

ABIA STATE GOVERNMENT

MONTHLY UPDATE

MARCH 2025

*Governor Otti
signs Abia State
electricity bill
into law, creates
electricity
regulatory body*

Vietnamese Government

and The Kingdom of Netherlands
seek areas of Partnership and
collaboration with
Abia State Government.

GOVERNOR OTTI
APOLOGIZES TO
ABSU STUDENTS OVER
POOR INFRASTRUCTURE,
ANNOUNCES MEASURES
TO FIX INSTITUTION.



Production Team ▾

March was an eventful month under Governor Alex Otti's intentional and focused leadership, aimed at delivering democratic dividends to the people of Abia State. Vietnam and the Kingdom of the Netherlands visited, joining the growing list of nations seeking collaborations and partnerships with Abia State in areas of mutual interest.

The flag-off of road construction projects has become a common occurrence under Governor Otti's people-centered leadership. Within the month of March, he flagged off the reconstruction of the 11.2km Obehie-Umudobia-Owaza Road in Ukwa West Local Government Area, which has been in a decrepit state since its original construction 69 years ago. Governor Otti also flagged off the reconstruction of the 4.32km Orpet - Umuafai - Lodu - Ahiaeke Road and the 3.79km Ahiaeke - Okwuta - Bende Road in Umuahia North LGA.

In a bold and strategic move to create a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for facilitating investments and innovation in the Abia State Electricity Market, His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti signed the Abia State Electricity Law into effect.

The government implemented key policy interventions across various sectors, including Education, Health, Agriculture, Culture and Creative Economy, Waste Management, Science and Technology, and other Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

This publication provides a summary of significant activities that took place within the different MDAs of the Abia State Government throughout March.

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Governor Otti received in audience, a **delegation led by the Vietnamese Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Bui Quoc Hung** who paid him a working visit in his office. The Governor expressed the desire of his administration to collaborate with the Vietnamese Government to develop different sectors of the State's economy. *"We are very happy to have you in Abia. We will be very happy to work with you. I see a lot of areas where we can collaborate and work together....I see a whole lot of opportunities for us to partner. We will be pleased to work with you to improve our relationship in trade, commerce, manufacturing and agriculture,"* Gov. Otti stated. Mr. Bui Quoc Hung who highlighted the vast economic opportunities in Abia State, expressed interest in strengthening trade relations with the State, particularly in agriculture, manufacturing, and the oil and gas sector among others.



Governor Alex Otti, OFR, received in audience a **delegation from the Kingdom of the Netherlands led by the Deputy Consul General in Nigeria, Peter Keulers** who were in the State to explore areas of collaboration with the State Government such as Waste Management, Circular Economy, Agriculture, etc. The delegation of Mr. Keulers came alongside the Kaltani Company led by its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Engr. Obi Charles Nnanna, who are due to commence the project of turning waste into wealth in the State after the execution of an MoU with Abia State Government. Governor Otti informed the delegation that Abia is ready and open for business. He further disclosed that the State is not seeking for aid but exploring areas of collaboration for mutual benefits with prospective local and global partners.





Speaking on the modest achievements of his administration in changing the story of Abia from one of the dirtiest States in the country to one of the neatest, Governor Otti said, *"What we have done is to evacuate the rubbish and put them somewhere. We are now moving to the next stage which is the stage of, what do we do with that heaps of rubbish and that is why Kaltani Company came in to say, there are two ways to deal with it. We thought that the better thing to do will be to convert the waste into products that people will buy."* The Deputy Consul-General while noting that circular economy is so dear to the Kingdom of Netherlands said that, it will lead to a more sustainable and resilient economy with less pollution and waste, and even lead to a more efficient use of scarce resources as well as engender quality of life. He pointed out that they are focused on promoting bilateral relations, having visited the proposed site for the Kaltani waste management facility in the State.

Managing Director cum Chief Executive Officer of the Kaltani Company and key development partner of the waste to wealth project, Engr. Obi Charles Nnanna said that they are a ready to partner with the State in the project of waste collection and recycling. *"His Excellency, Governor Alex Otti is a man of vision, a man that wants to create a lasting impact in the lives of Abians and we are happy to be part of that story, we are happy to support His Excellency's government and vision."*



Governor Alex Otti, OFR, played host to a delegation of the World Bank led by the Lead Governance Specialist, Ms. Deborah Isser. He informed his guest that his

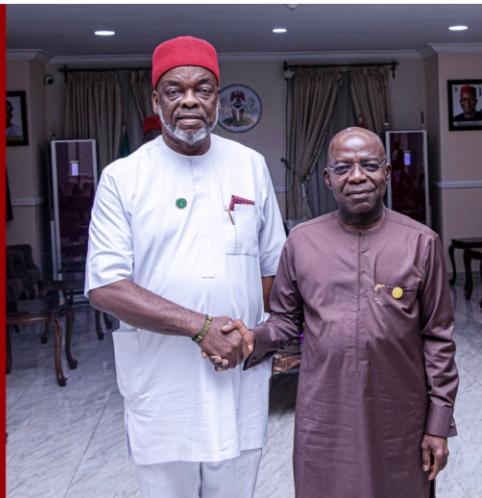
administration is making serious efforts to restore the dignity of the people through quality education and healthcare delivery in the State. The Governor commended the team for coming to see what Abia State is doing in the areas of health and education and informed them that the State is doing its best in those areas. In his words, *"So, it is my pleasure to have you (World Bank delegation). I think you came not just to learn from us but to see what we are doing and afford us the opportunity to learn from you as experts. We are just making our modest efforts to change our story and ensure that we restore the dignity of our people."*



Earlier, the World Bank Lead Governance Specialist, Ms. Deborah Isser, said that the delegation came to Abia State for a study tour as part of the World Bank's Human Capital Opportunities for Prosperity and Equity (HOPE) programme series. Ms. Isser, who informed their host that they are focusing on two areas of HOPE Education and HOPE Health, said that the visit

marked the commencement of a study on human resource management of teachers and healthcare workers in selected States, with Abia chosen as the first State due to its notable performance in this area and the State's strong commitment to the implementation of the Primary Health Care Under One Roof (PHCUOR) policy.

The Board and Management of the Southeast Development Commission (SEDC) led by its Chairman Chief Emeka Nwogu paid Governor Otti a working visit. The Governor charged them to pay attention to power as key to the economic development of the region. "If



you are talking about industrialization, within small and medium scale enterprises, a major input into virtually every effort people make in industrialization and manufacturing is power. So, if you solve that problem, you would have probably solved 60 percent of their problem." Gov. Otti stated.





The Governor held his **monthly Security Council Meeting with the heads of Security Agencies in the State** and some top Government Officials to review the security situation in the State towards sustaining the existing peace and order in the State. Addressing the Press at the end of the meeting, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Security Navy Commodore MacDonald Ubah (rtd) who described the security meeting as part of the State Government's proactive approach to maintain law and order in the State, reaffirmed the commitment of the State government to protecting lives and property of Abia people and residents. Also speaking, the Abia State Commissioner of Police, CP. Mohammed Isa described the security situation of Abia as peaceful following strategic operations by the various Security Agencies in the State backed by the Governor's unwavering support to maintain law and order as well as secure lives and properties of residents.



Governor Oti received a **delegation from the Police Service Commission (PSC) in-charge of Police recruitment in the State** led by Mrs. Uche Wokocha, a Deputy Director of Procurement in the Commission. The team came to the State to conduct medicals in continuation of the ongoing Police recruitment

exercise which started last year for which some have passed out from the Police Academy. The Governor called for a change of strategy in communicating and mobilizing Abians for Police enrolment to ensure that Abians fill the quota allocated to the State.



Governor Otti received in audience a delegation of the Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC), Prof. Nnanyelugo Ike - Muonso. While underscoring the critical role of the Council in national development, particularly in advancing manufacturing, small and medium-scale

industries, and other key sectors, the Governor made a case for added value to Nigeria's rich raw materials to develop the Nation's economy. *"We need to begin to add value to every product, be it agricultural or mineral. I don't think we have done so much with the mineral potentials. It requires intentional and deliberate actions,"* Governor Otti stated.



Governor Alex Otti, OFR, held his **monthly media interaction** tagged *"Governor Otti Speaks to Abians."* During the media engagement, he disclosed that the ongoing reconstruction and expansion of the strategic Port-Harcourt road, Aba, being handled by Julius Berger Construction Company will be completed and ready for commissioning by May this year. He also made it clear that the ongoing reconstruction and retrofitting of 200 Primary Health Centers (PHCs) across 184 Wards of the State is fully funded by his administration and further disclosed that another renovation of 67 PHCs is funded by the World Bank. He updated Abians on what his administration is doing in the other sectors of the economy and responded to all the questions asked by Journalists from different Media Houses.





Sequel to the **neutralization of a kidnap gang and rescuing of 4 Abians** held hostage by them, His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti OFR, addressed a national press conference at the Banquet Ball of the Government, Umuahia. The Governor commended the Abia State Commissioner of Police CP Isa Danladi and his men for their gallantry and announced a cash reward for the tactical squad involved in the Operation. Governor Otti reaffirmed his administration's intolerance to kidnapping and other forms of criminal activities and assured the

security agencies of his continued support as they carry out their duties of maintaining law and order in the State. *"I want to thank all of you and reassure Abians and investors that Abia State will continue to be safe for residents and everyone who wants to live or do business in the State....For us in Abia, security is critical. I had said it time and time again, that we would not yield any inch of Abia to criminals. I thank God that the (Police) are also very willing and able to use technology which has helped in enforcing law and order here."*

Governor Alex Otti, OFR, **inspected some ongoing road projects in Aba** the commercial center of the State. Some of the roads inspected are Ekeakpara - NNPC Road Osisioma, Omuma Road, Market Road, Cameroun Road, Ehi Road, Clifford Road, School Road, Port-Harcourt Road, etc. The road inspection witnessed the turnout of a large crowd of jubilant Abians who trouped out in their numbers on sighting Governor Otti who has made roads that were not accessible for decades now accessible.





Governor Otti played host to the **Old Boys Association of Ngwa High School, Aba** comprising mostly of the 1982 and 1983 sets. Governor Otti who was part of the class of 1982, while addressing his fellow old boys disclosed that his administration will collaborate with the Anglican Church to ensure that Ngwa High School is operated effectively and efficiently. *"We intend to hold a discussion with the Anglican Church so that we can collaborate as a Government to ensure that the School is effectively managed. If the school is not properly managed, people will look at us and ask, what are the old boys doing?"* The Governor also reaffirmed his stance on merit-based appointment in the public service. The Old Boys commended the Governor for the good works he is doing across the State and described him as a superstar Governor.



Governor Otti received in audience the **Governing Council and the Management of his Alma Mater, the University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT)**, led the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman Governing Council Senator Mao Ohuabunwa. They commended the Governor for his visible and impactful achievements across various sectors of the State's economy in the last 21 months, saying that they are very proud of him. Speaking to press after the meeting, Sen. Ohuabunwa said, *"You know that I'm from this State and I have been part and parcel of the political trajectories of this State from 1999 till now and counting, so when I tell you anything, it will be difficult for anybody to contradict it. So, what I'm saying is that within 21 months, I think Dr. Alex Otti has done well and he is doing well. What we are saying is that we are encouraging him to do more."* He commended the Governor especially for the allocation of 20% of the entire State's budget to the education sector. The Council and the management used the opportunity to inform and invite Governor Otti to the 50th anniversary (golden jubilee celebration) of the institution which would be held later in the year.





Governor Otti received in audience a delegation of Diaspora Alliance led by the President, Rev Emmanuel Ihim. During the visit, the Governor said that his administration is focused on improving critical sectors of the economy including infrastructure, healthcare, power, education among others. He disclosed that his administration has identified 3 locations for the establishment of the proposed Diaspora City in the State; a project aimed at creating a modern, world-class residential and business hub for Abians in the Diaspora. He aligned with the Diaspora Alliance's call for focused leadership and reaffirmed his belief that leadership should be rooted in integrity and the fear of God. The Governor assured that more transformative policies will be implemented to improve the lives of Abians.



Also within the week in review, Governor Otti hinted that he will revisit issues arising from the Agreement his administration reached with the Leadership of the Nigeria Union of Pensioners in the State, concerning the arrears of pension owed them by the previous administrations. The Governor stated this during the 80th birthday thanksgiving celebration of Sen. Chris Adighije. He reaffirmed his stance that pensioners in the State are honest people but their problem is their leadership which has chosen to align and associate with those who deny them their pensions for many years. *"I have maintained that our senior citizens and pensioners are very honest people, very, very honest. The problem is with their leadership and the problem of the leadership has to do with their association,"* Gov. Otti stated. Speaking further he said, *"When you said nobody was paid pension in 2018, you*

are very correct. Not one dime was paid but the leadership of the NUP was part of the reason nobody was paid. "So, even when they were going into an agreement with me, they probably didn't believe that payment will be made. And when I made the

payment, they now went round to say that they didn't sign. So, that angered me but because you (Rev. Onyeukwu) have said it, I will have a second look at it.

Governor Alex Otti **received in audience, the members of the Federal House of Representatives' Committee on Reformatory Institutions led by the Committee's Chairman, Hon. Chinedu Ogah.** During their engaging deliberations, the Governor advocated for humane treatment of inmates at various correctional facilities in Nigeria. He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to rehabilitate and improve the Aba and Umuahia Correctional Centers and stressed the need for humane treatment, rehabilitation, and reintegration of detainees. He disclosed that plans for the renovation of the correctional facilities have been underway, with the designs already submitted and undergoing verification. Governor Otti raised concerns about alleged encroachment on the Aba facility's land, which he vowed to recover to ensure that the center is adequately equipped for its purpose. The federal lawmakers commended Governor Otti for his visible and verifiable achievements across Abia State.



The Governor also received a delegation from the House of Representatives Committee on Renewable Energy, led by its chairman, Hon. Afam Victor Ogene. Governor Otti noted that power is very important to economic development and commended the National Assembly on what it is doing in that regard. *"But, what you are doing is good and I support it because, in the long run, renewable energy is cheaper and sustainable"* He disclosed that having signed the Abia State Electricity Bill into Law and having set up the Abia State Electricity Regulatory Agency, the State is now ready to boost the economy through power.

The House Committee commended Governor Alex Otti for signing the Abia State Electricity Bill into Law and creating a regulatory body for electricity generation and distribution in Abia State. *"Your Excellency, let me begin by thanking you for agreeing to meet with us. I also want to thank you for signing into law the Abia State electricity bill. In that bill, we saw how you prioritized the place of renewable energy."*

"You have gone ahead to put in place the Abia State Electricity Regulatory Authority, signifying that you have moved on since the National Assembly moved the issue of electricity to the concurrent list. Going forward, it is going to be a partnership," Hon. Ogene stated. Hon. Ogene explained that the enormous power challenges confronting the nation cannot be over-emphasized, hence, the attention being paid to renewable energy. He used the opportunity to invite Governor Alex Otti to participate and partner with the National Assembly in that regard. *"Our purpose is to formally brief you on the upcoming summit and extend an invitation for your participation and partnership,"* Hon. Ogene noted.

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY:



In a landmark initiative to empower women and promote food security in Abia State, Her Excellency, Mrs. Priscilla Chidinma Otti, Wife of the Governor, launched **the Renewed Hope Initiative Agricultural Support Programme in Umuahia North**, targeting beneficiaries from Abia Central Senatorial District. This training programme marked a significant milestone as it was designed to equip women with critical agricultural skills to enhance their livelihoods. The women underwent comprehensive training in areas such as organic fertilizer production,

animal feed formulation, pest control, and proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). At the end of the training, starter packs were distributed, enabling participants to translate their newfound knowledge into viable agribusiness ventures. Her Excellency emphasized the importance of using these tools not just for personal gain, but to elevate their families and communities. Her Excellency also extended the programme to schools by introducing agricultural clubs and training students to instill the value of agriculture at a young age.



REAL WARRI PIKIN FOUNDATION DISBURSEMENT:

Empowering Women Entrepreneurs Across Abia Her Excellency joined forces with the Real Warri Pikin Foundation for the disbursement of N100, 000 each to 50 women petty traders across Abia State. The event, held at the Banquet Hall, Government House, Umuahia, was part of the foundation's International Women's Day celebration. Anita Alaire Afoke Asuoha, the founder of the foundation, popularly known as Real Warri Pikin, expressed that the donation aimed to uplift women economically by providing them with much-needed financial

support for their businesses. Her Excellency commended the foundation's efforts and urged the recipients to wisely invest in their businesses,

emphasizing that such empowerment leads to broader socio-economic transformation for families and communities.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION IN UMUAHIA:



The International Women's Day 2025 celebration, hosted by Her Excellency at the International Conference Centre, Umuahia, was an inspiring and unforgettable event that saw the participation of women from all walks of life. This grand occasion allowed Her Excellency to reaffirm her commitment to the empowerment of women, the education of the girl child, and the protection of children's rights. Addressing the women, Her Excellency emphasized the importance of amplifying female voices in leadership, governance, and development. She thanked the women of Abia State for their unwavering support to the administration of her husband, Governor Alex Otti, and urged them to work in greater collaboration to create a safer, more prosperous society for all.

THE RENEWED HOPE INITIATIVE REACHES ABIA NORTH AND ABIA SOUTH:

In a continuation of the Renewed Hope Initiative, Her Excellency's vision for empowering women through agriculture reached the Abia North and Abia South Senatorial Districts. In Abia North, the programme was held in Ohafia, where Her Excellency was represented by Professor Ijeoma Iheukwumere, Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Environment. Starter packs were

distributed to women in the area who had participated in the agricultural training, empowering them to take bold steps toward establishing their agribusinesses. This reinforcement of Her Excellency's vision for women-led agribusinesses was met with great enthusiasm by the beneficiaries. Similarly, the Abia South edition was held at the Ugwunagbo Local Government Headquarters. Mrs. Victoria Onwubiko, the Managing Director of the Abia State Signage and Advertisement Agency, represented Her Excellency at the event. Over 50 women and youth received both starter packs and cash to scale up their agricultural activities. One standout beneficiary, Miss Chioma, expressed her profound gratitude, praying for God's continued blessings on Her Excellency and the wife of the President for their life-changing support.



SUPPORTING CHILD HEALTH:

Sensitization on Measles and Rubella Vaccination Campaign. In her ongoing commitment to improving public health, Her Excellency was represented by Mrs. Maureen Aghukwa at a sensitization meeting with the wives of Local Government Mayors at the Banquet Hall, Government House, Umuahia. The primary focus of this meeting was the urgent need to enhance awareness about the ongoing measles and rubella vaccination campaign across Abia State. This meeting was a crucial part of the State Government's effort to protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases. By engaging the wives of local government mayors, Her Excellency underscored the importance of collaboration at all levels of government to ensure that every child is vaccinated and protected from these deadly diseases.





INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN:

Participation in the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Her Excellency's international engagement reached new heights as she participated in the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event was a platform for women leaders from around the world to discuss key issues impacting women's rights and gender equality.

Her Excellency was part of a Nigerian delegation that attended a side event hosted by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs to commemorate Nigerian Women's Day. The event was themed "30 Years of Progress, Resilience, Impact and Renewed Hope", aligning with the anniversary of the Beijing Declaration. In New York, Her Excellency engaged with top female leaders from various countries, forging alliances and gathering insights to continue championing the cause of women and girls in Abia State and beyond.

Ministry of Agriculture

The Governor received in audience a **delegation of an Israeli Agro Business Investment Company, AgroTop Israel, led by the Business Development Manager, Mr. Ofer Zuntz, and their development partners from Max Agro Farm.** Governor Otti disclosed that his administration is advancing

plans to revitalize the moribund Ogwe Golden Chicken for the economic development of the State. The Governor, while noting that his administration is undertaking the resuscitation of similar moribund State investments abandoned by previous administrations, also promised that the Government's team would

deepen discussions with the team to consider the concession of the Ogwe Golden Chicken to them to improve productivity in the State.

"Farming generally and specifically, poultry is an important aspect of our strategy. In the past, there have been poultry farms around the State that actually did well. One of them

is the Ogwe Golden Chicken. It has been abandoned for a while but we have plans to get it back to life just like we are getting back to life, a lot of other abandoned industries and projects.

"So, we are not going to start from ground zero because there is something on ground. It may have become obsolete; technology may have moved but at least we have a location," the Governor said.

The leader of the delegation and the Business Development Manager of AgroTop Israel, Mr. Ofer Zuntz, said that they are

interested in partnering with Abia State in the area of agriculture, particularly livestock, including poultry and piggery, among others.



The Ministry **revived the SAPZ project and completed the documentation process** to the SAPZ Office to enable the state access up to US\$120million agro-processing facility at AIIP. Formal offer letter and on boarding of the state in the phase 2 expected shortly.

The Ministry concluded documentation and set up the state SPC for participation in Livestock Productivity and Resilience

Support (L-PRES) program. US\$500million is available for participating states.

The Ministry has **successfully revoked and recovered the state plantations** that were leased out under questionable conditions and went further to set up interim Ministerial Management Committee to run the rubber plantations.

Disbursement of empowerment loan:

The State Government has successfully disbursed the empowerment loan of N577million to the CSS Trained farmers across the 184 wards of the state and actively monitoring progress.

The Ministry has successfully flagged off the preventive intervention action plan against spread of anthrax in Abia state to avert possible public health emergency. This followed the recent confirmed outbreak of Anthrax in cattle in Nasarawa State as reported by the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development (FMLD), and the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

The State has **paid counterpart fund for the IAD/LIFE-ND to activate the funding for 2025.**



The Governor met with the leadership of the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN), led by its Chairman Engr. Wole Ogunsanya who came to brief him on the progress of the SPV between them and the Abia State Government. They also made a presentation on the profitability and what they hope to achieve through ABTAN Energy in a few years. Governor Oti expressed satisfaction at the level of progress made within a short time and he on the spot, accepted PETAN's request to join them on a visit to NUPLC as part of the plans to re-enter the Abia capped Oil Wells dormant since 2001. *"On my own, I have also mentioned to the authorities that this is the direction we are going, and they were very happy. So, the courtesy visit you are talking about, I think it should happen as quickly as possible. It will be nice for us to not just stop at NUPLC but also see the Group Managing Director of NNPC. Let's hit it from the top, even though he's aware that we are doing something like this,"* the Governor stated.



During the flag off of the Obehie-Umudobia-Owaza, Governor Oti disclosed that the Federal Government has approved a modular refinery for the State, to be sited at the Abia Industrial and Innovation Park (AIIP). *"I'll like to inform you that just a few days ago, we got the good news that the Federal Government has approved a modular refinery which would be sited inside the AIIP. That modular refinery will be built by H.I.S. Refinery and Petrochemical Company Limited....My assurance is that every support we can give as a Government shall be availed you as we work together to create a robust industrial cluster that will accelerate the rapid socio-economic development of the area and fast track the restoration of the years that has been lost to poor leadership,"* Gov. Oti stated.



His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, flagged off the reconstruction of the 11.2 KM Obehie-Umudobia-Owaza Road, in Ukwa West Local Government of Abia State after 69 years it was first constructed. Speaking during the flag off, the Governor declared that the era of forgetting Ukwa people in the political and socioeconomic development of the State was over. In his words, *"This project is therefore not just about creating access to the towns and villages along these corridor, it is more about reviving dormant economic assets, opening new horizons and reigniting the dreams that once starred the souls of our fathers.... Today, we officially declare that the era of neglect of Ukwa and all the communities within the land is over. Ukwa shall no longer be a forgotten place. Your land will yield forth its best fruits and your barns shall never be empty again. You will enjoy the riches of the environment and the oil in your land shall bring you boundless prosperity."*



His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, flagged off the reconstruction of the 4.32 kilometers Orpet - Umuafai - Lodu - Ahiaeke Road and the 3.79 kilometers Ahiaeke - Okwuta - Bende Road in Umuahia North LGA totaling 8.11KM.

Still within month of March, the **Ministry of Works continued with direct labour works on roads across the state** and also, contractors engaged in the construction and reconstruction of several roads in the state

continued making progress at different levels on their projects. Road maintenance works progressed to different levels at the 37 project sites in the state.

== **Ministry of Health** ==

The State Executive Council **approved the formal roll-out of the State Health Insurance Scheme** to provide access to affordable healthcare services for Abia workers. The governor had already approved the sum of 1 Billion Naira to support the project, 500 million would be paid in the first instance, and after 6 months, the balance of 500 million would be

released to support the project. By law, every civil servant is supposed to contribute 5 percent of his basic salary to the insurance scheme, whereas the state will contribute 10 percent but Governor Otti has approved that the state will pay 12.5 percent to start with for the first 6 months while the civil servant will contribute 2.5 percent.



The renovation, remodeling and retrofitting of **200 Primary Health Centers across the 184 Wards of the 17 Local Government Areas** of the State is ongoing. Some have been completed, while others are at various levels of completion. The General Hospitals across the 17 LGAs are not left out as they are also undergoing renovations and retrofitting.



His Excellency, Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, **paid an unannounced visit to the Abia State University, Uturu**, for an on-the-spot assessment of facilities in the State-owned tertiary institution. The Governor was shocked and disappointed at the deplorable state of affairs at the institution. Visibly dismayed, Governor Otti remarked, *"Thank God I came; I couldn't have believed it,"* underscoring the need for immediate action to improve the situation. Addressing the students, he apologized to them for the deplorable conditions under which they learn. He commended their resilience and vowed to make

things better. He directed the establishment of a functional cafeteria within 3 months, insisting on the removal of cooking equipment from hostels which he described as very risky.

Governor Otti stated, *"I just came to see things for myself. And I thought I should take you and the University management by surprise. I'm happy to see you, but I'm very unhappy with the state of the facilities. The conditions under which you live cannot allow you to do any academic work. For those of you who do well under these conditions, we must congratulate you".*

He announced **plans to relocate the Faculties of Law and Agriculture** back to the main campus, with construction of 5,000-capacity male and female hostels set to begin within a week. The Governor promised that essential amenities like power and water should be taken for granted as they would be provided. He ordered the demolition of the Staff Primary School and the construction of a new one, with temporary learning arrangements made during the process.

Governor Otti is very strategic in the reforms he is carrying out in the education sector. Apart from the interventions in Abia State University (ABSU) Uturu and Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic Aba, he is also **transforming the Abia State College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu (ASCETA) for functional and qualitative educational services**. ASCETA was completely neglected, and despite all the investments of the federal government through TETFUND, the institution was left to ruins and

decays. Governor Otti's administration is upgrading it toward making it a world-class academic centre. The institution is getting ready for accreditation because all the programmes lost accreditation. The accreditation is expected to happen by October. The state government is doing everything to upgrade the institution in the areas of facility and manpower. The Government has installed a 500kva transformer; the water project is ongoing, while the fence that wasn't there is being constructed.

Discovery of 55 heritage sites in Abia:

In a bid to identify its heritage and memorial sites, the Abia state Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy recently embarked on an expository trip round the state during which it discovered over 55 unique and viable heritage sites.

Notable among the sites are the Ulochukwu cave in Alayi Bende LGA, the Mazi Okorie orji's Compound in Arochukwu, Ntugbo, Oloko Ikwuano where participants in the famous Aba Women riots of 1929 were tried.

These sites in due course would be reactivated and preserved for their historical significance and tourism potential.



Governor Oti received in audience a delegation of the National Commission for Museums and Monuments led by its Director-General, Hon. Olugbile Holloway who came to discuss areas of collaborations between the Federal Government and Abia State Government. Governor Oti told the delegation that working together with the Federal Government would assist in harnessing the tourism potentials of Abia State. "When you talk about the National War Museum, Ojukwu Bunker, the Long Juju of Arochukwu, the cave in Umunneochi, the Azumini Blue River, and a whole lot of that, you'll find out that if we collaborate and work together, Abia will be one of the most visited destinations in Nigeria.

"This is promoted by the fact that we've done our best to cage insecurity to make sure that this place is safe. We take it very, very seriously."

"We've already started doing something before you came. I think having you here is one of the happiest things for me, that means that the centre that is in control of some of the tourist attractions are showing interest. We are ready to collaborate and work together." Gov. Oti stated.

Abia state government through the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative economy will in collaboration with the federal government **revamp the National War Museum Umuahia and Ojukwu Bunker into world class tourism designations.**

The Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy has initiated an Igbo programme Oge Omenala" which provides opportunity for the people to talk about their rich cultural heritage on BCA, Real FM Radio among others between 11- 12 noon every Wednesday.

Abia State Electricity Law:



On 17th March 2025, His Excellency, Dr. Alex Otti OFR **signed into law, the Abia State Electricity Law.** This is a key milestone in the process of establishing a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for the seamless facilitation of investments and innovation in the Abia State Electricity Market. This law emanated from the Nigerian Electricity Act 2023 and will trigger the creation for a legally proficient, technically sufficient, well-funded, and financially viable Abia State Electricity Market with the following key objectives:

1. It will enable the establishment of a regulatory and licensing regime for electricity operators in the Abia State Electricity Market and set up of the Abia State Electricity Regulatory Authority, Rural Electricity Agency and Abia State Electricity Fund.

2. It will stimulate policy and regulatory measures to scale up efficient power generation, transmission, and distribution in the State.

3. Promote public-private partnerships by encouraging investments in electric power projects within the State; promote the development of a competitive electricity market in state.

4. Provide a framework for the decarbonisation of the State Electricity Market; facilitate the delivery of affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern public electricity access to electricity consumers in the State.

5. Promote the adoption of diverse, secure, and environmentally sustainable energy sources, and energy efficiency in the State, stimulate the development and utilization of Clean Energy Sources and Renewable Energy Sources in the State.

6. Establish a mechanism for electricity planning in the State; promote indigenous capacity building and knowledge transfer in the State Electricity Market.

7. Promote a framework for the security of electricity infrastructure whilst prescribing effective punitive measures against electricity theft and other offences that undermine the security of investments and growth of the electricity sector in the State.

Abia Integrated Renewable Energy Program (Re-energize Abia) Project:

Nigeria Solar for Health – the Ministry held a 2 –days training on Energy Audit Data Collection and Baseline Data Collection of 40 employees of ministry of Health, Power and Public Utilities was held.

100Kwa Solar Power System Project at MCC – Ugunagbo: 50% completed and 60Kva Solar Power System Project CBT Centre – Isiala Ngwa South 20% completed.

ONGOING WASH FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AT UMUAHIA





The Governor Received the Niger Delta Development Commission's (NDDC's) 2025 Sports Festival Torch. The torch arrived in Abia from Imo State, where it was presented to the Governor. The Governor referred to the torch as a symbol of unity and light, and congratulated the Abia team in advance, expressing his confidence that they would win the sports festival and return home with the trophy. *"Let me start by congratulating you because I can see that you are champions already, even before the games start. I want to thank you for bringing this torch here. It's a symbol of unity; it is a symbol of light, and Abia stands for light. I also want to thank the NDDC for organizing the Niger Delta Sports Festival 2025, where the nine states under the NDDC will compete,"* the Governor stated.

In recognition of His Excellency's contribution to sports development and his magnanimity in building a State-of-the-art Indoor Sports Halls at the Umuahia Township Stadium, U-12/15 Male and Female National Handball championship was held at the Umuahia Township Stadium from 18th - 28th March, 2025, under the sponsorship of His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR. It is interesting to know that 12 states across the country participated in this competition and 77 matches were played and following the outstanding performances of our Handball players, Abia State secured Gold for the U-15 Male and Female.

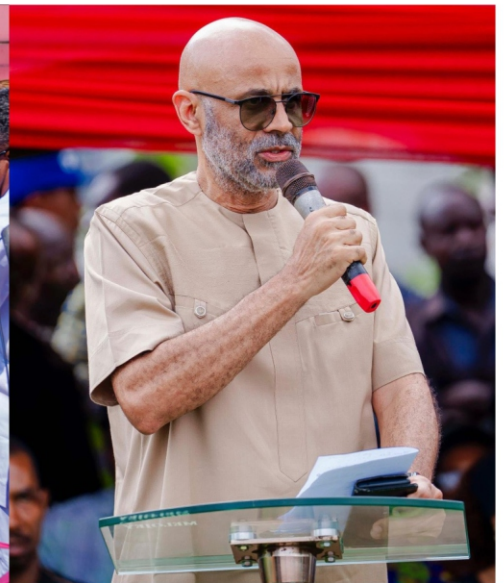
The Abia State Para-Badminton team participated and secured a Bronze Medal in the Men's SL3-SL4 Doubles at the Spanish Level 1 International Para-Badminton Championship held in Toledo, Madrid, Spain.





The Ministry held her **monthly sanitation exercise** with the theme: "Operation Clean the Gutters and Drains," aimed at keeping the State clean and sustaining the cleanliness of the State. The Ministry continued with her awareness campaign on consequences of improper waste management, the health hazards of roasting and smoking of hides with scrap tires and plastics.

Ministry of Science & Technology



Governor Alex Otti, OFR, **flagged off the Abia State Dedicated Internet Access/Wide Area and Managed Network Project** to enhance digital governance in the State. In a speech, titled "The Digital Transformation Journey Begins", Governor said that the goal is to enhance Governance deliverables by equipping and empowering Civil Servants to do their job well. In his words, *"This project is the first phase of a carefully coordinated programme of digital infrastructure layer and integration and will involve the acquisition and distribution of thousands of high performance digital tools and devices across Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government. Laying of fiber optic cables within the spaces of State owned public institutions. Our goal is to improve governance deliverables by empowering civil servants to do their jobs in a result oriented manner,"* Gov. Otti stated.

The Governor held a business meeting with a delegation from SINOMA Company Nigeria Limited led by its chairman, Mr. Zhang Hui. During the meeting, Governor Oti invited them to establish its factory in Abia State saying that the State will be happy to partner or give her the needed support to do so. The Governor advised the company to consider setting up its factory around Osisioma axis of the State as the area enjoys 24 hours power supply courtesy of Geometric power. According to Zhang Hui, SINOMA is into manufacturing of quality building materials used for ceiling and walls.



— Ministry of Justice —

The construction of 17 Court Halls across the 17 Local Government Areas of the State is still ongoing, having reached various levels of completion.

DR CLIFFORD CHILASA AGBAEZE is a seasoned banker and academic with combined experience spanning over 3 decades. He started his banking career at the United Bank for Africa PLC in Kano in the mid-90s and worked in several other banks across many cities in Nigeria including Equitorial Trust, Reliance, Skye Bank, Unity, etc. He rose through the ranks to top management positions including branch Manager, Area Manager, Regional Manager, Zonal Head, Regional Director and Head of Agric Desk and retired voluntarily as a Deputy General Manager to join the academia. A Chartered professional Banker, he is well groomed in Retail, Commercial, Public sector, projects and Agribusiness financing.

Clifford Agbaeze studied Banking and Finance at both undergraduate and post graduate levels at the University of Nigeria, Enugu campus; M.Sc. (Economics) at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka and Ph.D in Agricultural Economics (specializing in Agricultural Finance) from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike where he is currently an Associate Professor. He has authored and co-authored many texts in Finance, Economics and agricultural economics and has over 40 (forty) research publications in local and international Journals. Dr Agbaeze is an alumnus of the Lagos Business School (Senior Management

Programme (SMP 28) and member of many professional bodies including: Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria; Fellow, Chartered Institute of Credit Administration; Member, Nigerian Institute of Management; Member, Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers; Member, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria. He was a founding member and pioneer executive of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN), Aba branch and served as the branch Chairman and later, National Council member of the Institute for several years. On the social arena, Dr Cliff Agbaeze is a member of many social and sports clubs in Nigeria including Aba Sports Club, Owerri Sports club, Arsenal Golf club and Good Friends Sports Club, Owerri. He is the founder and promoter of the CAP (Cliff Agbaeze Pro-vision) Initiative – an NGO which is focused primarily in empowering the youth and the less-privileged.

A man of his people, Dr Agbaeze has been honoured with 3 chieftaincy titles by his kindred, village and town in recognition of his numerous selfless services to his community which include the title of UgoChinyere 1 of Okwo-Aja kingdom and the Akanchawa of Item. Dr Agbaeze is happily married and is blessed with children.



**Dr Clifford
Chilasa Agbaeze**
Commissioner of Agriculture, Abia State