



ABIA STATE GOVERNMENT

MONTHLY REVIEW

1ST EDITION - AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024

**Abia Government Takes
Over The Construction Of
Ohafia-Arochukwu
Federal Road**

**Gov. Otti
Reshuffles Cabinet**

**Politics: NNPP, Abia State
Chapter Collapses Into
Labour Party.**

**300 Abia CSS-Trained Farmers
Receive Interest-Free Loans To
Start Their Farming Business.**



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PRODUCTION TEAM

Welcome to the first edition of the Abia State Government Monthly Review. It is a publication that gives you a summary of the activities of the State Government every month.

This edition covers the summary of the activities of the State Government for September and partly August 2024, from the office of the Governor to different Ministries, Departments, and Agencies of the Government (MDAs).

The administration of Governor Alex Otti OFR, is committed to running a transparent and accountable government where the citizens are well informed and educated about the programmes and policies of the Government for their overall benefits.

By reading through this publication, you will have a grip on the activities of Abia State Government for the month of September.

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Head of Production Unit, Office of the CPS

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE

The State Government engaged a contractor to handle the Ovom gully erosion problem. That was in response to Governor Otti's earlier visit to the erosion site, where he promised to take immediate action to deal with the situation.



The State Government also engaged two contractors to rehabilitate the long-abandoned Enyimba Hotel Aba to a five-star status. The hotel would be well expanded beyond its original state, accommodating an international conference center among other facilities befitting a five-star hotel.

His Excellency effected a minor cabinet reshuffle and created new Ministries to Serve Abians better – Ministry of Tertiary Education, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Ministry of Arts, Culture & Creative Economy, and Ministry for Industry & SMEs.



The State Government trained 500 Abia Civil Servants on Digital Skills, done in Partnership with the British High Commission in Nigeria, funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO). The close-out ceremony coincided with the visit of a delegation of the British High Commission in Nigeria to Abia State, led by the British High Commissioner to Nigeria Dr. Richard Montgomery.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE



Governor Otti swore in Dr. Cliff Agbaeze, his former Special Adviser on Agriculture, as the State Commissioner for Agriculture and Mrs. Ngozi Eke Ogbonnaya, as the Auditor General of the State.

Governor Otti also inaugurated the Chairman and members of the Abia State Independent Electoral Commission (ABSIEC). ABSIEC has rolled out plans for the conduct of Local Government elections in the State which is slated to hold on the 2nd of November 2024.

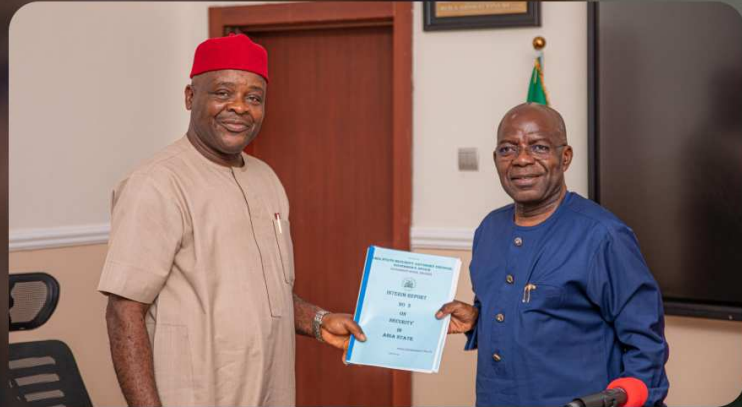


Governor Otti was one of the keynote speakers at the Innovate Africa Conference, 2024, with the theme "Unleashing Africa's Potentials through Innovation and Creativity." The Governor spoke in the session dedicated to Leadership and Governance, focusing on "Strengthening Democracy for Africa's Future." His Speech titled "Tapping into the Next Frontier: Leadership and the Imperatives of New Development Paradigm for Africa," is available on different New media platforms. The Innovate conference was held at the George University University, DC, United States of America (USA) and was organized by Innovate Africa Corporation and Bild Foundation. Governor Otti attended virtually. Other notable speakers at the event are Former President Olusegun Obasanjo, The Director-General of the World Trade Organisation, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala, activist and one of the leading anti-corruption crusaders in Africa, Prof. Patrick Lumumba, and others.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE

His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, received the third Security Report of the Security Advisory Council chaired by former Nigeria Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Lt. Gen. Azubuike Ihejirika CFR, (Rtd). He expressed optimism that the input of the State Security Advisory Council will help redefine the entire security architecture of the State and make it more robust. He thanked them for their sacrifice and initial two reports earlier presented to him, which, according to him, have been implemented to the letter.



Governor Otti received into the fold of the Labour Party the Governorship Candidate of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) in the 2023 Gubernatorial election in Abia Dr. Ukpai Iro Ukpai, who led his Running Mate, Bar. Chiedozie Josiah, Candidates of the Party during the last Election, several Leaders and Members of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) to join the Labour Party, citing the Developmental Strides and good governance model of Governor Otti as the motivation for decamping. "Governor Alex Otti understands governance, and I have been following and supporting him, but today, I have come to consolidate that support". "We are more than excited in making this move. NNPP in Abia State has moved into the Labour Party in Abia State. It is not an ordinary defection; it's a move that is well-calculated. We are convinced that it is the right thing to do, joining forces with Dr. Alex Otti to move Abia forward." Dr. Ukpai declared.

The State Government has started recovering Government lands encroached by individuals and groups through the Committee constituted for that, starting with the recovering of the encroached lands belonging to Government College Umuahia.





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Governor Otti rounded off the month of September with a 3-day retreat/capacity building organized by the State Government for all government appointees and Permanent Secretaries. The theme of the retreat was "Taking Stock: Sustaining the Momentum, Scaling the Impact." It was held at Panyu Hotel and Resort, Aba, from Thursday, 26th to Saturday, 28th September 2024.

According to the Governor during the 2023 August retreat, in his speech titled "From the Drawing Board to the Field of Play," he made it very clear that he was out to run a very ambitious government; hence, "Excuses shall not be accepted to justify failure."

In a speech titled "Taking Stock, Looking Ahead," Governor Otti referred to the first two capacity building events at the same venue. The First was shortly after the gubernatorial victory in the 2023 general elections, when he assembled the best brains and thinkers from different parts of the country and beyond to plot a governance trajectory for the State. The Second one was on August 2023, a few weeks after his inauguration, when those carefully selected to drive the execution of the programmes of the government gathered for their first retreat. In his words "Our focus in 2023 was to develop a robust understanding of the intricacies of the public sector and its peculiarities. The choice of resource persons, including former Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN, Arunma Oteh, OON, Ben Akabueze, and Prof Solo Chukwulobelu, was informed by our commitment to interact with the best and get ourselves prepared to deliver excellence across important frontiers of governance."

He said the focus of the 2024 August retreat was to take stock and to identify what has worked and what has not worked and why. In his words "Today we have reconvened at this same ground to take stock, to identify what has worked and how well, what needs to change and also talk to ourselves for the purpose of learning and growth. Some personnel changes have been effected in the last one year as we seek to get the best out of every governance frontier. So, for some of us, it is our very first retreat but for others, this event is a continuation of a routine we introduced in 2023. Wherever you belong, the aim is the same: we want to take a moment out of our regular routines to relax and then learn new insights."



OFFICE OF THE WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR



MRS PRISCILLA CHIDINMA OTTI
THE WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR

Her Excellency Mrs. Priscilla Otti, within the month in review, assured that Abia State will not tolerate any form of gender-based violence (GBV) under the watch of her husband. She gave the assurance at the palace of HRH Allen Okpokiri, Emede Ibeku, Umuahia, the state capital, where she visited a housewife, Amarachi Okpokiri, whose husband had allegedly attempted to pluck her eyes. She said that perpetrators of Gender-based violence would be made to face the full weight of the law if apprehended.



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Governor Alex Otti, OFR, flagged off the disbursement of interest-free loans to the 298 trained farmers at CSS Integrated Farms, Nasarawa State. Represented by his Chief of Staff, Pastor Caleb Ajagba Ph.D, the Governor reiterated his commitment to create a new pathway of wealth for Abians and residents by providing them with the needed support to make the most of the available resources the State is endowed with.



Recall that Governor Otti was physically present during the graduation ceremony of the farmers at CSS Integrated Farms Nasarawa State, where he promised to give them the needed support to start and grow their farming business. He added that more money would be made available to those who show serious commitment to their farming business.





MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT



Governor Otti, within the month in retrospect, inspected the Umuahia Mega Terminal Project. While he expressed satisfaction with the level of work done so far, he also pointed out some areas the contractor needed to make some minor adjustments. The Governor explained that the project will help organize the Capital City very well and bring to an end the multiplicity of parks all over the place. He also said that a lot of businesses will move in there because there is provision for hotels, shopping plazas, playgrounds, etc.



Recall that Governor Otti, some months back, flagged off the construction of Mega Transportation Terminals in Umuahia, the State capital, and Aba, the commercial nerve Center of the State. Apart from providing shelter to passengers, the bus stops being built at different junctions in Aba and Umuahia are making the cities look more beautiful.





MINISTRY OF SPORTS AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Abia State contingent in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games won Nigeria Gold and Silver in Para powerlifting. Miss Onyinyechi Mark won a gold medal in the 61kg category, breaking world record twice in her Paralympic debut. She arrived in Paris as a world champion in the 61kg category after success in Dubai last Year. She lifted 147kg, breaking the world record, before lifting 150kg moments later which broke the world record again.



Miss Esther Nwaorgu won a Silver Medal in the 41kg category. She went on to set two new records, lifting an impressive 112kg and 118kg respectively in her last two attempts. Unfortunately, she lost the gold medal to China's Zhe Cui who edged her out with a new paralympic record of 119kg.



At the National Youth Games, the Abia contingent won gold in the male football category, defeating Delta State, the host State. Abia state Gymnastics team at the national youth games Asaba won 3 silver medals. Vitalis Eze won 3 gold medals for Abia in weightlifting. Vitalis Eze was discovered at the 1st Abia State governor's Secondary School Games. Abia won Silver in the 4*400m boy relay race. Abia table tennis team won 2 silver and 2 bronze medals. The Taekwondo team won 1 silver and 3 bronze medals. Ifeanyi Divine won bronze in the high jump category, with a jump of 1.66.





MINISTRY OF TRADE AND COMMERCE



Within the months in review, Governor Alex Otti, OFR, flagged off the rebuilding and remodeling of the Ekeoha market into a modern market of international standard. He gave a firm assurance to legitimate shop owners that no one would lose their shops. The rebuilding work has commenced in earnest.





MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS



Governor Alex Otti OFR attended and declared open the meeting of the South East Traditional Rulers Council, hosted by the State and held at the JAAC Secretariat, Ogurube Layout, Umuahia. The Southeast Traditional Rulers Council commended Governor Otti for his visible and verifiable achievements across the State, which include the JAAC Building which the Governor completed, which has a conference hall of 1000 seating capacity where the Abia State Traditional Rulers seat and hold their meetings.

Recall that under Governor Otti, the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs has been discharging its functions effectively, which has made our Local Governments become functional again. Most Council Secretariats have been retrieved and renovated from decades of infrastructural decay.





MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Government has commenced the phase two (2) upgrade of the Abia State University Teaching Hospital (ABSUTH).



The State Government has started the renovation and retrofitting of 200 existing Primary Health Centres across the State. The project is being executed by the Ministry of Health in partnership with the Abia State Primary Healthcare Development Agency and has a delivery period of one hundred days with effect from September 2024.



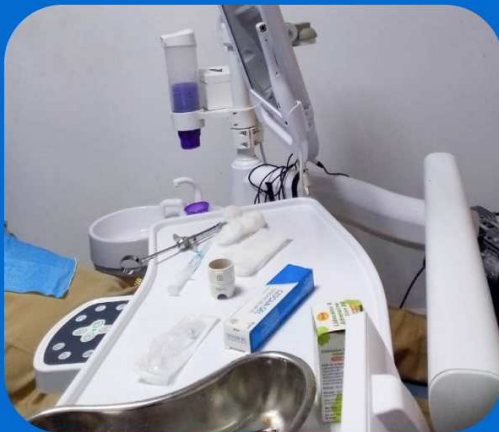
Abia State was selected as one of the 6 States to fly the flag of Nigeria at an international medical symposium in Ghana. The programme, which is a biphasic initiative between the World Bank and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is tagged HOPE, which stands for Human Capital Opportunity for Prosperity and Equity.



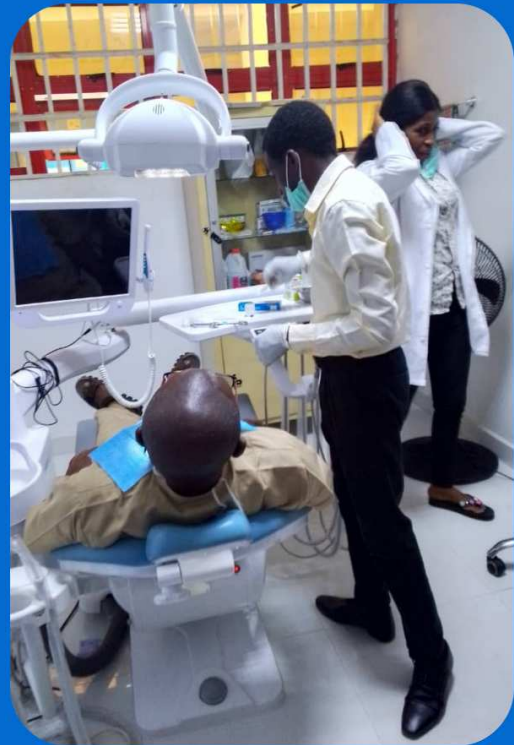
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



The Abia State Specialist Hospital and Diagnostic Center has added a State -Of- The -Art Dental Clinic which was nonexistent in the hospital before now. As part of the State Government's drive to provide quality, affordable and accessible healthcare to Abians and residents, the newly upgraded Eye Centre, an annex of Abia State Specialist Hospital at Amachara was commissioned on September.



The State Government approved funds for the hiring of high-caliber specialists in various fields of medical practice for the State.



The State Government has embarked on a comprehensive upgrade and retrofitting of the Amachara General Hospital and Abia Specialist Hospital & Diagnostic Center Umuahia. The move is geared towards enabling the healthcare facilities to offer an expanded scope of high-quality Medicare in certain special areas, including internal medicine, cardiology, neurology, surgical services, and general brain and spine surgeries, etc.





MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING

The State Government directed landlords in Aba whose buildings have no approved building plans to strive to obtain one. The Government granted those affected 90 days moratorium within which to obtain their building approval certificate through the payment of the old rate for such approvals.

Work is seriously progressing at the Federal College of Education Ofeme, where the State Government is helping to erect structures to ensure the institution fully takes off for the benefit of Abians. Governor Otti had, during the handing over of the Title Documents (Certificate of Occupancy) to the Federal Government for the establishment of the College of Education, assured the support of the State Government to ensure its full take-off.

See some of the recovered, renovated, and retrofitted public buildings by the Ministry of Lands and Housing.

RENOVATION WORKS IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE **Administrative Block**



→ Renovated by MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING, ABIA STATE 2024

RENOVATION WORKS IN **Fishery Building**



→ Renovated by MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING, ABIA STATE 2024

RENOVATION WORKS IN **Abia Newspaper and Publishing Office Block**



→ Renovated by MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING, ABIA STATE 2024



MINISTRY OF POWER AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

The State Government approved the Abia Integrated Water Sanitation and Hygiene Accelerated Programme, which includes the upgrade of water facilities and water treatment in the State. In addition, 10 solar-powered sanitation facilities would be installed across the three Senatorial Zones of the state.

The ministry, within the month, held an Off-Grid Energy Stakeholders Workshop on the Abia State Off-Grid Regulations Framework.

The Abia Light Up Initiative has continued to extend to different parts of the State.





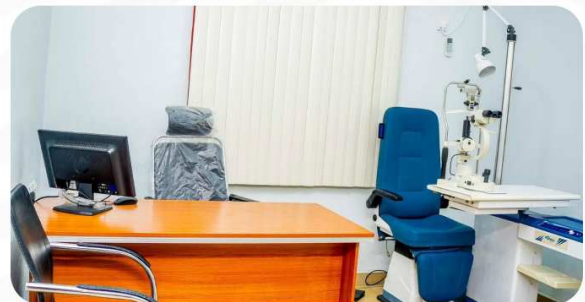
MINISTRY OF WORKS

- A total of 108 roads have so far been maintained and rehabilitated across the state through direct labour.
Phase two of Cemetery Road in Aba has been completed and awaiting commissioning
- His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, flagged off the reconstruction of the Ohafia-Arochukwu Federal Road.
- Port Harcourt Road construction by Julius Berger is seriously progressing according to specifications.
- The ongoing construction of Omuma Road in Aba is progressing significantly.
- Ohanku Road Construction with Rigid Pavement (Cement Technology) in Aba is ongoing
- The construction of Osisioma-Ekeakpara Road in Aba is ongoing.
- The ongoing reconstruction and dualization of the deplorable 67.64-km Umuahia-Uzuakoli-Abiriba-Ohafia road network in the State, divided into 3 sections and awarded to 3 different capable contractors to ensure quality and timely completion, is in progress.
- Work is seriously progressing at the 11.5-Kilometer Nunye-Eluama-Isiukwuato road and many other roads under construction by the Federal Government.





PHOTO GALLERY





APPOINTEE'S CORNER



SIR. PRINCE UZOR NWACHUKWU,
Commissioner for Local Government
and Chieftaincy Affairs

Born in November, 1967 into the family of His Royal Majesty Eze George N. Nwachukwu, (Nka Ndi Na Nti Palace) Nneoyi Village, Amaise Autonomous Community, Owerrinta, in Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area, Abia State.

Uzor attended Enugu State University of Science and Technology (Master of Science; Peace, Conflict & Development), University of Lagos (Master of International Law & Diplomacy), Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (Certified mediator), University of Port Harcourt (Bachelor of Arts), National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)

World Bank/IFC Training on Carbon Financing (Lighting Africa Development Marketplace Project, Tanzania 2008),

Entrepreneurial Skills Development Institute (EdI) Think-Tank Training Academy, Lagos, Nigeria and Enugu State University of Science and Technology (Ph.D in view).

Prince Uzor Nwachukwu is endowed with wealth of experiences and has attained numerous career progressions, both in paid employment, self employment and political career just to mention but few.

Uzor is the current Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs cum Chairman Abia State Harmonized Taskforce since July 2023.

He was Special Adviser to the Executive Governor of Abia State on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs from June 2023 – July 2023.

Uzor was the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of SUNTAP TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED, LAGOS, NIGERIA till June, 2023 (Consumer Electronics Partner/National Distributors to SAMSUNG Africa, NHDAL-Scanfro, JMG- Synix, CIG-E Gree Airconditioners, Flying Dove – Panasonic etc (Solar Energy Systems).

*He was also Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, LANDEQ NIGERIA LIMITED, Lagos, Nigeria from 2019 till 2023 (Equipment sales and leasing, Heavy duty Power Generators, construction Equipment, Real Estate Investments/Development).
Administrative Officer, Sudelletra Nig. Limited (Indo-Italian Oil Services Company) from 1995 – 1998.*

Uzor is the Convenor: ABIA FREEDOM ALLIANCE (A political alliance of progressive Professionals, Technocrats, Community Leaders, Religious Leaders, Business Men/Women, and Entrepreneurs, who are focused on promoting good and responsible governance in Abia State, Nigeria) from 2021 till date.

Prince Uzor Nwachukwu (KSC) is married to Lady Julie Uzor Nwachukwu, and the marriage is blessed with 3 children.