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From the Editorial Corner

ANAMBRA'S DEVELOPMENT: THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC), on Monday, approved the Soludozie Anambra Framework, an organised and inclusive platform built around the Public-Private-Community Partnership (PPCP) model.

The initiative is designed to provide a structured channel for Ndi Anambra at home and in the diaspora, as well as other well-meaning partners, to collaborate with the State Government in driving development.

The approval of the Soludozie Anambra Framework marks an important step towards promoting inclusive development and harnessing the collective resources of Ndi Anambra at home and in the diaspora.

The initiative recognises an important reality: government alone cannot shoulder the enormous responsibility of developing a state. While the government has a primary responsibility to provide infrastructure, essential services and an enabling environment, sustainable development requires the active participation of citizens, the private sector, communities and the diaspora.

Anambra, renowned for its enterprising population and strong diaspora presence, stands to benefit significantly from a framework that encourages collective investment and community-driven development.

One notable feature of the initiative is the provision for donors and partners to directly manage their funds and projects, while government involvement will generally be limited to documentation, recognition and support where solicited. This arrangement could encourage greater participation by individuals and organisations willing to contribute to the development of their communities without unnecessary bureaucratic bottlenecks.

The initiative should not be viewed merely as a fundraising platform but as a vehicle for knowledge transfer, innovation, entrepreneurship, opportunity creation and institutional strengthening.

Anambra's professionals and experts in different fields can contribute immensely to this process through mentorship, innovation and the transfer of valuable knowledge and experience.

For the framework to achieve its objectives, transparency, accountability and effective project monitoring must be given priority. These are essential safeguards for ensuring that resources are properly utilised, projects meet their intended objectives and the confidence of partners and beneficiaries is sustained.

Ndi Anambra should therefore see the framework as an invitation to take a more active role in shaping the future of their homeland. Beyond financial contributions, their professional expertise, ideas, skills and entrepreneurial experience can make significant contributions to the state's development.

Building a prosperous and sustainable Anambra must remain a shared responsibility, requiring the commitment and active participation of all Ndi Anambra.



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SOLUTION GOVERNMENT INTENSIFIES FIGHT AGAINST EROSION, MAKES COMMUNITYRESPONSIBILITY A PRIORITY

By Chinyere Ogbuagu

The Anambra State Government has intensified its efforts to combat erosion and environmental degradation through sustained infrastructure investments, stricter environmental regulations and increased community participation.

For a state that has suffered severe erosion challenges over the years, the administration of Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR, recognises that addressing the menace requires more than engineering interventions. It also demands responsible environmental practices and collective action by residents.

Since assuming office, the Soludo administration has embarked on several erosion-control, drainage construction, flood-management and road rehabilitation projects across the state. Communities including Umunze, Umuchu, Agulu, Oba, Obosi, Nanka, Oko and other erosionprone areas have benefited from various interventions aimed at reclaiming degraded land, protecting infrastructure and restoring access roads.

The government has also strengthened environmental protection through the Environmental Management, Protection and Administration Law, 2024, alongside campaigns against indiscriminate waste disposal, illegal sand excavation, deforestation and obstruction of drainage channels.

Other measures include state-wide drainage desilting exercises, treeplanting initiatives, enforcement of building regulations and the requirement for new buildings to provide catchment pits for rainwater management.

The administration has equally encouraged communities to establish environmental teams to monitor environmental offences, maintain drainage channels and collaborate with relevant government agencies in preventing erosion.

At its 18th meeting for 2026, held at the Light House, Awka, on Monday, November 9, 2026, the Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC) reiterated that government interventions on erosion would prioritise communities that demonstrate proactive environmental responsibility.

Council resolved that communities involved in sand excavation, indiscriminate felling of trees, deforestation, dumping refuse in drainage channels, directing stormwater onto roads and other prohibited environmental practices would not receive priority attention for government intervention.

It further warned that individuals responsible for such offences would be prosecuted in accordance with existing laws.

The resolution reinforces the government's position that communities must complement public investment with responsible environmental practices rather than engage in activities that worsen erosion.

In another significant decision, Council directed the immediate reconnection of Ogbodi in Amichi, which has been cut off by erosion.

It directed that palliative measures be undertaken within two weeks to restore access to the community,

while efforts towards a permanent solution should commence immediately.

This decision underscores the government's commitment to addressing both the immediate hardship caused by erosion and the need for lasting engineering solutions.

The fight against erosion cannot be left to government alone. Traditional rulers, presidents-general, town unions, youth organisations, landlords, developers and residents must take responsibility for protecting their environment.

Communities must discourage illegal sand mining, protect vegetation, maintain drainage channels and ensure proper disposal of waste.

The 18th ANSEC resolution is therefore a renewed call for environmental discipline, accountability and collective action.

As the Soludo administration continues to invest in erosion control and environmental restoration, Ndi Anambra must recognise that protecting the environment is a shared responsibility.

Ultimately, the success of the state's erosion-control efforts will depend not only on government interventions but also on the willingness of communities to adopt sustainable environmental practices and protect their land for future generations.





WAR AGAINST DRUG ABUSE: MEFOR, NDLEA TAKE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN TO NIMO, ABATETE, OGIDI

By Rose Oranye

The Anambra State Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr Law Mefor, on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, joined officials of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) from Abuja and Anambra State Command on a tour of selected communities in the state to brief them on the NDLEA Alternative Development Programme.

The communities visited were Nimo, Abatete and Ogidi. The visit is a collaborative effort of the Anambra State Ministry of Information and Value Reformation's Value Reformation Project, the Ministry of Health's Anambra State War Against Drug Abuse, and the NDLEA War Against Drug Abuse.

Speaking at Abatete, Dr Mefor said dangerous drugs have taken centre stage in today's society, hence the State Command of NDLEA brought the idea and the Ministries of Information and Health keyed into it because it aligns with Soludo's efforts to sanitise the state of illicit drugs.

"We will fight it seriously. It's not just about drug dealers and users. Those here can help get others. Let's work to save our people. NDLEA will work with the community to help our community," he said.

The Anambra State Commander of NDLEA, Commander Charles O.Onubuogu, said the Alternative Development Programme targets drug dealers and users as an alternative to enforcement, urging the community to partner to benefit from it.

"We need to work together to benefit from this. The programme is to help us because if the community is good, it's for everyone," he said, pleading with those present to inform others, noting that Abatete has people who can partner to key into the programme to accommodate more people.

The President-General of Abatete, Chief Ezebinobi Chinaeme Ezigbo, who thanked the youths and others present for coming, urged them to transfer the message to others.

"The programme underscores the fact that everybody should be involved. We should help ourselves to ensure we handover the development here to better leaders of tomorrow," he said, thanking NDLEA and the Ministry for the visit.

The National Coordinator of the NDLEA Alternative Development Programme, Dr Jonas Kolo, said that Nigeria has been recognised by theUnited Nations as the first country in Africa to implement alternative development, with Anambra as the first state in the zone for implementation after successes recorded in other states, adding that the project is funded by the Federal Government of Nigeria and technically supported by the United Nations, among others.

Dr Kolo said the programme seeks to restore the future stolen by drugs by positively and productively engaging young men and women, assuring that whatever support comes from the community will be reinvested in the community, and expressing hope for more prosperity, development, peace and security in the community and Anambra State.

The team had earlier visited Nanka, Oraifite and Nkwelle, respectively









IGWE ORIZU PLEDGES SUPPORT AS MEFOR, NDLEA BRING ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO NNEWI*









By Rose Oranye

The traditional ruler of Nnewi, Igwe Kenneth Orizu, has pledged to support the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Alternative Development Programme.

Igwe Orizu made the pledge on Thursday, November 12, 2026, when the Anambra State Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr Law Mefor, led the NDLEA National Coordinator, AlternativeDevelopment Programme, Dr Jonas Kolo, his deputy, Mr Idris Abdulahi, and the Anambra State Command of NDLEA on a visit to his palace in Nnewi.

Igwe Orizu said he would reach out to the President-General, Jude Osummuo, for a meeting with the Nnewi community to brief them, assuring that the message will be communicated to Nzukora Nnewi and other necessary bodies, while urging youths to imbibe self-control to shun drugs.

The Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr Mefor, who congratulated the monarch on attaining 101 years, said the team came to bring the programme to Nnewi youths, having earlier taken the campaign against hard drugs to other communities in the state.

The NDLEA State Commandant, Charles Onubuogu, said Anambra is the only state in the South-East admitted into the programme, which will be supported by illustrious sons of Nnewi.

The Coordinator of the programme, Dr Kolo, who brought greetings from the NDLEA Chairman, Brigadier General Marwa, commended Igwe Orizu for his contributions to nation building, noting that Marwa is concerned about drug use and trafficking in society.

"We can't continue to arrest youths, instead we want to empower them to help them establish better. We bring Alternative Development Programme supported by the Federal Government, United Nations, and those ready to change will be supported. We need support of ndiNnewi," he said, requesting the Igwe and the President-General to help identify people involved and mobilise stakeholders.

He assured that whatever funds are gotten will be used in the community, expressing belief that the project which worked in Thailand, Mexico and Colombia will work in Nnewi.

The Youth Leader of Nnewi, Ejim Emmanuel Ucheagwu, who apologised for lapses in the organisation of the visit, said drug abuse is a source of concern, noting that it has gotten to secondary schools and urgent action is needed.

He said he will pass the message to youths and stakeholders ahead of their meeting next Sunday, reassuring that they will do their best to make the programme succeed.

RUWASSA CALLS FOR FUNCTIONAL WASHCOMS TO SUSTAIN RURAL WATER FACILITIES

By Azuka Offor

The Anambra State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASSA) has called on rural communities to establish and strengthen functional Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committees (WASHCOMs) to ensure the effective management and sustainability of public water facilities.

The Programme Manager of RUWASSA, Mr. Tochukwu Nwosu, made the call during a stakeholders' engagement at Agu Orji Primary School, Igbariam Farm Settlement, Farm Settlement Village 2, Anambra East Local Government Area.

The meeting was organised to address disagreements over the management of an existing community water scheme and strengthen local structures responsible for its maintenance.

Nwosu said the provision of water infrastructure alone could not guarantee sustained access to safe water without effective community based management. He explained that WASHCOMs played important roles in coordinating maintenance, promoting proper usage, preventing vandalism and mobilising residents to protect public facilities.

He urged communities benefiting from government and development partner supported water schemes to establish functional committees, while existing ones should be strengthened to ensure accountability, proper representation and clearly defined responsibilities.

The intervention followed a complaint referred to RUWASSA by the Local Government WASH Office over disagreements between members of the original WASHCOM and a community member, Mr. Arinze Oraekwu, who had voluntarily taken responsibility for protecting the water scheme.

Oraekwu, Secretary of Farm Settlement Village 2, said the facility was established in 2009, with support from the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). He said the solar poweredpumping system developed a fault in 2019, but was restored in 2023 after he facilitated the replacement of the faulty pump through an individual.

He explained that although he was not a member of the original WASHCOM, he volunteered to protect the facility because he had followed its development from inception.

The Chairman of Farm Settlement Village 2 and Chairman of the three villages, Mr. Ikechukwu Orabuenyi, commended his efforts and assured the meeting that he would be included in the reconstituted committee.







ASUWAHC EMPLOYS AD HOC MANAGER FOR OBIZI REGIONAL WATER SCHEME

By Obinwa Chikaodili



The Anambra State Urban Water Assets Holding Corporation (ASUWAHC) has engaged Mr Bernard Okpalauwaoma as an ad hoc Plant Manager for the Obizi Regional Water Scheme as part of efforts to strengthen its operational capacity ahead of the planned withdrawal of contractors managing the state's water facilities.

The engagement followed an interview conducted at the Corporation's Conference Hall in Awka, to assess Okpalauwaoma's

technical knowledge, experience and readiness for the assignment.

In his new role, Okpalauwaoma will oversee the daily operations of the facility, supervise water production, monitor plant equipment and machinery, and ensure regular maintenance. He will also identify operational challenges, coordinate activities within the plant and report technical issues to the appropriate authorities.

The Officer-in-Charge of ASUWAHC, Mrs Emmanuella Okafor, said the engagement was part of the Corporation's efforts to build an in-house workforce capable of managing its water schemes as contractors gradually withdraw from their operations.

She said competent personnel were needed to ensure efficient plant management, sustain water production and protect investments in water infrastructure.

The move is expected to strengthen the Corporation's technical workforce and support the development of a sustainable management structure for the state's regional water schemes.

NEMA DISTRIBUTES RELIEF MATERIALS TO FLOOD VICTIMS IN OGBARU THROUGH OGENE'S INTERVENTION

By Ngozi Okoli

Relief has reached flood-ravaged communities in Ogbaru Federal Constituency, Anambra State, following the intervention of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), facilitated by federal lawmaker, Hon. Victor Afam Ogene.

The intervention, which took place on November 7, 2026, saw the distribution of 400 bags each of 25kg rice and beans, 200 cartons of spaghetti, 50 cartons of vegetable oil and 50 cartons of Maggi cubes to affected residents.

Benefitting communities include Ossamala, Obeagwe, Akili-Ogidi, Ogwuikpele, Ogwuanocha and Umunankwo, with the symbolic flag-off held Saturday, at Iyiowa-Odekpe.

The exercise was performed by NEMA Enugu Zonal Head of Operations, Mrs. Priscilla Madukwe, Hon. Ogene, an Anambra SEMA representative and Ogbaru LEMC Coordinator, Hon. Nnamdi Esimai.

Madukwe disclosed that the Federal Government approved the intervention following a distress report submitted by Ogene, who appealed for urgent assistance for residents devastated by flooding.

She explained that NEMA officials subsequently visited the affected communities, assessed the destruction and recommended the distribution of relief materials, describing Ogene's intervention as instrumental to the assistance.

Among the beneficiaries were nursing mother, Mrs. Nwakonobi Favour, and physically challenged resident, Mr. Oliver Ozoma, who recounted losing household belongings, farmland and valuable crops to the devastating flood.

Other beneficiaries, including Mr. Oliver Inuchukwu and Mr. Uchechukwu Igwe, expressed gratitude to the Federal Government, NEMA and Ogene, praising his representation and praying for his political success.

Addressing community leaders, the Lawmaker , Hon. Afam Ogene, member representing the good people of Ogbaru at Federal Rep, directed that the materials be distributed fairly to all affected residents, irrespective of political affiliation, urging transparency and equitable sharing across the beneficiary communities.









ANAMBRA HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR PROMOTES ENUGWUUKWU OXYGEN PLANT, ASSURES MOTHERS OF FREE DELIVERY SERVICES



By Ebele Egoh

The Anambra State Hospital Administrator, Dr. Frank Ifeanaeme, has called on hospitals, healthcare providers and members of the public to patronise the medical oxygen plant at General Hospital, Enugwu-Ukwu, describing its products as affordable, accessible and suitable for medical use.

Dr. Ifeanaeme made the appeal on during an inspection visit to the facility to assess its operations and level of patronage.

He disclosed that the plant produces medical oxygen with a purity level of 95 per cent and operates round the clock to ensure a steady supply for patients and healthcare facilities requiring oxygen support.

The hospital administrator encouraged hospitals and other healthcare providers to take advantage of the facility, noting that its affordable services could help improve access to quality medical oxygen.

He cautioned healthcare facilities against using or supplying substandard medical oxygen, warning that poor quality oxygen could put patients' lives at risk, urging them to source their supplies from the government owned plant to ensure that patients receive appropriate medical care.

During the visit, Dr. Ifeanaeme inspected the hospital's maternity section, where he reassured expectant mothers of the Anambra State Government's commitment to providing free delivery services in public hospitals across the state.

He reaffirmed that the initiative covers pregnant women seeking maternity care in government owned health facilities, encouraging expectant mothers to take advantage of the programme.

The visit highlights the state's efforts to strengthen public healthcare services, improve access to essential medical supplies and reduce the financial burden of healthcare on residents.







VCDP SUPPORT EMPOWERS FARMER COOPERATIVES, BOOSTS CASSAVA PROCESSING IN AGUATA

By Henry Anagboso

The Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) has empowered Bounty Harvest Multipurpose Cooperative in Aguluezechukwu, Aguata Local Government Area of Anambra State, through the provision of a cassava processing centre, processing equipment and a solar-powered borehole.

This was revealed during an interview with the Chairman of the cooperative, Mr Chibuike Okonkwo, at Nkwo Aguluezechukwu.

Speaking during the interview, Mr Okonkwo expressed that the intervention had transformed the cooperative's operations significantly, strengthened its financial capacity and enhanced its recognition within the community.

He explained that the infrastructure support had opened new opportunities for the group, enabling it to expand its cassava processing activities and improve the livelihoods of its members.

The team further observed that the toilet facility at Agu Orji Primary School was not functional due to a minor fault and urged the community leadership to arrange its prompt repair. Also speaking, RUWASSA Water Supply Officer, Mr. Emeka Udeze, commended the community's efforts to restore the water scheme and called for stronger collaboration to address outstanding challenges, particularly the restoration of the reticulated water supply system serving the school.







OBA PG HAILS COMMISSIONER OJUKWU FOR RESOLVING N2.5M LAND DEVELOPMENTLEVY DISPUTE



By Chukwuka Ugokwe

The President General (PG) of Oba Patriotic Union (OPU), Chief Anthony Ejiofor, has hailed the Anambra State Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Barr. Chijioke Ojukwu, for amicably resolving a land levy dispute that had threatened peace in Oba community.

The dispute was between one Mr. Nwakanwa and Akamili Okuzu Village, Oba, in Idemili South Local Government Area, over the purchase of some plots of land and an alleged demand of N2.5 million as development levy from the petitioner.

Speaking with newsmen in Awka, shortly after a peace meeting convened by the commissioner, Ejiofor said that all parties left the meeting satisfied.

He commended Ojukwu for his wisdom, fairness and intelligent in handling of the matter, describing him as a commissioner with capacity and a worthy member of Anambra State Governor, Prof Chukwuma Soludo's Solution Team.



APGA-LED GOVERNMENT DESERVES CONTINUED SUPPORT, SAYS ANAMBRA WEST MAYOR OBIERIKE

By Felix Igboanugo

The Mayor of Anambra West Local Government Area, Hon. Dr. Tony Obierike, has reaffirmed the commitment of Ndi Anambra West to the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), citing the performance of the Soludo administration.

Obierike made the declaration on November 6, 2026, during the official flag-off of APGA's national campaign for the 2027 general elections at Dr. Alex Ekwueme Square, Awka.

The event attracted prominent party leaders, government officials, political stakeholders and supporters from across the country, signalling the commencement of APGA's nationwide mobilisation ahead of the elections.

Describing Anambra State Governor, Prof Chukwuma Soludo as a leader who delivers on his promises, the Mayor commended his administration's commitment to good governance, infrastructural development and improved welfare.



He maintained that the achievements recorded under the APGA-led government provided compelling reasons for Ndi Anambra West to sustain their support for the party.

The Mayor also urged the electorate to support all APGA candidates contesting National and State Assembly seats in the 2027 general elections.

The Mayor called on Ndi Anambra West to support President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Vice President Kashim Shettima, whose presidential ticket APGA has adopted for the forthcoming elections.



COOU GOVERNING COUNCIL STRENGTHENS INSTITUTIONAL TIES WITH TEACHING HOSPITAL, PAYS HISTORIC VISIT TO CMD

By Obianuju Azukaego

The Governing Council of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU), led by its Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Prof. Peter Azikiwe Onwualu, on November 4, 2026, paid a historic courtesy visit to the Chief Medical Director of COOU Teaching Hospital, Amaku, Dr. Maureen Uche Umeakuewulu.

Speaking during the visit, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kate Azuka Omenugha, congratulated Dr. Umeakuewulu on her appointment as Chief Medical Director by the Anambra State Governor.

She emphasised the need to strengthen the institutional relationship between the University's College of Medicine and the Teaching Hospital, noting that both institutions are interdependent and cannot function optimally in isolation.

She stressed that the existing synergy must not only be sustained but deliberately deepened through practical collaboration capable of producing tangible results.

The Vice-Chancellor further noted that the existing relationship between the College of Medicine and the Teaching Hospital had contributed to the National Universities Commission's (NUC) approval of 16 new academic programmes, several of which are medically related.

In their separate remarks, the Pro-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor appealed to the Chief Medical Director to strengthen cooperation, mutual support and institutional collaboration between the two establishments for improved academic and healthcare delivery.

Responding, Dr. Umeakuewulu expressed appreciation to the Governing Council for the visit, acknowledging the importance of strengthening the existing relationship.

She assured the Council that the concerns and recommendations raised during the engagement would receive appropriate attention.

The visit marked the first time in the University's history that a ProChancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council had paid an official visit to the Teaching Hospital.





ANAMBRA'S FISCAL ASCENDANCY UNDER GOVERNOR SOLUDO

By Christian ABURIME

In Nigeria's subnational governance, one of the most credible measures of a responsible leadership of a state is the consistency of its fiscal wellbeing. When words match actions, and numbers align with records of performance, the results are undeniable. And good governance, to say the least, is always accountable and measurable.

It is with a profound sense of achievement that we again acknowledge a new milestone for the Light of the Nation. Excellence here simply begets more excellence. According to the freshly unveiled 2026 State of States Report by the renowned civic organisation BudgIT, Anambra State has remarkably emerged third among Nigeria's 36 states in fiscal viability.

This latest distinguished ranking is another veritable proof of the state's economic resilience and a distinction in subnational financial management. The report places Anambra among the elite top five states with the strongest ability to manage expenditures with available revenues. This indicates a dramatically improved capacity to meet recurrent obligations without relying heavily on federal allocations.

In the plain, unvarnished lexicon of BudgIT, fiscal viability is defined as the ability of a state to "survive without federal handout." By achieving this prestigious third-place ranking, Anambra has effectively sustained its narrative of state survival in Nigeria, trading the culture of dependency for the dignity of self-reliance.

Of course, at the helm of this continuing economic renaissance is the resourceful leadership of Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo. When he assumed office, he promised a departure from the archaic ways of governance, pledging to run the state with the precision of a seasoned economist and the heart of



a devoted public servant. This BudgIT report is the ultimate validation of his strategic blueprint.

The ranking vividly highlights Governor Soludo's focus on strengthening the state's fiscal capacity and promoting a rigorous culture of financial discipline across all ministries, departments, and agencies. Under his 'DoMore with Less' and zero-borrowing stewardship, leakages have been blocked, and resources are now optimally deployed to yield maximum impact.

Yet, the true beauty of this fiscal ascendancy lies beyond statistics to show in its human impact. Guided by the noble philosophy of ensuring that "every kobo of Anambra works for Ndi Anambra," the Soludo administration has translated fiscal prudence into tangible dividends of democracy. The financial discipline championed by the governor is actively funding the prosperity of the citizens, driving infrastructural development, stimulating local commerce, and improving the overall quality of life in the state.

Today, Anambra State can bask in the well-deserved glow of its excellent ranking, no matter the larger harsh economic realities. The growing economic maturity of the State certainly bears hope of a brighter future. And with a visionary leadership, unyielding discipline, and a people-first approach of Governor Soludo, the Light of the Nation will continue to thrive against all odds.

ARTMA WARNS MOTORISTS AGAINST ONE WAY DRIVING, THREATENS STRICT SANCTIONS



By Emeka Ilozor

The Anambra State Road Traffic Management Agency (ARTMA) has warned motorists against driving against traffic, saying offenders will face strict penalties ahead of the festive season.

The agency, in a statement issued on November 8,2026, said it was intensifying efforts to curb traffic violations and ensure safer and orderly movement on roads across the state.

ARTMA described one way driving, particularly on dual carriageways, as a deliberate traffic violation that endangers the lives of other road users.

It said motorists were expected to understand and obey traffic directions on dual carriageways, where road designs clearly indicate the permitted direction of movement, even without additional traffic signs.

The agency warned that it would not grant automatic exemptions to offenders, stressing that appeals by influential individuals or community leaders would not guarantee the release of impounded vehicles or exemption from prescribed penalties.

According to ARTMA, penalties for one way driving include three months' vehicle impoundment, a three year tax clearance requirement, psychiatric evaluation and certification of mental fitness, as well as financial fines.

suspicion by promptly seeking medical attenThe agency urged community leaders, transport stakeholders and families to sensitise motorists and discourage them from engaging in the practice.tion when they notice symptomsassociated with the disease.

It said the warning was necessary as the state approaches the festive season, when human and vehicular movement usually increases.

ARTMA also noted that improved security in the state had encouraged more indigenes and visitors to return home for the celebrations, a development expected to increase traffic on major roads.

The agency assured residents and visitors of its commitment to enforcing traffic regulations, protecting lives and ensuring orderly vehicular movement throughout the festive period.

It urged motorists to obey traffic rules, use designated routes and avoid actions that could cause accidents and loss of lives.

The agency reiterated its warning against driving against traffic.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: ANAMBRA GOVT OPENS REGISTRATION PORTAL FOR THIRD PHASE OF 1YOUTH 2SKILLS PLUS, TARGETS 50,000 ANAMBRA YOUTHS

By Ifeyinwa Ogwo

The Anambra State Government, through the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports, has announced that the registration portal, 1youth2skills.anambrastate.gov.ng, is now open and registration closeson November 16. The third phase of '1Youth2Skills Plus' targets 50,000 Anambra youths, and to be eligible, applicants must be Anambra State residents.

Applicants must also have an Anambra State Identification Number (ASIN). Those without one can obtain it through the registration portal or by visiting any Anambra State Internal Revenue Service (AIRS) office across the state. Applicants must be between 18 and 35 years old, with exceptions up to age 40 in special cases. Persons with special needs (physically challenged) will receive special consideration.

The Commissioner for Youth Development and Sports, Mr Patrick AghaMba, announced this during a press briefing at his office at the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports, behind Government House in Awka, on November 10.

He noted that applicants do not need specific educational qualifications, only a readiness to learn.

He thanked Governor Chukwuma Soludo for initiating, sustaining and supporting the transformative programme, which has helped young people in the state become their own bosses.



WORLD ADOPTION DAY HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR SAFER, TRANSPARENT ADOPTION PRACTICES IN ANAMBRA

By Anazonwu Chizoba Vivian

World Adoption Day highlights the importance of providing vulnerable children with safe, loving and permanent family environments through responsible, transparent and lawful adoption practices.

The November 9 annual observance recognises adoptive parents, adoptees and others whose lives have been shaped by adoption, while promoting awareness of children's rights and the need for appropriate alternative care arrangements.

In Anambra, the observance underscores the importance of strengthening child protection and alternative care systems under the administration of Governor Chukwuma Soludo

Through the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare, the state government has introduced measures aimed at improving alternative care arrangements, including caregiver screening, monitoring and adoption procedures.

The measures are intended to ensure that children requiring alternative family care are placed in safe environments and that adoption processes comply with established legal requirements.

The government has also warned against illegal adoption, child trafficking and the sale or exploitation of children, emphasising that all adoption processes must follow due legal procedures.

Adoption should provide children who genuinely require alternative family care with protection, stability, dignity and opportunities for a better future. It must not become a channel for trafficking, abuse or the unlawful separation of children from their biological families.

Achieving this requires transparent adoption procedures, proper documentation, effective monitoring of children's homes and functional family reunification programmes where appropriate.

Prospective adoptive parents should use only recognised and legally approved channels, while members of the public should report suspected cases of child trafficking, abuse and illegal adoption to the appropriate authorities.

As Anambra joins the global observance, sustained efforts to strengthen child welfare policies and enforce existing safeguards remain essential to ensuring that every adoption serves the best interests of the child.

SOLUDO PRESENTS APGA FLAG TO STAN NNAKA AS CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF IN AWKA

By Sunday Okoli

The All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) has officially flagged off its campaign in Anambra State ahead of the forthcoming election, with Governor Chukwuma Soludo presenting the party's flag to its candidate for Orumba South Constituency, Hon. Stan Nnaka.

The flag presentation took place at Ekwueme Square, Awka, during the party's official campaign flag-off ceremony .

Speaking with journalists shortly after receiving the flag, Nnaka described the occasion as more than a symbolic party activity, saying it represented gratitude, a call to service and a renewed commitment to the people.

He said the responsibility entrusted to him was one he would not take for granted, stressing that his political journey represented the aspirations of mothers, the hopes of young people, the struggles of communities and the collective desire for a better Orumba South.

Nnaka noted that the people of the constituency deserved representation that would prioritise their concerns, understand their needs, maintain close connections with them and work consistently towards their development.

He reaffirmed his commitment to carrying the aspirations of the people with dedication and ensuring that their interests remained central to his public service responsibilities.




READY TO SERVE
SEND ME
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
VOTE
HON SIR
STANISLAUS
ANENE NNAKA
APGA


READY TO SERVE
SEND ME
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
VOTE
HON SIR
STANISLAUS
ANENE NNAKA
APGA
DR. ODIRAA NWANKWO


STAN 4
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
APGA

NWACHUKWU URGES CHRISTIANS TO PRACTISE GRATITUDE TO GOD

By Ebele Egoh

A cleric of the Anglican Communion, Rev. Canon Henry Nwachukwu, has urged Christians to remain grateful to God and appreciate His goodness and blessings, irrespective of their circumstances.

Nwachukwu gave the advice while delivering a sermon at the cash harvest of St. Stephen's Zone, St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church, Ifite Awka, with the theme, "Harvest of Open Doors."

He urged Christians to make thanksgiving a way of life, citing the biblical account of Jesus Christ healing 10 lepers, only one of whom returned to express gratitude.

He said that Christians should never take God's goodness for granted, adding that a grateful heart was important in recognising and appreciating His blessings.

The cleric, an indigene of Ifite Awka, and a member of the church, appreciated members of the zone for coming together to thank God through the annual harvest.

Nwachukwu, who serves at St. Barnabas Parish, Ojoto, also encouraged Christians to appreciate people who make positive contributions to their lives, noting that such gestures could motivate them to do more.

He urged members of the zone to give according to their abilities and with sincere hearts.

He further called on churches to recognise and appreciate individuals who consistently support church activities and projects.

According to him, acknowledging such contributions makes people feel valued and encourages them to sustain their support for the growth and development of the church.







WHY ANAMBRA SHOULD STAND WITH TINUBU: THE STRATEGIC CASE FOR NDIGBO

By Law Mefor

For decades, Ndigbo have asked a defining question: how do we secure our rightful place at the centre of Nigeria while building a prosperous homeland we can all be proud of?

It is a question that goes beyond politics. It is about strategy and interest.

There are aspirations that unite us wherever we are- at home in Anambra or across the markets and offices of Lagos, Kano, Abuja and Port Harcourt.

First, a prosperous and secure homeland and Nigeria. Second, the progress, security and prosperity of our people across Nigeria. Third, full participation in government- not on the sidelines, not as spectators, but at the centre where decisions are made.

We cannot achieve this alone. We cannot achieve it in isolation or through protest votes that leave us outside the room.

We cannot achieve this alone. We cannot achieve it in isolation or through protest votes that leave us outside the room.

We need a strategic partnership with the government at the centre. That is why the path forward is not walls, but bridges. And that brings us to the central question: How does supporting President Bola Ahmed Tinubu help us?

Tinubu has performed. In two to three years, the Tinubu administration has taken difficult but necessary decisions to reset the foundations of the Nigerian economy. Fuel queues- which once strangled our businesses in Onitsha, Nnewi and Awka- are no more. The subsidy scam is ended. Students admitted in 2023 are graduating on time in 2026 because the ASUU question has been settled. Four years has become four years again.

What is more, no other candidate has presented a superior plan. In politics, as in business, we must reward performance, not promises.

Fact is: Tinubu is going to win. Out of the ten factors that decide elections in Nigeria, Tinubu ticks nearly all the boxes, and no opposition candidate comes even close.

Politics is about realities and what one is able to negotiate. President Tinubu enters 2027 backed by an unprecedented historical coalition, a broad national elite consensus that stretches across the six geopolitical zones. This is not a gamble. To align with him is to join the winning side and secure our place in the next federal government.

The opposition is fragmented and a house divided against itself never stood. History teaches one lesson: nowhere has a strong incumbent been defeated by a fragmented opposition. The opposition ahead of 2027 is divided into camps with no clear pathway to victory. A vote cast in that direction is a wasted vote. Ndigbo, who understand investment and return, cannot afford a wasted political investment.

Tinubu has shown good faith. Even though the Southeast did not vote for him in 2023, President Tinubu has shown sufficient good faith to Ndigbo. He has opened the door. It is in our own strategic interest to walk in.

When some wanted to bury APGA, our own party, President Tinubu did not join them. He stood by APGA and loyalty, our elders say, should be reciprocal.

Through Tinubu, APGA is now in the room where it matters. Bianca Ojukwu, wife of our leader, Emeka Ojukwu, serves as Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mark Okoye, one of our best, heads the Southeast Development Commission as Managing Director. These are not token appointments. This is real power.

What then is in it for us? Here are some projects that speak. Good faith is not only in appointments; it is in concrete and steel, in roads that connect our people to opportunity.

The Second Niger Bridge was delivered by his predecessor, but Tinubu is making it an economic corridor. The 17.5km dual carriageway bypass from Ogbunike linking the bridge to the Enugu-Onitsha Expressway has been approved and is ongoing.

The 108km Otuocha-Anam-Abaji dual carriageway, a direct link from Anambra to Kogi and Abuja, has been approved- a new gateway for our people.

The 150km Oba-Nnewi-Uga-Ihube-Okigwe Road is another gamechanger, connecting industrial Nnewi to the Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway.

And there is more: The Anambra Mixed-use Industrial City (AMIC) lying side by side with the aerotropolis has received federal NEPZA approval as a Free Trade Zone, with an industrial city, agro-park, pharma hub and logistics zone. It is the journey from commerce to manufacturing made real.

The Southeast Development Commission, signed in 2024, and inaugurated in 2025, is the first federal Marshall Plan for the Southeast. Local Government autonomy is now being enforced, taking allocation directly to local governments and bringing governance closer to the grassroots.

The Constitutional amendment for State Police, driven by the President at the National Assembly, offers a structural answer to insecurity- a matter dear to every Anambra home and abroad. It could have been only President Tinubu.

This is therefore the case before us. It is not just about party or sentiment. It is about Anambra strategic interest.

Do we want to remain outside, shouting, or do we want to be inside negotiating and building? Do we want to protest, or do we want to partner and prosper?

Ndigbo have always been strategic since the days of Zik. We are builders, businessmen, investors, inventors, thinkers. We know when to build bridges.

Let us join the winning coalition. Let us secure our place at the table. Let us build the prosperous homeland we all desire.

For a united, peaceful and prosperous Nigeria. For a prosperous homeland. For Anambra strategic interest- Let us stand with President Tinubu.

ANAMBRA GOVT HAILS FLAMINGOS STAR OLUEBUBE OMEJIAKU'S BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE



By Ifeyinwa Ogwo

The Anambra State Commissioner for Youth Development and Sports, Mr Patrick Agha-Mba, has praised Anambra-born Nigerian Flamingos star, Oluebube Success Omejiaku for her outstanding performance at the recently concluded 10th FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup, held in Rabat, Morocco, from October 17 to November 7, 2026. Omejiaku won the Adidas Golden Ball, the World Cup, and the Player of the Match award in the final.

The commissioner made the remarks during a press briefing in his office behind Government House in Awka .

He said that Oluebube Success Omejiaku's wins are clear proof that Anambra produces champions.

He thanked Governor Chukwuma Soludo for his continued support for sports development in the state, including creating grassroots sports ecosystem for young people and building a new stadium in Ekwulobia, which is yet to be commissioned.

He also congratulated the entire Nigerian Flamingos Under-17 women's football team for making Nigeria and Africa proud.

ADVOCATES INSTITUTIONALISED 2070 DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR ANAMBRA

By Onyinyechi Edokwe

The Secretary to the Anambra State Government (SSG), Mrs Chiamaka Nnake, has advocated the institutionalisation of a long term development plan for the state to ensure continuity of policies and programmes across successive administrations.

Nnake made the call at a one day sensitisation workshop on Policy Implementation and Performance Review, organised by the Office of the SSG at Best Western Hotel, Awka.

The workshop, themed "Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation Systems for Effective Policy Implementation, Performance Tracking and Service Delivery in Anambra State," focused on improving institutional capacity for policy implementation and performance assessment.

The SSG said the proposed 2070 development plan would provide a long term strategic direction for the state, irrespective of changes in political leadership. She urged successive administrations to build on existing achievements rather than abandon established policies and priorities.

According to her, the framework should prioritise human capital development, infrastructure and socioeconomic advancement, while ensuring that development planning extends beyond the tenure of any administration.

Nnake urged planning officers to demonstrate professionalism and commitment as custodians of government policies, stressing the need to assess government performance based on its impact on citizens rather than the number of projects executed.

She said effective monitoring and evaluation should measure jobs created, livelihoods improved, economic opportunities generated and the extent to which government interventions improved people's living conditions.

The SSG also called for strong institutional structures to protect the state's development blueprint from unnecessary changes, warning that frequent deviations from agreed priorities could undermine progress and waste public resources.

The workshop featured presentations by three resource persons. Mr Chukwunonso Okoye, Principal Planning Officer, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, spoke on results based performance monitoring, highlighting the importance of key performance indicators, reliable data collection and evidence based reporting.

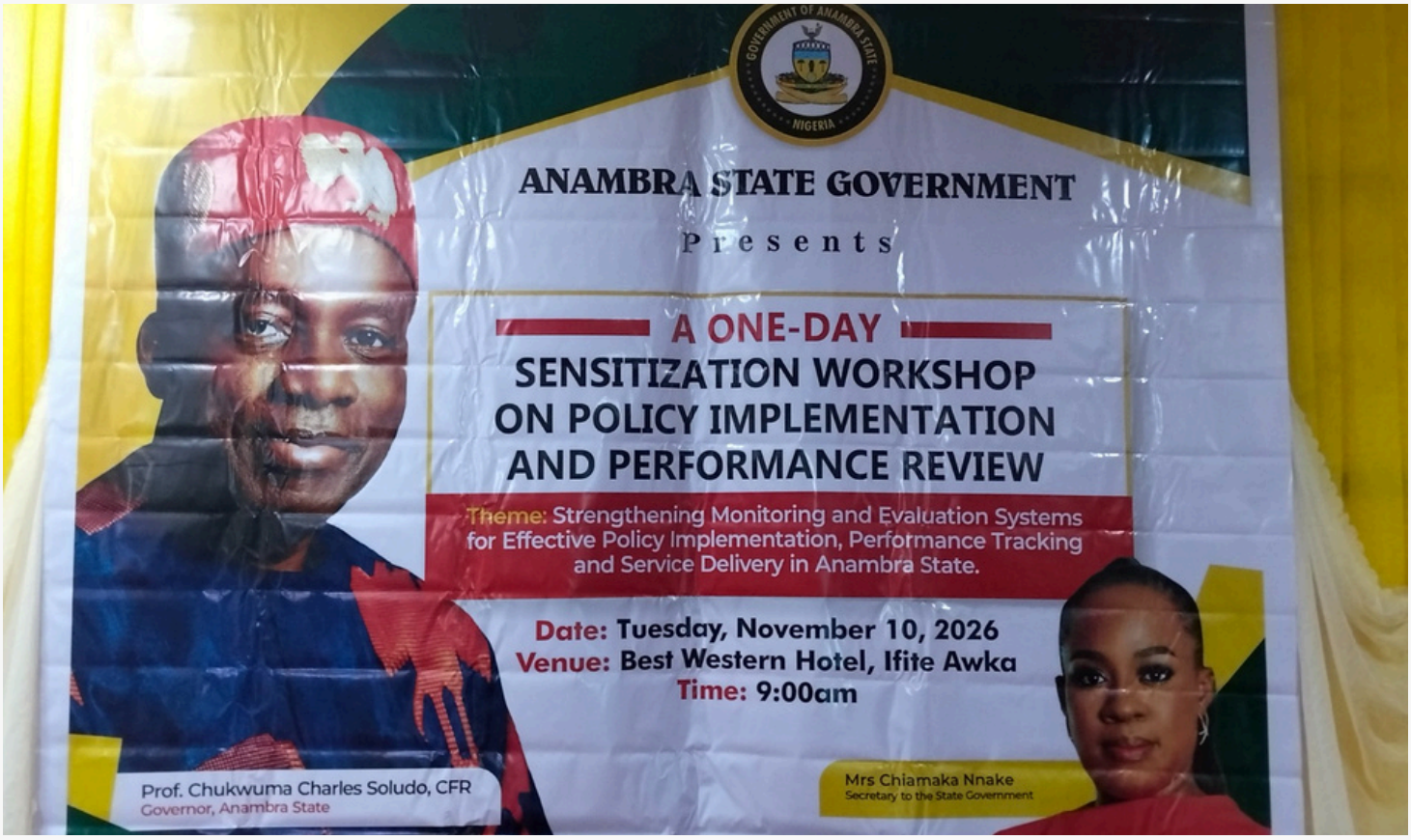
Prof. Jaja Nwanegbo of the Department of Political Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, spoke on aligning institutional programmes and performance with government priorities, emphasising the need for government agencies to link their activities to the state's development objectives.



Also, Mr Chinedu Okpala Vincent, Principal Officer and Head of the Economics Affairs and Parastatals Department in the Office of the SSG, presented a paper on the new monitoring and evaluation framework and tools for government agencies and parastatals.

The Permanent Secretary, Office of the SSG and Supervisory Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters, Dr Nwabufo Nnankwo, also attended the workshop.

The workshop forms part of the Office of the SSG's efforts to strengthen policy implementation, institutional accountability and service delivery while promoting a sustainable development framework that will transcend successive administrations.





ANAMBRA RALLIES FOR HIV-FREE 2030, UNVEILS AMBITIOUS WORLD AIDS DAY PROGRAMME



By Obianuju Isima

The Anambra State AIDS Control Agency (ANSACA) has unveiled an ambitious programme of activities for the 2026 World AIDS Day, aimed at strengthening HIV prevention, expanding access to treatment and accelerating efforts to eliminate AIDS by 2030.

Under the leadership of its Executive Director/Project Manager, Dr. Nkem Okeke, the agency is mobilising government institutions, development partners, traditional and religious leaders, youth organisations, civil society groups and residents to deepen community participation in the state's HIV response.

With the theme, "Ending AIDS Starts with Access: Equity, Ownership and Sustainability," the 2026 commemoration will focus on practical interventions, scientific innovations, sustainable HIV financing and stronger grassroots engagement.

The planned activities include a World AIDS Day press conference, a Maiden International HIV Scientific Symposium, high level advocacy visits, an HIV awareness walk, community roadshows and a Community Champion Honorarium Dinner to recognise individuals, institutions and partners making significant contributions to HIV prevention, treatment and care in the state.

Speaking on the preparations, Dr. Okeke said the agency was determined to move beyond public awareness campaigns to concrete actions that would improve access to HIV services and strengthen community ownership of the response.

He noted that the planned activities align with the vision of Governor Chukwuma Soludo's administration, which continues to prioritise human capital development, accessible healthcare and the wellbeing of residents as essential foundations for a healthier and more productive Anambra State.

AWKA SOUTH MOBILISES COMMUNITY LEADERS TO TACKLE VACCINE MISINFORMATION, BOOST CHILD IMMUNISATION



By Chukwuemeka Orji

Health workers, community leaders, women leaders and government officials in Awka South Local Government Area(LGA) have renewed efforts to improve routine immunisation coverage, calling for stronger community participation and sustained public education to address misconceptions surrounding childhood vaccination.

The stakeholders made the commitment during a community engagement meeting held at Eziokpaligwe Community Town Hall, Amawbia, where participants discussed barriers to immunisation uptake and strategies for ensuring that more children receive life saving vaccines.

Speaking at the meeting, the Director of Health Services, Awka South, Dr. Mrs. Ngozi Okeke, identified persistent rumours and misinformation as major challenges undermining routine immunisation.

She expressed concern that children often bear the consequences of misinformation and inadequate awareness, urging community stakeholders to take responsibility for correcting false narratives and encouraging parents to embrace vaccination.

Also speaking, the State Facilitator of the Paediatric Association of Nigeria (PAN), Mrs. Vivian Anugoh, described the engagement as an important platform for identifying challenges affecting vaccination programmes and developing practical solutions.

She encouraged participants to contribute actively to discussions and translate the resolutions into meaningful actions that would improve immunisation coverage across their communities.

In her remarks, the Social Mobilisation Officer (SMO), Mrs. Ifeoma Igbojekwe, urged stakeholders to intensify grassroots sensitisation, particularly across the various wards in the LGA.

The Special Assistant to the Mayor on Health Services, Awka South, Pharm. Henry Iloh, reaffirmed the local government's commitment to working with relevant stakeholders to strengthen public health programmes and expand immunisation coverage.

The Special Assistant to the Mayor on Health Services, Awka South, Pharm. Henry Iloh, reaffirmed the local government's commitment to working with relevant stakeholders to strengthen public health programmes and expand immunisation coverage. HCDA) and other relevant stakeholders.

At the end of the engagement, participants resolved to strengthen community advocacy, sustain public education, address vaccine-related misinformation and encourage parents and caregivers to ensure their children receive all recommended routine vaccinations.

OKAFOR LEADS AWKA SOUTH WORKERS TO 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENTSERVICE WEEK EXHIBITION

By Chinyere Nwoye

The Mayor of Awka South Local Government Area, Prince Chinedu Okafor, has led the council's workforce in celebrating the 2026 Annual Local Government Service Week, with a call for greater innovation, efficiency and productivity in grassroots administration.

The event, held on November 11, featured a Cultural, Skills and Agricultural Exhibition at the Local Government Service Commission premises in Awka, attracting Governor Chukwuma Soludo and other government functionaries.

The exhibition formed part of activities lined up for the annual service week, which provides an opportunity to recognise the contributions of local government employees and promote excellence in public service.

This year's celebration focused on strengthening administrative performance and repositioning local government institutions for effective service delivery.

Various communities and participating groups used the exhibition to display their cultural heritage, indigenous talents, agricultural produce and locally developed skills, highlighting the diverse potentials of Anambra State.

Prince Okafor's participation alongside the council workers reflected his administration's emphasis on staff inclusion, teamwork and alignment with Governor Soludo's efforts to build a more productive and responsive local government system.



2026 LG SERVICE WEEK: GOV. SOLUDO PROMISES STRONGER COMMISSION TO DRIVE CHANGE AT GRASSROOTS

By Ifeyinwa Ogwo

The Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, has promised to reconstitute and strengthen the Local Government Service Commission to drive grassroots change, urging workers to make the local government system work better by continuing to mainstream services and deliver the dividends of democracy through efficient service delivery.

The governor made the remarks during the 2026 Annual Local Government Service Week, themed "Innovation and Efficiency- The Solution Agenda," held at the Local Government Commission behind Government House in Awka on November 11.

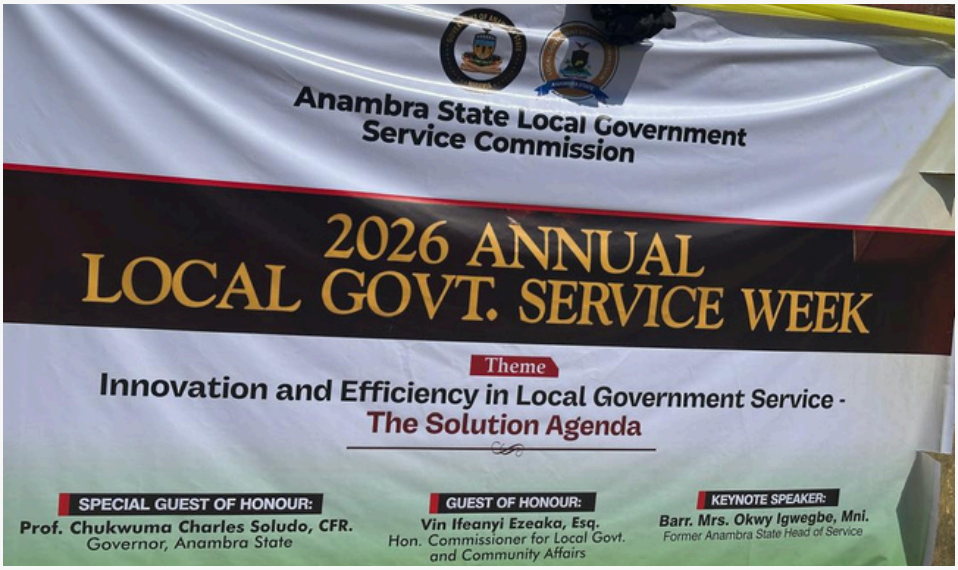
He commended the Local Government Service Commission for sustaining the event, noting that the administration is back on winning ways.

Governor Soludo said plans to restore the Onitsha Main Market to its former glory, build an aerotropolis and a new industrial city, as well as dualise various roads were on course. He encouraged civil servants to engage actively in farming, describing it as the only form of private business law permits for public servants.

He urged workers to vote for All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) candidates in the general election, noting that the party had proven to be a reliable platform for moving Anambra forward.

In his welcome address, the Commissioner for Local Government and Community Affairs, Barr. Vin Ezeaka, welcomed the governor to the third edition of the event. He noted that there had been no Local Government Service Week in the state before the Governor's first term. According to him, the inaugural edition was held in 2024, the second in 2025, and this was the third.





The event featured colourful displays and presentations of farm produce by workers from the 21 LGAs.




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