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HEADLINE NEWS

SEN OLUREMI TINUBU IN ANAMBRA: SOLUTION GOVERNMENT, FG'S RELATIONSHIP STRENGTHENED

On Thursday, the First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, CON, visited Anambra State as part of activities aimed at advancing the...

By Stella Obi

STORY ON PAGE 2 >

AT A GLANCE

INFORMATION MINISTRY, NDLEA TO PARTNER ON ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN, VALUE REFORMATION

The Anambra State Ministry of Information and Value Reformation and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have agreed to...

Page 11

SA URGES TEACHERS TO EMBRACE DIGITAL SKILLS, PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

The Special Adviser to the Anambra State Governor on Education, Mrs. Obiageli Chiegboka, has urged teachers to take responsibility for their professional...

Page 12

UNIZIK GETS SPORTS BOOST, TARGETS GOLD AT CAIRO 2026 GAMES

Page 14

SOLUDO PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR JOURNALISTS, CALLS FOR RESPONSIBLE REPORTING AT NUJ ANAMBRA 35TH ANNIVERSARY

The Anambra State Government has pledged to partner with journalists in the state on welfare and health, even as it urged media practitioners to...

GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT

SOLUDO'S 4TH TIER OF GOVERNMENT TO ENHANCE GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT

The proposed establishment of community administrations as the fourth tier of government in Anambra State is a bold governance reform whose time has come...

Page 2

PUBLIC SERVICE

ANAMBRA DEEPENS PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY, SERVICE DELIVERY

The Anambra State Government is intensifying public service reforms, with renewed focus on professionalism, digital competence, accountability, discipline, staff development and...

Page 7

EDUCATION

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY: ANAMBRA TARGETS STRONGER LITERACY, NUMERACY SKILLS FOR CHILDREN — OGUGUA

The Anambra State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening literacy and numeracy among children, identifying foundational learning as critical to their...

Page 8



DR. LAW MEFOR

COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION & VALUE REFORMATION

SPOTLIGHT

01

NPHCDA TRAINS ANAMBRA HEALTH WORKERS ON COMMUNITY FOOD BANK PROGRAMME



The National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) has commenced a two-day orientation for healthcare workers in Anambra on the...

PG. 05

02

ASHIA DEEPENS ENGAGEMENT WITH ACCREDITED HOSPITALS TO IMPROVE ENROLLEE CARE



The Executive Secretary of the Anambra State Health Insurance Agency (ASHIA), Dr. Augustine Ezeka, has intensified the agency's engagement with accredited...

PG. 09

03

SENATOR OLUREMI TINUBU COMMISSIONS ICT CENTRE AT FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC OKO



On September 10, 2026, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, wife of the President, officially inaugurated a modern ICT Experience Centre at the...

PG. 10

From the Editorial Corner

SOLUDO'S 4TH TIER OF GOVERNMENT TO ENHANCE GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT

The proposed establishment of community administrations as the fourth tier of government in Anambra State is a bold governance reform whose time has come.

At its 11th meeting on Monday, August 31, 2026, the Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC), under the leadership of Governor Prof. Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR, advanced plans to finalise a bill establishing community administrations with clearly defined responsibilities and dedicated budgets.

This is more than the creation of another administrative structure. It is an attempt to put communities at the heart of governance and development.

For a state where communities have historically driven development through collective effort, giving them a recognised place in the governance architecture is both logical and progressive. Communities understand their needs better than anyone and should have a structured role in determining and driving solutions to those needs.

With dedicated responsibilities and budgets, community administrations

can promote greater ownership, accountability and speed in grassroots development. They can also free the state government and local government areas to concentrate on wider strategic responsibilities.

But bold reforms must be matched with strong safeguards. The proposed system must have clear lines of authority, transparent financial management and firm accountability mechanisms. It must not become another avenue for bureaucracy, duplication or political patronage.

The opportunity before Anambra is therefore clear: build a fourth tier that empowers communities, not one that burdens them.

If properly designed and implemented, community administrations could become one of the most significant governance innovations in Anambra's history—bringing government closer to the people, accelerating development and strengthening the culture of community participation for which the state is renowned.

Ndi Anambra should welcome and support this initiative to bring governance and development closer to the masses should for the benefit of all.



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SEN OLUREMI TINUBU IN ANAMBRA: SOLUTION GOVERNMENT, FG'S RELATIONSHIP STRENGTHENED

• FOOD BANK, ICT CENTRE TAKE CENTRE STAGE

By Stella Obi

On Thursday, the First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, CON, visited Anambra State as part of activities aimed at advancing the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Agenda. The visit marked an important moment in the relationship between the Federal Government and the people of Anambra State.

The centerpiece of the visit was the launch of the National Community Food Bank Programme in the South-East Zone, an initiative designed to provide support to vulnerable Nigerians and address food insecurity at the grassroots.

The First Lady was welcomed to the state by the Governor of Anambra State, Professor Chukwuma Soludo, CFR, alongside his wife, Mrs. Nonye Soludo.

Governor Soludo described her visit as a demonstration of the Federal Government's commitment to partnering with the state in delivering development initiatives that directly impact the lives of the people.

The Governor also highlighted the importance of the National Community Food Bank Programme, describing it as a timely intervention for vulnerable families, women, children, the elderly and other disadvantaged members of society. He noted that initiatives aimed at improving nutrition and reducing poverty complement the state government's efforts to build a prosperous and socially inclusive Anambra.

At the commissioning of the TETFund ICT Experience Centre at the Federal Polytechnic, Oko, Senator Oluremi Tinubu emphasised the importance of equipping Nigerian students with digital skills and modern technological resources needed to compete in the global economy. She described the centre as an investment in the future of young Nigerians, particularly in areas such as software development, data analysis, digital marketing and other emerging fields.

At the launch of the Food Bank Programme, the First Lady emphasised that the initiative forms a core component of the Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI), which is focused on grassroots development, reducing hunger and directly improving human capital indices across Nigerian communities.

Beyond the ceremonies and project commissioning, the First Lady's visit carries significant social and developmental implications for Anambra State.

The launch of the Food Bank Programme places food security and social protection at the centre of the engagement, while the Oko ICT Centre focuses on the long-term empowerment of young people through education, technology and digital skills.

The visit also signifies the Federal Government's commitment to ensuring that national development programmes reach communities across all parts of the country.

The joint involvement of the Anambra State Government and the Office of the First Lady underscores the importance of cooperation in tackling shared challenges, particularly poverty, food insecurity and youth unemployment.

By combining food-security interventions with investments in digital education and youth capacity

development, the visit highlights the importance of addressing present economic challenges while simultaneously creating opportunities for sustainable advancement.

Ultimately, the message of the visit is that effective development must put people at the centre—protecting the vulnerable, empowering young people and strengthening partnerships capable of delivering tangible and lasting benefits to communities.







NPHCDA TRAINS ANAMBRA HEALTH WORKERS ON COMMUNITY FOOD BANK PROGRAMME

By Nnedinma Okeke

The National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) has commenced a two-day orientation for healthcare workers in Anambra on the implementation of the National Community Food Bank (NCFB) Programme.

The orientation, organised in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the Office of the First Lady of Nigeria, began on September 7, 2026, at Cardinal Point International Hotel, Awka.

It brings together state and local government area (LGA) healthcare workers and features practical

sessions on beneficiary identification, screening, enrolment and the use of the programme's digital beneficiary platform.

A one-day screening and verification exercise for eligible beneficiaries in participating LGAs will follow the orientation.

The Executive Secretary of the Anambra State Primary Health Care Development Agency (ASPHCDA), Dr. Chizoba Prisca Ezeasor, said the initiative was important to maternal and child health, noting that adequate nutrition remained fundamental to the wellbeing of communities.

Ezeasor, while welcoming the NPHCDA team, commended the agency for providing technical guidance and support for the initiative in the state.

She urged participants to pay attention to beneficiary mobilisation, screening, enrolment, documentation, commodity management, distribution, reporting and supportive supervision.

She added that the intervention would provide an opportunity to identify vulnerable mothers and children, assess their nutritional status, offer appropriate counselling and link them with essential primary healthcare services where necessary.

The executive secretary urged participants to take the orientation seriously, participate actively and seek clarification on areas requiring further understanding to ensure effective delivery at their respective facilities.

The NPHCDA South-East Zonal Director, Dr. Samuel C. Obasi, who represented the agency's Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Muyi Aina, commended the facilitators for supporting Anambra in establishing and implementing the initiative.

Obasi also appreciated Governor Chukwuma Soludo for the state government's support and for providing an enabling environment for the intervention.

He described healthcare workers as the "foot soldiers" of healthcare delivery and urged them to apply the

knowledge and skills acquired during the orientation in their respective facilities.

The NPHCDA Director of Nutrition, Dr. Adebisi Olatunde, said the NCFB Programme was a multi-sectorial initiative designed to improve access to nutritious food among vulnerable households.

Olatunde said the initiative was aimed at alleviating acute food insecurity among vulnerable households with young children through structured, time limited access to nutritious and locally sourced food, while improving

nutrition outcomes among beneficiaries.

The orientation also covers commodity management, documentation, reporting and accountability mechanisms required for effective delivery.

Among those at the event were the NPHCDA Assistant Director, Dr. Philippa Odiaka; Senior Nutrition Officer, Mrs. Priscilla Oche; Anambra State Coordinator, Mr. Obioha Agbakwuru; officials of ASPHCDA; LGA healthcare workers and other stakeholders.



ANAMBRA DEEPENS PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY, SERVICE DELIVERY

By MaryAnn Chukwuma

The Anambra State Government is intensifying public service reforms, with renewed focus on professionalism, digital competence, accountability, discipline, staff development and improved welfare for workers. The reforms are part of the administration's broader efforts to build an efficient, technology-driven and citizen-centred public service capable of translating government policies into tangible outcomes.

A key component of the reform agenda is digital transformation, as the government gradually moves away from paper-based processes while strengthening electronic record-keeping and digital operations across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). One notable example is the digitalisation of land administration through the Anambra Geographic Information System (ANAMGIS), which has helped streamline land documentation and reduce delays in the processing of Certificates of Occupancy.

As part of efforts to strengthen the capacity of public servants, administrative officers, confidential secretaries and clerical staff received training in digital compliance, professional ethics and modern public administration during the 2026 Human Resource Development Week. The reform agenda also places emphasis on workers' attitudes and professionalism. The Head of Service, Ngozi Anuli Iwouno, Esq., has continued to stress the importance of punctuality, diligence, accountability and respectful treatment of citizens by public servants.

Another major reform is the ongoing verification exercise for public servants, which is aimed at establishing an accurate workforce database, eliminating irregularities and ensuring that personnel records reflect genuine employees. Beyond verification, the exercise is expected to provide reliable workforce data for effective manpower planning, payroll management, staff deployment, succession planning and targeted capacity development across the public service.

The government is also standardising official government email addresses across MDAs as part of efforts to improve communication, strengthen cybersecurity, enhance accountability and promote efficiency in official correspondence. At the same time, workers' welfare remains an important component of the reform agenda, recognising that a motivated and properly equipped workforce is essential to effective service delivery.

Ultimately, the success of the public service reforms will be measured by their impact at the point of service, particularly when citizens experience faster processes, responsible officials, improved communication and a more responsive government.



INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY: ANAMBRA TARGETS STRONGER LITERACY, NUMERACY SKILLS FOR CHILDREN — OGUGUA

By Obiageli Nwankwo

The Anambra State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening literacy and numeracy among children, identifying foundational learning as critical to their educational development and future opportunities.

The Commissioner for Education, Dr. Ekene Ogugua, stated this in a message marking International Literacy Day 2026, saying the state was implementing measures aimed at improving children's access to education and supporting effective teaching and learning.

Ogugua said literacy was more than the ability to read and write, describing it as a foundation for learning, communication, informed decision making and participation in society.

He attributed the state's education interventions to the administration of Governor Chukwuma Soludo, noting that the government had introduced free education in public schools from pre-primary to senior secondary level as part of efforts to make basic education more accessible.

According to the commissioner, the government had also recruited 8,115 teachers, an intervention he said was intended to strengthen the teaching workforce and support the delivery of instruction in public schools.

Ogugua said the state was investing in smart schools as part of its technology driven approach to education.

He explained that the smart schools are designed to provide modern learning environments that incorporate digital devices, technology-supported teaching and contemporary educational facilities,



**ANAMBRA STATE
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

WORLD LITERACY DAY

8 SEPTEMBER 2026

THEME: *Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity.*

“ Literacy opens doors, creates opportunities and empowers every child to discover what is possible. ”

LITERACY THRIVES WHEN EVERY CHILD HAS ACCESS.
In Anambra State, we are building that access.

WHAT THE SOLUDO-LED ADMINISTRATION IS DOING

 FREE EDUCATION FROM PRE-PRIMARY TO SSS No child should be denied education because of cost.	 21 SMART SCHOOLS UPGRADED Fitted with modern education technology aids for 21st century learning.
 TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED LEARNING Digital tools and smart classrooms are enhancing teaching and learning.	 INCLUSIVE EDUCATION Special needs schools are receiving the attention and support they deserve.
 OVER 8,000 TEACHERS RECRUITED Strengthening our classrooms and improving learning outcomes across the State.	 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND Every intervention is geared towards ensuring that every child in Anambra learns, grows and succeeds.

WHEN CHILDREN READ, THE FUTURE LEADS. Together, let's build a literate, innovative and prosperous Anambra.

**A Shout By
DR. EKENE OGUGUA
COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION,
ANAMBRA STATE**

“ On this World Literacy Day, I reaffirm our commitment to building an Anambra where every child can read, learn and dream without limits. Literacy is not just a skill; it is the power that transforms lives and builds a better society. ”

**Let's read. Let's learn. Let's lead.
HAPPY WORLD LITERACY DAY!**




@anambraeducation

#WorldLiteracyDay #AnambraReads
#EducationForAll #LiteracyForProsperity

giving pupils and teachers access to tools that complement conventional classroom instruction.

The commissioner said the government was also renovating schools, learning centres and special needs schools to provide more conducive and inclusive environments for learning.

He stressed that the objective was to ensure that children acquire not only basic literacy and numeracy but also digital and other essential skills needed to function effectively in a changing world.

The commissioner congratulated Ndi Anambra and education stakeholders marking the occasion, assuring that

the Ministry of Education would continue to support efforts aimed at strengthening literacy, numeracy and quality learning across the state.

ASHIA DEEPENS ENGAGEMENT WITH ACCREDITED HOSPITALS TO IMPROVE ENROLLEE CARE



By Chisom Okafor

The Executive Secretary of the Anambra State Health Insurance Agency (ASHIA), Dr. Augustine Ezeka, has intensified the agency's engagement with accredited healthcare providers, taking its problem solving approach directly to hospitals to better understand operational challenges and improve care for enrollees.

Dr. Ezeka led the on the spot visits to Ekwulobia General Hospital, Isuofia General Hospital, Nnobi General Hospital and Nnewi Diocesan Hospital, where he interacted with hospital managements on issues affecting the implementation of the health insurance scheme.

The engagements provided an opportunity for ASHIA and the healthcare providers to openly discuss service-delivery concerns, clarify areas of difficulty and identify practical ways to strengthen cooperation between the agency and participating facilities.

At Ekwulobia General Hospital, the Chief Medical Director(CMD), Dr. Okpalanwa Patrick, expressed optimism about ASHIA's willingness to address concerns raised by the facility, particularly those affecting its eye and dental units.

He pointed to gaps in some enrollee's understanding of how the health insurance scheme operates, noting

that this could sometimes lead to misunderstandings when accessing services.

Responding, Dr. Ezeka said regular engagement with providers was important to understanding the realities they faced in delivering care under the scheme, stressing that ASHIA's resources should ultimately translate into appropriate and quality healthcare for enrollees.

The executive secretary emphasised the importance of a positive enrollee

experience, noting that satisfactory service could build confidence in both the healthcare providers and the insurance programme.

At Nnobi General Hospital, the CMD was represented by Dr. Ugochukwu Obi, while the Hospital Director of Nnewi Diocesan Hospital, Venerable Dr. Ugochukwu Okafor, received the ASHIA team.

The hospital managements pledged their cooperation and continued support for ASHIA, expressing readiness to work with the agency in addressing identified challenges and improving services to enrollees.

The visits are part of ASHIA's ongoing provider engagement efforts aimed at strengthening communication with accredited facilities, responding to operational concerns and fostering a more effective working relationship between the agency and healthcare providers.

Through sustained dialogue with participating hospitals, the agency is seeking to ensure that challenges affecting service delivery are identified early and addressed in ways that support better care for enrollees.



SENATOR OLUREMI TINUBU COMMISSIONS ICT CENTRE AT FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC OKO



By Ifeyinwa Ogwo

On September 10, 2026, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, wife of the President, officially inaugurated a modern ICT Experience Centre at the Federal Polytechnic in Oko, located in Orumba North Local Government Area, Anambra State.

During the event, Senator Tinubu expressed her happiness and honour in commissioning the facility. She prayed that it benefits the community and future generations.

The centre was funded by TETFund to advance digital education and foster technological innovation.



INFORMATION MINISTRY, NDLEA TO PARTNER ON ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN, VALUE REFORMATION



By Rose Oranye/Ogochukwu Eze

The Anambra State Ministry of Information and Value Reformation and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have agreed to deepen collaboration to tackle drug abuse and promote value reorientation among youths in the state.

The agreement was reached on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, during a courtesy visit by the Principal Training Officer, Training/Media & Advocacy of NDLEA, Mrs Priscilla Onyema, to the Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr Law Mefor, at his office in Awka.

Dr Mefor said the renaming of the ministry to include value reformation

by Mr Governor was deliberate, given the growing moral decay as seen in the rising cases of drug abuse, especially crystal meth, locally known as mkpuru mmiri, among youths in Anambra, describing the trend as a clear and present danger to society.

"The drug is synthetic, it is cheap, and it is evil. It destroys an individual completely, making rehabilitation extremely difficult. Virtually every community in Anambra is affected," he said.

The commissioner expressed concern over the moral decay affecting youth, overshadowing Governor Chukwuma Soludo's achievements in infrastructure, health, and education, as many youths are being ravaged by drugs.

He explained that Soludo's value reformation agenda has been broken into four areas: anti-drug abuse, anti-cultism, moral and behaviour reformation, and general value reorientation, and that a technical committee is already in place and working on a blueprint to guide the statewide campaign and enforcement.

Dr Mefor said the ministry was ready to collaborate with NDLEA to expand sensitisation across schools, communities and media platforms. "We need each other in this campaign. We need NDLEA to pursue the added mandate of value reformation. He asked, "How can we broaden and intensify it to tackle the issues comprehensively?"

Moreover, Dr Mefor said he would formally invite the NDLEA's Alternative Development team to Anambra to work out further collaboration with the anti-drug agency.

He envisioned the program as an inter-ministerial project involving Information, Youth and Sports, Women Affairs, Health, Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, town unions, and community leaders.

In her remarks, Mrs. Onyema said NDLEA has adopted a balanced approach of enforcement and

advocacy, and has reached over 170 schools across Anambra LGAs in the last three years.

"Most people go into drugs out of ignorance or peer pressure. If out of 100 people we speak to, even 5%

make the right decision, that is progress," she said.

Mrs. Onyema also introduced the NDLEA's new Alternative Development Directorate, which seeks to empower youths willing to

quit drug trafficking and provide support to vulnerable persons at risk of being recruited by dealers. She said states interested can write to the NDLEA Chairman, through the State Commander for the team to visit and enlighten stakeholders.

SA URGES TEACHERS TO EMBRACE DIGITAL SKILLS, PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

By Obiageli Nwankwo

The Special Adviser to the Anambra State Governor on Education, Mrs. Obiageli Chiegboka, has urged teachers to take responsibility for their professional development by acquiring digital skills and continually updating their knowledge.

Chiegboka gave the charge on Sept. 4, while addressing teachers at the Holy Child Secondary School, Isuofia ICT Centre, during the concluding session of the eight day Solution Teachers Digital Skills Training Programme.

She urged the participants to remain committed to learning, stressing that professional growth required personal effort and a willingness to acquire new skills.

"Don't say you are tired. If you don't invest, you are not going to do well," she told the teachers, urging them to make the most of the training.



Chiegboka said the approval of the programme by Governor Chukwuma Soludo demonstrated the administration's commitment to equipping teachers with skills needed to function effectively in a technology driven education system.

She also encouraged the participants to complete the training and obtain

their certificates, saying the additional skills would enhance their professional development.

The Solution Teachers Digital Skills Training Programme brought together teachers from across the state and covered ICT, digital classroom tools, e-learning, Google Workspace and emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence.

SOLUDO PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR JOURNALISTS, CALLS FOR RESPONSIBLE REPORTING AT NUJ ANAMBRA 35TH ANNIVERSARY



By Rose Oranye

The Anambra State Government has pledged to partner with journalists in the state on welfare and health, even as it urged media practitioners to uphold responsible and development-driven reporting.

The Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation,

Dr. Law Mefor, made this known on behalf of Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, at the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Anambra State Council's 35th Anniversary and 2026 Man of the Year Awards/Press Week Grand Finale, held at the Annabel Event Centre, Awka.

Dr. Mefor noted that Anambra is currently witnessing massive infrastructure development across all sectors. "To a very reasonable extent, Anambra is a construction site. Things are happening. All manner of projects are ongoing," he said.

Responding to the NUJ National President's call for "cheap and cheerful" healthcare for journalists, he mentioned the Anambra State Health Insurance Scheme, saying that for just ₦12,000, any resident can access health interventions, with a few exceptions like cancer. He added that government would work with the NUJ State Chairman, Dr. Odogwu Emeka Odogwu and the council to explore group enrollment for journalists in the state.

Speaking on the role of the media, Dr. Mefor said journalism is the only profession mentioned in the 1999 Constitution with the specific mandate to hold government accountable.

"In a democracy, journalism is irreplaceable. Democracy is a marathon, not a dash. Nigerian democracy is still evolving and journalists must play their role," he stated.

He, however, appealed for responsible reporting, cautioning against sensationalism that could cause chaos.

"Yes, you must report the truth. But is there a way it should be reported so that it does not cause mayhem? When you say 'people were killed' and when you say 'people were massacred', there is a difference. That is all government is pleading for: report responsibly."

Dr. Mefor commended NUJ Anambra for 35 years of growth, noting that the council was founded same year as the state, and assured journalists of government's support, urging them to reach out whenever they face challenges.

The event was attended by NUJ National President, Comrade Alhassan Yahya, media stakeholders, and awardees honored for their contributions to journalism and society in Anambra.



UNIZIK GETS SPORTS BOOST, TARGETS GOLD AT CAIRO 2026 GAMES



By Nkiru Anakor

The sports team of Nnamdi Azikiwe University (UNIZIK), Awka, has received a boost ahead of its participation in the 2026 All African University Games, scheduled to hold in Cairo, Egypt, from Sept. 7 to 17.

The boost came on Sept. 2, when the Chief Executive Officer of Golden Waters Agency Ltd., Lagos, Chief Ozzy Alagbu, donated sports kits to the university team to support its preparations for the continental competition.

The items were presented to the Vice Chancellor of the university,

Prof. Ugochukwu Bond Anyaehie, by the Acting Director of Sports, Chukwudi Anthonia, and the Chairman of the University Sports Committee, Prof. Dereck Orji.

The donation included a customised tracksuit presented to the Vice Chancellor on behalf of the donor.

Receiving the items, Prof. Anyaehie expressed appreciation to Chief Alagbu for the gesture, describing the support as a timely encouragement for the athletes as they prepare to represent UNIZIK on the continental stage.

He urged members of the team to remain disciplined, focused and determined, urging them to compete with confidence and strive for gold.

The vice chancellor expressed confidence in the athletes' ability to deliver strong performances and make the university proud, adding that their success would further enhance UNIZIK's reputation in university sports.

Prof. Anyaehie disclosed his willingness to travel to Cairo to personally cheer the team if it advances to the final stage of the competition.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SEEK END TO HARMFUL PRACTICES

By Chukwuka Ugokwe

Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD), Anambra State Chapter, has urged its leaders to challenge harmful beliefs that make persons with disabilities easy targets for abuse.

The state chairman of JONAPWD, Comrade Okeke Ugochukwu Ernest, made the call on September 5, in Awka, during a Dialogue of Leaders with Disabilities on Gender-Based Violence Prevention.

The event themed: "From Complaint to Deliberate Action — Redefining Disability Inclusion for Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Community Protection," was supported by Action Aid.

Okeke stressed the need for the members to be empowered with information about their rights, as well as encourage survivors to speak without shame.

Underscoring the importance of partnerships to build accessible, safe and responsive disability, inclusive

GBV response system, Okeke appreciated Action Aid for the sponsorship as well as ensuring JONAPWD's inclusion in efforts to prevent GBV and PWDs from abuse.

"Our message to every stakeholder should be clear: Persons with disabilities must not be an afterthought in GBV prevention and protection programmes.

"If one person with a disability who is at risk is protected because of an action we took, that is progress. If one survivor receives timely support because a disability leader knew the right referral pathway, that is progress.

"Together, we can build disability communities where every woman, every girl, every boy and every person

with a disability can live with dignity, safety, equality and freedom from violence," he said.

Also speaking, Muslim Co-Chairman on GBV in Anambra Alhaji Sheriff Olanrewaju said women and girls with disabilities face "ten times" the risk of GBV due to dependence on caregivers, mobility and communication barriers.

He urged government to investigate and regulate traditional practitioners linked to abuse, and stressed the importance of sign language for deaf persons to access justice.

Acting Head of the Anambra State Disability Rights Commission, Mrs. Jane Ajaegbu, and Action Aid Focal Person, Mrs. Perpetual Nwakelundu, pledged stronger collaboration with JONAPWD to strengthen prevention efforts.

The high point of the dialogue attracted government officials, Anambra State Disability Rights Commission, CSOs, religious etc.



ONITSHA SOUTH EDUCATION SUPERVISOR URGES PARENTS TO PREPARE CHILDREN PHYSICALLY, MORALLY



By Juliana Nwachukwu

The Supervisory Councillor for Education, Onitsha South Local Government Area, Mrs. Ijeoma Okafor, on September 3, urged parents and guardians on the need to prepare their children for the resumption of academic activities in September.

Mrs. Okafor made the call during an interview with a Journalist at the Council Secretariat, Woliwo, Onitsha South Local Government while speaking on the importance of proper preparation ahead of the new academic session.

Okafor stressed that children need more than school fees and learning materials to successfully return to school.

She advised parents to ensure that their children were physically ready by providing clean and appropriate school uniforms, books, writing materials and other essential items required for effective learning.

The Education Supervisor also emphasised the importance of moral preparation, urging parents to teach their children discipline, respect, good manners, responsibility and obedience before sending them back to school.

According to her, the home plays a major role in shaping the character and attitude of every child, noting that parents should not leave the entire responsibility of training their children to teachers and school authorities.

Mrs. Okafor further encouraged parents to regularly communicate with their children, understand their challenges and monitor their academic progress throughout the session.

She wished pupils, students, teachers and parents a successful new academic session, urging everyone to approach the new term with renewed commitment, discipline and determination to achieve academic excellence.

GEMADE COMMISSIONS MONUMENT AT FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC OKO, COMMENDS AWUZIE'S TRANSFORMATION DRIVE

By Nkiru Anakor

The Chairman of the 12th Governing Council of the Federal Polytechnic, Oko, Senator Dr. Barnabas Gemade, has commissioned a newly constructed monument at the institution's main entrance. The commissioning, held on Sept. 4, marked the completion of a project described as a significant addition to the polytechnic's physical identity and institutional environment.

Speaking at the ceremony, Senator Gemade said the monument had become a notable landmark of the institution, reflecting its vision, mission and commitment to sustained growth and academic excellence. He disclosed that the project was funded through the Polytechnic's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) under the leadership of the Rector, Dr. Chioma Irene Awuzie.

According to him, the initiative was part of the administration's broader efforts to improve the physical environment of the Polytechnic, strengthen its infrastructure and reinforce a distinctive institutional identity. Represented at the event by a member of the Governing Council, Comrade Chibuzo Asomugha, Sen. Gemade congratulated the Rector, management, staff and students on the successful completion of the project.

He commended Dr. Awuzie for her commitment to the development and advancement of the institution, assuring her of the governing council's continued support for programmes and initiatives aimed at repositioning the Polytechnic for greater achievements. The council chairman stressed that the monument represented more than a

physical structure, describing it as a symbol of the polytechnic's vision, mission, growth and enduring commitment to excellence.

In her remarks, the rector expressed appreciation to the staff and students for their support, cooperation and commitment to the administration's development efforts. Dr. Awuzie said her administration had, within a relatively short period, embarked on a comprehensive transformation programme covering key areas such as infrastructure, academic development, student welfare, security, enterprise development and the rehabilitation of abandoned or moribund facilities.

She disclosed that the Polytechnic's Water Factory and Bakery had been successfully revived and restored to productive use, strengthening the institution's revenue-generating capacity. The rector also announced the resuscitation of the Polytechnic

Printing Press, alongside the construction of a Staff Sports Club and Guest House aimed at improving staff welfare and enhancing institutional hospitality.

She further identified the construction of the Geological Technology Department Building as another major infrastructural project

undertaken by her administration. According to her, work is also ongoing on the construction of a Medical Centre at the Ufuma Campus, which is expected to improve healthcare delivery and provide easier access to medical services for members of the polytechnic community.

Dr. Awuzie added that her administration had reduced school fees and introduced other initiatives aimed at improving teaching and learning, strengthening student welfare and creating a more conducive environment for academic activities across the institution.



ANAMBRA HOUSING MINISTRY, NSE AWKA BRANCH STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP ON TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

By Ekweaga Uzoma

The Anambra State Ministry of Housing is set to deepen its collaboration with the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Awka Branch, to enhance technical expertise and promote sustainable development in the state's building and construction sector.

The commissioner for Housing, Arc. Arize Henry, disclosed this when members of the NSE, Awka Branch, paid him a courtesy visit in his office on Sept 6.

Arc. Arize said the ministry remained open to partnerships with relevant professional bodies as part of efforts to improve the quality, safety and sustainability of construction projects

across the state. He noted that he had maintained cordial professional relationships with some principal officers in the engineering sector and commended them for their competence, efficiency and professionalism.

The commissioner explained that the Ministry required the services of experienced structural engineers for some of its projects, adding that qualified professionals from the NSE could be engaged as consultants where necessary.

According to him, such collaboration would provide the ministry with access to specialised technical expertise while ensuring that construction projects were executed

in line with professional standards, engineering principles and industry best practices.

Earlier, the Chairman of the NSE, Awka Branch, Engr. Obiudu Michael, said the delegation visited the commissioner to felicitate with him on his appointment and explore areas of collaboration between the professional body and the ministry. Engr. Obiudu described Arc. Arize as a "square peg in a square hole," expressing confidence in his professional competence and ability to contribute significantly to the advancement of the housing sector in Anambra State.

He said the NSE comprised highly qualified professionals committed to

contributing their expertise towards the development of the building and construction industry in the state. The NSE Chairman further disclosed that members of the association had been conducting research and exploring innovative approaches to help reduce the rising cost of building construction.

He expressed the readiness of the society to support initiatives that would promote affordable, safe and sustainable housing development in Anambra State. The visit featured the presentation of a plaque and construction-related kits to the commissioner by the NSE delegation.



ANAMBRA GOVT REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP OWERRE-EZUKALA CAVE, WATERFALLS AS TOURISM HUB

By Obianuju Umeh

The Anambra State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to developing the Owerre-Ezukala Cave and Waterfalls in Orumba South Local Government Area into a major tourism destination.

The Commissioner for Culture, Entertainment and Tourism, Mr. Udoji Amedu, stated this on Sept 5, during the 2026 annual Iwaji (Otute) Festival of Owerre-Ezukala community.

Amedu described the cave and waterfalls as significant natural tourism assets with considerable potential to attract visitors, create economic opportunities and contribute to the development of the area. He noted that the Owerre-

Ezukala Cave, reputed to be one of the largest caves in West Africa, occupies an important place in the state's tourism development plans.

According to the commissioner, the planned development of the cave and waterfalls is in line with the vision of Governor Chukwuma Soludo's administration to make Anambra State one of the most accessible and enjoyable destinations by 2030. He said the tourist site forms an important component of the state's emerging tourism hub, adding that the ministry would continue to explore and develop Anambra's natural and cultural attractions for sustainable tourism and economic growth.

Amedu also congratulated the traditional ruler of Owerre-Ezukala, Igwe Thomas Ogbonnaya, Ezeogbambiaka, and the people of the community on the successful celebration of the 2026 Iwaji Festival. He commended the community for preserving and promoting its cultural heritage, noting that traditional festivals such as Iwaji provide valuable platforms for preserving indigenous customs while showcasing communities as destinations for cultural tourism.

The commissioner said the state government remained committed to working with relevant stakeholders and communities to unlock the tourism potential of Anambra and position the sector as a catalyst for local economic development.



NIGER BRIDGE CLOSURE: CP OJI AMA LEADS SECURITY INSPECTION, ORDERS INCREASED PATROLS ON DIVERSION ROUTES



By Chizoba Njaka

The Anambra State Police Command has intensified security and traffic management measures following the temporary closure of the First Niger Bridge to vehicular movement for scheduled maintenance works.

The Commissioner of Police, Anambra State Command, CP Nnanna Oji Ama, on Sept. 7, led the heads of sister security agencies and other strategic security commanders on an inspection of the bridge, adjoining areas and designated diversionary routes. The assessment was undertaken to identify possible security, traffic and public safety challenges that could arise from the closure and to develop proactive measures to address them.

Following the inspection, the command deployed a Police-led Joint Security Team to strategic locations around the bridge, diversion routes and other critical points.

The deployment is intended to enhance security, facilitate effective traffic management and prevent criminal elements from taking advantage of the situation.

According to the command, personnel have been strategically positioned to ensure the safe, orderly and unhindered movement of motorists, commuters and pedestrians, while preventing traffic obstruction, congestion, harassment, opportunistic criminal activities and other security breaches.

CP Oji Ama also directed all Area Commanders, Divisional Police Officers and Tactical Commanders operating within the affected areas to sustain heightened operational alertness, intensify patrols and maintain a strong security presence throughout the maintenance period.

He further ordered continuous collaboration and seamless coordination between the Police and sister security agencies to ensure effective management of the situation. The commissioner assured residents, motorists, commuters and

businesses that the command would continue to monitor developments along the affected routes and respond promptly to any emerging security or traffic challenges.

He urged members of the public to remain calm and cooperate with security and traffic personnel, particularly by adhering to approved diversionary routes and traffic directives. Members of the public were also advised to promptly report suspicious persons, activities or security concerns to the nearest security formation.

The Anambra State Police Command reiterated its commitment to protecting lives and property, securing critical infrastructure and ensuring the free movement of people and vehicles throughout the period of the First Niger Bridge maintenance closure.



MARRIAGE EXPERTS URGE COUPLES TO PRIORITISE COMMUNICATION, FORGIVENESS

By Regina Adaobi Aforgu

Marriage experts have urged couples to prioritise effective communication, forgiveness, mutual respect and shared values to build stable and enduring homes.

The experts gave the advice at a marriage enrichment seminar organised on Sept. 6 by the Infant Jesus Holy Childhood Society,

Archdiocese of Onitsha, to equip couples with practical principles for strengthening their marriages.

Speaking at the seminar, a marriage counsellor, Mr. Celestine Okonkwo, described marriage as a lifelong commitment requiring deliberate efforts by couples to sustain understanding, mutual support and affection.

Okonkwo observed that while many people devoted considerable attention to preparing for wedding ceremonies, less attention was often given to the responsibilities involved in sustaining marriage.

He urged couples to communicate openly and resolve disagreements without resorting to insults, abuse or prolonged resentment.

The resource persons also stressed the importance of faith in Christian marriages, citing biblical passages including Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 and Genesis 2:24

They advised intending couples to consider shared values, spiritual growth, respect and emotional maturity when choosing life partners.

The experts outlined 11 principles for successful marriages, including choosing partners based on character, developing effective communication skills and recognising that disagreements were normal but should be handled constructively.

On communication, the facilitators said some marital problems arose when couples stopped listening to and understanding each other.

They encouraged couples to discuss issues concerning finances, children, careers, faith and expectations openly to minimise misunderstandings.

The experts also described forgiveness as essential to sustaining marriage, urging couples to acknowledge their mistakes, apologise and avoid allowing resentment to persist.

Other principles highlighted included expressing love regularly, managing finances as a team, setting healthy boundaries with extended families and protecting marriages from inappropriate third party interference.

The resource persons further encouraged couples to continue growing together spiritually,

emotionally and intellectually, while maintaining friendship and affection in their relationships.

They advised couples to continue courting and appreciating each other even after marriage.

The seminar ended with a call for couples to focus not only on choosing the right partners but also on becoming responsible, understanding and supportive spouses.



NEMA ADVISES ANAMBRA RIVERINE COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE FLOODING

By Chinyere Nwoye

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), has advised residents living in riverine communities across Anambra State to remain vigilant and adequately prepared to relocate to higher grounds should the water level of the River Niger rise beyond the safe limit.

The Head of Enugu Operations Office of NEMA, Mrs Priscilla Madukwe, gave the warning during a monitoring visit to the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), where the agency inspected the water gauge to ascertain the current level and assess the possibility of flooding in vulnerable riverine communities.

Madukwe explained that the water level of the River Niger was gradually rising, but stressed that the situation remained within the safe limit at the time of the assessment, urging residents and relevant stakeholders to

remain alert and avoid actions that could expose communities to unnecessary flood risks.

She said the monitoring exercise was part of proactive measures being undertaken by NEMA and its partners to closely observe developments around the River Niger and provide early warning information to communities that could potentially be affected if the water level continues to increase.

According to her, NEMA, in collaboration with the Anambra State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), and the Nigerian Red Cross Society, inspected the water level of the River Niger as part of ongoing efforts to assess the prevailing flood situation and strengthen disaster preparedness across the state.

The NEMA official noted that regular monitoring of the water gauge was important because timely information on rising water levels

would enable emergency management authorities to identify potential threats early and activate appropriate response mechanisms before the situation becomes critical.

Madukwe urged residents of riverine communities, particularly those living close to the River Niger and other flood-prone areas, to pay close attention to official information from emergency management authorities and be prepared to move to safer locations whenever necessary.

She emphasised that preparedness remained essential in reducing the impact of disasters, stressing that residents should not wait until floodwaters had entered their homes or communities before taking precautionary measures, especially when early warning information had been provided.

She further explained that the information obtained from the monitoring exercise would assist NEMA, SEMA, the Nigerian Red Cross

Society and other relevant stakeholders in strengthening their preparedness plans and taking timely decisions should the water level rise beyond the established safe threshold.

Madukwe therefore appealed to residents to remain calm but vigilant, cooperate with emergency management authorities and take all

necessary precautionary measures, assuring them that relevant agencies would continue monitoring the River Niger and provide updates whenever significant changes were observed.

