monitoring Board (NCDMB). A Visiting Professor and External Examiner to many Universities in Nigeria and Africa.

He is a renowned global expert of Petroleum Engineering and has contributed in development of human capital and notable operations in the Oil and Gas Industry globally.

Prof Joel is a regular speaker in the global arena of the Global Impact programme organized by Deeper Life Church targeted to empower the youths to become change agents and ambassadors of peace and godliness. His diverse exposure had prepared him in no small measure to be a global champion for good governance and youth empowerment for wealth creation.

Professor Ogbonna F. Joel is presently the Commissioner for Petroleum and Minerals Resources in Abia State, Nigeria.