

ABIA STATE GOVERNMENT

Monthly Update

Abia State Government has successfully attracted \$1.3 billion funding for Abia Medical Village.

The State Government has approved the appointment of board members for the Abia Microfinance and SME Bank.

JULIUS BERGER TO OFFICIALLY HAND OVER THE COMPLETED RECONSTRUCTION OF THE STRATEGIC PORT-HARCOURT ROAD ABA, BY MAY 2025.

Production Team

The Month of April marked the 23rd month of Governor Otti's impactful people-centered governance in the State. Completed strategic projects were commissioned for the public's use; new ones were launched, and new institutions and agencies of the Government were created in Governor Otti's pragmatic approach and deliberate moves in rebuilding Abia State from the ruins of the past.

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, came to Abia as Governor Otti yielded the honour of commissioning the reconstructed 46.36km Umuahia - Uzuakoli - Akara Isiukwuato - Abiriba Road done by his administration to him. The 46.36km stretch of road network traversing the 4 Local Government Areas of Umuahia North, Isiukwuato, Bende and Ohafia, is the longest stretch of road network to be done in the State by any State Government.

The Abia State Government has successfully attracted \$1.3 billion funding for Abia Medical Village.

In a deliberate move to pull the State off the national grid and permanently solve the power problem in the State, Governor Alex Otti, OFR, inaugurated a five-man board of the Abia State Electricity Regulatory Authority (ASERA), with a charge for the agency to complete the negotiations with the EEDC and acquire the Umuahia ringed fence.

Also, in a bid to reposition the Abia State Microfinance and SME Bank to perform the mandate of its establishment, the State Government announced the appointment of members of the Board of Directors.

The summary of these and many more you will find in this month's edition.

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As part of the ongoing efforts to reposition the Abia State Microfinance and SME Bank, the State Government approved the appointment of the members of the Board of Directors. The composition of the Board is as follows: Mr. Friday Ndubuisi Eluwa – Chairman, Mr. Isaac Chimereze Okoro – Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Mrs. Nkechi John-Ajuga – Executive Director, Mr. Kings C. Akuma – Non-Executive Director, Mrs. Onyinye Patricia Ralph-Nwachukwu – Non-Executive Director, Mrs. Hope Chinyere Ubani Ukoma – Non-Executive Director, and Mr. Onwuchekwa Okoronkwo Elendu – Company Secretary/Legal Adviser. The Board is expected to provide strategic leadership to ensure that the Bank fulfils its mandate of delivering accessible financial services, supporting MSMEs, and catalyzing economic growth across Abia State.



The Abia State Government (ABSG) has revoked the land title granted to Enyimba Automated Shoe Company (ENASCO) and has equally moved to reclaim all Abia State Government resources and assets in the Company. This decision followed a comprehensive regulatory, financial and operational review undertaken by reputable Big Four professional service firms, which unraveled significant discrepancies and corporate governance-related issues within ENASCO.

The Government has directed the General Manager of Umuahia Capital Development Authority (UCDA) to quicken the process of setting out the new Umuahia City. This is part of the urban renewal, beautification and expansion agenda of the State Government of the State Capital.



The state government is set to renovate and retrofit the vocational and skills centre located at Mgbarakuma, Ubakala which has been left to rot for a long a time. Consequently, the General Manager of Umuahia Capital Development Authority has been directed by the Government to ensure that the facility will be up and running and ready for use in the shortest possible time.

Governor Oti commiserated with the residents of No. 73 Lagos Street, Off Ngwa road, Aba, on the fire incident that engulfed the second floor of their two-story building, destroying property worth millions of Naira. He described the incident as unfortunate, urged the victims to take heart, and assured them that the government would help them cushion the effect of





the loss and support them in getting an alternative accommodation. He also thanked God that no life was lost in the inferno. The Governor stressed the need for every household to have a fire



extinguisher and directed that henceforth, there is going to be enforcement of compulsory fire extinguishers in all households.



Governor Oti within the month under review expressed his gratitude to the Supreme Court of Nigeria for its decisive ruling affirming that political party leadership is an internal matter, over which the Court has no jurisdiction. He spoke when the leadership of the Labour Party in the State, led by the Acting Chairman, Sir Emmanuel Nwaeze Oti, presented to him, a Coaster bus purchased in the name of the State Chapter of the Labour Party. *"I want to also thank God for finally putting to rest the confusion that was created in the party. I will also use this opportunity to thank the Supreme Court for boldly declaring that the party leadership is an internal affair of the party. And once the party has taken a decision, the court does not have the jurisdiction."*





"So, all the people that procured the lower court judgments, declaring themselves one thing or the other in the party, the Supreme Court has put that to rest. The ownership of the part has reverted back to the stakeholders and members of the party," he stated. The Governor commended the State leadership of the party for not being a liability to the Government but an asset, tasking themselves to procure a big bus.

In his words, "I will like to thank the leadership of the party in the State. I can say that, this is what Labour Party should be like. Instead of being a liability to the Government, the Party is actually an asset and is able to task itself to procure a big bus like this to ease the movement of members of the party."

His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, alongside the Presidential Flag-bearer of the Labour Party in the 2023 General Election, and former Governor of Anambra State, His Excellency, Mr. Peter Gregory Obi joined the Catholic faithful at the Christ the King Catholic Church (CKC), Aba to commemorate the 2025 Chrism Mass. The Governor promised to continue serving the interest of the people of



Abia State and assured the church of his continued support. In his remarks, Mr. Peter Obi who was elevated to *"Okwute Ndi Nigeria"* by Governor Otti, pleaded with the Church to continue praying for

Nigeria. He reiterated his signature slogan that leadership is the challenge of Nigeria. He admonished leaders across Nigeria to emulate Governor Alex Otti by using public resources for the welfare of the people.



In a bid to promote patronage of homemade Akwete fabrics and Made-in-Abia products policy, His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, said that his administration would formalize the promotion, patronage, and usage of Akwete handmade clothes in the State, Nation, and African continent. He stated this when he received a delegation from Ethnocentrique Limited who paid him a working visit. Governor Otti, who

acknowledged the traditional structure of the Akwaete fabric industry, described it as oligopolistic. *"The Akwaete market looks like an oligopolistic market, just like you said, where daughters – mothers, and grandmothers handle the business. It doesn't go beyond that; we need to find a way to expand it."*

"While not deriding what they have done, we can always improve by applying technology; maybe the cost of production may become cheaper by the time you have large-scale production. We can also pass a legislation that ensures that people use it and it must

be available for people to get it," Gov. Otti stated.

The founder and Chief Executive Officer of Ethnocentrique Limited, Mrs. Irunna Ejibe said that the group has been in Aba since May last year to skill up support for 5000 young people and activate the local economy in a programme tagged 'Fashion Future Programme'. She said that Abia State was chosen because of the place and status of Aba as the heart of fashion in West Africa, adding that, there is now a visionary government in Abia that came prepared to change the story of the State.



Within the month in review, **Governor Otti inspected some ongoing projects in Umuahia the State Capital.** He inspected the Water Fountain at Okpara Square Roundabout, the ongoing drainage work being done by Planet Project, the company handling the Abia Mega Transport Terminal Project, and the ongoing renovation and remodeling of Okpara Auditorium. He expressed satisfaction with the quality and speed of work done so far and pointed out few areas that needed some adjustments.



Sequel to the sack of the of the Julius Abure-led National Working Committee of the Labour Party following the expiration of their tenure and the recognition of the Caretaker Committee led by Senators Nenandi Usman and Darlington Nwokocha, His Excellency, Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, attended the National Executive Council (NEC) and stakeholders Meeting of the Labour Party to decide the way forward. Thereafter, he led a delegation of the Party to submit the certified True Copy (CTC) of the Judgment to INEC.



Nigeria's Former President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, has called on leaders across the country to take a cue from the Governance style of Governor Alex Otti, OFR and what he is doing in Abia State. Dr. Jonathan, who is also an alumnus of the University of Port Harcourt, made the call on Saturday, 12th April, during the University of Port Harcourt's (UNIPORT) Alumni, 80th Reunion Dinner and Award ceremony in Umuahia, the Abia State Capital with the theme: *"Celebrating Excellence & Service to Humanity."* He said that, *"The presence of Alex Otti in Abia State shows intentionality in leadership. He came prepared. Before, in Abia State, once they say Aba made, people would*

laugh, but today, people are scrambling for Aba made. "Let Governance in Nigeria take a cue from what you are doing in Abia State; the intentionality of leadership – the leadership that was voted to make a change. His Excellency, President Jonathan said that Nigerian leaders should strive to make a change as Governor Alex Otti is making in Abia State."



Governor Otti received into the fold of the Labour Party (LP) a delegation of the member representing Bende North State Constituency, Hon. Nnamdi Ibekwe, who recently dumped the PDP and joined the ruling Labour Party in Abia State. The Governor stated that he is not bothered by the noise of the opposition party members in Abia State. Governor Otti said that he is rather focused on doing the job the people elected him to do and responding to the noise of the opposition with the work he is doing across the State. *"People are making noise, but I respond with work. We are very committed to the job that our people asked us to do. We are doing just that."*

Governor Alex Otti, while congratulating Hon. Nnamdi Ibekwe on his bold decision to leave his former political party to join the Labour Party, noted that nobody pressurized him to leave his party, emphasizing that leaving his former Party was his voluntary decision. While presenting himself to the Governor, the member representing Bende North State Constituency, Hon. Nnamdi Ibekwe, said that he was attracted to the Labour Party by the achievements of Governor Alex Otti, which he described as unprecedented.



Within the month in retrospect, the Catholic Bishop of Aba Diocese – Most Rev. (Prof.) Augustine Ndubueze Echema declared that the good works of the Governor of Abia State, His Excellency, Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, will speak and campaign for him. Bishop Echema made the declaration on Sunday, 27th April, during the thanksgiving service of Rev. Dr. Christian Ikpeamaeze at the St. Peter Claver

Catholic Parish, Umueleghele, Eketa, in Isiala Ngwa South LGA. *"Your good works will campaign for you... "I stand here to thank you today for your good works. As you continue with your good works, no Jupiter, no evil can ever come your way. Nobody*

can challenge you because the good works on ground will speak." Bishop Echema declared as the congregation echoed a resounding amen affirming his declaration.

Governor Alex Otti, OFR, **held Eid El Fitr with the Muslim faithful in Abia state.** During the event, which was held at the Governor's residence, he called for peace, understanding, and tolerance among Nigerians. He said that his administration does not discriminate along religious, gender, or tribal lines. He maintained that it is a lack of understanding that leads to discrimination. *"I think it is lack of understanding that makes people begin to kill each other and to discriminate. If we understand clearly that God created us equally, then some of the problems we are seeing, we won't see them. So, if you discriminate, you will shortchange yourself. You will make it difficult for you to reap the full benefits deposited in every human being. "We have literally abolished State of Origin here. So, if you live here and you are a good citizen of the country and you pay your taxes here and contribute to the development here, you are from here,"* Gov. Otti stated.



The Anambra Community in Abia endorsed Governor Alex Otti, OFR, for a second term in Office. This happened during a grand civic reception organized in honour of the Governor by the Aba Branch of the Anambra Town Unions. *"Your Excellency, we commend your administration's effort in*

infrastructural development in Aba, which has significantly impacted the value of our investments...We ndi Anambra have resolved to reassure you that we are solidly behind you on this race again, come 2027..." Chief Obiora Nwakpadolo, President General Anambra State Unions Association, Aba Branch declared.

Governor Alex Otti, OFR, held his monthly no-hold-barred media chat with Journalists in the State.



Youth Agricultural Empowerment Under the Renewed Hope Initiative:



In collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI) led by Nigeria's First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, Mrs. Oti facilitated the empowerment of 120 Abia youths in Umuahia North LGA. The beneficiaries received comprehensive training in sustainable agricultural practices, including organic fertilizer production, animal feed formulation, pest management, and the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Each participant was awarded a #100,000 grant and agricultural starter kits to commence their agribusiness ventures.



Advancing Local Governance Through Public Service Reform:

Her Excellency participated in a pivotal training program for local government stakeholders, organized by the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs. The event, themed "Changing the Narrative at the Local Government Areas for Good Governance," aimed to enhance service delivery and promote ethical leadership at the grassroots level. Mrs. Oti emphasized the importance of diligence, transparency, and people-centered leadership in fostering sustainable development.



Induction into the Rotary Club of Umuahia



Mrs. Oti was inducted into the **Rotary Club of Umuahia**, Government House Chapter, by District Governor Rt. A.U. Nnonyelu. In her remarks, she expressed deep

appreciation for Rotary's global legacy of service and humanitarian impact. She reaffirmed her passion for humanitarian service and lauded Rotary's efforts in promoting peace, education, healthcare, and community development.

World Malaria Day Commemoration

As the Abia State Malaria Ambassador, **Mrs. Oti** participated in the **World Malaria Day event organized by the Abia State Ministry of Health**. She applauded the efforts of health workers and partners in combating malaria and inspired participants with a rallying call: *"Malaria ends with us. It ends with our choices. It ends with our actions. Let us rise with courage, united in purpose, to build a malaria-free Abia,"* Mrs. Oti Stated.



FIDA South East Leadership Training for Lawyers



Represented by the wife of the Deputy Governor, Mrs. Oti **addressed the South East Leadership Training for Lawyers** organized by the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA). She commended FIDA's dedication to providing probono legal services and announced a monthly donation to support their efforts in fighting gender-based violence in Abia State.

In recognition of her tireless work in advocating for the rights of women and children, FIDA presented her with an Award of Excellence.

Engaging with the Nigerian Medical Diaspora at ANPA Convention



Mrs. Oti attended the **31st Annual Scientific Convention of the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas (ANPA)** held at Eko Hotel and Suites, Lagos. She lauded ANPA's contributions to health education, science, and humanitarian service, and expressed admiration for Nigerian professionals in the Diaspora investing in the nation's healthcare advancement.





Abia State Government has commenced the process of reviving the moribund Aba Textile Mill and Star Paper Mill to create

jobs for the people. Governor Otti disclosed this while speaking during a reception held in his honour by the Anambra State Town Union Associations, Aba Branch at the premises of Chief Leo Okoye, Aba. He further disclosed that in the next few months, the government, through some partnerships, would be engaging and training the young people in various MSMEs to make Aba the natural hub for fabric, textiles, and leather. *"We are negotiating with the people that acquired the Aba Textile Mill. We want to return it to life. As a government, we are interfacing with AMCON. We want to acquire the Star Paper Mill and bring it back to life."*

"These were things that were set up by our forefathers. They were visionary. So if we cannot do better than them, we cannot explain why we are in this world. So it is a challenge; I want the support of everyone so that we return our State to what it used to be," Gov. Otti stated.

Governor Alex OFR, received a progress report on the proposed establishment of a Multi-Million Dollar Dairy Farm in Abia State by a delegation of the Blue Ribbon Company led by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Sir Idris Wabara Esq, promoters of the project. Speaking after receiving the progress report from the Blue Ribbon delegation, Governor Otti expressed concerns that the commencement of the project had been delayed more than he had expected after the first time they met last year, and he gave approval in principle. He emphasized the importance of establishing timelines of execution. In his words, *"We know that it is something that would take a little bit of time, maybe we were not expecting that it will take one year to still be on the drawing table. But then, it is heartwarming that you are intensively on it. Maybe, we need to have a smaller section, where you will table exactly what you need so that we can also say what we can do. But, most importantly, we need to also establish timelines of delivery."*



He reassured them of the Government support. *"I don't know what exactly it is you are looking for, but if there is anything we can help you with, you can take that for granted. My team and I would do everything possible to support you so that the project can take off,"* the Governor assured.

The Abia State College of Health Sciences and Management Technology has received accreditation in some course areas, including Community Health Technology, Public Health Technology, Students Industrial Works (SIWES), and Health Technology.



Governor Otti, received a delegation from the NNPC Foundation led by the consultant coordinating the Free Cataract Extraction for NNPC Foundation, Dr. (Mrs) Anne Amugo, who was in Abia for the flag-off of the NNPC's free cataract surgery initiative that took place simultaneously in three locations across the State. The Governor reaffirmed his

commitment to Healthcare delivery as a top priority of his administration, stating, *"Anywhere in the world, healthcare is not cheap. In places where it appears cheap, the option is death. That is why we take healthcare seriously and will continue to support initiatives like this. This is the kind of thing we support and appreciate."*



Governor Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, alongside Ex-President Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, launched, unveiled and flagged off the triple Medical Programme and Intervention by Abia State Government; Formal Sector Health Insurance Scheme, Free Medical Outreach (Free Medical Screening, Free Medical Treatment, Eye Care, Free Education in Nutrition and Substance Abuse), and Sound Intervention Hearing Mission 2025 (A partnership between the Olusegun Obasanjo Foundation in partnership with the Abia State Ministry of Health), at the International Conference Centre, Ogurube - Umuahia. Speaking at the International Conference Centre Umuahia during the launch, Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, said that his vision for healthcare delivery is to build a system that is dynamic and responsive to the needs of the local population.

In a speech titled "**BEYOND HEALTHCARE**" Governor Otti declared that nobody in the New Abia would be denied access to healthcare services for reasons of financial incapacity. He said that the launch of the triple-barreled initiative would revolutionize service delivery and access to healthcare.



The Abia State Government has successfully attracted \$1.3 billion funding for Abia Medical Village.

In addition, His Excellency, Dr Alex Otti, OFR, approved the following for the health sector:

- 1. A new salary scale for Abia Health Care workers – Abia State Health Workers Salary Scale (ASHWOSS) with Effect from May 1st 2025.**
- 2. ASWOSS is at par with the Federal salary structure for Health workers namely CONMESS – Consolidated Medical Salary Scale for Doctors and CONHESS – Consolidated Health Salary Scale for Nurses, Pharmacists, Physiotherapists, Optometrists, Physiotherapists, medical laboratory scientists and radiographers.** This means that Abia Health workers with effect from May 1st 2025 will begin to enjoy the same pay as their federal government counterparts.
- 3. The recruitment of 771 new health workers** including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, medical lab scientists, physiotherapists, radiographers and other categories of healthcare workers. This

number was based on the result of needs assessment performed across the health facilities and agencies of the ministry of Health.

- 4. His Excellency has also approved the release of funds to cover the emolument of the 771 new staff** to be recruited into the healthcare workforce.
- 5. To attract and retain critical human resources for health talent in the state, His Excellency has directed the ministry of health to negotiate special emolument package** to attract consultants and specialists of rare but critical medical fields and medical experts with special skills including laparoscopic and minimally invasive surgery, anesthesia and intensive care, transplant and robotic surgery, cardiac and neurosurgery, neonatology, interventional (radiology, neurology, cardiology and nephrology) ophthalmology, oncology, orthopedics and plastic surgery on a case by case basis as may be applicable.

All above approvals took effect from May 1st 2025.



Governor Alex Otti, OFR, inaugurated a five-man board of the Abia State Electricity Regulatory Agency (ASERA), with a charge for the agency to complete the negotiations with the EEDC and acquire the Umuahia ringed fence. Governor Otti vowed to ensure that the power problem is solved in Abia as the State would be completely pulled off the national grid. The full list of the membership of the agency includes: Mr Onyegbule Emeka – Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, Mr Ikowu Ukwu – Executive Director, Engr. Iheanyi Ine Eze – Executive Director, Onwuegbule Kareem Eberechukwu – Non-Executive Director, and Dr. Joy Oti – Non-Executive Director.



Governor Alex Otti, OFR, approved the setting-up of an independent power plant project in Abia State University, Uturu (ABSU) to solve the power challenge of ABSU and Uturu community. Governor Otti who disclosed this while being hosted by the people of Isuikwuato LGA at the Isuikwuato High School, Otankpa, explained that the power project is part of the ongoing rehabilitation in ABSU. *"As part of the rehabilitation of Abia State University, I have approved that an independent power plant project is set up in Abia State University."*

"The independent power plant project would generate not less than 10 megawatts of electricity. So, the idea is that not just Abia State University will be served; Uturu town would also have power from the initiative. Those of you who have followed what is happening in this State will know that a few weeks ago, we signed the Abia State Electricity Bill into law."

"So, we don't need to go to anybody for approval to set up whether it is renewable energy or IPP; integrated power plant, stands alone and as soon as we have the approval of the House of Assembly, the members and leadership of the Abia state electricity regulatory agency (ASERA) would be put in place," Gov. Otti stated.

The ministry completed the installation of 60 kwp solar power project and computer-based training centre at Isialangwa South LGA as a deliberate policy of the same government to spread development across communities in the state.



Ministry of Works



Governor Oti yielded the honour of commissioning the reconstructed 46.36km Umuahia - Uzuakoli - Akara Isiukwuato - Abiriba Road done by his administration to Nigeria's former President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR. The 46.36km stretch of road network traversing the 4 Local

Governments Areas of Umuahia North, Isiukwuato, Bende and Ohafia, is the longest stretch of road network to be done in the State by any State Government.

Speaking during the commissioning, the former President described Governor Oti as a performer and an exemplary leader who has impacted the lives of his people positively. Chief Obasanjo recalled how terrible the road has been, especially the last time he visited Abiriba and described Governor Oti as a miracle worker. *"You (Gov. Oti) are a man of your word, a goal getter, a performer. You are a man who says no to what is bad and yes to what is good. You are an example of a leader."*

You (Abia people) said you have had leaders before, but one thing you must know is that good leaders

don't flock and when you get a good leader, like you have got in Dr Alex Otti, you must maximize good use of him.

"This road you are all talking about, I traveled on it to Abiriba. It was hellish, and when I was told that the road you have done will get me from Umuahia to Abiriba in 35 minutes, I said this man called Alex Otti is a miracle worker.



Julius Berger is scheduled to officially hand over the completed reconstruction of the strategic Port Harcourt Road by May 2025.





Abia State Government (ABSG) will **recruit extra 4,000 teachers to measure up with the upsurge in the enrollment of pupils and students in the basic public schools in the State.** Governor Alex Otti made this disclosure while hosting former President of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo to a dinner in Government House Umuahia. *"We want to hire another 4,000. Why am I passionate about this? I come from a very poor home and if I didn't have the opportunity to go to public schools, I won't be here with you today. I want every child in this State to have the same opportunities that I had. The son of a poor man can become someone tomorrow just because of that opportunity."*

Ministry of Sports & Youth Development



Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, says he will **upscale the training of youths in various fashion skills to support the training and up-skilling programme** organized for young people by Ethnocentrique Limited. The Governor stated this at the Enyimba International Stadium, Aba, during the Fashion Games 2025, a

graduation event for 2000 youths trained and up-skilled in fashion skills to showcase Africa's creative excellence, put together by Ethnocentrique Limited.





Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, received the National Sports Festival Torch of Peace and Unity in preparation for the 22nd National Sports Festival tagged "Gateway Games" holding at Abeokuta, Ogun State from 16th to 30th of May 2025. Receiving the torch from the officials of the National Sports Commission, Abuja, Governor Otti commended the Abia Sports team for making the State proud, noting that sports hold everybody together and promote unity among Nigerians. *"It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Abia. I must re-emphasize that there is something that holds everybody together, and that is sports"* he stated.

Ministry of Lands & Housing



Abia State Governor, His Excellency, Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, says that now is the right time to invest in the Real Estate Sector of the State. He stated this during a business meeting with the management team of Capital City Development Ltd, a Real Estate Company with headquarters in Port Harcourt, led by the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer (MD/CEO), Arc. Uche Arunsi Kalu. Dr. Otti revealed that the real estate sector of Abia State holds a lot of prospects and potential and emphasized the importance of getting the location right, in terms of

infrastructure, as defined by human beings who can live and afford the location. The Governor said that his administration has focused more on creating an enabling environment in the last 23 months, acknowledging that, although appreciable effort has been made in that regard, more improvements are needed.

He gave the Capital City Development the option of identifying a land or location they may want to develop while the State allocates the land to them as her own equity or buying the land while the government issues them a Certificate of Occupancy to go ahead with their business.



Ministry of Petroleum

The commencement of the **construction of a 10,000-barrel-per-day modular refinery** at the Abia Industrial Innovation Park (AIIP) in Ukwa West is expected by May 2025. The project, to be executed by HSI, is a major step toward driving industrialization, creating jobs, and boosting the State's economy. Site preparations, including bush clearing and payment of compensation to affected landowners, are already underway.

Ministry of Agriculture



Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, has expressed the willingness of Abia State Government to partner with an Israeli agricultural expert and investors to grow the State's economy. He expressed the willingness when he received in audience a delegation of an Israeli-based agricultural investor and the Managing Director of ONIDA Development, Mr. Kidron Isreal, who called on him in his office. *"Watching the presentation and listening to you, I could see that we are going to work together."*

"So, I am in a hurry to see that you begin to implement this initiative to boost productivity in the State. The Land belongs to the government, and we are willing to provide land.

"Because we are involved, even if you have to pay anything, it will be insignificant as the provision of land can also be our own equity to the investment," Gov. Otti stated.

The Governor directed the delegation to sit down with the government's team and work out what they could jointly do to fast-track the whole process to commence as quickly as possible.

He said that the areas of vegetable and fish production are good places to start from, while other areas could be explored later.



In a strategic and well-coordinated effort to strengthen food security, the **Ministry of Agriculture has flagged off the wet season rice farming programme under its In-Growers scheme.** This initiative targets over 8,500 hectares

of land across rice-producing communities in Abia North. Over 400 verified farmers in Ndi-Okereke, Abam, are cultivating over 500 hectares, with an additional 150 hectares in Owerrinta already under cultivation.

The Ministry of Agriculture has **launched a data-driven farmer enumeration process.** This initiative ensures only verified, geo-mapped, and genuine farmers benefit from government programs, eliminating fraudulent claims and politicization of support schemes.

Ministry of Local Government & Chieftaincy Affairs

Governor Alex Otti, OFR, declared open an **eight-day capacity-building workshop** organized by the Abia state government in collaboration with Phriam Group of Consultants for traditional rulers across the state on the theme, *"Revitalizing Traditional Leadership for a New Abia."* The governor called for the revitalization of the traditional institution for greater effective service delivery that will impact the people at the grassroots positively. Represented by his Chief of Staff, Pastor Caleb Ajagba, Governor Otti described the workshop as

apt and advised the traditional rulers to approach the workshop with every sense of commitment. Governor Otti noted that over the years, the traditional institution has been inundated with several challenges that have continued to make them unable to fulfill and execute the mandate that is bestowed upon them. He said that the traditional institution is a revered institution known for mediating between the people and the state, maintaining law and order, resolving conflicts, and fostering national unity.



Governor Oti received in audience a delegation of the Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC), led by the New Managing Director, Dr. Kayode Opeifa who came to deepen discussions and the plans on how best to revive the Aba - Umuahia rail line and ensure that all major cities in the South-East are connected to the national rail line. The Governor vowed to transform Abia's transport sector as he described transportation as a sector that is very important to economic development and growth. *"Actually, we were thinking of Paddington in the UK where you have the bus terminal, train and everything converging in a place. Paddington never sleeps, that's the kind of business we want to introduce in Umuahia,"* Gov. Oti stated.

He expressed concerns that progress had stalled on the Umuahia to Enugu section of the railway corridor as they were originally scheduled for completion by the first quarter of last year, stating that he is confident that under the New Managing Director, the trajectory of NRC work would change positively. On concerns raised about the security of NRC assets in Aba, Governor Oti assured that he would look into the issue and provide necessary support, including logistics, emphasizing that his government does not discriminate between Federal and State project but is always willing to partner with individuals or agencies that want to bring development to the State.

Ministry of Culture & Creative Economy



Governor Alex Oti within the Month in retrospect **emphasized the importance of culture to the continued existence of a society**, saying that when a society loses its tradition and culture, such society is dead and gone. The Governor made the emphasizes during the 2025 Ekponibro Cultural Festival (Ugbo Nmiri Nma) held at Etiti Abam Primary School, Atani Abam, in Arochukwu Local Government Area of the State, sponsored by the UNUBIKO Foundation, a non-governmental and nonprofit organization in partnership and with and the endorsement of

the Abia State Government. He said, *"This speaks to our tradition and culture. And, any society that loses its tradition and culture is gone. In those days, societies begin to die when they lose their tradition. They begin to go into bondage and slavery. "I am happy that Abam people did not forget where they came from. And, I want to thank the UNUBIKO Foundation for remembering and also bankrolling all these, and my prayer is that God will continue to replenish your source a million fold."*



Ministry of Trade & Commerce

The Governor received in audience a delegation of the Haier Global Business led by its Director Africa, Mr. Sunny Liu, who called on him for possible collaborations with Abia State Government. Haire Global Business deals with smart school initiatives and the supply of solar systems, IT equipment, indoor classrooms, as well as e-classroom solutions. Governor Otti urged them to invest in Abia State stating that his Government is open for business as it is a Government of partnerships. In his words,

"Our Government is a Government of partnerships, in the last 22 months, we have engaged with the private sector like you on the basis of public-private partnership. Our partnership is not about patronizing you, but it is about having you set up a manufacturing base here. I can see you manufacture tractors, you get involved in agriculture, you get involved in electronics, just name it. We have a very strong market here and that is also another attraction."



PST CALEB AJAGBA, PhD

CHIEF OF STAFF
TO THE GOVERNOR
OF ABIA STATE

Caleb Ajagba, is from Umuezegu-Nsulu, in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of Abia State. He holds B.Sc, M.Sc, MBA, PhD degrees in Political Science and Business Administration respectively from the University of Lagos, graduating as the Best All Round student in his year. He also holds a Master in Business Administration (MBA) with Marketing Management Option, from the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, (ATBU) Bauchi, Nigeria and a PhD in Political Science, specializing in Strategic Governance, from the College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

In his former life, he was the Managing Director/CEO, Candid Logistics Nigeria Limited - an indigenous Shipping, International Freight forwarding and Logistics Company. He has over 35 years industry

experience in International Shipping, Maritime, Freight Forwarding and Procurement services.

Pastor Ajagba has attended several Senior Executive Management courses and sat on the Board of companies with interest in Oil and Gas, Manufacturing and Events Management. He is a member of several professional bodies and an Alumnus of University of Lagos, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Covenant University, Ota Nigeria as well as Harvard Business School and Cranfield School of Management, Cranfield University, Bedford England.

Pastor Ajagba is an astute believer in integrity and transparency. He is an Ordained Minister of the Gospel serving in Living Faith Church (Winners' Chapel). He has keen interest in mentoring young Business and Career people, specializing in Start-Ups, Business Branding and Strategies. He is the author of some motivational business books including: Your Position at The Top Is Still Vacant; Positioning Yourself in the Crowd; Don't Devalue Yourself; and Standing Before Kings and Great men. He is married to Arinola, a Gospel Artiste and they are blessed with 4 Lovely children: Prince, Precious, Victor and Vincent.

PHOTO GALLERY

Completed & On-Going

HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE - Abia Specialist Hospital, Umuahia (Completed)



EDUCATIONAL INFRACTURE - Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Aba (*Completed*)



Lecture hall at Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic.



Ongoing reconstruction of Umuagbai Secondary School, Aba.





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SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE / EQUIPMENTS



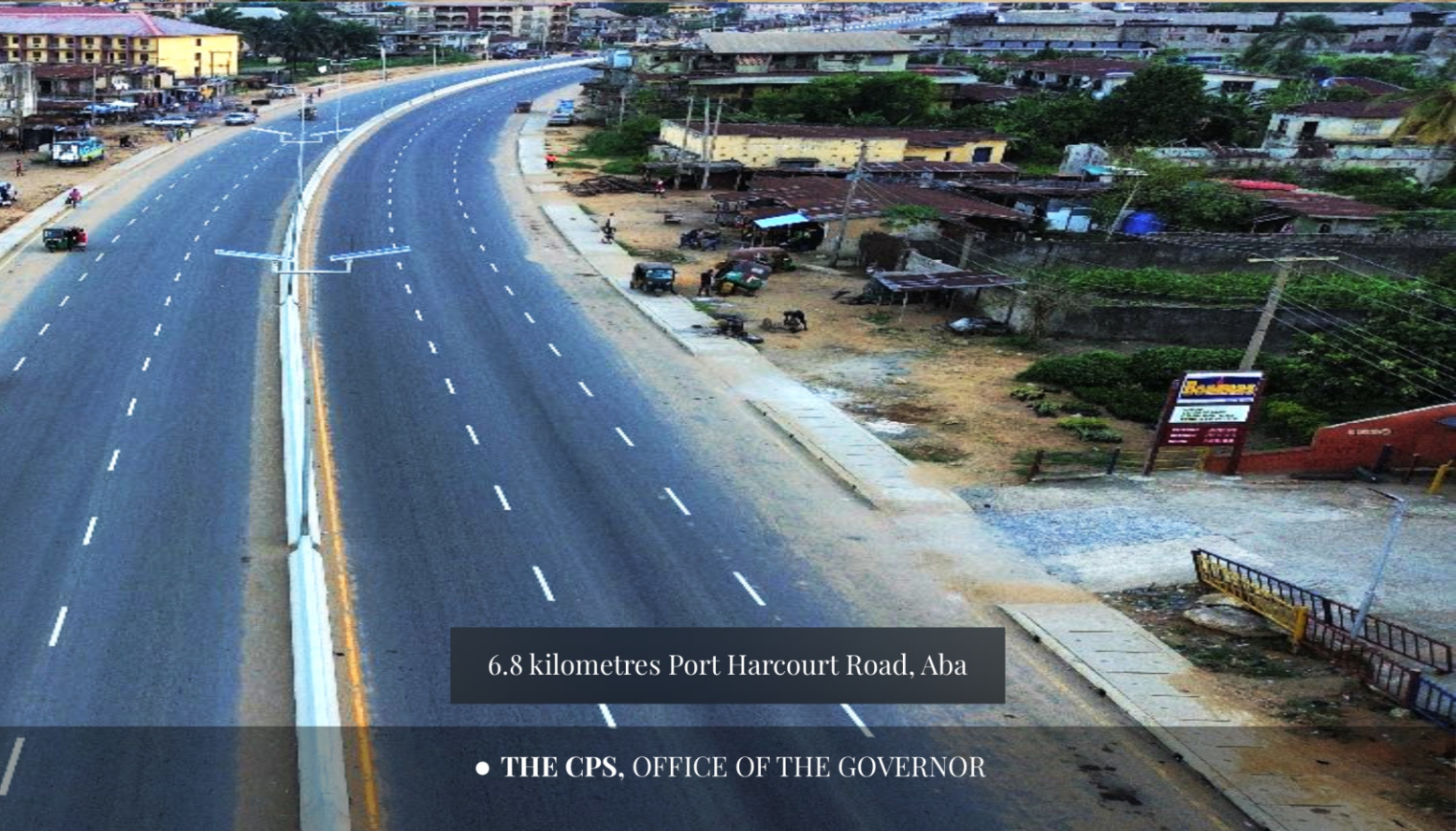
ROAD INFRACTURE *(Completed & On-Going)*



46.36km Umuahia – Uzuakoli – Akara Isiukwuato – Abiriba Road



11.1-kilometer Obehie – Umudobia – Owaza road in the Ukwa West



6.8 kilometres Port Harcourt Road, Aba



PUBLIC BUILDING INFRACTURE *(Completed & On-Going)*







On-going remodeling and renovation of Okpara Auditorium , Umuahia



JAAC Building, Umuahia



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