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FROM CHAOS TO A CITY: THE DAY EKWULOBIA ROSE ABOVE ITS PAST

For years, travelling through Ekwulobia meant bracing for a battle. Traders spilt from the market onto...

By Ifeyinwa Ogwo

PAGE 3

AT A GLANCE

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR CONGRATULATES GENERAL HOSPITAL ANAKU ON FIRST SUCCESSFUL CAESAREAN DELIVERY OF TWINS

The Anambra State Hospital Administrator, Dr Frank Ifeanaeme, has congratulated the management and staff of...

Page 9

EZEOKAFOR URGES NIGERIANS TO REJECT VOTE BUYING, ELECT LEADERS WITH GOOD CHARACTER

The Catholic Bishop of Awka Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Paulinus Ezeokafor, has urged Nigerians to vote with a clear conscience and elect leaders who possess the...

Page 9

ANAMBRA, KWARA, FOUR OTHER STATES BOOST GBV RESPONSE THROUGH NATIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINING

Page 10

BATMEDICS APPOINTS ANAMBRA HEALTH COMMISSIONER, DR. AFAM OBIDIKE, AS STATE DIRECTOR

The Anambra State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Afam Ben Obidike, has been appointed Anambra State Director of BATMEDICS, a Nigerian medical outreach and...

EKWUSIGO

SOLUDO'S SOLUTION AGENDA: EKWUSIGO MAYOR INSPECTS SCHOOLS, HEALTH CENTRES, PLEDGES IMPROVED FACILITIES

The Mayor of Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State, Hon. Ifeanyi Onuchukwu (Ikeora), has inspected two primary healthcare facilities and...

Page 6

ANSACA

ANSACA ROLLS OUT STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES TO MARK 2026 WORLD AIDS DAY, MOBILISES COMMUNITIES FOR HIV-FREE ANAMBRA

The Anambra State AIDS Control Agency (ANSACA) has intensified preparations for the 2026 World AIDS Day with a series of state-wide activities designed to...

Page 7

ASTRC

ASTRC PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR HERITAGE AND CULTURE AFRICA IN PROMOTING IGBO HERITAGE

The Anambra State Traditional Rulers' Council (ASTRC), under the leadership of its Chairman, Igwe Chidubem Iweka (Eze Iweka III), has pledged its support for Heritage and Culture Africa in its...

Page 8



SPOTLIGHT

01 ANAMBRA'S 2027 BUDGET: CONSOLIDATING GAINS, UNLOCKING NEW PROSPERITY

The ₦893.44 billion 2027 Bdget proposal presented by Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR, to the Anambra State House of Assembly on Tuesday, represents an attempt to...

PG. 02

02 ANAMBRA PUBLIC SERVICE ANTHEM COMPETITION: IJEOMA UGBOAJA EMERGES WINNER WITH ₦100,000 CASH PRIZE

Miss Ijeoma Joy Ugboaja, Esq., a Principal State Counsel with the Anambra State Ministry of Justice, has emerged winner of the ...

PG. 04

03 WIFE OF ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNOR RECEIVES PUBLIC HEALTH INNOVATION AWARD

Anambra First Lady, Mrs. Nonye Soludo has added another laurel to her crown. This came when she emerged as the winner of the Public Health Innovation Award at...

PG 5

From the Editorial Corner

ANAMBRA'S 2027 BUDGET: CONSOLIDATING GAINS, UNLOCKING NEW PROSPERITY

The ₦893.44 billion 2027 Bdget proposal presented by Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR, to the Anambra State House of Assembly on Tuesday, represents an attempt to consolidate ongoing reforms, accelerate infrastructure development and open new pathways to economic prosperity.

Tagged "Solution 2.0: Unlocking New Axis for Sustainable Prosperity," the proposal reflects the administration's determination to build on the foundations laid during its first term.

Described by the administration as a consolidating budget, the proposal is designed to expand existing projects while introducing new opportunities for growth through urban development, infrastructure and strategic investments.

The planned development of new cities, including the continuation of Awka 2.0, signals an effort to reposition the state's urban landscape, stimulate economic activities and enhance its attractiveness to investors.

The budget proposal represents a 16.58 per cent increase over the 2026 budget and reflects the government's efforts to reposition Anambra for sustainable economic growth.

A notable feature of the fiscal plan is the allocation of ₦692.66 billion, representing 77.53 per cent of the proposed budget, to capital expenditure, against ₦200.78 billion earmarked for recurrent spending.

This emphasis on capital investment is commendable, particularly given the urgent need for infrastructure, economic expansion and improved public services.

The proposed recruitment of 5,000 additional teachers, alongside sustained investment in healthcare, free education, free antenatal care and maternal healthcare, reinforces the importance of human capital development. The commitment to completing ongoing road projects, with 721 carriageways reportedly completed or under construction, further highlights the administration's infrastructure drive.

Equally, sustained attention to security is indispensable, as a safe environment remains fundamental to investment, commerce, social stability and the wellbeing of citizens.

More importantly, the budget's significance must be understood through the lens of the ordinary citizen. For parents, the continuation of free education and the recruitment of additional teachers could ease the burden of schooling and improve the quality of learning for their children. For expectant mothers and families, expanded healthcare services and free antenatal and maternal care could reduce medical costs and improve access to essential services. For traders, farmers, transport operators and artisans, better roads and infrastructure could ease the movement of goods, reduce transportation difficulties and create opportunities for increased income. For young people and job seekers, infrastructure expansion, urban development and new investments could create employment opportunities and open pathways to economic independence.

The 2027 budget presents a significant opportunity for Anambra to consolidate its development gains, deepen reforms and expand prosperity across the state. Governor Soludo's emphasis on infrastructure, education, healthcare, security and urban development reflects a clear determination to sustain the momentum of transformation.

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With effective implementation, transparency and a firm commitment to inclusive development, the proposed budget could further strengthen public confidence and deliver meaningful improvements in the lives of Ndi Anambra.

The administration deserves encouragement for its continued investment in the state's future, while the people look forward to seeing the promises of Solution 2.0 translated into tangible results. Ultimately, a government that invests in its people, builds enduring infrastructure and creates opportunities for future generations is laying the foundation for a stronger and more prosperous Anambra.

FROM CHAOS TO A CITY: THE DAY EKWULOBIA ROSE ABOVE ITS PAST

By Ifeyinwa Ogwo



For years, travelling through Ekwulobia meant bracing for a battle. Traders spilt from the market onto the road. Keke riders, buses, trailers and pedestrians jostled for the same narrow space. A five-minute journey could take two hours. Mothers held their children close. Drivers held their breath.

On Thursday, November 26, 2026, that old Ekwulobia was laid to rest—and a new one rose into the sky.

As Vice President Kashim Shettima cut the tape to commission the landmark Ekwulobia Flyover, thousands gathered under the sun and erupted in cheers. APGA and APC supporters waved flags bearing the slogan "SoluTinubu." Traders danced. Older adults pointed upward, as if they could hardly believe their eyes.

A 300-metre bridge now soars over the Nanka-Uga axis, where chaos once reigned.

Ekwulobia is no ordinary town. It is the capital of the Old Aguata Union and a commercial heartbeat for Aguata and beyond. Every day, travellers from Nnewi, Uga, Umuchu, Nanka, Oko and Awka converge here.

More than 2,000 petty traders once clustered around the major transport corridor. The old motor park sat right on the road, while the market had no clear boundary—fuelling daily gridlock, accidents and frustration.

There was also a large shrine beside the roundabout.

Governor Chukwuma Soludo, host of the commissioning, did not conceal the pain involved in the transformation.

"Ekwulobia has evolved from chaos to a sprawling city," he said. "The site of this flyover used to be a motor park and was blocking the road, with roadside traders turning it into a chaotic scene. There was even a shrine here too."

To make way for the flyover, officials demolished buildings, relocated the shrine, displaced traders, and displaced property owners who lost ancestral structures. The governor publicly thanked them for their sacrifice.

"Thank you for your patience," he told the crowd. "Thank you for enduring the inconvenience."

Beneath the new bridge's striking appearance lies a deeper story. Engineers revealed that the corridor had once been ravaged by a 30-metre-deep gully caused by floodwater from surrounding catchment areas. Before they could tackle traffic, they had to first contend with nature and reclaim the land.

The flyover came with more than a bridge. Beside it are a modern bus terminal, about four adjoining roads, special lighting, the Ekwulobia Tower of Light and a new shopping mall.

"This is not just a bridge," said former Commissioner for Works, Engr. Ifeanyi Okoma. "It is a world-class infrastructure project constructed to the highest international standards. It has undergone rigorous quality assurance tests and structural integrity assessments. It is safe, sound and fit for public use."

Completed in October 2025 at a cost of more than ₦12 billion, the project had waited over a year for its formal commissioning. It is now open to traffic, just in time for the festive season, when thousands of Anambra indigenes will return home.

Furthermore, Vice President Shettima, representing President Bola Tinubu, arrived with a federal commitment.

He announced that President Tinubu had approved Free Trade Zone status for the Anambra Industrial City, along with two new flyovers in Awka—at Regina Caeli Junction and at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University gate.

He also announced the dualisation of major federal roads, including the Otuocha-AnamAbaji road, a 35-kilometre ring road with seven bridges linking to the Second Niger Bridge, and about ₦350 billion for reconstruction of the Enugu-Onitsha Expressway.

"Development has no political party," Shettima said. "The Federal Government is always a willing partner, and we are happy that Governor Soludo is delivering for his people."

He described Soludo as a governor with vision and conviction, citing the transformation of Okpoko and Ekwulobia as proof that urban renewal can work in Nigeria.

For Mrs Philomena Eze, a trader who sold akara by the roadside for 18 years,

the flyover was something simple: dignity.

"Before, rain would beat us, motor would nearly kill us," she said, wiping sweat from her face as she watched the commissioning from her new stall. "Now, we have a place. My children can come and meet me without fear."

For commercial driver Mr Chinedu Okafor, it means time. "Before, from Ekwulobia to Awka na war. Now, I can do two more trips in a day. That is money for my family."

That is the flyover's real test—not the ribbon, the speeches, or the lights that will glow at night from the Tower of Light.

Governor Soludo says this is only the beginning. After Okpoko, Ekwulobia, Awka, and now Onitsha and Nnewi, his administration is pursuing Anambra Vision 2070: a vision to make Anambra a liveable, prosperous and smart mega-city.

As the Vice President's convoy left Ekwulobia on Thursday, the first vehicles crossed the new bridge freely. Below, traders arranged their wares in their new stalls. Above, the Tower of Light stood tall. For the first time in decades, Ekwulobia was not just a junction to pass through. It was a city to look up to!

ANAMBRA PUBLIC SERVICE ANTHEM COMPETITION: IJEOMA UGBOAJA EMERGES WINNER WITH ₦100,000 CASH PRIZE



By MaryAnn Chukwuma

Miss Ijeoma Joy Ugboaja, Esq., a Principal State Counsel with the Anambra State Ministry of Justice, has emerged winner of the Anambra State Public Service Anthem Competition with her entry titled "A Light to the World," receiving a cash prize of ₦100,000.

The announcement was made by the Head of Service, Anambra State, Ngozi Anuli Iwouno, Esq., mni, during the award presentation to outstanding civil servants at the 2026 Public Service Day Celebration, held on November 20, at the Jerome Udoji Secretariat Complex, Awka.

Ugboaja emerged winner following a screening process conducted by a committee constituted by the Head of Service to evaluate the numerous anthem entries submitted by civil

servants across various ministries and government offices.

Speaking to the press shortly after the announcement, Miss Ugboaja expressed excitement and gratitude over her emergence as the winner, describing the recognition as a great encouragement and honour.

She appreciated the Head of Service and the Anambra State Government for creating the opportunity for civil servants to showcase their creativity and contribute meaningfully to the development of the public service.

WIFE OF ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNOR RECEIVES PUBLIC HEALTH INNOVATION AWARD

By Chris Chikelue

Anambra First Lady, Mrs. Nonye Soludo has added another laurel to her crown. This came when she emerged as the winner of the Public Health Innovation Award at the Africa Future Leadership Conference in Lagos.

She was represented at the ceremony by his son, Chinua Soludo and the Anambra State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Afam Obidike.

Before the award, there was an open nationwide nomination and public voting where citizens and humanitarian observers across the country made their choice through voting her.

The Anambra State Governor's wife who is the founder of the 'Healthy Living with Nonye Soludo' received the award on Friday, during the Lagos Africa Future Leadership Conference and Awards ceremony.

In a press statement released on November 21, Mrs. Soludo thanked the organisers, saying the recognition was both humbling and encouraging.

She said that the award strengthened her resolve to do more, reach more people and create greater impact through the 'Healthy Living with Nonye Soludo Initiative'.



SOLUDO'S SOLUTION AGENDA: EKWUSIGO MAYOR INSPECTS SCHOOLS, HEALTH CENTRES, PLEDGES IMPROVED FACILITIES

By Gloria Onyeanusi/Chioma Okeke

The Mayor of Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State, Hon. Ifeanyi Onuchukwu (Ikeora), has inspected two primary healthcare facilities and two public schools in Ozubulu and Ihembosi communities, promising to address their infrastructural and operational challenges.

The unscheduled inspection visits, conducted on November 16, took the mayor and his delegation to Egbema Primary Health Centre and Egbema Central School in Ozubulu, as well as Ihembosi Referral Health Centre and Ubahu Community Primary School in Ihembosi.

At Egbema Primary Health Centre, Onuchukwu interacted with two volunteer staff members and Industrial Training (IT) health students, who highlighted challenges affecting the facility's operations. He commended their dedication despite the difficulties and assured them of his administration's intervention.

At Egbema Central School, the mayor was received by Mrs. Ann Ajuluchukwu, who conducted him round the premises and identified challenges, including classroom blocks requiring renovation, non-functional toilets and other infrastructural deficiencies. Onuchukwu promised that the identified needs would receive attention according to priority.

Similarly, at Ihembosi Referral Health Centre, the mayor interacted with a volunteer staff member, Ms. Chiamaka Ndububa, and an IT health student, who explained the operational challenges confronting the facility. He reiterated his administration's commitment to improving healthcare delivery and addressing the identified problems.

The delegation also visited Ubahu Community Primary School, Ihembosi, where the School Manager, Rev. Fr. Johnpaul Onyilioha, identified inadequate fencing as the major challenge, stressing the need to secure the premises to protect pupils and school property.

Responding, Onuchukwu assured the school manager that the matter would receive attention, emphasising that the safety and security of pupils and educational facilities remained a priority of his administration.

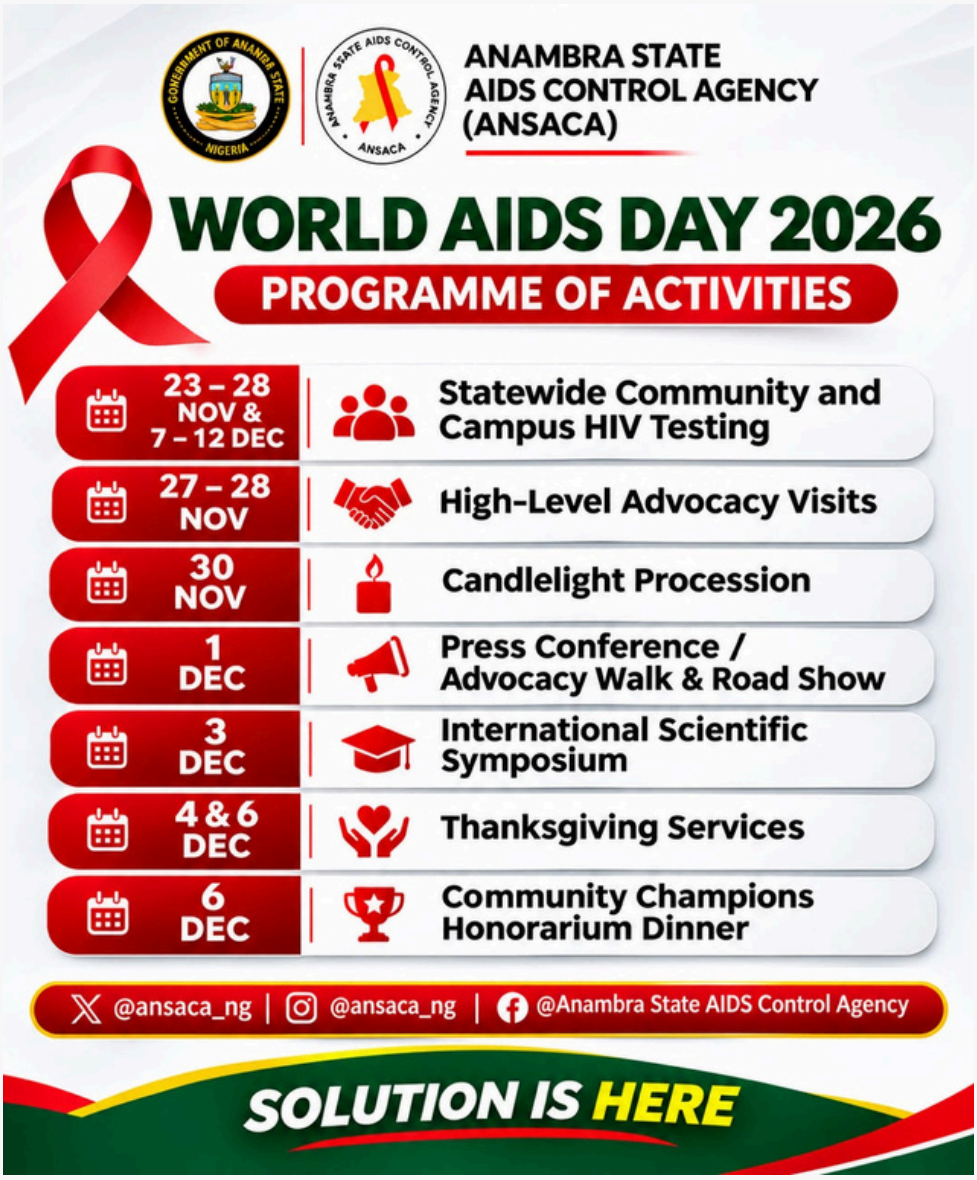








ANSACA ROLLS OUT STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES TO MARK 2026 WORLD AIDS DAY, MOBILISES COMMUNITIES FOR HIV-FREE ANAMBRA



By Obianuju Isima

The Anambra State AIDS Control Agency (ANSACA) has intensified preparations for the 2026 World AIDS Day with a series of state-wide activities designed to deepen HIV awareness, expand testing services and strengthen community participation in the fight against HIV.

The programme, scheduled to run from Nov. 23 to Dec. 12, will feature community and campus HIV testing, high level advocacy visits, a candlelight procession, public awareness campaigns, a scientific symposium and interfaith thanksgiving services.

A major highlight will be the state-wide community and campus testing exercise scheduled for Nov. 23–28 and Dec. 7–12. The initiative is expected to provide residents and students with opportunities to know their HIV status, access accurate health information and become more informed about available prevention and treatment services.

To strengthen institutional and community support for the state's HIV response, ANSACA has also scheduled high level advocacy visits for Nov. 27 and 28, while a candlelight procession on Nov. 30 will honour those who have lost their lives to AIDS related illnesses and reaffirm solidarity with people living with HIV.

On Dec. 1, the main World AIDS Day commemoration will feature a press conference, advocacy walk and road show aimed at drawing public attention to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and the need to eliminate stigma and discrimination.

The programme will continue with an International Scientific Symposium on Dec. 3, bringing attention to evidence based approaches and emerging strategies for strengthening HIV prevention and control.

Recognising the influence of religious institutions in community mobilisation, interfaith thanksgiving services will hold on Dec. 4 at a mosque and Dec. 6 at a church. The celebrations will also feature a Community Champions Honoriarium Dinner on Dec. 6 to recognise individuals and stakeholders whose contributions continue to support HIV prevention and control in Anambra State.

The activities underscore ANSACA's determination to take HIV awareness beyond conventional campaigns by bringing testing, advocacy and education closer to communities, schools, religious institutions and other critical stakeholder groups.

ASTRC PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR HERITAGE AND CULTURE AFRICA IN PROMOTING IGBO HERITAGE

By Chisom Okpala

The Anambra State Traditional Rulers' Council (ASTRC), under the leadership of its Chairman, Igwe Chidubem Iweka (Eze Iweka III), has pledged its support for Heritage and Culture Africa in its efforts to preserve, promote and showcase Igbo cultural heritage to the international community.

The commitment was reaffirmed on November 21, 2026, during the reception of the 2026 Iri Ji Grand Finale, organised by Heritage and Culture Africa at the Awka City Stadium.

Speaking at the event, Igwe Iweka emphasised the importance of preserving Igbo customs, traditions and values, noting that traditional institutions, as custodians of cultural heritage, are encouraged by the active involvement of younger generations in sustaining the people's cultural identity.

He praised Heritage and Culture Africa for its commitment to safeguarding Africa's cultural heritage, particularly through its efforts to promote Anambra and Igbo traditions beyond the shores of Nigeria.

The traditional ruler described the organisation's initiative as a significant contribution to cultural preservation and the transmission of indigenous values to future generations.

Earlier, the Founder of Heritage and Culture Africa, Prince Davidson Okoroanyanwu, revealed plans to construct a pyramid containing 5,000 yams next year, following the successful completion of a 1,500-yam pyramid last year.



HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR CONGRATULATES GENERAL HOSPITAL ANAKU ON FIRST SUCCESSFUL CAESAREAN DELIVERY OF TWINS





By Ebele Egoh

The Anambra State Hospital Administrator, Dr Frank Ifeanaeme, has congratulated the management and staff of General Hospital Anaku on the successful performance of the first Caesarean Section (CS) for the delivery of twins in the facility.

He made the commendation on November 21, during a telephone interview with the Health Information Officer.

Dr Ifeanaeme recalled that he had recently advised residents of Anaku and Ayamelum Local Government Area to take advantage of the quality healthcare equipment and efficient health professionals provided by the Soludo-led administration in the state's public hospitals.

He described the successful delivery of the twins through caesarean section as a remarkable achievement and a milestone worth celebrating.

The Hospital Administrator commended the medical team for their professionalism and dedication, noting that the development demonstrated the growing capacity of the hospital to provide quality maternal healthcare services.

He further encouraged pregnant women and residents of Anaku and its environs to patronise the facility and other government-owned hospitals to benefit from the free antenatal care, free normal delivery, free caesarean section and other healthcare packages provided by the state government.

EZEOKAFOR URGES NIGERIANS TO REJECT VOTE BUYING, ELECT LEADERS WITH GOOD CHARACTER

By Chikaodili Obinwa



The Catholic Bishop of Awka Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Paulinus Ezeokafor, has urged Nigerians to vote with a clear conscience and elect leaders who possess the character, competence and capacity to address the challenges facing the country.

The Catholic prelate made the call at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Awka, during the celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, popularly known as Christ the King.

Bishop Ezeokafor, who lamented the hardship Nigerians are experiencing as a result of the country's economic situation, described the forthcoming general election as an opportunity for citizens to make the right choices and change the course of governance in the country.

He warned Nigerians against vote buying, urging them to reject any money or bags of rice offered by politicians to influence their votes. He stressed that accepting such inducements would amount to sacrificing their future and that of their children, leaving them to bear the consequences of bad leadership for another four years.

ANAMBRA, KWARA, FOUR OTHER STATES BOOST GBV RESPONSE THROUGH NATIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINING

By Obianuju Isima

Anambra State has strengthened its capacity to prevent Gender Based Violence (GBV) and improve services for survivors following its participation in a five-day national capacity building training in Abuja.

The training, held from November 16 to 20, at the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria Resource Centre, Durumi, Abuja, focused on strengthening practical skills in GBV prevention, post violence clinical care and survivor support.

It was organised by the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN), with support from the Global Fund under the N-TRIP Project, in collaboration with the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), the National AIDS and STIs Control Programme (NASCP) and AIDS Healthcare Foundation Nigeria (AHNi).

Anambra State was represented by Paschal Igbokwe, Head of Grants and Proposal Unit, and Cyril Okedinachi, Head of Gender Based Violence Unit.

They joined multidisciplinary stakeholders from Ebonyi, Gombe, Kwara and Rivers States, as well as the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The sessions provided participants with practical knowledge on identifying different forms of GBV, strengthening survivor referral pathways, understanding legal protections and improving access to medical and psychosocial services.

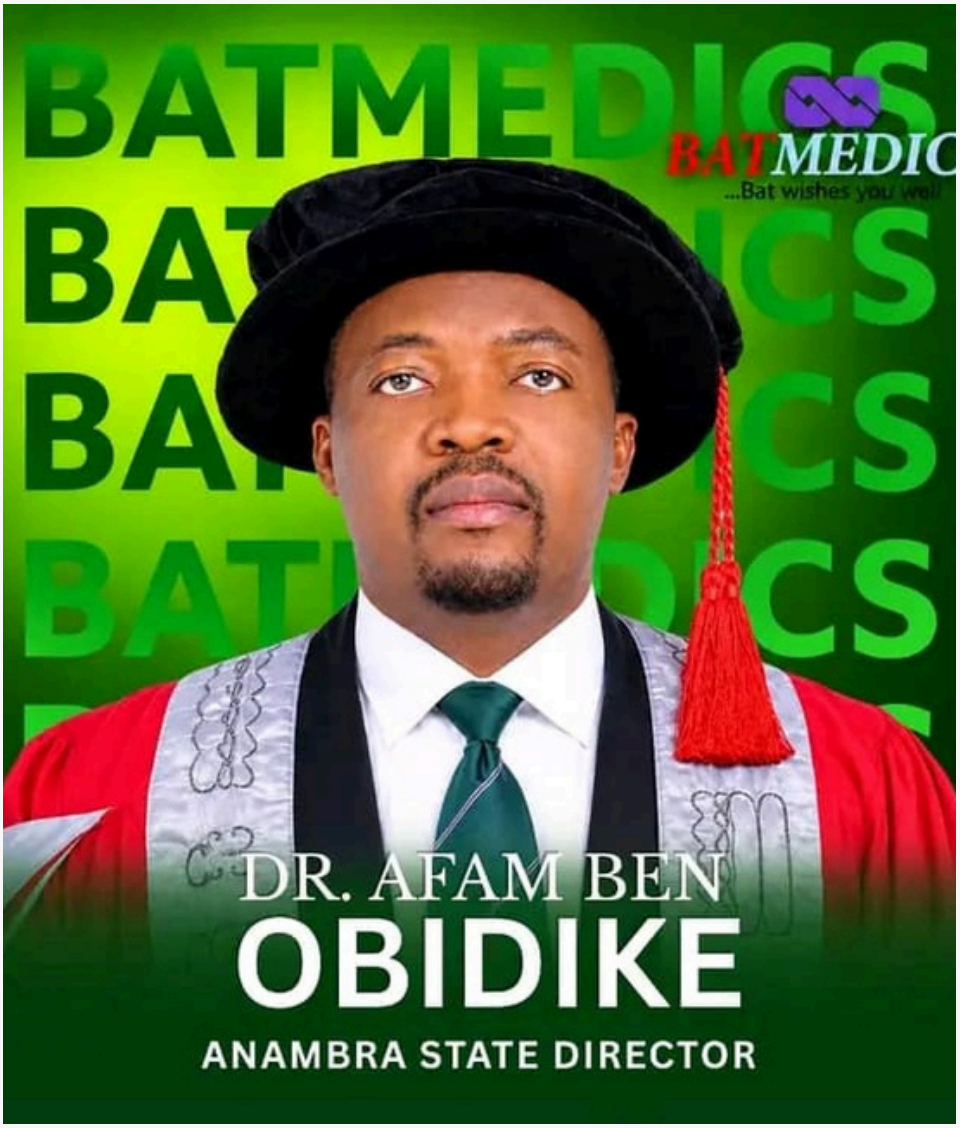






BATMEDICS APPOINTS ANAMBRA HEALTH COMMISSIONER, DR. AFAM OBIDIKE, AS STATE DIRECTOR

By Chris Chikelue



The Anambra State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Afam Ben Obidike, has been appointed Anambra State Director of BATMEDICS, a Nigerian medical outreach and humanitarian organisation.

The appointment was announced on November 23, in a statement signed by the organisation's National Director of Research, Media, Publicity and Strategic Communications, Petra Akinti Onyegbule.

According to the statement, the appointment is aimed at strengthening the organisation's leadership coordination in healthcare delivery and expanding its community engagements across Anambra State.

BATMEDICS described Dr. Obidike as a public health physician, service delivery oriented consultant, anaesthetist and critical care specialist with experience in multidisciplinary healthcare delivery.

It highlighted his contributions to public health policy, emergency care systems and healthcare human resource management, noting that he is currently completing a Master of Science degree in International Public Health at the University of Liverpool, England.

The organisation congratulated the commissioner on his appointment, expressing confidence in his ability to discharge the responsibilities effectively.

WORK ADVANCES ON 6.875KM OGBOJI–NDIOKOLO–NDIOKPALA EKE RING ROAD IN ANAMBRA

By Amaka Isikala



Construction work is progressing on the 6.875-kilometre Ogboji–Ndiokolo–Ndiokpala Eke Ring Road in Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra State, with the project advancing to the stone base preparation stage in some sections.

The road project, being executed by Lebtech Construction Company Ltd., is part of the Anambra State Government's ongoing efforts to

improve rural infrastructure and strengthen connectivity across communities under the administration of Governor Chukwuma Soludo.

The current construction phase involves laying and preparing the stone base layer, a critical component that provides a stable foundation for asphalt surfacing, improves load distribution and enhances the durability of the finished road.

As part of efforts to ensure quality delivery, the Director of Highways Maintenance, Engr. Dr. H. I. D. Eze, alongside officials of the Ministry, inspected the project to assess the progress and standard of work.

Upon completion, the 6.875 kilometre ring road is expected to improve access between Ogboji, Ndiokolo and Ndiokpala Eke, making transportation easier for residents and strengthening connections among the communities.

The improved road is also expected to benefit farmers, traders and other business operators by facilitating the movement of agricultural produce, goods and services to neighbouring communities and markets.



ASHIA INSPECTS THREE HEALTH FACILITIES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH SERVICE STANDARDS

By Chisom Okafor

The Anambra State Health Insurance Agency (ASHIA) has inspected three healthcare facilities in the state to assess service delivery and ensure compliance with its operational standards.

The facilities are Amichi Diocesan Hospital, General Hospital, Agulu, and All Saints Hospital, Agulu. The inspection took place on November 20, as part of the agency's quality assurance exercise.

The team was led by the Acting Head of the Health Services Standards, Quality and Control (HSSQC) Department, Nurse Agogbua Tochi, who represented the Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of ASHIA, Dr. Augustine Ezeka.

During the exercise, the team inspected the laboratories, pharmacies and wards of the facilities to assess their compliance with the agency's operational and service delivery standards.

ASHIA said the facilities were found to be up to date with the required standards.

The agency reaffirmed its commitment to protecting the rights and welfare of its enrollees, warning healthcare providers against overbilling and charging enrollees for services not rendered.







ANAMBRA 2027 BUDGET: UNLOCKING NEW AXIS FOR SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY

By Law Mefor

When Governor Prof. Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR, stood before the Anambra State House of Assembly on Tuesday, 24th November, 2026, he was not just presenting figures. He was presenting a vision.

The 2027 Appropriation Bill, christened Solution 2.0: Unlocking New Axis for Sustainable Prosperity, is worth N893,435,059,830. It is a 16.58 percent increase over the 2026 budget. But the size is not the story. The structure is the story.

A budget that builds: Of the N893.4 billion, N692,656,257,655, representing 77.53 percent, is devoted to capital expenditure. Only N200,778,802,175, representing 22.47 percent, goes to recurrent expenditure.

In plain language, Anambra is spending more than three naira out of every four naira on building, not on running government. Roads, schools, hospitals, water, housing, and the infrastructure of a modern state. That is rare in Nigerian public finance, and it is deliberate. I do not think any state in Nigeria has attained it.

Soludo has insisted from day one that Anambra must be built, not merely administered.

What does this budget hold for Ndi Anambra?

For the farmer, it means better roads to move her goods and a safer environment to trade, and access, storage, and a market that works.

For the students, it means a classroom with a teacher who is present, trained, and motivated. The budget provides for the recruitment of 5,000 additional teachers, building on the 8,115 already hired by this administration. That is not a promise. That is a pipeline.

For the sick child, it means a health system that is being funded to respond. Health takes N44 billion in this budget.

For the young graduate in Ekwulobia, it means a new economy. Housing takes N18 billion. Justice takes N24.9 billion. Security remains a priority, because without security there is no prosperity.

The new axis is thinking beyond today. Perhaps the most audacious part of the budget is its forward look.

Soludo spoke of an aerotropolis, a new city built around an airport economy, as a response to a hard truth: Anambra's population is growing fast, its land is shrinking, and yesterday's planning cannot carry tomorrow's people.

This is what unlocking a new axis means. It is not just fixing potholes. It is planning for the Anambra of 2040, 2050, and beyond, while delivering for the Anambra of today.

This budget also shows discipline in the midst of ambition. The budget carries an estimated deficit of N185,560,133,387, about 20.7 percent. Yet Soludo reminded lawmakers of a fact that has become his signature: his administration has not borrowed a kobo to date.

If borrowing becomes necessary, he said, it will be strictly economically justified and disciplined. Anambra will not mortgage its future to pay for its present.

It is a consolidation budget with a human face. The Speaker of the House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Dr. Somtochukwu Udeze, commended the Governor for his developmental strides across all sectors, and for the upgrade of the Assembly complex itself. But beyond the commendation lies the real test: will this budget change lives?

If its structure holds, it will. A budget that puts 77 percent into capital, that hires teachers, funds health, builds housing, secures communities, and plans new cities, is not a budget for politicians. It is a budget for people. That is the promise of Anambra 2.0.

It is not just about spending more. It is about building better, planning longer, and unlocking new axis for sustainable prosperity for Ndi Anambra, today and for generations to come.



ANAMBRA PLANS TO CONSOLIDATE ACHIEVEMENTS, EXPAND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY

By Maureen Agbala



The Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Mr Chukwukadibia Okoye, says the Anambra State Government plans to consolidate its existing achievements and open new areas of sustainable prosperity through its proposed ₦893.44 billion 2027 budget.

He disclosed this during a press briefing at the Jerome Udoji Secretariat, Awka, adding that the government would not borrow to finance recurrent expenditure but might seek loans for capital projects when borrowing conditions were favourable.

Okoye said the government was determined to maintain fiscal discipline and ensure that any borrowing was tied to projects with clear economic benefits.

He explained that the state's projected revenue of ₦597.21 billion would cover recurrent expenditure, while any borrowing would be restricted to capital projects at reasonable interest rates, explaining that Anambra was shifting toward greater financial independence by raising its internally generated revenue target from ₦72 billion to ₦231 billion, an increase of about 221 per cent.

The commissioner urged residents and businesses to meet their tax obligations while holding government accountable.

On the budget, which represents a 16.58 per cent increase over the current year's figure, he said ₦692.66 billion had been earmarked for capital expenditure, while ₦200.78 billion would cover recurrent spending.

The economic sector received the largest allocation of ₦470.57 billion, representing 55.48 per cent, while the social sector received ₦220.55 billion, or about 26 per cent. Education was allocated ₦99.03 billion, an increase of 32.92 per cent, while healthcare received ₦93.92 billion, representing a 28.17 per cent increase. He said the investments would support improved services, including the recruitment of additional teachers and medical personnel.

The commissioner also highlighted the government's infrastructure and security priorities, including the development of new cities such as Ekwulobia and the continuation of road projects. He disclosed that 721 carriageway projects had either been completed or were ongoing, with further provisions made to complete outstanding works. On security, he said the state was preparing for the proposed state police system, with ₦26.11 billion allocated to the law and justice sector.

Okoye further disclosed that youth development had received ₦9.1 billion, representing a 25.48 per cent increase, with investment in sports development and facilities, including the expansion of Awka Township Stadium. He explained that the government viewed sports as an important part of youth development, providing opportunities for young people to improve their skills.

He maintained that the 2027 budget was designed to sustain investment in critical sectors, expand infrastructure, strengthen human capital and create new opportunities for economic growth across Anambra State.

WORLD CONJOINED TWINS DAY: A CALL FOR STRONGER SPECIALISED MATERNAL, CHILD HEALTHCARE IN ANAMBRA

By Anazonwu Chizoba Vivian

The 2026 World Conjoined Twins Day provides an opportunity to examine the state of specialised maternal and child healthcare in Anambra, particularly in early diagnosis, timely referrals, specialist treatment and long term care for children born with complex medical conditions.

Marked annually on November 24, the observance seeks attention to the challenges faced by conjoined twins, their families and the medical professionals involved in their care.

It also promotes the dignity and well being of conjoined twins, encourages public understanding and reinforces the need for appropriate medical care and social support.

For Anambra, the occasion underlines the importance of strengthening specialised maternal and child healthcare services, particularly in early detection, effective referral systems, specialist treatment and postnatal support.

Governor Chukwuma Soludo's administration has identified healthcare as one of its development priorities, with efforts directed at upgrading primary healthcare centres, improving access to maternal and child health services, recruiting healthcare personnel and providing modern medical equipment.

For families faced with the birth of conjoined twins, access to quality healthcare is particularly important. Depending on the nature of the condition, such cases may require specialised diagnosis, surgical intervention, intensive care and long term medical follow up.

However, the challenges extend beyond medical treatment. Stigma, discrimination and misinformation can further affect the well being of conjoined twins and their families.

Conjoined twins are children with inherent dignity and rights who deserve love, protection, education and equal opportunities to live meaningful lives, irrespective of their medical condition.

Addressing these challenges requires collaboration among government agencies, healthcare institutions, medical specialists and development partners to ensure that children born with complex medical conditions receive timely and appropriate care without discrimination.

As Anambra continues its healthcare reforms, increased investment in specialised medical services, emergency care, maternal healthcare and functional referral systems would further strengthen healthcare delivery and complement the administration's people centred development agenda.

Ultimately, World Conjoined Twins Day serves as a reminder that every child matters and that access to quality healthcare should not be determined by the circumstances of a child's birth.

ANAMBRA EXTENDS FULL CONHESS 2024 IMPLEMENTATION TO 14 MORE CATEGORIES OF HEALTH WORKERS

By MaryAnn Chukwuma

The Anambra State Government has approved the full implementation of the Consolidated Health Salary Structure (CONHESS) 2024 for 14 additional categories of health workers previously excluded from the scheme.

The approval was conveyed in a circular dated November 13, 2026, issued by the Head of Service, Mrs Ngozi Anuli Iwouno, Esq., mni.

According to the circular, the approval extends the benefits of the reviewed salary structure to the affected categories of health workers across the state.

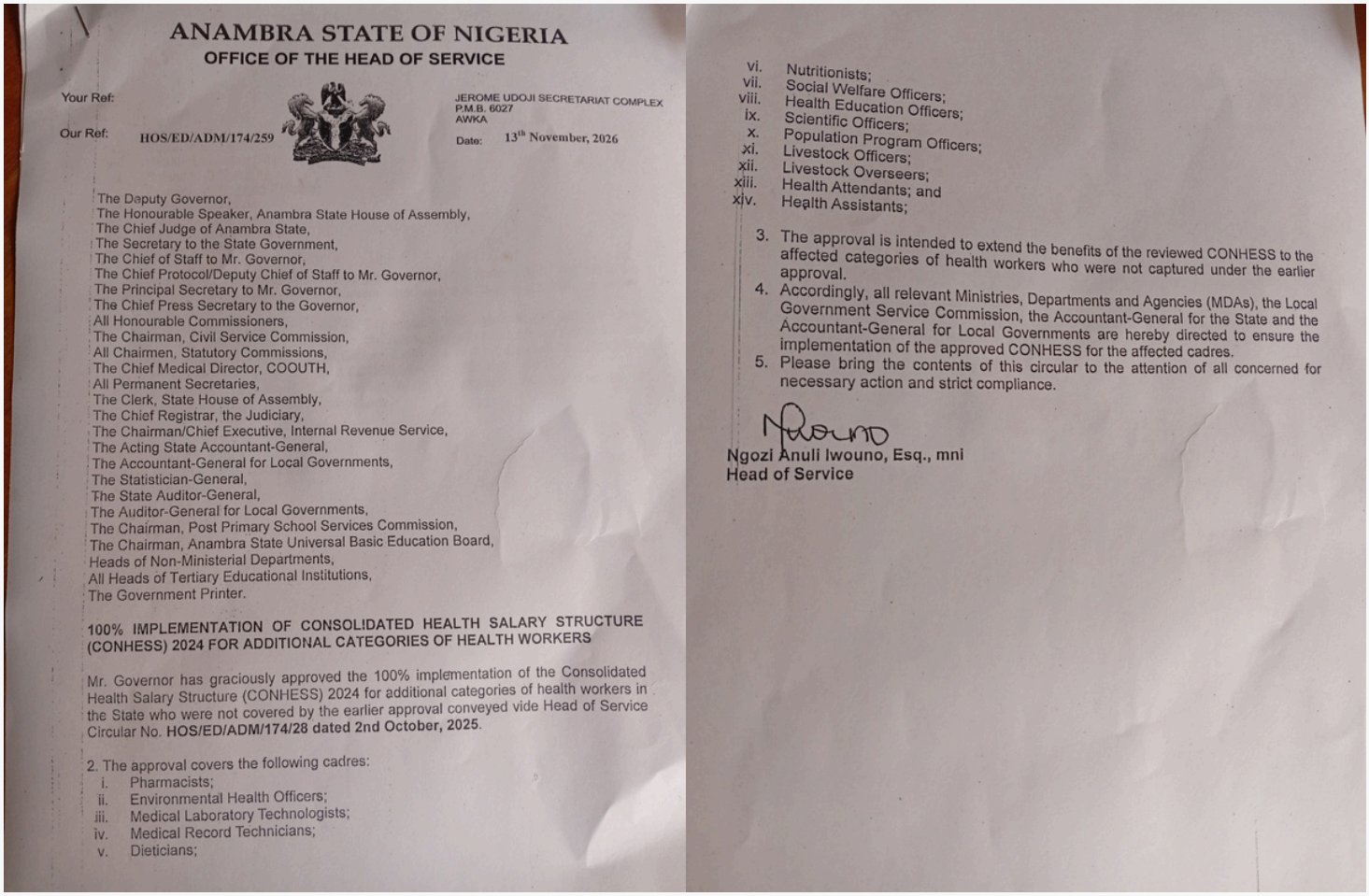
They include pharmacists, environmental health officers, medical laboratory technologists, medical record technicians, dieticians, nutritionists, social welfare officers and health education officers.

Others are scientific officers, population programme officers, livestock officers, livestock overseers, health attendants and health assistants.

The circular explained that the approval covers workers who were not captured in the earlier implementation communicated through Circular No. HOS/ED/ADM/174/28 dated Oct. 2, 2025.

It directed relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), the Local Government Service Commission and the respective Accountants-General to ensure the implementation of the approved salary structure.

The Head of Service further directed the concerned authorities to bring the contents of the circular to the attention of the affected workers for necessary action and compliance.



ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA
OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE

Your Ref:
Our Ref: HOS/ED/ADM/174/259

JEROME UDOJI SECRETARIAT COMPLEX
P.M.B. 6027
AWKA
Date: 13th November, 2026

The Deputy Governor,
The Honourable Speaker, Anambra State House of Assembly,
The Chief Judge of Anambra State,
The Secretary to the State Government,
The Chief of Staff to Mr. Governor,
The Chief Protocol/Deputy Chief of Staff to Mr. Governor,
The Principal Secretary to Mr. Governor,
The Chief Press Secretary to the Governor,
All Honourable Commissioners,
The Chairman, Civil Service Commission,
All Chairmen, Statutory Commissions,
The Chief Medical Director, COOUTH,
All Permanent Secretaries,
The Clerk, State House of Assembly,
The Chief Registrar, the Judiciary,
The Chairman/Chief Executive, Internal Revenue Service,
The Acting State Accountant-General,
The Accountant-General for Local Governments,
The Statistician-General,
The State Auditor-General,
The Auditor-General for Local Governments,
The Chairman, Post Primary School Services Commission,
The Chairman, Anambra State Universal Basic Education Board,
Heads of Non-Ministerial Departments,
All Heads of Tertiary Educational Institutions,
The Government Printer.

100% IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSOLIDATED HEALTH SALARY STRUCTURE (CONHESS) 2024 FOR ADDITIONAL CATEGORIES OF HEALTH WORKERS

Mr. Governor has graciously approved the 100% implementation of the Consolidated Health Salary Structure (CONHESS) 2024 for additional categories of health workers in the State who were not covered by the earlier approval conveyed vide Head of Service Circular No. **HOS/ED/ADM/174/28 dated 2nd October, 2025.**

2. The approval covers the following cadres:
   i. Pharmacists;
   ii. Environmental Health Officers;
   iii. Medical Laboratory Technologists;
   iv. Medical Record Technicians;
   v. Dieticians;
   vi. Nutritionists;
   vii. Social Welfare Officers;
   viii. Health Education Officers;
   ix. Scientific Officers;
   x. Population Program Officers;
   xi. Livestock Officers;
   xii. Livestock Overseers;
   xiii. Health Attendants; and
   xiv. Health Assistants;

3. The approval is intended to extend the benefits of the reviewed CONHESS to the affected categories of health workers who were not captured under the earlier approval.
4. Accordingly, all relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), the Local Government Service Commission, the Accountant-General for the State and the Accountant-General for Local Governments are hereby directed to ensure the implementation of the approved CONHESS for the affected cadres.
5. Please bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all concerned for necessary action and strict compliance.

Ngozi Anuli Iwouno, Esq., mni
Head of Service

SID CEO URGES CREATORS TO DEVELOP HOMEGROWN DIGITAL SOLUTIONS AT ANAMBRA EXPO



By Chinedu Chukwuemelie

The Chief Executive Officer of Solution Innovation District (SID) and Special Adviser to the Governor on Innovation and Business Incubation, Ms. Chinwe Okoli, has urged content creators and entrepreneurs to develop and own digital solutions that can create economic opportunities, expand businesses and generate wealth.

Okoli made the call while delivering a presentation titled, "The Digital Economy Advantage: Connecting Creators, Technology and Commerce for Sustainable Growth," at the Anambra Creators' Expo held on Nov. 21.

She described creativity as an economic asset, urging young people to move beyond consuming digital technology to developing innovative products and services that can address societal needs and create business opportunities.

The SID CEO highlighted the state government's efforts to strengthen its innovation ecosystem through initiatives such as Anambra Innovation Week, Startup Weekends, Anambra Tech Drive, SID's Startup Incubation Programme and the Ministry of Youth Development's 1 Youth, 2 Skills programme, now in its third phase.

She also emphasised the importance of cybersecurity, digital trust and responsible technology adoption in building a sustainable digital economy.

A major highlight of the Expo was the unveiling of GoDigital AI, a locally developed digital platform by the Founder of Activ8 Hub, Mr. Chukwuma Ralu.





SSG HIGHLIGHTS DEVELOPMENT FOCUS OF SOLUDO'S 2027 BUDGET

By Onyinyechi Edokwe

The Secretary to the Anambra State Government (SSG), Mrs Chiamaka Nnake, has highlighted the development priorities of Governor Chukwuma Soludo's proposed 2027 budget, particularly its focus on infrastructure, economic growth and human capital development.

Nnake made this known on November 25, following the presentation of the N893.44 billion 2027 Appropriation Bill to the Anambra State House of Assembly on Nov. 24.

She described the proposal, tagged "Solution 2.0: Unlocking New Axis for Sustainable Prosperity," as a framework for consolidating the administration's achievements and advancing the state's development agenda.

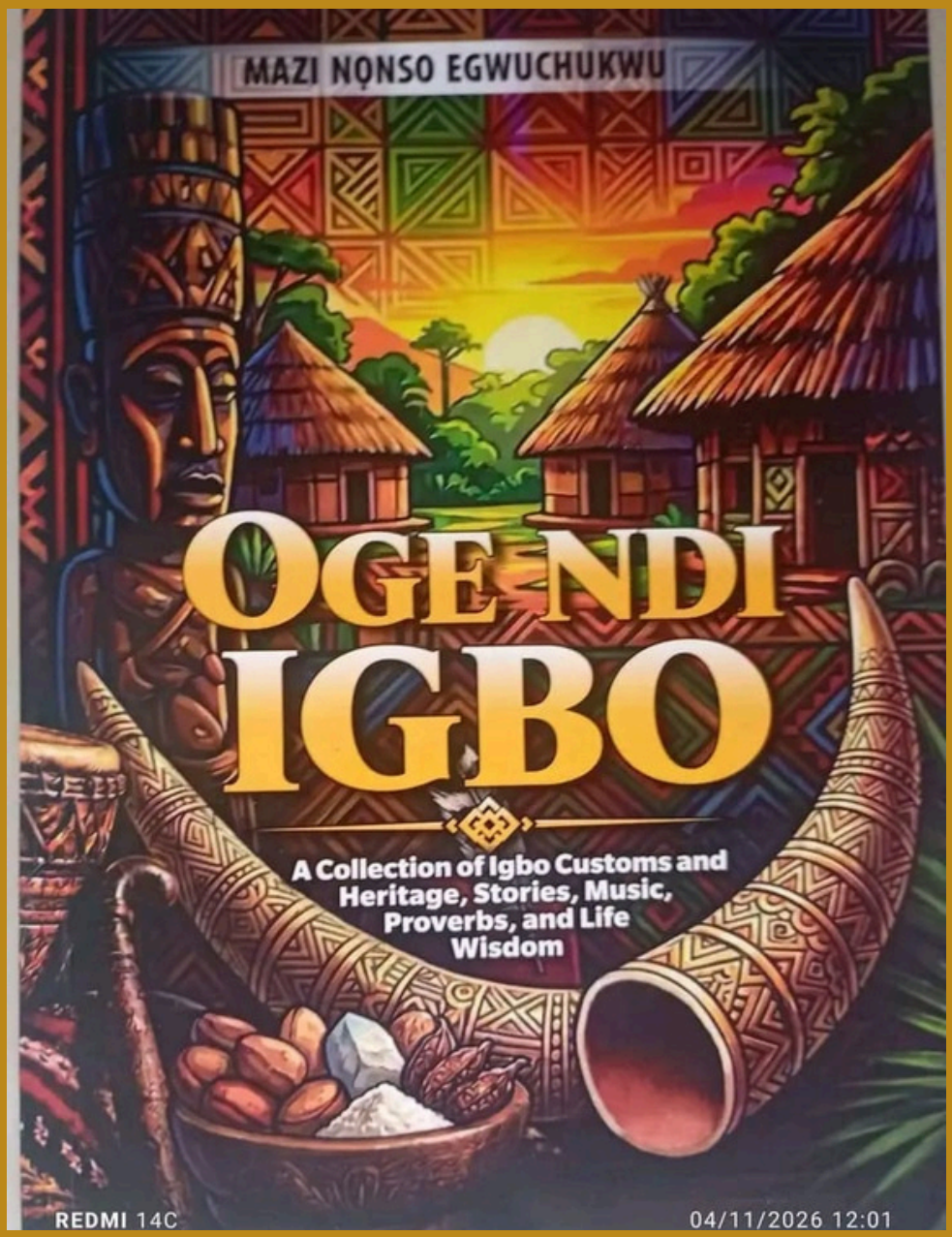
The proposed budget represents a 16.58 per cent increase over the 2026 budget estimate.

Nnake drew attention to the capital expenditure allocation of N692.66 billion, representing 77.53 per cent of the total budget, while recurrent expenditure stands at N200.78 billion, or 22.47 per cent.

She said the allocation reflected the administration's emphasis on infrastructure development, economic expansion, human capital development and improved living standards.



OGE NDI IGBO: ANAMBRA BORN AUTHOR CHAMPIONS IGBO HERITAGE THROUGH CULTURE, PROVERBS AND TRADITIONS



By Stella Obi

Anambra born author, Mazi Nonso Egwuchukwu, has taken a step towards preserving Igbo cultural heritage with the presentation of his book, Oge Ndi Igbo, a collection of indigenous customs, traditions, proverbs and life lessons passed down through generations.

The book presentation, held in Lagos, brought attention to the importance of documenting and promoting Igbo cultural identity, particularly among younger generations.

Oge Ndi Igbo explores the richness of Igbo traditional knowledge, highlighting the values, philosophies and experiences that have shaped the people's way of life.

Chairman of the event, Chief Christopher Nwobi, described the publication as the author's contribution to cultural preservation, noting that it provides an opportunity to keep important aspects of Igbo heritage alive and accessible to contemporary readers.

Reviewing the book, the publisher of Obiuno Journal, Mrs Chinyere Chukwudi, said the nine-chapter, 74-page publication highlights the need to preserve indigenous knowledge amid changing lifestyles and the growing influence of modernisation.

She noted that the book offers readers an opportunity to reconnect with their cultural roots and appreciate the wisdom embedded in Igbo language, customs and everyday expressions.

Mrs Chukwudi emphasised the importance of teaching children the Igbo alphabet and numbers, urging parents to make the transmission of the language and cultural values an essential part of their children's upbringing.

In his remarks, the author, Mazi Nonso Egwuchukwu, highlighted the significance of proverbs in Igbo society, explaining that they have traditionally served as instruments of education, moral instruction, conflict resolution and the transmission of communal values.

The publication reinforces the importance of preserving indigenous knowledge and ensuring that the cultural wisdom of the Igbo people remains relevant to present and future generations.

NNEWI NORTH MAYOR BEGINS ASPHALTING OF EZE OGIDI ROAD, PROMISES IMPROVED CONNECTIVITY

By Enoch Uzuegbunam and Ebere Muonwe



The Mayor of Nnewi North Local Government Area(LGA), Hon. Echezona Anazodo, has commenced the asphalting of Eze Ogidi Road in Uruagu, Nnewi, as part of efforts to improve road infrastructure and ease transportation within the area.

The asphalting work began on Nov. 24, marking a step towards improving access for residents, motorists and businesses that depend on the road for their daily activities.

The project is expected to enhance movement, reduce transportation difficulties and support commercial and socio economic activities in Uruagu and other parts of Nnewi North.

Residents have welcomed the commencement of the work, describing it as a positive development that will bring relief to road users and improve connectivity within the community.

