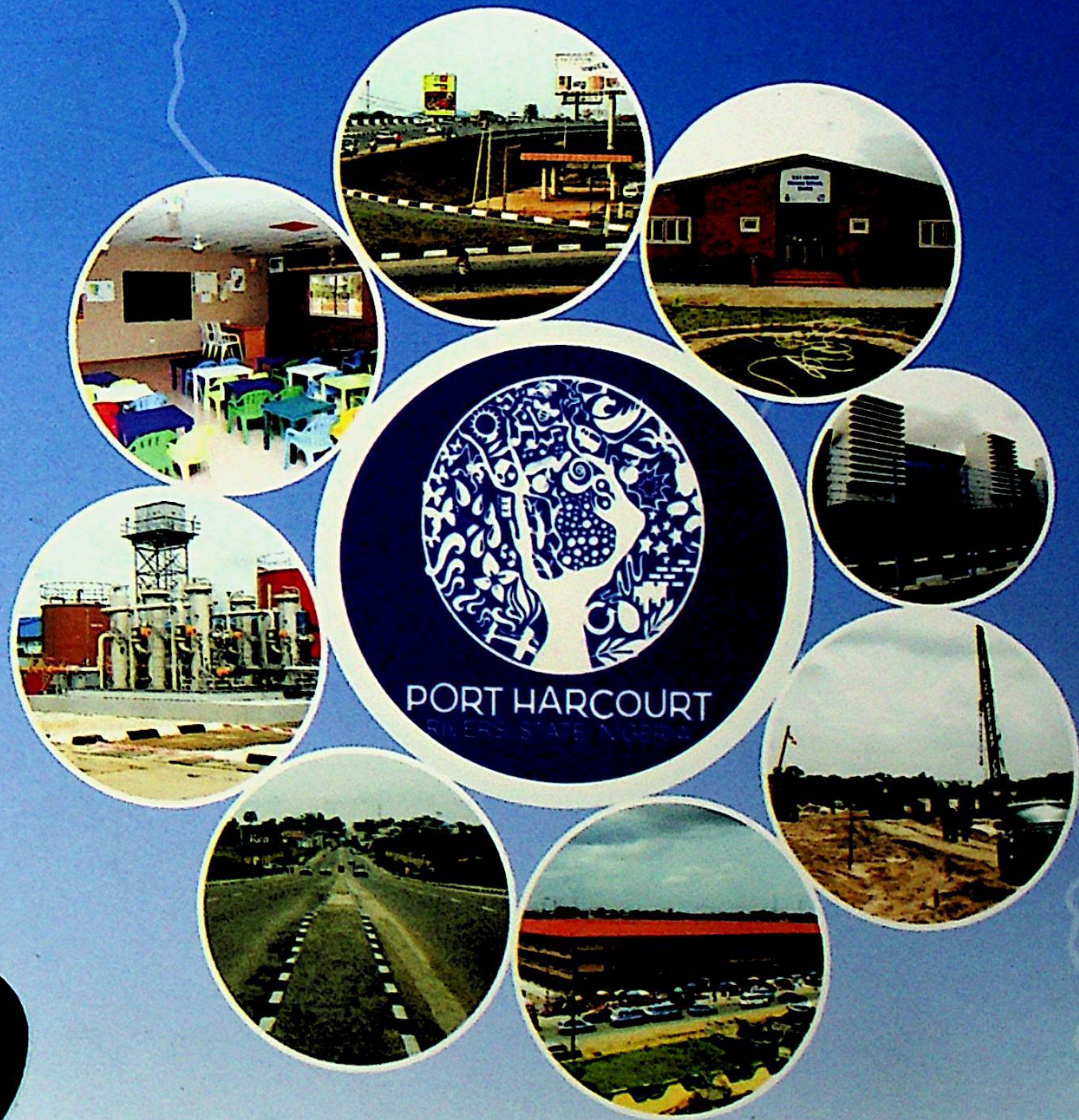




**RIVERS STATE GOVERNMENT**

***Performance  
Review Journal***

**2007-2011**



**RT. HON. CHIBUIKE  
ROTIMI AMAECHI**  
*Governor, Rivers State*

**Invest . Tour . Live**



**...Invest**

**in Nigeria's Garden City**

visit [www.riversstatenigeria.com](http://www.riversstatenigeria.com)



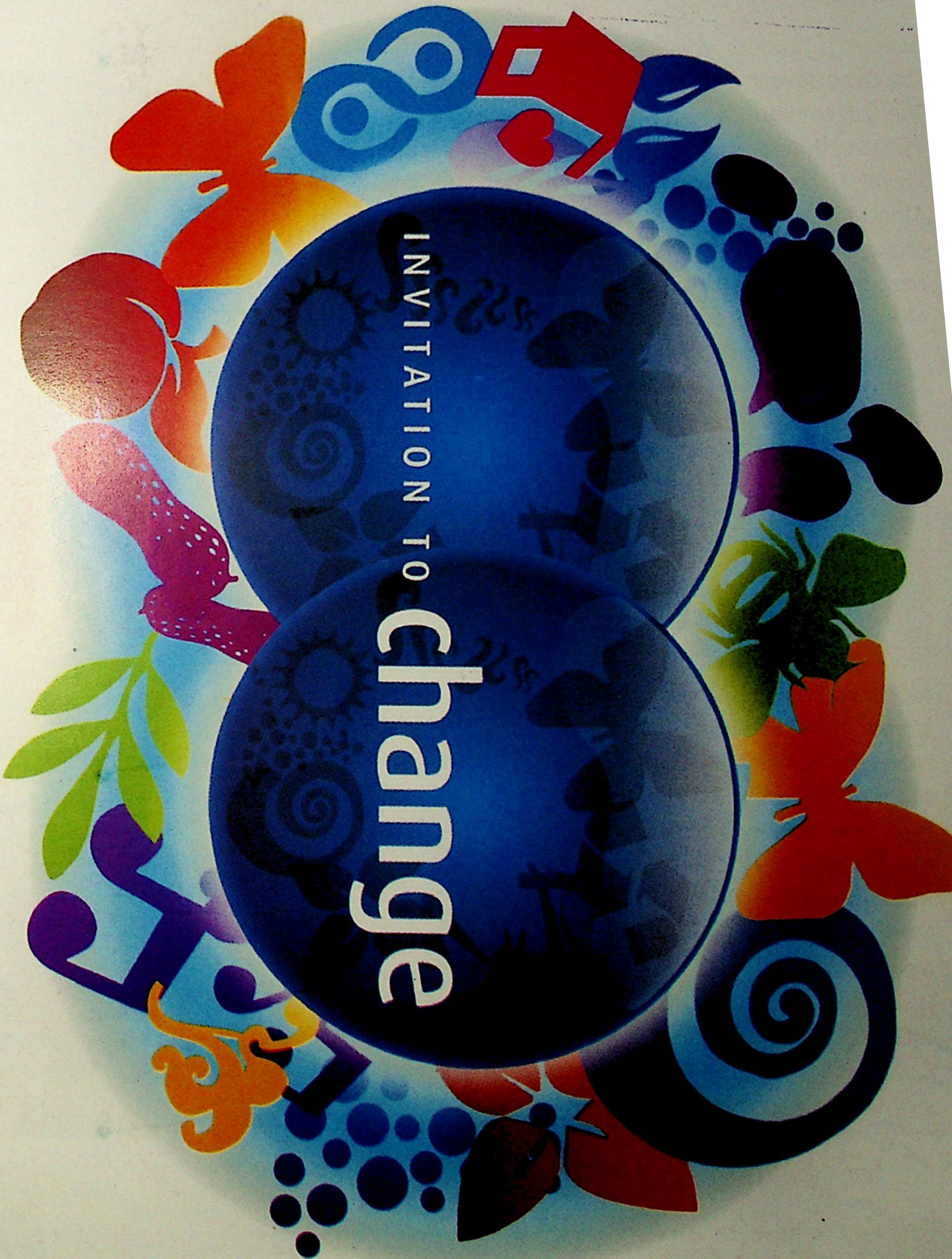
RT. HON.  
ROTIMI CHIBUKE AMAECHI  
Governor Rivers State



**PORT HARCOURT**  
RIVERS STATE NIGERIA



NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM  
LIBRARY



INVITATION TO **change**

**Invest . Tour . Live**

**...Invest**  
**in Nigeria's Garden City**  
visit [www.riversstatenigeria.com](http://www.riversstatenigeria.com)



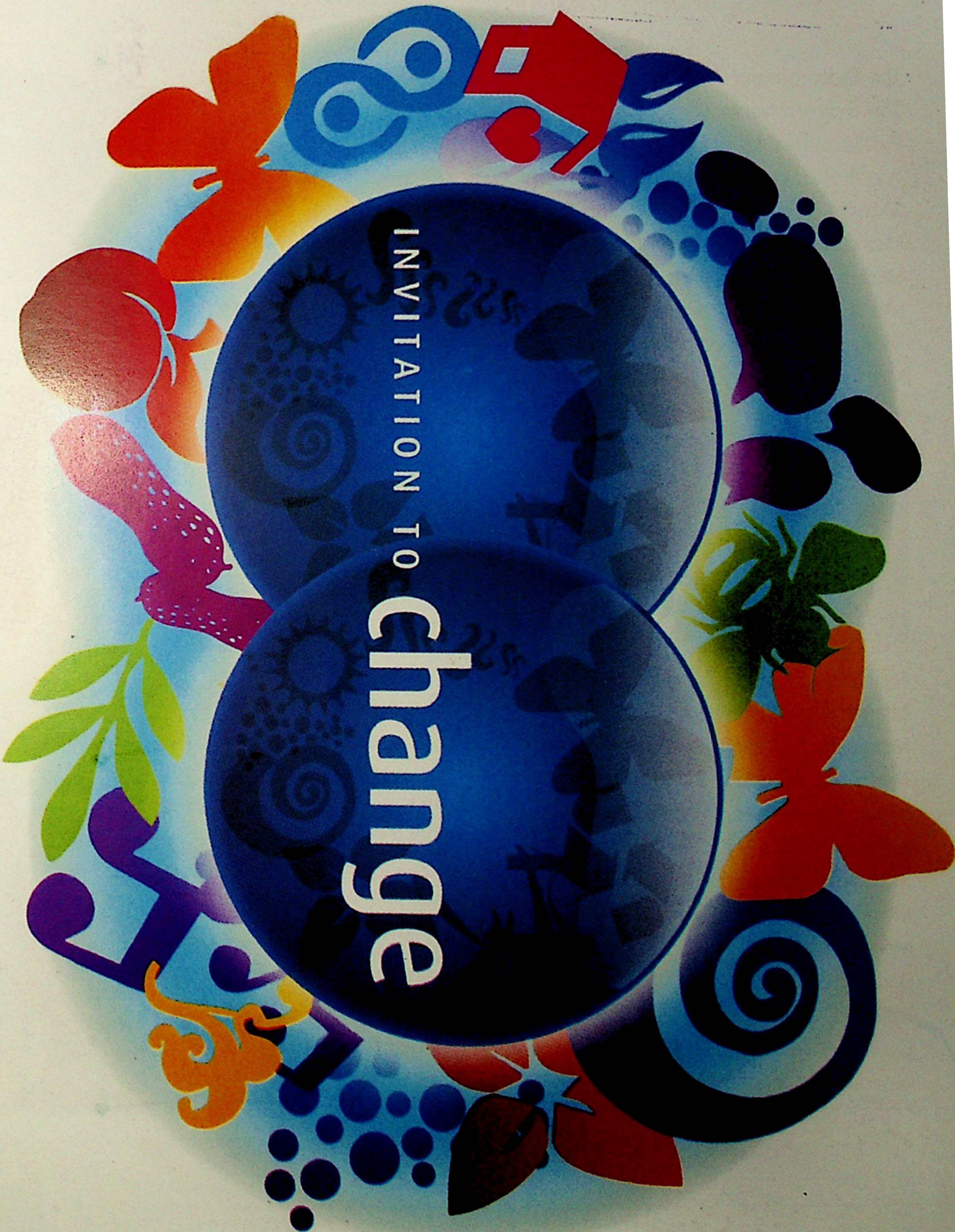
**PORT HARCOURT**  
RIVERS STATE NIGERIA



RT. HON.  
ROTIMI CHIBUKE AMAECHI  
Governor, Rivers State



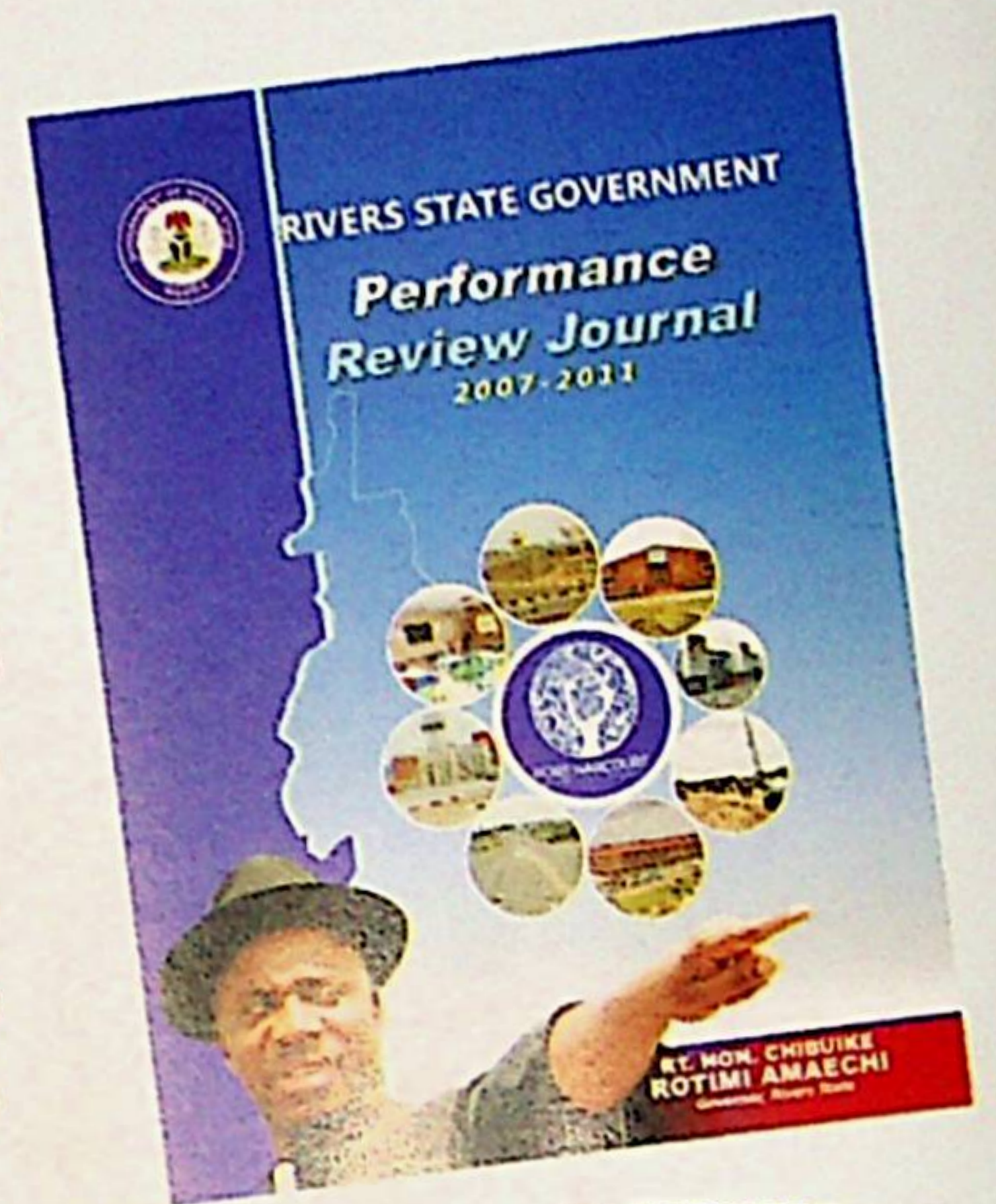
NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM  
LIBRARY

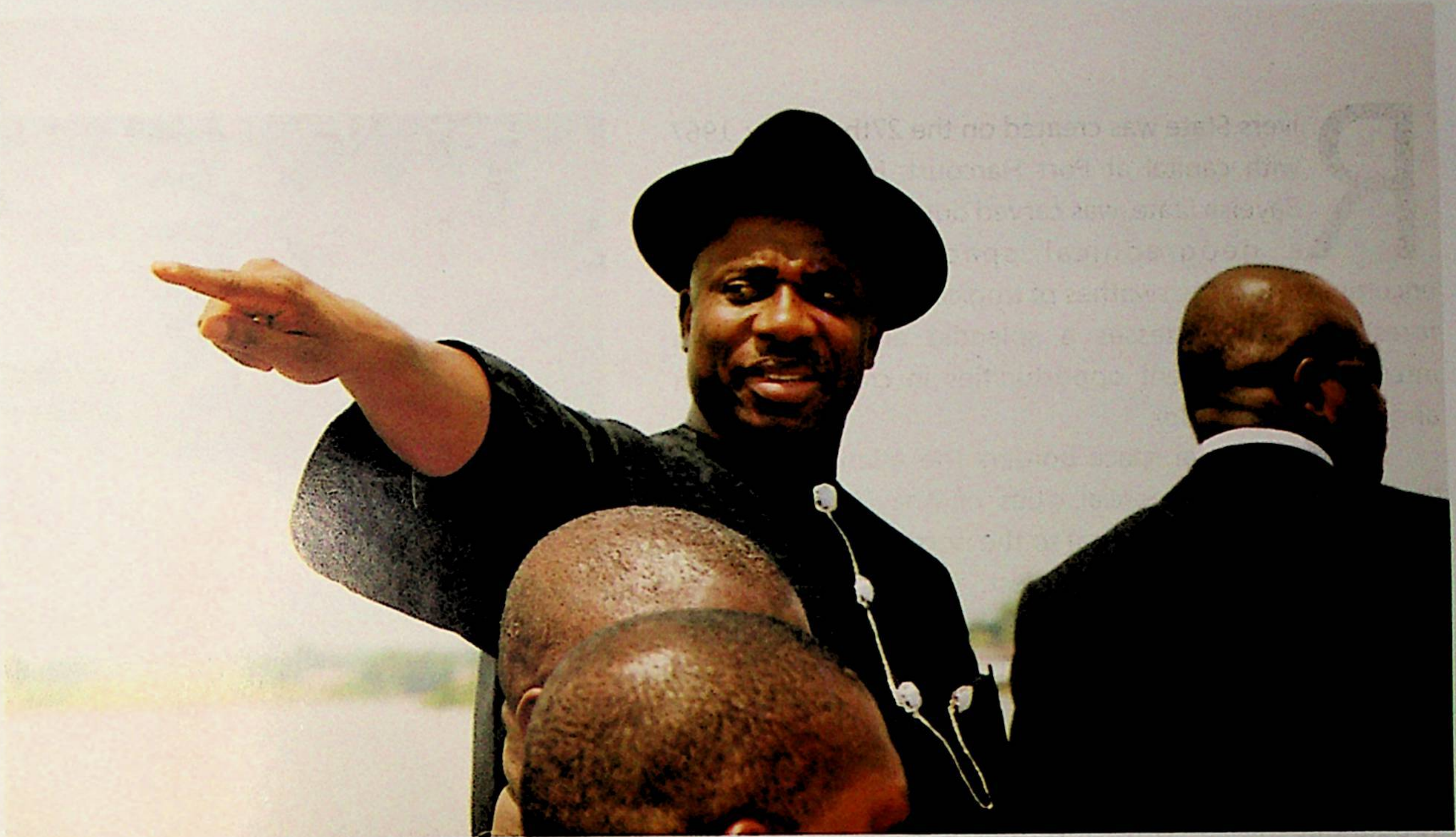


[www.riversstate.gov.ng](http://www.riversstate.gov.ng)

# CONTENTS

The State: Rivers	6-7
The Government	8-9
Profile of the Executive Arm of Government: 2007-2011	10-13
Priorities of a Four Year Mandate: Chibuike Amaechi in 2008	14-17
Mandate Delivery in Naira and Kobo	18-22
Mandate Delivery in Pictures	31-35
Mandate Delivery: Security	37-40
Mandate Delivery: Fundamentals for Healthcare Delivery	41-42
Mandate Delivery: Social Infrastructures	43-46
Mandate Delivery: Governor's Account of Stewardship	47-49
Mandate Delivery: A Journalist's Observation	50-53
Mandate Delivery: Views of the People (Preamble)	54-56
Mandate Delivery: Ahoada East LGA	57-58
Mandate Delivery: Ahoada West LGA	59-60
Mandate Delivery: Akuku-Toru LGA	61-62
Mandate Delivery: Andoni LGA	63
Mandate Delivery: Asari-Toru LGA	64-65
Mandate Delivery: Bonny LGA	66-67
Mandate Delivery: Degema LGA	68-69
Mandate Delivery: Emohua LGA	70-71
Mandate Delivery: Eleme LGA	72-75
Mandate Delivery: Gokana LGA	76-77
Mandate Delivery: Khana LGA	78-79
Mandate Delivery: Obio-Akpor LGA	81
Mandate Delivery: Omuma LGA	82-84
Mandate Delivery: Oyigbo LGA	85
Mandate Delivery: Opobo/Nkoro LGA	86-87
Port Harcourt LGA	88-90
Tai LGA	91-92
Culture & Tourism: The Return of the Dance of Peace	93-95
Rivers State is Talking Again	96-98





## Editorial Board

### Editorial Consultants

**Shophar Nigeria Limited**

*Publishers of The Business Eye*

### Credits (Field Reporters)

- Akibor Daniel
- Ovien Alex
- Matthew Francis
- Eyinmosam Woyinmi
- Godwin Folorunsho

- Awah Jonah Awah
- Grant Woruka Ogurinka
- Aaron Kiani
- Samuel Fubara Joshua
- Esther Tsoro Igbara
- Win Banigo
- Melford Asuquo
- Soala Pepple

### Project Editor

Sam Eleanya

### Project Management Team

Wale Jegede

Gbenga Ogunsami

Yemi Bamidele

Ibukun Sofowora

Okorie Bernadette

Ugochi Eleanya

Frank Onuoha

Damilola Owolabi

Okedurum Daberechi

Graham Elendu

Felix Bangala

Olabode Olaniyi



*Produced by:*

**SHOPHAR NIGERIA LIMITED**

#29, Norman Williams Street, SW, Ikoyi, Lagos

Tel:- +234 1 7403552, Fax:- 01509 695 7676

# RIVERS STATE

## THE STATE

### The State: Rivers

**R**ivers State was created on the 27th of May, 1967 with capital at Port Harcourt. In 1996, today's Bayelsa State, was carved out of it leaving behind a geographical space of 11,077km<sup>2</sup> encompassing large swathes of tropical rain and mangrove forest. It also possesses a splendid arable land with interesting investment opportunities in crop production and animal husbandry.

Its geographical space borders the Atlantic Ocean to the south, the commercial cities of Aba (Abia), Onitsha (Anambra), and Owerri (Imo) to the north, Bayelsa State to the East and Akwa Ibom to the West.

The State has a population of about 5.6 million people. This number includes several indigenous ethnic groups and other residents representing all the states of the Nigerian federation and various countries of the world. The indigenous ethnic groups of Rivers State now spread throughout the 23 Local Government Areas of the State, they are Abua, Andoni, Ekpeye, Engenni, Etche, Ibani, Igbani, Ikwerre, Kalabari, Ndoni, and Ogoni Okrika. Each is unique for its culture, language, productivity, and well-organized social institutions pre-dating the advent of both colonialism and the modern Nigerian State. These groups have a history of peaceful co-habitation with non-indigenous residents in the overall development of Rivers State.

Rivers State, with a total GDP of US\$21,073,410,422 (GDP per capita of \$3,965) and 5.6 million people, is the second largest economy in Nigeria as well as the globally recognized socio-economic centre blessed with one of the richest oil and gas resource profile in Africa. Its capital, Port Harcourt, is one of the fastest growing metropolitan cities in Africa.

It is also the colourful eco-tourists' paradise with its over 3000 creeks, endless marshes, lagoons, mangrove and rain forests teeming with a multitude of the various faces of nature's fauna and flora striving for life beside the polluting presence of oil exploration activities: the enigmatic birthplace of globally acclaimed civil environmental rights activists co-existing with a generation of very aware young persons committed to the building and defence of the dignity of their beloved State.

The degree of urbanisation in the state is very low and only 19 out of 1,079 settlements in the State have







Population:	about 5.6 Million
geographical space:	11,077km <sup>2</sup>
Urbanization Index:	0.24
GDP:	\$21,073,410,422
GDP:	\$3,965
Main towns:	Port Harcourt, Elele, Bonny, Opobo, Abonnema, Omoku, Okrika, Oyigbo

population above 20,000. The main towns are Port Harcourt, Abonnema, Omoku, Okrika, Oyigbo, Elele, Bonny and Opobo. Rivers State's urbanisation index is 0.24. Major economic activities includes farming, fishing, craftsmanship, etc.

In 2007, Rivers State, as a state had one major challenge: it was in need of a political leadership possessed of the will and courage to harness the rich historical, human and natural resource profile of the State in addressing the developmental challenges the State faced in the key areas of security; education; health; and equitable distribution of sustainable social infrastructures. ●



### The Government

**R**ivers State is one of the 36 states in the Nigerian Federation under the 1999 Constitution. Within the subject matters assigned to State government, two levels and three arms of government are directly recognized by the Constitution in Rivers State. The two levels are the State government and the local government. At present, there are twenty three (23) Local Government Areas in Rivers State.

At the State level, three (3) arms of government are recognized. These are the judiciary, the legislature and the executive arm. Of the three, the judiciary headed by the Chief Justice of the State has members that occupy non-elective offices. The judiciary exercises the powers of government relating to the settlement of disputes arising from socio-economic interactions within the State using the legal framework made by the legislature or established customary norms. It also issues orders for the enforcement of the rights, duties and liabilities of residents.

The legislature, known as the Rivers State House of Assembly is constitutionally empowered with the governmental powers of the State relating to the making of laws for the peace, order and good government of Rivers State and the repeal of laws where such repeal will promote similar objectives within the State. It's 33 elected membership is led by the Speaker of the House. The symbol



of its authority is the mace.

The executive powers of Rivers State relating to responsibility for the enforcement of the





orders of the State's judiciary and of the laws made by the Legislature as well as the realization of the developmental aspirations of the people and residents of the State is that of executive. This arm is led by an elected Governor who engages his mandate with a team of Commissioners, Advisers, Assistants and a vast army of skilled workers employed in various capacities under an established organogram spanning ministerial and extra-ministerial bodies as well as parastatals.

This structure is supported at the federal level by representatives of the State to the National Assembly, National Executive Council and other agencies of the Federal Government. This latter group ensures that Rivers State's place, duties and rights as a component unit of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is not compromised.

In 2007, the people of Rivers State had every reason to hope for a leadership that will appreciate the necessity for the healthy interplay

of the various hubs for the exercise of State powers in order to rescue the State from a regime of violent criminality, collapse of organized development, infrastructural decay, and the systemic failure of the health and educational sector of the State. In this 2011, even as they troop to vote once again, the question that every voter will keep at the front-burner remains, did 2007 produce such a leadership? ●

No. of Governor:	1
No. of Ministries:	23
No. of Seats at the State House of Assembly:	33
No. Of Representatives (Federal House):	13
No of Senators:	3
No of Local Government Councils:	23
Capital and Seat of State Government:	Port Harcourt.

# Profile of the Executive arm of government: 2007-2011

The Executive arm, led by the Governor, is the most visible arm of government. In Rivers State, the visibility is even greater for a lot of reasons. Since 1999 when democratic governance was restored to Nigeria and its 36 states, the leadership of that arm of government had proved to be the pivot of developmental leadership in Rivers State.

By 2007, it had become very obvious that the leadership of the executive arm of government led by the Governor controlled the largest share of the resources of the State, the

largest share of the mobilized workforce in the State, the largest share of the developmental impetus of the State and of course, the largest share of the blame for the failure of leadership in the State.

In specifics, the executive arm controls the direct deployment of over 90% of the federal allocation plus the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the State. That arm also accounted for the largest share of the State bureaucracy which presently includes about 25 Ministries each of which is led by a Commissioner, about thirty parastatals and extra-ministerial bodies, and various other agents of government. Most importantly, either rightly or wrongly, this arm of government is also the representative face of government for the entire population of Rivers State wherein their developmental aspirations are placed.

In 2007, Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi, two-time former speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly (1999-2007) was chosen as the Governorship candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party by the delegates. However, just before the general elections where his party, PDP, enforced by his personal brand was expected to win, he was wrongly substituted by the Party, PDP, for another candidate. However, that illegal substitution was later set aside by the Supreme Court of Nigeria in a historic judgement that set off celebrations in Rivers State and far flung corners of Nigeria. That declaration kick-started a new epoch in the history of democratic governance in Rivers State led by Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi.

## The 1st Team: 2007-2011

S/N	NAME	PORTFOLIO
1.	Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi	Governor
2.	Eng. Tele Ikuru	Deputy Governor
3.	Hon. Magnus Abe	Secretary to the State Government
4.	Chief Ezebunwo Nyesom Wike	Chief of Staff to the Governor
5.	Mrs. Esther E. Anucha	Head of Service
6.	Barr. Kenneth A. Chikere	Att. General & Commissioner of Justice
7.	Barr. Osima Ginah	Urban Development
8.	Mr. George D.N. Feyii	Finance
9.	Mrs. Manuela S. George Izunwa	Women Affairs
10.	Hon. Dakuku Adol Peterside	Works
11.	Mr. Emmanuel Chindah	Agriculture
12.	Hon. George F. Tolofari	Transport
13.	Dr. Sampson T. Parker	Health
14.	Dame Alice Lawrence-Nemi	Education
15.	Mr. Gogo Levi Charles	Budget
16.	Ms. Patricia Ayagogo Simon-Hart	Water Resources
17.	Mr. Ahubele Elemchi Moses	Employment Generation & Generation
18.	Hon. Augustine O. Wokocha	Power
19.	Hon. Ogbonna Nwuke	Commerce
20.	Mr. Ezemonye Ezekiel Amadi	Lands
21.	Mr. Kingsley O. Chinda Esq.	Environment
22.	Dr. Tammy Wenike Danagogo	LG/Chieftaincy & Community Affairs
23.	Hon. Marcus Nle Eji	Culture & Tourism
24.	Hon. Boma Iyaye	Sports
25.	Dr. Dawari George	Energy
26.	Mrs. Ibim Semenitari	Information & Communications
27.	Chief (Dr.) Davies Ikanya	Special Duties
28.	Hon. Felix Uche Nwaeke	Youth Development
29.	Mr. Marshall Stanley Uwom	Housing
30.	Mr. Joe Philip Poroma	Social Welfare & Rehabilitation

## The Governor:

## Rt. Hon Chibuike Amaechi



- Born May 27, 1965, in a small village known as Umuordu-Ubima in present day Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria;
- Had his primary education at St. Theresa's Primary School, Ubima, where he obtained his First School Leaving Certificate in 1976. He later attended the Government Secondary School, Okolobiri, (now in Bayelsa State) for his West African School Certificate Examinations in 1982;
- Obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1987 from the University of Port Harcourt. He also obtained a Masters degree in English from the same university;
- While in the University of Port Harcourt, he contested and was elected National President of the National Union of Rivers State Student (NURSS). With this platform, he was able to peacefully organize and coordinate the affairs of Rivers State students in all tertiary institutions across Nigeria;
- Upon leaving the University, Rotimi Amaechi started his working career as the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of PAMO Clinics and Hospitals Limited, Port Harcourt in 1988. It was at PAMO Clinic that he met Dr Peter Odili, the immediate past Governor of Rivers State, who was at the time the proprietor of PAMO Clinic;
- Joined the now defunct National Republican Convention (NRC), in the 3rd Republic, and was elected Secretary of the Party in Ikwerre Local Government Area;
- Appointed Special Assistant to the then Deputy Governor of Rivers State, Sir Dr. Peter Odili;
- Was thereafter appointed Director of two State-owned companies, namely: Rison Palm Limited and West African Glass Industries Limited;
- Upon the collapse of the Third Republic, he formed the Ikwerre Forum, a Socio-Cultural and Political organization geared towards the mobilization of Ikwerre people in the new political dispensation;
- Under the Gen. Sanni Abacha regime's transition to civil rule programme, he emerged as the State Administrative Secretary of the All Nigeria Congress (ANC). Following the non-registration of that party, he joined the Democratic Party of Nigeria (DPN) where he again emerged as State Secretary of the Caretaker

### Profile of the Executive arm of government: 2007-2011

The Executive arm, led by the Governor, is the most visible arm of government. In Rivers State, the visibility is even greater for a lot of reasons. Since 1999 when democratic governance was restored to Nigeria and its 36 states, the leadership of that arm of government had proved to be the pivot of developmental leadership in Rivers State.

By 2007, it had become very obvious that the leadership of the executive arm of government led by the Governor controlled the largest share of the resources of the State, the

largest share of the mobilized workforce in the State, the largest share of the developmental impetus of the State and of course, the largest share of the blame for the failure of leadership in the State.

In specifics, the executive arm controlled the direct deployment of over 90% of the federal allocation plus the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the State. That arm also accounted for the largest share of the State bureaucracy which

presently includes about 25 Ministries each of which is led by a Commissioner, about thirty parastatals and extra-ministerial bodies, and various other agents of government. Most importantly, either rightly or wrongly, this arm of government is also the representative face of government for the entire population of Rivers State wherein their developmental aspirations are placed.

In 2007, Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi, two-time former speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly (1999-2007) was chosen as the Governorship candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party by the delegates. However, just before the general elections where his party, PDP, enforced by his personal brand was expected to win, he was wrongly substituted by the Party, PDP, for another candidate. However, that illegal substitution was later set aside by the Supreme Court of Nigeria in a historic judgement that set off celebrations in Rivers State and far flung corners of Nigeria. That declaration kick-started a new epoch in the history of democratic governance in Rivers State led by Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi.

#### The 1st Team: 2007-2011

S/N	NAME	PORTFOLIO
1.	Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi	Governor
2.	Eng. Tele Ikuru	Deputy Governor
3.	Hon. Magnus Abe	Secretary to the State Government
4.	Chief Ezeibunwo Nyesom Wike	Chief of Staff to the Governor
5.	Mrs. Esther E. Anucha	Head of Service
6.	Barr. Kenneth A. Chikere	Att. General & Commissioner of Justice
7.	Barr. Osima Ginah	Urban Development
8.	Mr. George D.N. Feyii	Finance
9.	Mrs. Manuela S. George Izunwa	Women Affairs
10.	Hon. Dakuku Adol Peterside	Works
11.	Mr. Emmanuel Chindah	Agriculture
12.	Hon. George F. Tolofari	Transport
13.	Dr. Sampson T. Parker	Health
14.	Dame Alice Lawrence-Nemi	Education
15.	Mr. Gogo Levi Charles	Budget
16.	Ms. Patricia Ayagogo Simon-Hart	Water Resources
17.	Mr. Ahubele Elemchi Moses	Employment Generation & Generation
18.	Hon. Augustine O. Wokocha	Power
19.	Hon. Ogbonna Nwuke	Commerce
20.	Mr. Ezemonye Ezekiel Amadi	Lands
21.	Mr. Kingsley O. Chinda Esq.	Environment
22.	Dr. Tammy Wenike Danagogo	LG/Chieftaincy & Community Affairs
23.	Hon. Marcus Nle Eji	Culture & Tourism
24.	Hon. Boma Iyaye	Sports
25.	Dr. Dawari George	Energy
26.	Mrs. Ibim Semenitari	Information & Communications
27.	Chief (Dr.) Davies Ikanya	Special Duties
28.	Hon. Felix Uche Nwaeke	Youth Development
29.	Mr. Marshall Stanley Uwom	Housing
30.	Mr. Joe Philip Poroma	Social Welfare & Rehabilitation

## The Governor: Rt. Hon Chibuike Amaechi



- Born May 27, 1965, in a small village known as Umuordu-Ubima in present day Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria;
- Had his primary education at St. Theresa's Primary School, Ubima, where he obtained his First School Leaving Certificate in 1976. He later attended the Government Secondary School, Okolobiri, (now in Bayelsa State) for his West African School Certificate Examinations in 1982;
- Obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1987 from the University of Port Harcourt. He also obtained a Masters degree in English from the same university;
- While in the University of Port Harcourt, he contested and was elected National President of the National Union of Rivers State Student (NURSS). With this platform, he was able to peacefully organize and coordinate the affairs of Rivers State students in all tertiary institutions across Nigeria;
- Upon leaving the University, Rotimi Amaechi started his working career as the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of PAMO Clinics and Hospitals Limited, Port Harcourt in 1988. It was at PAMO Clinic that he met Dr Peter Odili, the immediate past Governor of Rivers State, who was at the time the proprietor of PAMO Clinic;
- Joined the now defunct National Republican Convention (NRC), in the 3rd Republic, and was elected Secretary of the Party in Ikwerre Local Government Area;
- Appointed Special Assistant to the then Deputy Governor of Rivers State, Sir Dr. Peter Odili;
- Was thereafter appointed Director of two State-owned companies, namely: Rison Palm Limited and West African Glass Industries Limited;
- Upon the collapse of the Third Republic, he formed the Ikwerre Forum, a Socio-Cultural and Political organization geared towards the mobilization of Ikwerre people in the new political dispensation;
- Under the Gen. Sanni Abacha regime's transition to civil rule programme, he emerged as the State Administrative Secretary of the All Nigeria Congress (ANC). Following the non-registration of that party, he joined the Democratic Party of Nigeria (DPN) where he again emerged as State Secretary of the Caretaker

- Committee of the party;
- With the demise of the General Sanni Abacha led military dictatorship and the re-emergence of a new Political order through the General Abdulsalami Abubakar led military government, he joined the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).
- In 1999, he contested and was elected a member of the Rivers State House of Assembly in 1999 representing Ikwerre Constituency. On the inauguration of the House, he emerged, unanimously, as its speaker;
- In 2003, he was re-elected for a second term by his constituents and was also elected by fellow lawmakers for a second term as Speaker, Rivers State House of Assembly;
- His leadership of the State House of Assembly endeared him to legislators in the 36 states of the federation leading to his election as the Chairman of the Conference of Speakers of State Legislatures of Nigeria: a position he held for a record two terms;
- Governor Amaechi is widely traveled, and has attended several legislative strengthening programmes, courses and seminars in the United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom;
- He is an Honorary Member of the Louisiana House of Representatives in the United States. He is very much involved in the activities of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and has attended several of its programmes in its headquarters in London;
- His awards include Award for Parliamentary Excellence (Rivers Foundation, USA, 2000); International Award for Political Leadership (Jaycees International, 2000); Best Speaker of State House of Assembly Award (Nigeria Union of Journalists, FRCN Enugu Chapter, 1999); Best State House of Assembly Speaker Award (Assembly

- Correspondents of Nigeria, 1999); Award for Parliamentary Excellence (NUJ Abuja Branch, 2004);
- Others include Outstanding Contributions to Democracy (Mississippi Consortium for International Development, 2002); Best Speaker in Nigeria, (Leadership Development Forum, 2004); SUN Man of The-Year (The SUN Newspaper Publishing Ltd, Lagos, 2007), Best Governor, 2010 Leadership Newspaper Awards, 3rd Sarawak National Excellence and Leadership Award and Chairman, Presidential Task Force on the Qualification of Nigeria's Super Eagles for the 2010 world cup; Award of Excellence by Magistrates Association of Nigeria (MAN) (07/05/09), and Nigerian Compass Award of Excellence in Governance for Security (21/06/09), and soon;
- Rt. Honourable Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, a practicing Christian, is a wielder of the Papal Knighthood of St. Sylvester by Pope Benedict XVI. He is married to his beloved heartthrob, Judith. The marriage is blessed with three sons. ●

**2007 - 2011: MISSION BEHIND THE LEADERSHIP**

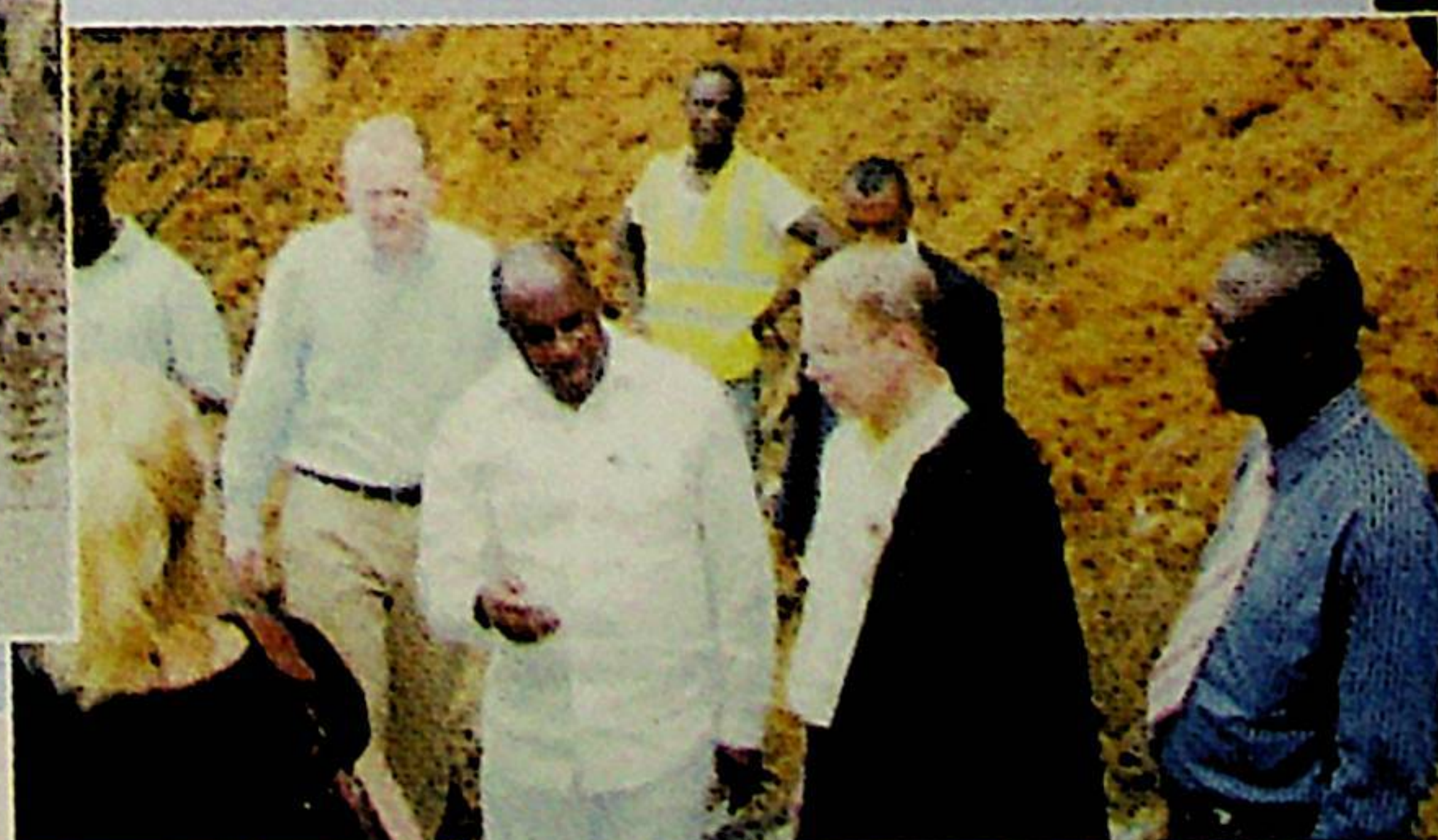
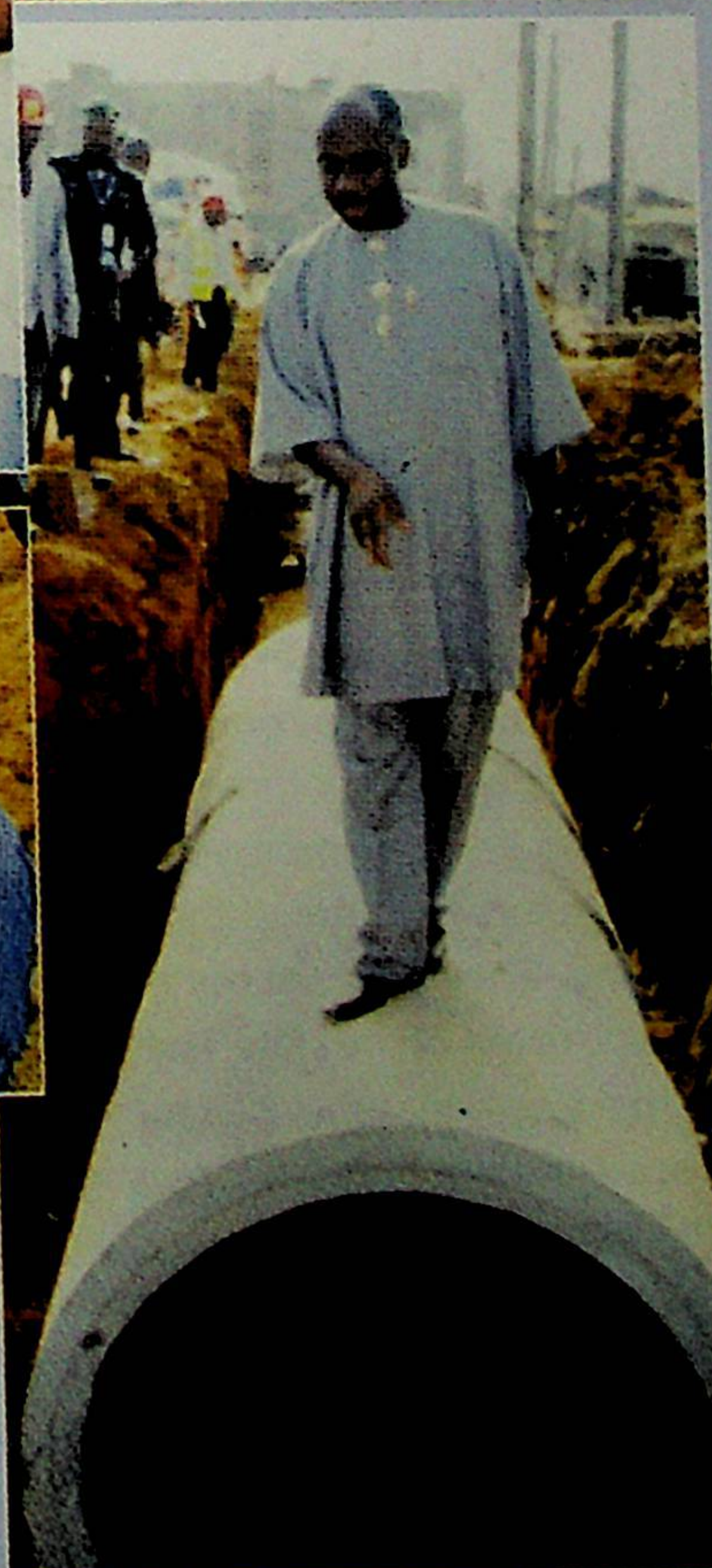
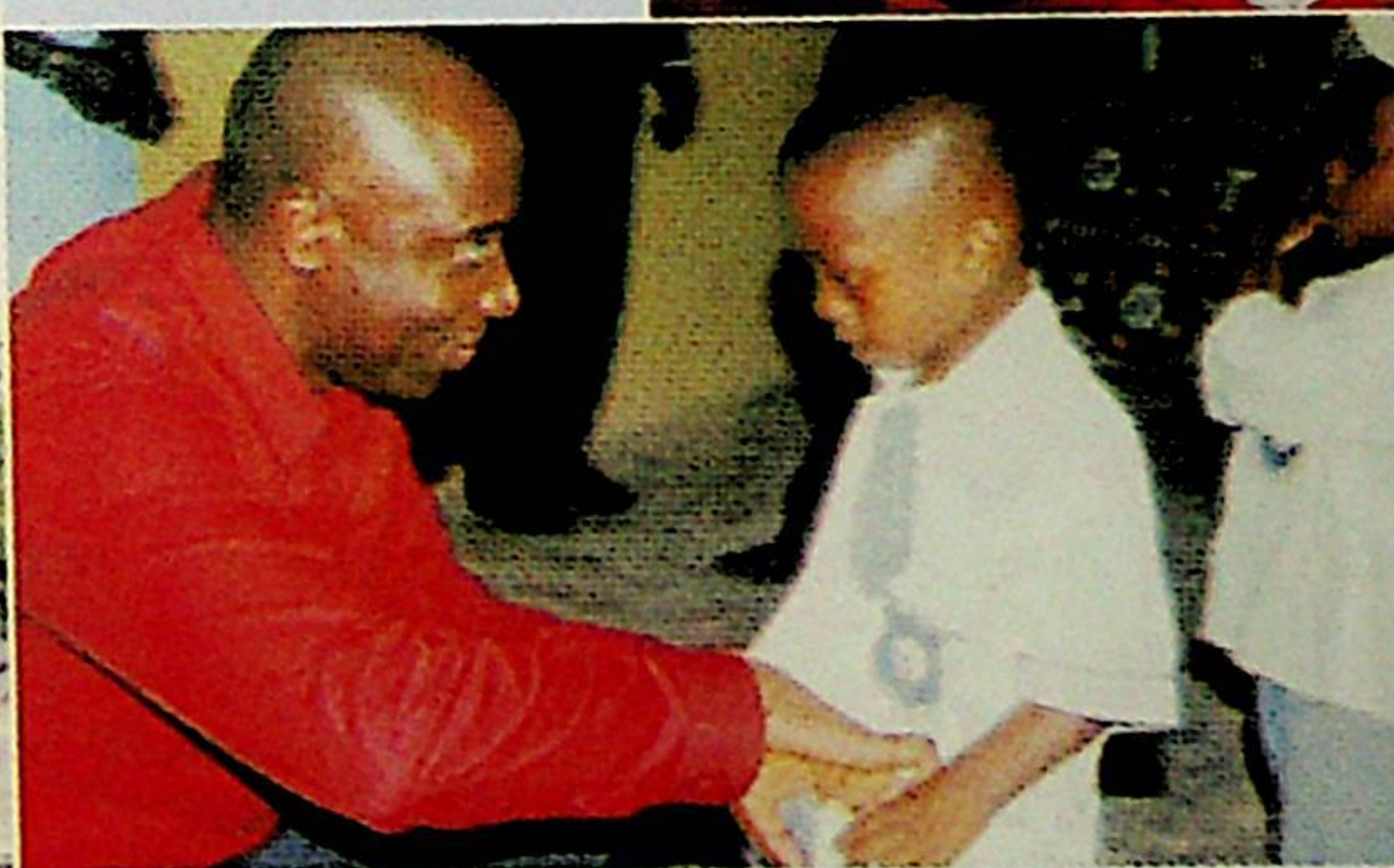
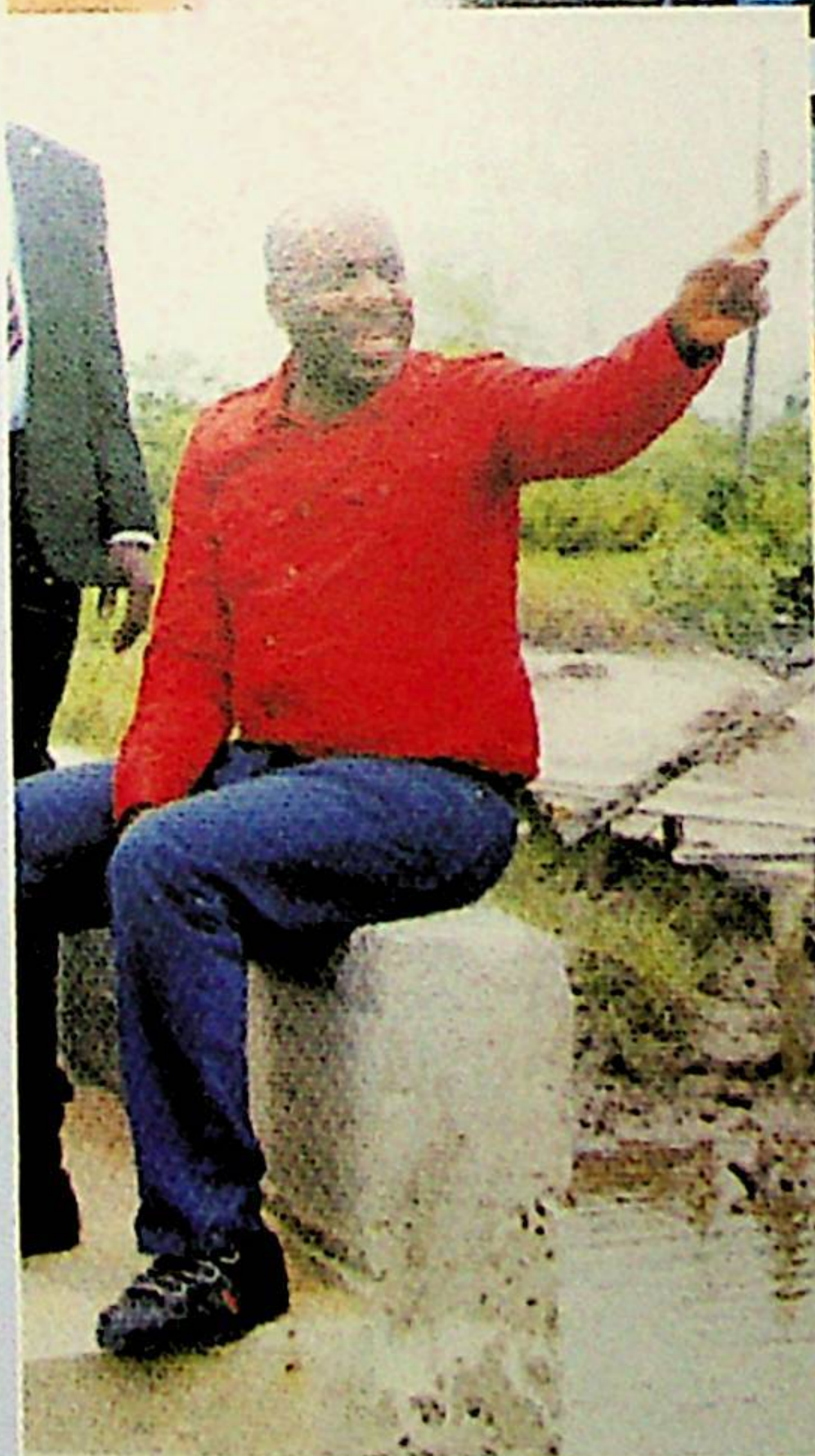
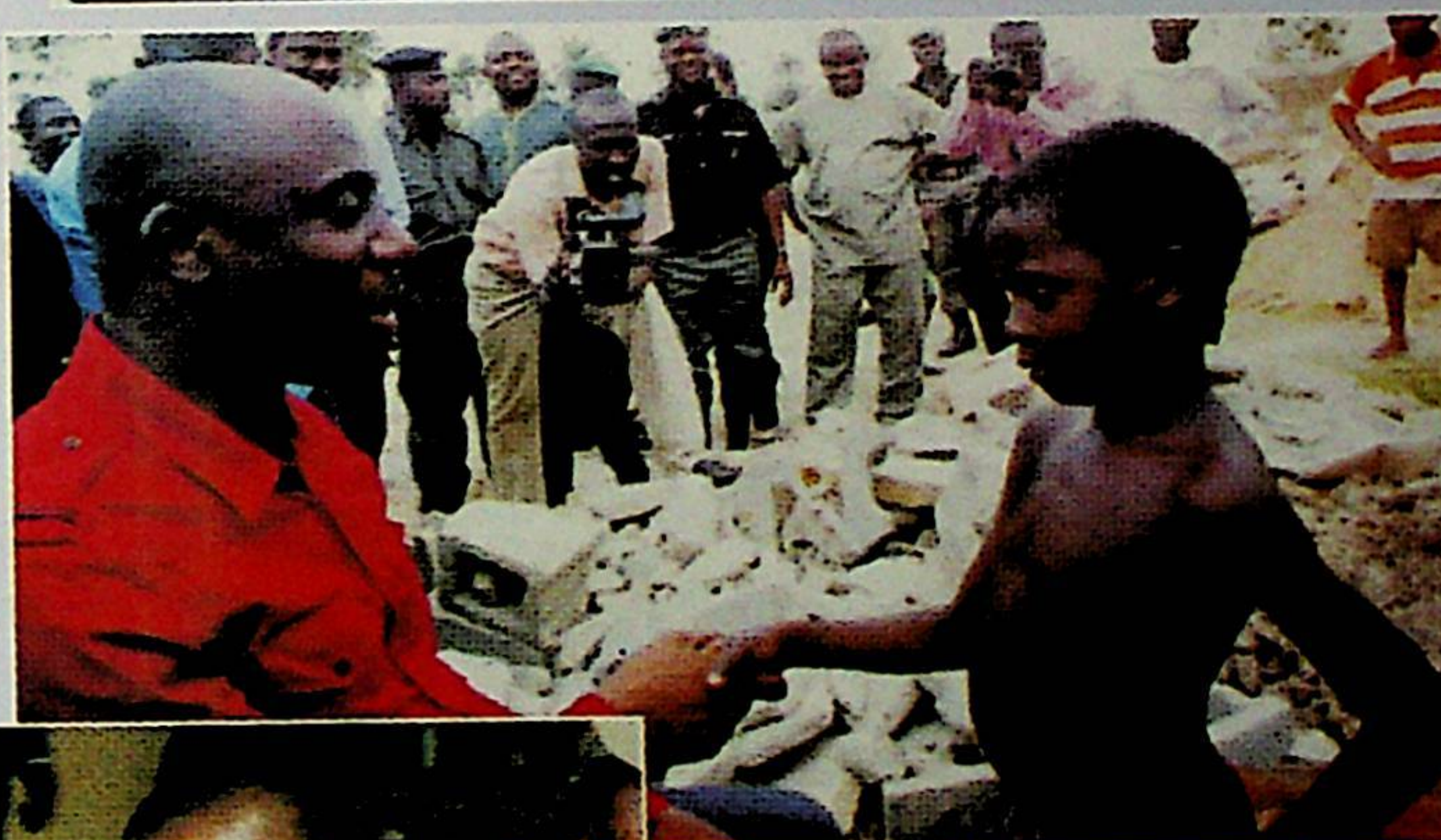
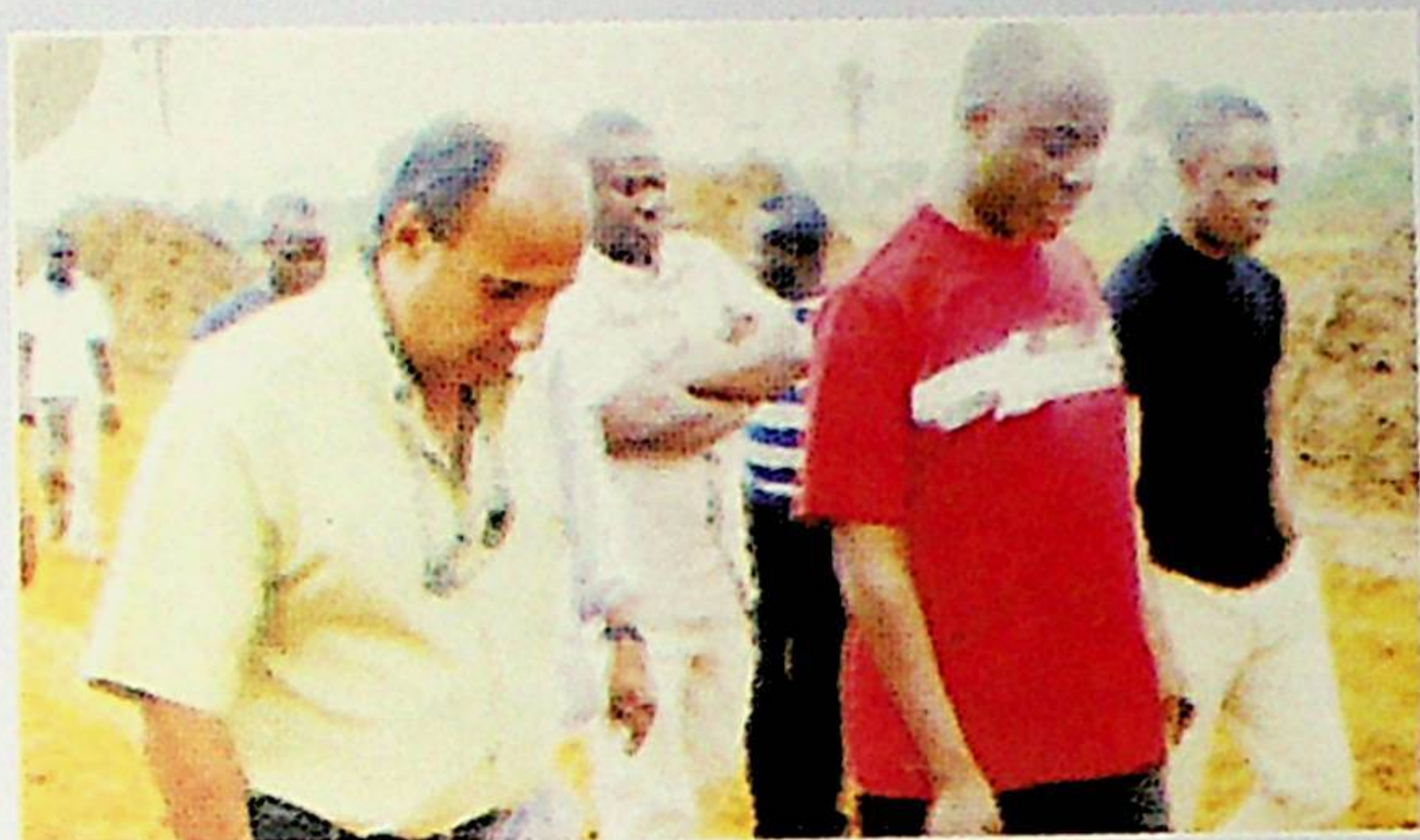
*"Our Mission is to serve our people with humility and render transparent and accountable stewardship anchored on integrity and good governance. We shall use our God-given resources to improve the quality of life of our present and future generations and empower our people in a peaceful, just and harmonious society under God."*





# IS MANDATE

RIVERS STATE-PerformanceReviewJournal



**Rt. Honourable  
Chibuike Amaechi on  
projects inspection  
visits**

## Rivers State will be the destination of choice - Chibuike Amaechi (2008)



**Q: How have you been dealing with the challenge of getting investors to come back into Rivers State?**

**A:** In the past two or three weeks (as at the time of interview) there has been an improvement. Since the military came, are you hearing anymore of the gun shots? I told them we must end this. Their lives are not more important than the lives of other citizens of the state. I have a responsibility to the people to make sure that they can move around and feel safe. These people are not fighting for justice. Is it justice to kidnap little children and women?

**Q: But these people are the creations of politicians like you?**

**A:** Myself? Has any of them come to say that I used him or funded him? No. The thing is many people are benefiting

from this evil. Some people will go to Abuja and say give me so so and so and I will talk to the boys but they cannot do anything, and the problem remains with us. This is a problem of poverty and greed all at once.

**Q: But what are you doing about the poverty, the unemployment situation in your state and the poor infrastructure?**

**A:** When we came on board, we were working to put a lot of things in place, but these criminals chased away everybody. But all of that is changing now. For instance, there was a company that was ready to come and invest over \$800million to build an independent power plant that would have increased the power supply. Julius Berger pulled out of site, they were building the flyover at the Eleme junction, and their worker was kidnapped. They moved their head quarters to Akwa Ibom and they kidnapped their workers there too, so now maybe they are coming back. You saw what happened to the Israeli company that was to design the water scheme for the city of Port Harcourt. But they are back again. An American investor is interested in the Ring-Road under a Private Public Partnership arrangement. The road will be a 125-kilometre, six lane road with two cable stayed bridges and will encircle the greater Port Harcourt from the periphery. An American company wants to come and build a 50 storey five star hotel a South African company is also coming in to build another five star hotel, while an international chain is taking over the International Airport hotel. This is outside a separate South African firm that has indicated its interest in the Greater Port Harcourt city. We have been negotiating for investors to come in and create employment and build infrastructure in the state, and this is happening now. Look at the mega specialist hospital we are building under the PPP. If we do not allow the investors come in, how would we build infrastructure and create jobs. It is for this

reason that we are working hard to ensure the security of lives and property and things get better.

**Q: Speaking of the mega specialist hospital, some have called it a white elephant project. Is this a wise investment?**

**A:** I am not sure anyone in this state will say that. When I came into power, I went to the Braithwaite Memorial Hospital, the only hospital in the state, and it was a sorry site. People were lying on the floor, and I told the medical director, this is not a hospital. The nurses are not doing their jobs. If they were doing their jobs, there would be no need for hundreds of patients to be sleeping on the floor next to the bodies of their loved ones. In any case, how can only one hospital serve this whole state? So we embarked on this partnership with Clinotech of Canada to build the Adolphus Karibi Whyte class specialist hospital. We have not decided exactly how the PPP will workout but we have committed some percentage on our own part to the building of the structure which we hope to finish before I leave office. We are also planning to build another hospital on the other side of the town to accommodate people on that side of town. We want to acquire Hotel Chez Therez behind the old Dental Centre so that we can build a big general hospital there. Of course, that will not stop us from building primary health care centres all over the local government areas.

**Q: Besides the health sector what other areas are you focusing on in the immediate future?**

**A:** Education. We are declaring an emergency in the education sector. If a person is educated at least half of the problem is solved. It is unfortunate that in Rivers state with all our wealth, our children are still learning under trees. We have decided to strategically intervene in education. Already, we have taken over the payment of salaries to primary school teachers. Ordinarily that is not my job. But I cannot wait for the local government chairmen. In September we paid over N800 million in salaries to primary school teachers across the state. This is because the teachers were



not getting paid so they were not going to class. Having done that it does not mean that we will not demand an explanation from the local governments as to what they have done with the N800 million which we have saved them. The people need to ask that. We are also building more primary and secondary schools. This is because the problem is bigger than just renovation of schools. There are not enough schools and enough school buildings. Our target is to build 250 primary schools. We would also be building 23 secondary schools. These schools will accommodate 1000 students each, with teacher's quarters, laboratories and American styled accommodation for the students

**Q: Why are you building new secondary schools? What about the old secondary schools in Port Harcourt that were once the toast of the region?**

**A:** Those are mission schools and they are returning to their owners. We want to build secondary schools that will cater for the children whom we would give a good foundation in the primary schools. When you go to the tertiary institutions you would see that these children did not get it right at the foundational stage. But we are not ignoring the tertiary institutions altogether. Already we are relocating the University of Science and technology to another location where it will have ample space. We will ensure that UST becomes a world class tertiary institution and a centre of research and excellence.

**Q: Your Excellency, these are very lofty dreams, where would you find the money to execute them?**

**A:** We have the money, and even if we do not have the money, I will go and borrow to build these schools. It is that important.

**Q: Your administration appears to be on rampage demolishing everything in sight. Aren't you causing the people undue hardship?**

**A:** I am not in a popularity contest. It is better I am bad today but put up structures that would last. Port Harcourt needs to be restored. The roads are bad, we need to provide infrastructure but the city's plan is being destroyed. My plan when I became governor was to immediately provide water throughout the state. But we found that we had to plan first. We have finished the mapping and master plan for this and we are now entering the execution stage. In addition to this, we are building brand new 480 km of paved roads to add to the existing 400 kilometres of paved roads in the state.



We cannot bring development if we do not restore sanity. There will be more demolitions. People say it is only an Ikwerre man that will demolish houses in Ikwerre land. I do not mind, but we must create room to build drainages. We must insist that houses are built to the right standards. We are creating new towns and expanding the old city. We have to restore the beauty of Port Harcourt, so that it would not look like a jungle. Our urban renewal project is firmly on course. We are starting with development control. We have designated business districts and are reinventing Trans Amadi Industrial Hub as the industrial artery of the state.

We have embarked on physical planning of both the old Port Harcourt city and the new greater Port Harcourt City. Our tree planting project is on. We have commissioned Avot, the man who landscaped Calabar for our beautification project. We have completed all the plans for our integrated drainage project. All we are waiting for is the rains so that construction of drainages can begin.

Let me tell you something. When I demolished the water fronts, they said I did not like the Ijaws, that it was selective, then we moved to Aggrey road and two of my wife's shops were demolished, she came and told me and I told her there were no exceptions to the rule. By the time we moved to Diobu, nobody could say anything.

**Q: You have been accused of focusing on providing infrastructure in the upland communities alone, what is your plan for the riverine communities?**

**A:** That is factually incorrect. We have been very even handed

in our development drive. We are opening up the riverine communities. Of course you know of the unity road which will link Ogoni to Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro. We are and filling four riverine communities - Opobo, Olukama in Ogu, Egomung in Andoni and Buguma in Asari Toru Local Government Area, where we are also involved in shore line protection. There is reclamation work going on in many riverine

communities and schools and health centres will be built in all these areas. No community will be neglected by this government in the provision of infrastructure and basic amenities.

**Q: Electricity is a major challenge in Rivers State. What are your plans for this sector?**

**A:** We have retained BP power of Britain as our resident consultant on Rivers State. Between now and middle of next year, all communities in the state would be electrified. Besides completing the Omoku power project, we are adding more turbines to Trans Amadi and would be bringing in new turbines to Eleme. In the short term, communities that cannot be connected to the National Grid or the gas turbines because of their terrain will have fully functional generating plants to ensure that they have all round electricity as a stop gap measure before mid next year.

**Q: What about the fun side of Port Harcourt? The insecurity of the recent past has practically destroyed the city's social life.**

**A:** Part of our plan is to re-establish the state as a place for business and pleasure. We are embarking on a cultural renaissance. Rivers people are a deeply cultural people. The state government is bringing back the CarniRiv, the annual cultural carnival in the state. It also plans to

host the Miss Ecowas beauty pageant and is encouraging cultural activities like the annual Opoobo International Boat Regatta festival.

**Q: You sound very passionate. Would you have been this passionate if you had been sworn in as governor on May 29, 2007?**

**A:** (pause) I would have been passionate but not as passionate because I might have had allegiance to some people. But now I owe no allegiance to anybody. I owe my allegiance to God and the people of Rivers State, so I can do what the people want and what I believe is right without clearing with anyone.

**Q: Some people say you are saying and doing all these things because you want cheap popularity. How genuine are you?**

**A:** (looking around) If all I wanted was popularity, I would have just built something, maybe a tower that will touch the skies and then pocket the rest of the money and when I leave people will say it was Amaechi that built this tower.

**Q: Who are your role models?**

**A:** Hm, my father. Definitely, my father. He and I were very close. In fact I think he loved me more than my other siblings. I do not know why, maybe because I was studious. I loved to read and he may have seen something. And maybe also in a sense Karl Marx. I was a Marxist when I was in school.

**Q: What kind of Marxist are you? A real one or a red wine drinking Marxist?**

**A:** I do not drink alcohol so I do not know what you mean by a red wine drinking Marxist, but my ideology is affected by the need to ensure that the common wealth is used for the good of all.

**Q: You speak so much about doing good for humanity, but do you know what it means to be poor?**

**A:** I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth. I grew up living in a face-me-I-face-you house in Diobu here in Port Harcourt. I went to school under very harsh conditions. My first three

bedroom bungalow was rented for me by Sir Dr Peter Odili when I went to work in Pamo Clinics as an administrative officer after leaving school. Even now my needs are few. I do not need a big car to move around. I use these cars now because of the need to be security conscious, other wise I am a very simple easy going man.

**Q: You have been quoted in the media as saying that you are not going to share out money to a few. Are you a stingy man?**

**A:** Those who know me will tell you that I am a very generous person, but I will not spend Rivers people's money carelessly. I am on oath to defend the constitution and to protect the people. I will be a good steward of their resources even if that means having many enemies.

**Q: You were speaker of the state House of Assembly for eight years, people have accused state Houses of Assembly of being a rubber stamp of the executive. Did your Assembly play its role as a check to the executive?**

**A:** It is not everything that is done privately that one may speak about publicly. As a legislature, we accorded the governor due respect and did not summon him to the floor of the House. However, when there were any issues, I confronted him. For example on the issue of the purchase of aircraft for the state, the House of Assembly refused that purchase for four years. Indeed on one occasion members jokingly said if we were to buy a Boeing 737 bit by bit we would have bought a whole aircraft in the four years. In the fifth year, Governor Odili made a case explaining that his travels were costing the state a lot more than if he bought the jet and based on his explanations we approved the purchase.

**Q: When you came into office you promised to sell one of the aircrafts?**

**A:** Yes and we have done so.

**Q: One or both?**

**A:** One. I didn't say I will sell both. We sold it to Aero contractors, and I am just keeping the money till we decide what project we will use it for.

**Q: How do you rate your administration's performance so far?**

**A:** I will allow others to do that.

**Q: How would you like to be remembered when you leave**

**A:** I am not in a popularity contest. It is better I am bad today but put up structures that would last. Port Harcourt needs to be restored. The roads are bad, we need to provide infrastructure but the city's plan is being destroyed. My plan when I became governor was to immediately provide water throughout the state. But we found that we had to plan first. We have finished the mapping and master plan for this and we are now entering the execution stage. In addition to this, we are building brand new 480 km of paved roads to add to the existing 400 kilometres of paved roads in the state.

We cannot bring development if we do not restore sanity. There will be more demolitions. People say it is only an Ikwerre man that will demolish houses in Ikwerre land. I do not mind, but we must create room to build drainages. We must insist that houses are built to the right standards. We are creating new towns and expanding the old city. We have to restore the beauty of Port Harcourt, so that it would not look like a jungle. Our urban renewal project is firmly on course. We are starting with development control. We have designated business districts and are reinventing Trans Amadi Industrial Hub as the industrial artery of the state.

We have embarked on physical planning of both the old Port Harcourt city and the new greater Port Harcourt City. Our tree planting project is on. We have commissioned Avot, the man who landscaped Calabar for our beautification project. We have completed all the plans for our integrated drainage project. All we are waiting for is the rains so that construction of drainages can begin.

Let me tell you something. When I demolished the water fronts, they said I did not like the Ijaws, that it was selective, then we moved to Aggrey road and two of my wife's shops were demolished, she came and told me and I told her there were no exceptions to the rule. By the time we moved to Diobu, nobody could say anything.

**Q: You have been accused of focusing on providing infrastructure in the upland communities alone, what is your plan for the riverine communities?**

**A:** That is factually incorrect. We have been very even handed



in our development drive. We are opening up the riverine communities. Of course you know of the unity road which will link Ogoni to Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro. We are sand filling four riverine communities - Opobo, Ojukama in Ogu, Egomung in Andoni and Buguma in Asari Toru Local Government Area, where we are also involved in shore line protection. There is reclamation work going on in many riverine

communities and schools and health centres will be built in all these areas. No community will be neglected by this government in the provision of infrastructure and basic amenities.

**Q: Electricity is a major challenge in Rivers State. What are your plans for this sector?**

**A:** We have retained BP power of Britain as our resident consultant on Rivers State. Between now and middle of next year, all communities in the state would be electrified. Besides completing the Omoku power project, we are adding more turbines to Trans Amadi and would be bringing in new turbines to Eleme. In the short term, communities that cannot be connected to the National Grid or the gas turbines because of their terrain will have fully functional generating plants to ensure that they have all round electricity as a stop gap measure before mid next year.

**Q: What about the fun side of Port Harcourt? The insecurity of the recent past has practically destroyed the city's social life.**

**A:** Part of our plan is to re-establish the state as a place for business and pleasure. We are embarking on a cultural renaissance. Rivers people are a deeply cultural people. The state government is bringing back the CarniRiv, the annual cultural carnival in the state. It also plans to

host the Miss Ecowas beauty pageant and is encouraging cultural activities like the annual Opobo International Boat Regatta festival.

**Q: You sound very passionate. Would you have been this passionate if you had been sworn in as governor on May 29, 2007?**

**A:** (pause) I would have been passionate but not as passionate because I might have had allegiance to some people. But now I owe no allegiance to anybody. I owe my allegiance to God and the people of Rivers State, so I can do what the people want and what I believe is right without clearing with anyone.

**Q: Some people say you are saying and doing all these things because you want cheap popularity. How genuine are you?**

**A:** (looking around) If all I wanted was popularity, I would have just built something, maybe a tower that will touch the skies and then pocket the rest of the money and when I leave people will say it was Amaechi that built this tower.

**Q: Who are your role models?**

**A:** Hm, my father. Definitely, my father. He and I were very close. In fact I think he loved me more than my other siblings. I do not know why, maybe because I was studious. I loved to read and he may have seen something. And maybe also in a sense Karl Marx. I was a Marxist when I was in school.

**Q: What kind of Marxist are you? A real one or a red wine drinking Marxist?**

**A:** I do not drink alcohol so I do not know what you mean by a red wine drinking Marxist, but my ideology is affected by the need to ensure that the common wealth is used for the good of all.

**Q: You speak so much about doing good for humanity, but do you know what it means to be poor?**

**A:** I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth. I grew up living in a face-me-I-face-you house in Diobu here in Port Harcourt. I went to school under very harsh conditions. My first three

bedroom bungalow was rented for me by Sir Dr Peter Odili when I went to work in Pamo Clinics as an administrative officer after leaving school. Even now my needs are few. I do not need a big car to move around. I use these cars now because of the need to be security conscious, other wise I am a very simple easy going man.

**Q: You have been quoted in the media as saying that you are not going to share out money to a few. Are you a stingy man?**

**A:** Those who know me will tell you that I am a very generous person, but I will not spend Rivers people's money carelessly. I am on oath to defend the constitution and to protect the people. I will be a good steward of their resources even if that means having many enemies.

**Q: You were speaker of the state House of Assembly for eight years, people have accused state Houses of Assembly of being a rubber stamp of the executive. Did your Assembly play its role as a check to the executive?**

**A:** It is not everything that is done privately that one may speak about publicly. As a legislature, we accorded the governor due respect and did not summon him to the floor of the House. However, when there were any issues, I confronted him. For example on the issue of the purchase of aircraft for the state, the House of Assembly refused that purchase for four years. Indeed on one occasion members jokingly said if we were to buy a Boeing 737 bit by bit we would have bought a whole aircraft in the four years. In the fifth year, Governor Odili made a case explaining that his travels were costing the state a lot more than if he bought the jet and based on his explanations we approved the purchase.

**Q: When you came into office you promised to sell one of the aircrafts?**

**A:** Yes and we have done so.

**Q: One or both?**

**A:** One. I didn't say I will sell both. We sold it to Aero contractors, and I am just keeping the money till we decide what project we will use it for.

**Q: How do you rate your administration's performance so far?**

**A:** I will allow others to do that.

**Q: How would you like to be remembered when you leave**

## Statement of account -

Nov. 2007- Sept. 2010

**A**s at September, the Amaechi administration had boldly deployed an enormous quantum of financial resources belonging to Rivers State for the engagement of the mandates and aspirations of the peoples of Rivers State. The breakdown is given below.

(A)	Revenue (Income)	
		N
(I)	FMC	723,965,174,438.61
(II)	IGR	109,732,158,837.69
(III)	Other revenues	11,320,232,436.39
	<b>Total</b>	<b>N845,017,565,712.69</b>
(B)	Expenditure (Recurrent/Capital)	
(I)	Recurrent Expenditure	177,462,090,198.05
(II)	Capital Expenditure	643,555,475,514.64
		N821,017,565,712.69
C	Rivers State Reserve Fund	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>N24,000,000,000.00</b>
		<b>N845,017,565,712.69</b>

### SUMMARY OF RECURRENT REVENUE

PERIOD	PERSONNEL COST (N)	OVERHEAD COST (N)	PENSIONS/ GRATUITY(N)	OTHER RECUR.	TOTAL (N)
Nov' 07 - Dec' 07	5,250,608,705.90	211,422,737.95	1,785,534,278.22	-	7,247,565,722.07
Jan' 08 - Dec' 08	38,898,870,036.00	10,786,197,811.00	3,881,496,809.00	-	53,566,501,656.00
Jan' 09 - Dec' 09	48,075,301,312.26	12,739,148,349.28	1,969,045,756.21	-	62,783,495,417.00
Jan' 10 - Sept' 10	36,655,412,259.68	10,474,557,043.00	6,734,558,100.30	-	53,864,527,402.98
<b>Total</b>					<b>N177,462,090,198.05</b>

PERIOD	FAAC (N)	IGR (N)	OTHER REVENUES (N)	TOTAL (N)
Nov - Dec2007	29,867,601,021.66	5,077,526,279.70	4,481,333.12	34,949,608,634.27
Jan - Dec 2008	333,470,530,060.00	31,863,794,193.75	2,334,090,725	367,668,414,979.30
Jan - Dec 2009	200,767,633,566.51	35,426,697,981.32	4,883,505,701.40	241,077,837,249.23
Jan - Sept 2010	159,859,409,790.22	37,361,140,382.80	4,098,154,676.87	201,321,704,849.89
				<b>N845,017,565,712.69</b>

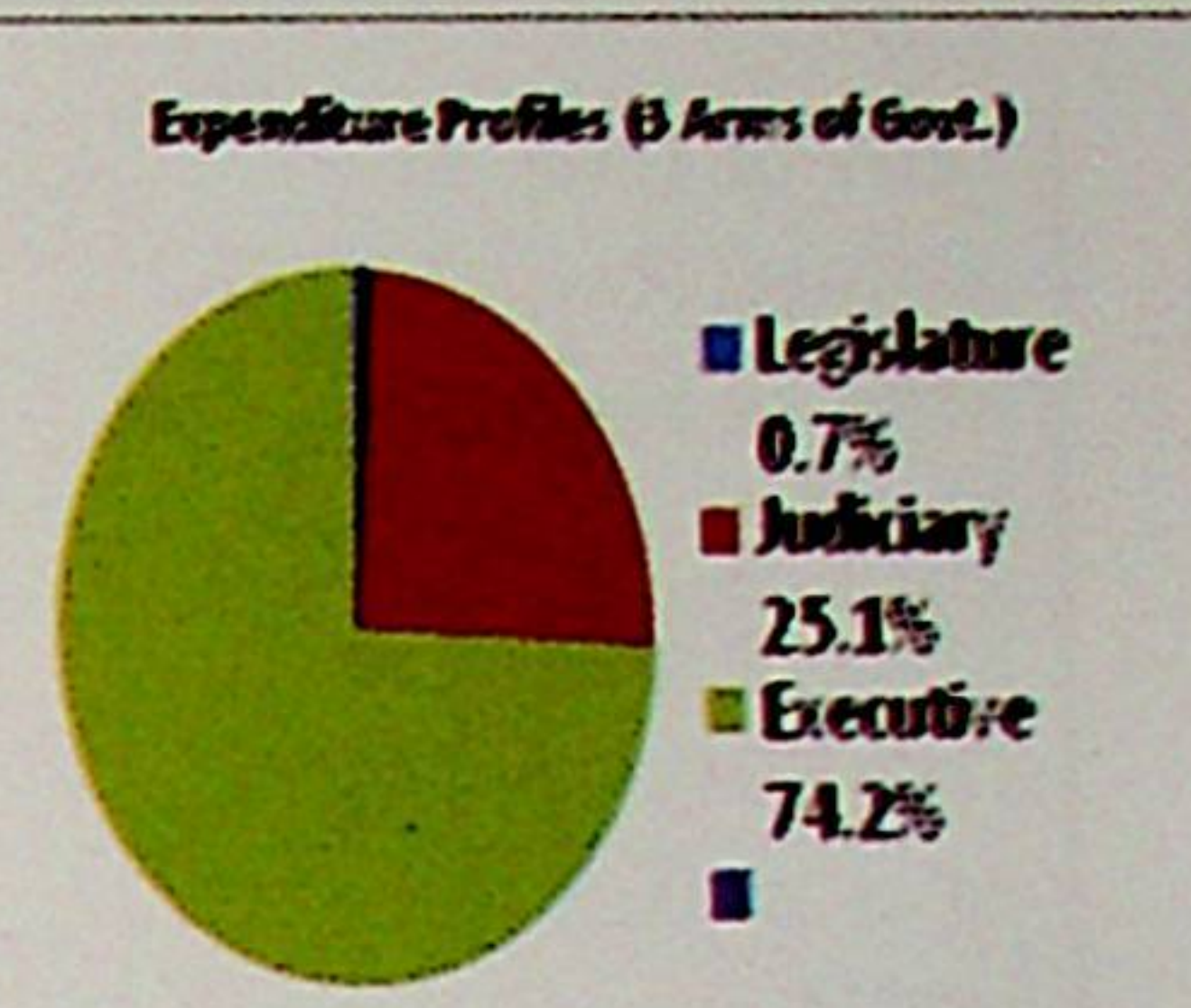


## Summary of Expenditure

### Recurrent and Capital Expenditure

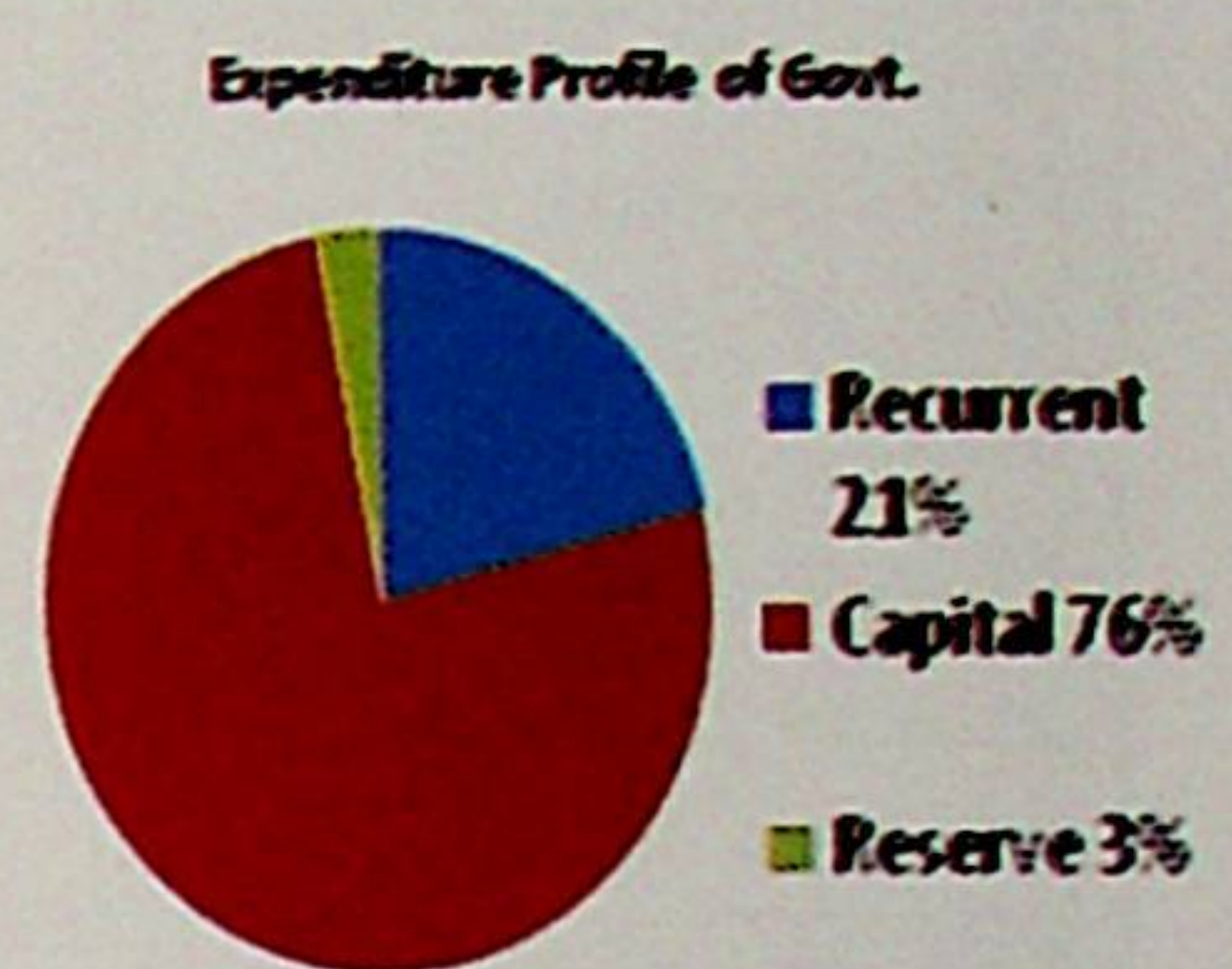
#### RECURRENT EXPENDITURE (3 ARMS OF RIVERS STATE GOVERNMENT)

S/N	NAME	NOV. 07-DEC.08	JAN.-DEC.09	JAN.-DEC. 10	TOTAL
1.	The Judiciary	13,100,330,925.00	2,124,000,000.00	906,000,000.00	161,303,309,250.00
2.	House of Assembly	2,004,740,000.00	2,009,010,732.00	639,137,500.00	4,652,888,232.00
3.	Executive	253,746,310,284	192,015,089,589.00	177,013,856,484.64	477,599,278,032.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>268,851,381,209.00</b>	<b>196,145,110,321.00</b>	<b>178,558,993,984.64</b>	<b>643,555,475,514.64</b>



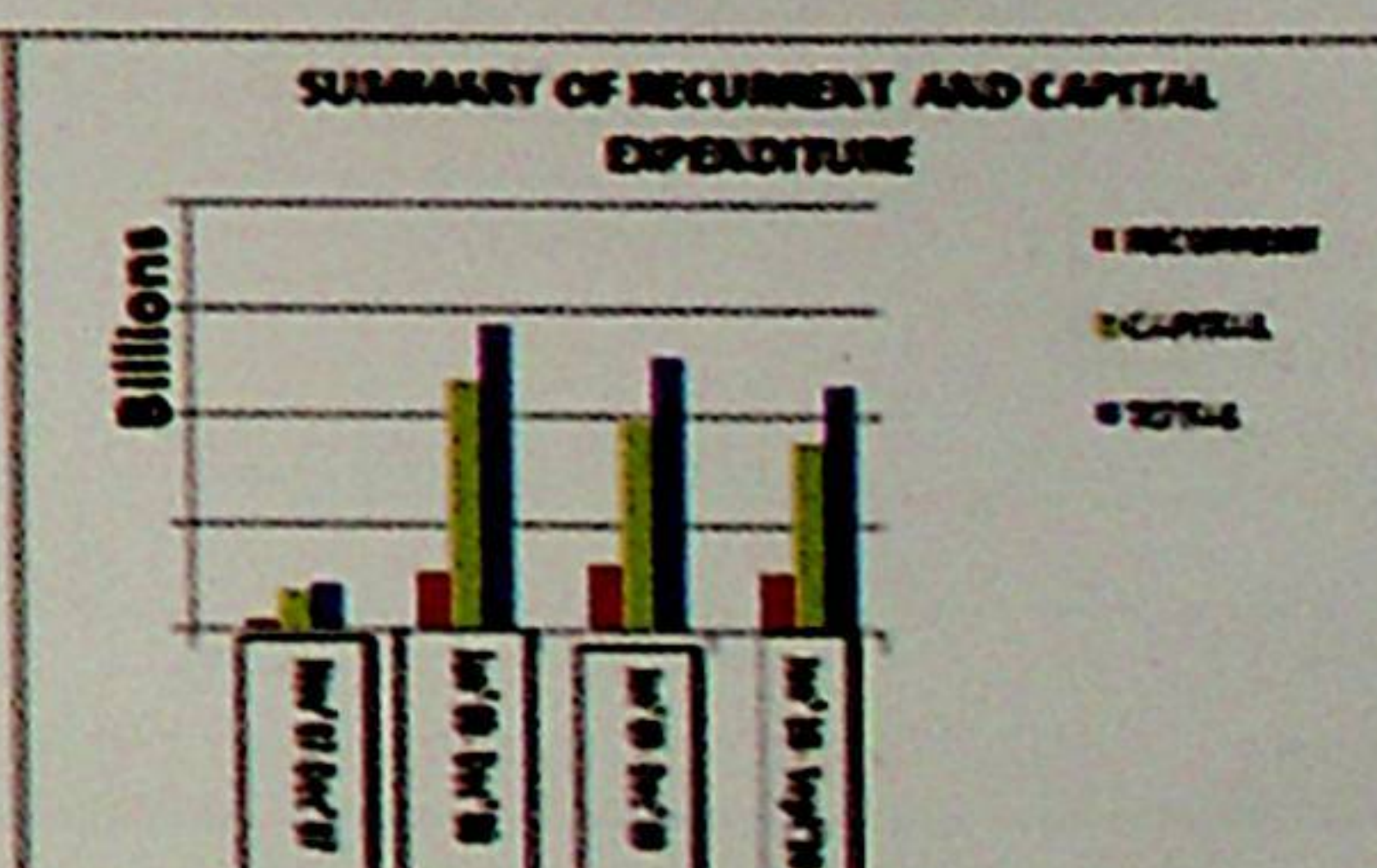
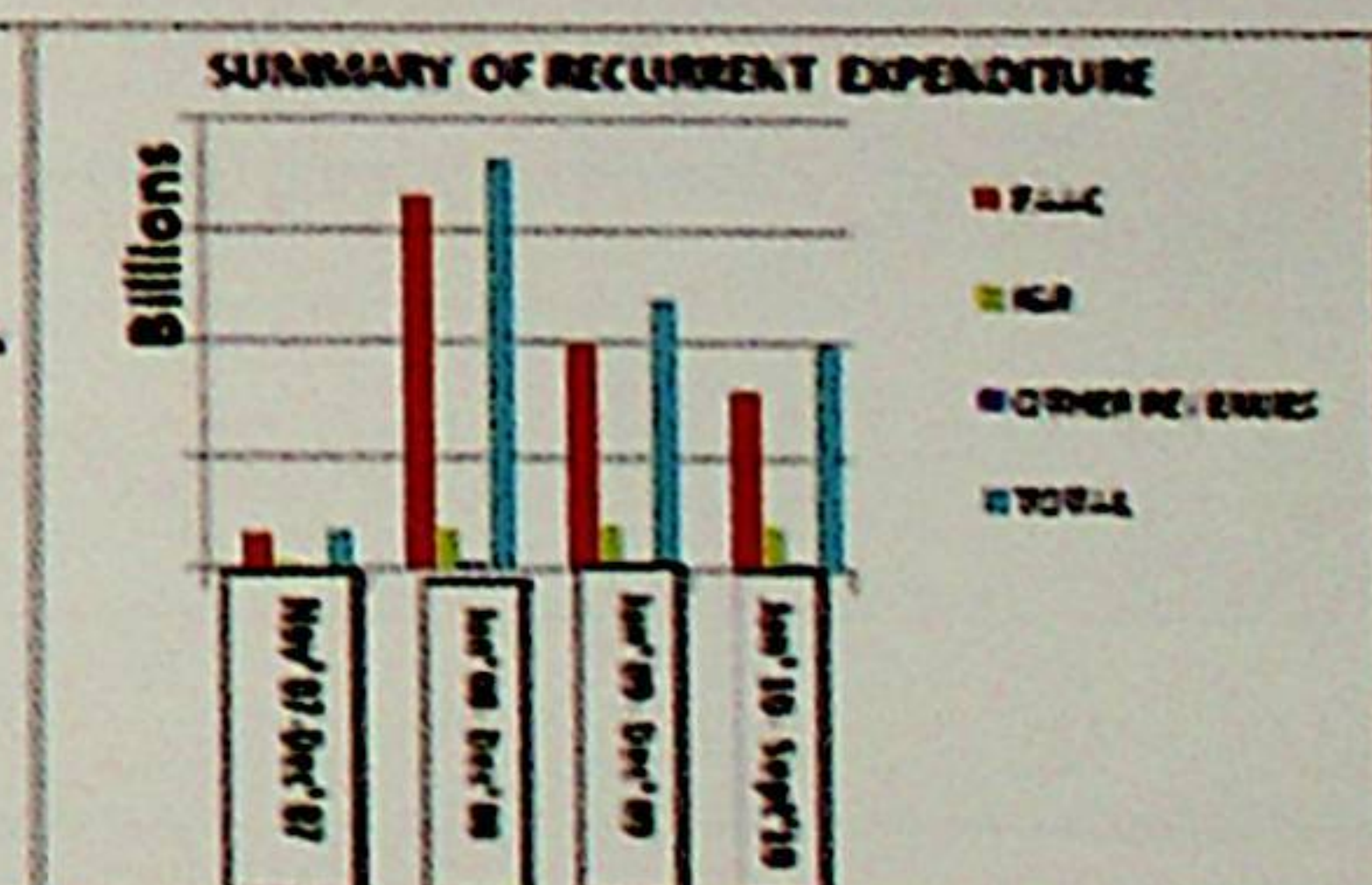
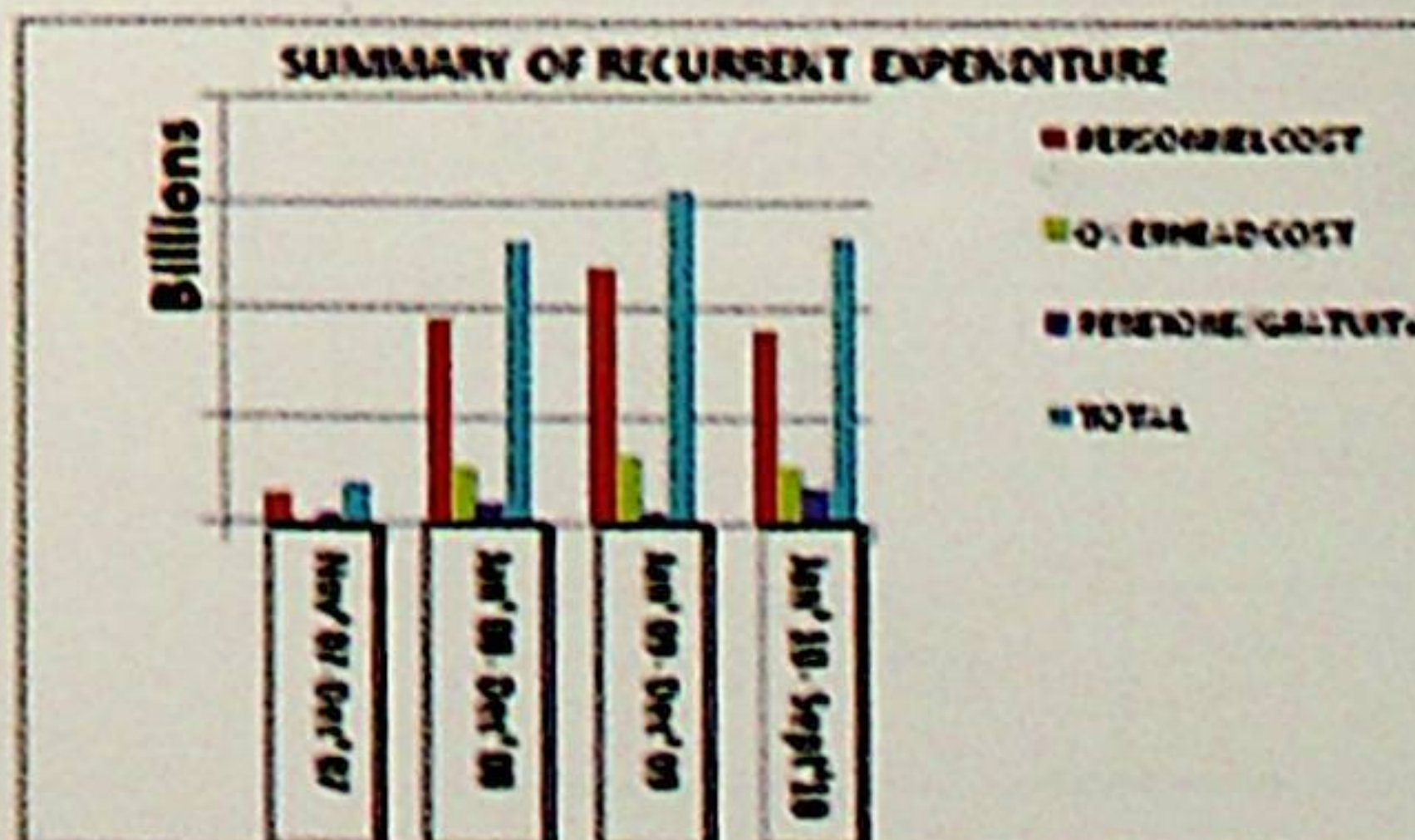
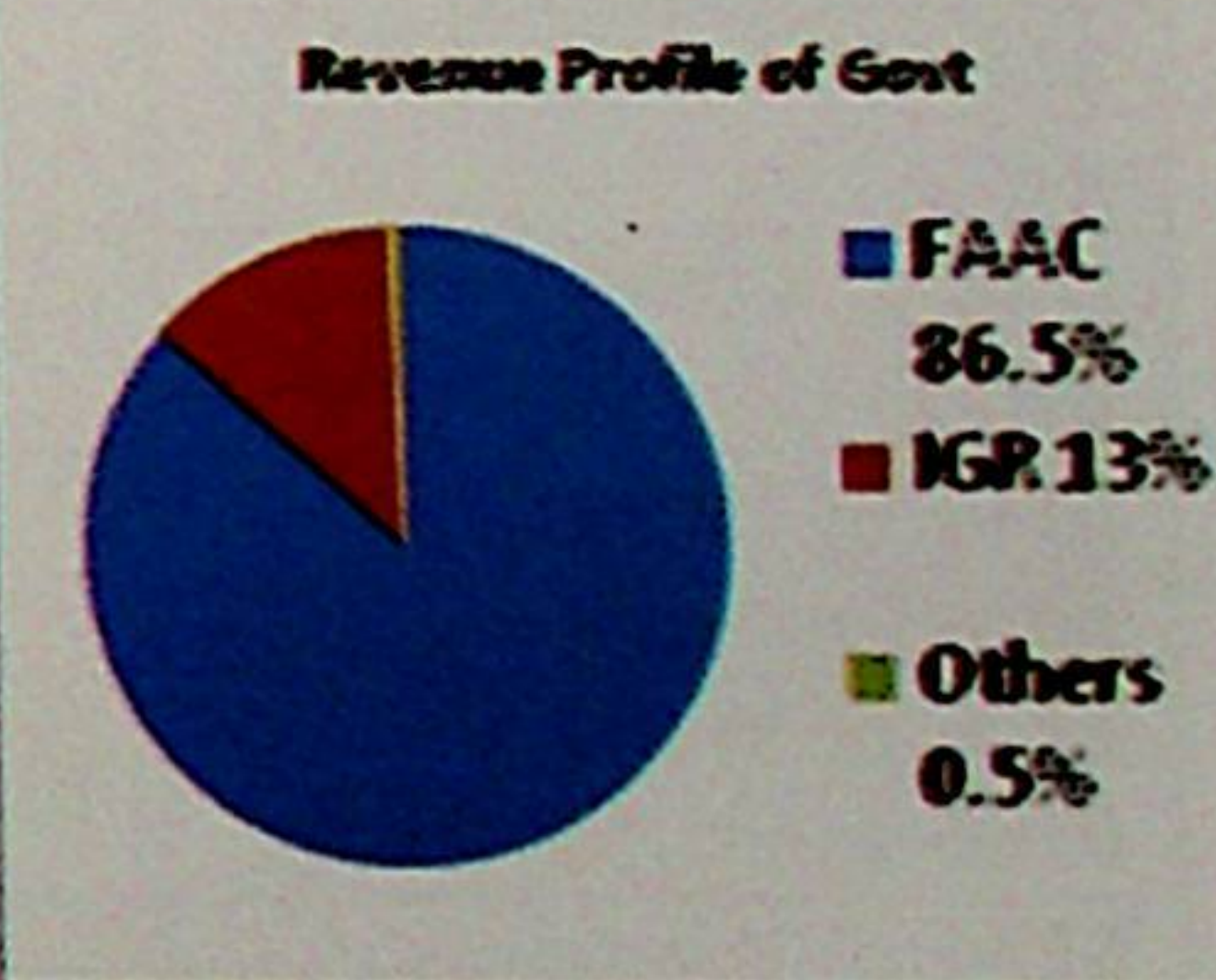
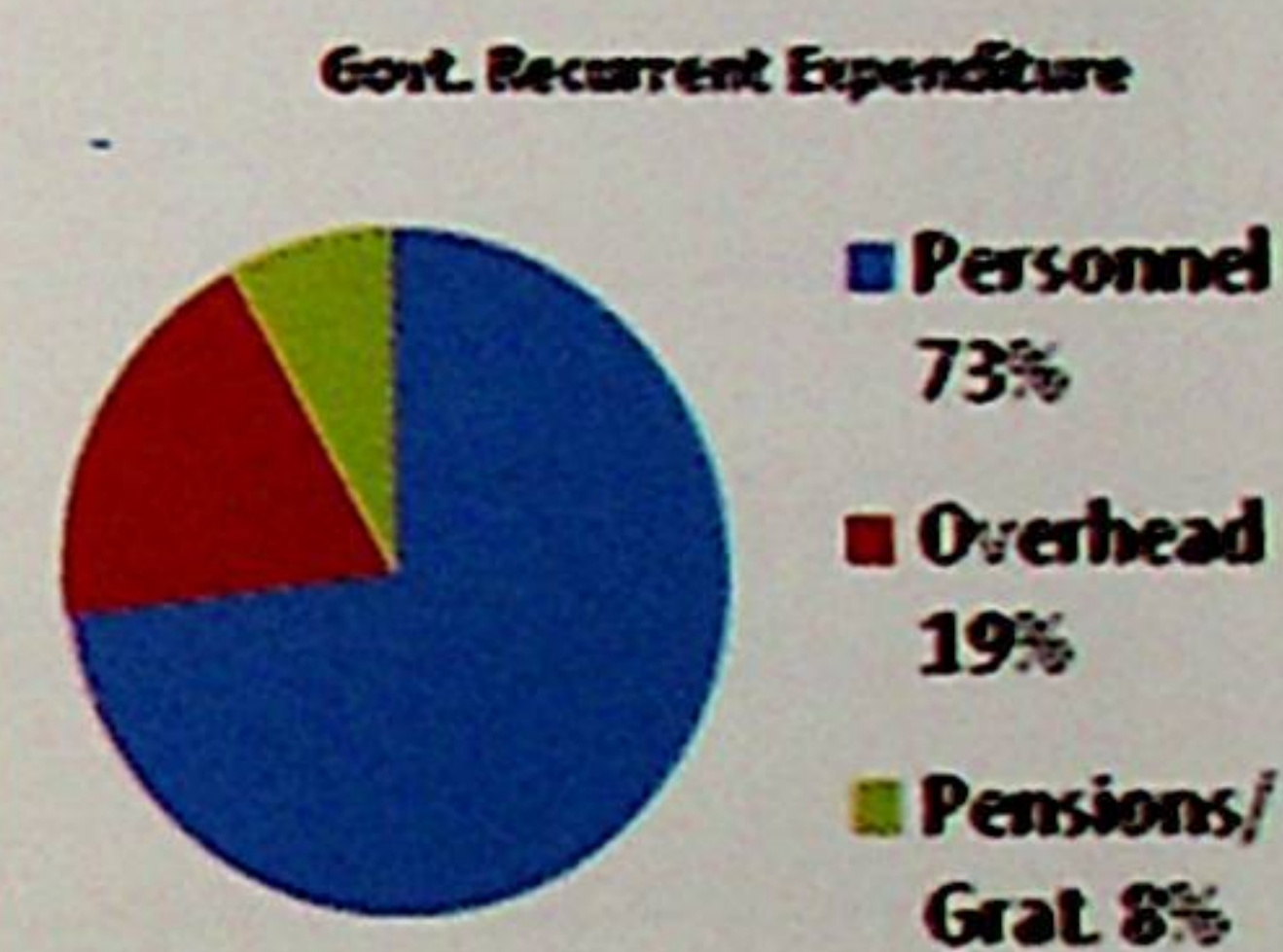
#### CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (RELEASES TO MDAS)

PERIOD	RECURRENT (₦)	CAPITAL (₦)	TOTAL (₦)
Nov' 07 - Dec' 07	7,247,565,727.07	35,208,667,088.00	42,456,232,810.07
Jan' 08 - Dec' 08	53,566,501,656.00	233,642,714,121.00	287,209,215,777.00
Jan'09 - Dec'09	62,783,495,417.00	196,145,100,321.00	258,928,595,738.00
Jan'10 - Sept'10	53,864,527,402.98	178,558,993,984.64	232,432,521,387.62
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>N821,017,565,712.69</b>



#### RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

MINISTRIES /DEPARTMENTS/ AGENCIES	NOV. 07 - DEC.08 (₦)	JAN. - DEC. 09 (₦)	JAN - DEC 09 (₦)	TOTAL (₦)
Min. of Agriculture MOA	706,557,870.00	349,100,000.00	480,000,000.00	1,535,657,870.00
Min. of Budget and Economic Planning - MBEP	158,260,615.00	74,162,500.00	247,467,000.00	479,890,115.00
Min. of Chieftaincy and Comm. Affairs - MCCA	395,666,277.00	110,200,000.00	43,700,000.00	549,566,277
Min. of Commerce and Industry	410,811,084.00	26,927,000.00	-	437,738,084.00
Min. of Education - MOED	22,797,872,098.00	17,701,024,031.00	17,939,454,294.32	58,438,350,423.32
Min. of Emply. Gen. & Empow. MECE	386,152,253.00	286,500,000.00	5,000,000.00	677,652,253.00
Min. of Energy & Natural Resources - MENR	248,352,857.00	49,250,000.00	639,137,500.00	936,740,357.00



# SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE

## RECURRENT AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Min. of Envi. & Natural Res. - MOEN	3,428,622,448.00	3,564,290,390.00	1,585,003,999.00	8,577,916,837.00
Min. of Finance MOF	11,349,768,177.00	6,359,145,484.00	5,265,257,982.77	22,974,171,643.77
Min. of Finance Incorporated- MOFI	-	-	1,811,904,759.00	1,811,904,759.00
Min. of Health - MOH	15,328,558,909.00	13,388,073,708.00	7,258,943,938.74	35,975,576,555.74
Min. of Housing - MO Housing	6,933,216,611.00	106,148,356.00	500,000,000.00	7,539,364,967.00
Min. of Information - MOI	674,105,850.00	671,309,450.00	888,162,962.13	2,233,578,262.13
Min. of Justice - MOJ	2,360,492,651.00	2,485,818,148.00	1,217,500,000.00	6,063,810,799.00
Min. of Lands & Survey - MLS	-	383,703,560.00	2,327,121,677.20	2,710,825,237.20
Min. of Local Govt. Affairs - MLGA	-	57,341,386.00	-	57,341,386.00
Min. of Power - MOP	16,049,122,152.00	9,069,841,646.00	24,189,760,312.91	49,308,724,110.91

Min. of Social Welfare & Reh. WR	82,558,000.00	148,431,082.00	118,566,857.08	349,555,939.08
Min of Special Duties- -	296,061,206.00	1,044,777,702.00	-	1,340,838,908.00
Min of Sport - MOS-	1,932,737,805.00	1,903,568,413.00	11,477,594,015.81	15,313,900,233.81
Min of Transport - MOT	735,629,930.00	2,720,828,799.00	11,811,223,208.00	15,267,681,937.00
Min of Urban Development- MUD	-	1,916,631,842.00	314,818,762.25	2,231,450,604.25
Min of Water Resources - MWRRD	424,866,404.00	352,810,000.00	1,394,998,280.00	2,172,674,684.00
Min of Women Affairs - MOWA	725,654,560.00	63,945,813.00	-	789,600,373.00
Min of Works - MOW	88,073,077,050.00	68,284,225,874.00	52,501,108,999.14	208,858,411,923.14
Min of Youth Development- MYD	403,766,653.00	106,543,100.00	72,619,420.00	582,929,173.00
Min of Culture and Tourism - MCT	1,169,621,842.00	-	1,860,632,750.00	3,030,254,592

## SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE

### RECURRENT AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Social Rehabilitation Committee SRC		360,240,000.00	504,256,500.00	864,496,500.00
Urban Beautification Parks & garden - UBPG	523,295,987.00	338,638,880.00	-	861,934,867.00
Bureau on Public Procurement - BPP	-	450,000,000.00	650,000,000.00	1,100,000,000.00
Civil Service Commission - CSC	34,320,000.00	55,874,500.00	15,800,000.00	105,994,500.00
Economic Advisory Council - EAC	-	100,000,000.00	-	100,000,000.00
Greater Port Harcourt Dev. Auth. - GPDA	-	19,750,000,000.00	5,038,046,000.00	24,788,046,000.00
Government House - GH	22,977,068,436.00	11,352,381,966.00	9,161,097,120.62	42,590,547,522.60
Head of Service - HOS	1,652,004,817.00	382,044,295.00	514,366,336.00	2,548,415,448.00
Information Communication Tech.- ICT	1,745,318,000.00	625,155,744.00	215,500,000.00	2,585,973,744.00
Judiciary Service Commission - JSC	-	720,000,000.00	-	720,000,000.00
Liaison Officer - Lagos	-	-	4,400,000.00	4,400,000.00
Local Govt. Service Commission - LGC	-	4,500,000.00	-	4,500,000.00
Special Adviser - Admin - SA Admin	5,450,000.00			5,450,000.00
Special Adviser - Aquaculture & Deep Sea Fishing- (SA DeepSea)		3,300,000.00	411,758,059.00	417,558,059.00
Special Adviser Aquatic Cat Fish Farming (SA- AQ)		2,000,000.00	-	2,000,000.00
Special Adviser International Donor - (SA Intl Do)		363,005,000.00	3,950,000.00	366,955,000.00
Special Adviser - Investment - (SA - I)	3,928,406,766.00	564,747,744.00	221,995,585.00	4,715,150,095.00
Special Adviser- Micro Finance - (SA Micro)	2,500,000,000.00			2,500,000,000.00
Special Adviser - Millennium Dev. Goals - (SA- MDG)	7,497,000.00	31,548,000.00	1,080,86,634.00	1,119,231,634.00

# SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE

## RECURRENT AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Special Adviser - NEPAD - (SA - NEPDA)		69,320,000.00	-	69,320,000.00
Special Adviser - Parastatals - (SA-PARA)		3,325,000.00	12,595,000.00	15,920,000.00
Special Adviser - Project Monitoring - (SA-PM)		100,000,000.00	-	100,000,000.00
Special Adviser - Public Private Partnership - (SA - PPP)	154,808,674.00	2,270,000.00	13,200,000.00	170,278,674.00
Special Adviser - Revenue Generation - (SA - REV. GEN)		8,000,000.00		8,000,000.00
Special Adviser - Skill Acquisition - (SA-Skill)		140,000,000.00	-	140,000,000.00
Special Adviser - Waste Management	2,510,000.00			2,510,000.00
Special Adviser - Conflict (SA-Conf.)		-	4,500,000.00	4,500,000.00
Special Adviser - Culture (SA-Culture)		-	24,303,260.00	24,303,260.00
Special Adviser - media (SA-MEDIA)		-	30,000,000.00	30,000,000.01
Special Adviser - NDDC (SA-NDDC)		-	14,500,000.00	14,500,000.01
Special Adviser - Pollution (SA-POL)	--		7,000,000.00	7,000,000.01
Special Adviser - Project (SAP)	5,442,157,073.00	-	1,126,898,230.00	6,569,055,303.01
Special Adviser - Rural Dev. (SA-Rural)		-	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.01
Special Adviser - Sewage (SA-SEW)		-	1,260,700,000.00	1,260,700,000.01
Special Adviser - Statistics (SA-Stats.)		-	7,000,000.00	7,000,000.00
Water Front Development - WFD		34,800,000.00	15,364,000.00	50,164,000.00
R/S House of Assembly - RVHA	2,004,740,000.00	2,009,010,732.00	639,137,500.00	4,652,888,232.01
The Judiciary - JUD	13,100,330,925.00	1,000,000,000.00	750,000,000.00	14,850,330,925.01
R/S Customary Court of Appeal	-	404,000,000.00	156,000,000.00	560,000,000.01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>268,851,381,209.00</b>	<b>196,145,100,321.00</b>	<b>178,558,993,984.64</b>	<b>643,555,475,514.6</b>

## Human capital development

Rivers State is blessed with a very rich deposit of oil and gas within her soil and waters. However, the economy has been unable to fully feel the impact of the consequent oil and gas industry that has developed around the well sought resources due, majorly in part, to what analysts have attributed to the poor skilled human resource capital. The result, rather, is two parallel economies comprising the non-oil economy largely dominated by the informal sector and the oil sector.

One of the mandates before the Governor Chibuike Amaechi led administration in 2007, therefore, was the laying of the fundamentals for the development of a new human capacity profile for Rivers State: one that could within the shortest possible time effect a trans-figurative union of the two parallel economies into an expanded formal and robust economy of Rivers State.

Some of the major steps taken by the State Government to address that mandate include:

### Education

The Rivers State Ministry of Education has the overall mandate to provide qualitative education for the entire population of Rivers State in partnership with private sector, local and international development partners, Rivers people and other stakeholders in the sector.

So far, that mandate has translated to:

350 model primary schools equitably spread among the 24 LGAs out of a total of 750 billed for construction in the State. 125 of those schools have been



delivered, furnished and put into use by September 2010. Others are at varying stages of completion. Each unit comes complete with modern learning facilities including information and computer technology, ICT, standard recreational grounds and equipments, sick bay, libraries, etc.;

24 model secondary schools with full boarding facilities and residential quarters for teachers spread across each of the 24 Local Government Areas;

Establishment of migrant fishermen children's school, registration of Rivers State students for National Examination Council (NECO) certificate examinations.

Planned relocation of the State's University of Science of Technology into an ultra modern permanent site within the Greater Port Harcourt City development plan;

Upgrading of the State's College of Education into a degree awarding institution so as to provide ready support

for the manpower needs of the education sector in the constant training and retraining of teachers and curricular development and review;

Voluntary take-over of the responsibility for the payment of teachers' salary so as to ensure they were promptly paid when due;

Universal access to qualitative education by every Rivers child through the free education, free uniform, free book, free sandals, etc policy.

### Rivers state scholarship board

The present Rivers State Scholarship Board inaugurated on 21st July 2008 is responsible for policy formulation in respect of scholarship awards by the State-government. Administratively.

Nearly two years after its inauguration, the Board has paid bursaries to undergraduates, postgraduates, doctors in training, students in Law schools, disabled students and French Language students for their one-year abroad programme. It has also successfully awarded scholarship to undergraduates and postgraduates in Nigerian universities.

Special Scholarship to disabled undergraduate and postgraduate students who are studying in universities within the Country is also being carried out. The Board has already sent 154 students on scholarship to study various science related and Information Technology courses at first degree, master's and doctorate in United Kingdom (UK).

### Bursary Payment

Within the period under review 2007/2008 session, 30,632 undergraduates and 2,085 postgraduates from the 23 Local Government Areas in the State were verified and the total sum of N348,020,000.00 paid

to them.

In 2009, 147 resident doctors in training were each paid N 150,000 each bringing the total amount to N22,050,000. A total of 611 Law students in the Law School were paid N150,000 each. The total money paid out was N91,650,000. Fifteen (15) French students in Nigerian tertiary institution received N100,000 each for their exchange program in French speaking countries amounting to N1.5million.

### Bursary payment

Type	No of students	Amount per student	Total
Undergraduate	30,632	N10,000	N306,302,000
Postgraduate	2,085	N20,000	N41,700,000
Resident doctors	147	N150,000	N22,050,000
Law school students	611	N150,000	N91,650,000
French Language students	15	N100,000	N1,500,000
	33,490		N463,220,000

### Scholarship awards

Scholarship Tenable in Nigeria

The Rivers State Scholarship Board last year fashioned out a scholarship scheme that could be accessed by students studying in the various universities scattered in the Country. In order to make the scheme achieve its target goal, the scheme is packaged in two categories: Special Scholarship for the disabled students and the ordinary scholarship for qualified students.

Scholarship for Disabled tagged "Special Scholarship" is accessible for certain category of students. The major criteria is a proof of disability as the affected students do not sit for selection examinations and their award value is higher than the ordinary scholarship. 215 disabled university students in all fields of study

S/N	Level	No of students	Amount paid to each students	Total
1	Undergraduate	1,053	N200,000	N210,600,000
2	Masters	335	N300,000	N166,500,000
3	Doctorate	207	N400,000	N82,800,000
4	Disabled	215	N500,000	N107,500,000
	Total	1,810		N567,400,000

are already enjoying this Special Scholarship, worth N500,000 across board, starting with 2009/2010 academic session.

To this end, the Board had already concluded the selection exercise, administered awards and paid the 1,595 students for the 2009/2010 session, The Board has paid the 1,595 who qualified the sum of N567,400,000 including the amount paid to disabled.

### Overseas Scholarship

Informed by frequent strike actions in our universities, low standard of education prevalent in Nigeria today and the need for a healthy exposure for the youths based on the fact that the world is now a global village, the Scholarship Board has administered scholarship awards to 154 students to study in five reputable universities in United Kingdom (UK). These students are studying various engineering related courses and Information Technology including Environmental management and International Tourism Management.

### Youth development and Rivers state sustainable

### development agency

With a mandate to empower the Rivers State youths to become self reliant and socially responsible members of the State, the Ministry has set itself the arduous task of reclaiming the brand of young persons in the State tainted by the recent history of violent militancy and criminality in the entire Niger Delta region.

The task has necessitated that the Ministry develop several platforms for partnership with stakeholders in relevant fields like civil societies, local and international development agencies, facilitators and agents of the Federal Government for the implementation of the Amnesty Programme.

Specifically, the Ministry has embarked upon the following programmes:

Establishment of youth-specific platforms, initiatives, funds and schemes for the engagement and empowerment of young persons. These include Youth Enterprise Scheme, Youth Friendly Centers across the State, Equipping of Youth Development Center, Youth Leadership Initiative, Business/Talent Support Fund, Micro-Credit/Empowerment Scheme etc;

S/N	Level	No of students	Amount of each student	Total amount	Remarks
1	Undergraduate	88	N4,300,000	N387,400,000	Including tuition, lecture materials, accommodation and upkeep
2	Masters	39	N4,500,000	N175,500,000	Including tuition, lecture materials, accommodation and upkeep
3	Doctorate	12	N5,000,000	N60,000,000	Including tuition, lecture materials, accommodation, upkeep and research
	Total	139		N613,900,000	

Creation of avenues for exposure of young persons to economically empowering themes, networks and resources as members of a dignified community like labour relationship/conflict resolution forums, Citizenship and leadership training programmes, international tours, youth holiday camps, establishment and inauguration of the Rivers State Youth Parliament, facilitation of attendance of young persons to the 2010 World Leadership Congress, holding of sensitization Workshops in the 3 three Senatorial zones of the State and so on;

Facilitation of micro-credit funds, skill acquisition training and capacity building in information and computer technology.

On its part, the Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency is concerned with the evaluation and assessment of existing and future intervention programmes through the acquisition, warehousing and analysis of development socio-economic and data. It also encompasses the formulation and implementation of plans, initiatives, strategies, intervention models and specific measures to achieve sustainable socio-economic development, capacity-building, skills acquisition, alternative sources of livelihood in an environmentally sustainable manner in Rivers State.

Specifically, the RSSDA is mandated to established a platform for partnership between the State Government, including local councils, the communities on the one hand and international development agencies, organized private sectors and other stakeholders of the private sector for upliftment of the poor in Rivers State above the poverty line through deliberate and sustainable intervention programmes and

Year	Budget(N)	Receipt(N)
2007		-----
2008	16,000,000,000	11,711,607,790
2009	8,000,000,000	6,707,000,000
2010	8,000,000,000	5,000,000,000 (@ Oct)
Total 2007-10	32,000,000,000	23,418,607,790

sustainable intervention programmes and projects.

### Ministry of agriculture

With the mandate to engage a sector that still employ the highest number of the Rivers State population, the Ministry has accounted for the following within 2007-2010:

1. Accelerated development of the Oil Palm Initiative (ADOPI) Project.
  - 16 Palmoil Processing mills established in the Oilpalm belt of the State;
2. Building of Engineering Services maintenance workshop at Rumuodomanya, Port Harcourt.
3. Construction of machinery Parking shed at Rumuodomanya;
4. Establishment of mini-modern rice processing mills in four (4) locations in the State, in order to stimulate rice production in the State;
5. Development of Hatchery Centre for fish seed multiplication Rumuodomanya farm Obio/Akpor Port Harcourt;
6. Reactivation of Bonny cold room shed and cold facilities;
7. Human Capacity building in collaboration with AGIP;
8. Re-engagement of the mandates of the Rivers State Agricultural Development Programme, ADP. The ADP is dedicated to various initiatives aimed at increasing food crops, small ruminants production and fisheries production with a view to raising the income of small scale farmers through the provision of farm support services on farm adaptive research;
9. Provision of free consultation services on a daily basis to prospective farmers who wish to venture into Livestock, Piggery and Poultry farming



## Agric/Agro-Allied & Business Development

S/N	Projects/Programmes	Amount Budgeted (N)	Budget spent (N)	Amount Outstanding (N)	completion Status	Scheduled Completion Date	Remark (Reason Why project Target Has been met- Eg. Fund Constraint)
1	Establishment of 28 aquaculture centers in 14 LGAs	483,332,547.00 205,770,000.00 26,000,000.00	102,000,000.00	381,332,547.00 205,770,000.00 26,000,000.00	10 centres Fully Completed 11 centres Partly Completed	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr, 2011	Change in Scope and Fund constraint
2	Establishment of 10 Aquaculture sites in 9 upland LGAs	298,950,000.00	21,700,000.00	277,250,000.00	Ongoing	To be Determined	Constraints of terrain, Security and Funds
3	To establish 4 central hatcheries and 1 feed mill to support aquaculture development in R/S	149,901,320.00	77,201,320.00	68,700,000.00	3 hatcheries completed; Onilowu hatchery on-going	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2011	Community-related issues
4	Central hatchery operation (Grow out pond construction)	140,316,520.00	125,115,122.00	15,195,378.00	Completed		
5	To establish 10 Regional Aquaculture centres	368,000,000.00	100,000,000.00	268,000,000.00	Degerre Completed, Ikuru Town at 70% completion, Ubrima at 65% (site acquired at Besa	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr, 2011	Funding constraint
6	Establishment of 10 Multi-Purpose Processing Centres in R/S	277,000,000.00		277,160,000.00			
7	Establish 250 hectares of cassava farms, Phase 1	618,896,000.00	216,186,461.00	422,499,539.00	Completed. About 480 Hectares cultivated		
8	Integrating demonstration snail farms (Demonstration centres)	5,000,000.00 25,000,000.00 25,000,000.00	3,000,000.00 3,000,000.00 14,440,000.00	22,000,000.00 22,000,000.00 10,560,000.00	Ongoing		
9	Establishment of Songhai River States Initiative (SRI) In partnership with Songhai International, Port Novo & R/S ADP to Establish a locally customized version of the Songhai Centre to promote agric and allied enterprises as a sustainable and economically viable empowerment option.	1,200,000,000.00	826,223,408.00	373,776,592.00	Infrastructural development is at 70% Palmseedlings planted and construction of artificial lake concluded. Commissioning planned for End Oct 2010	December, 2010	
10	Back up solar power for 31 aquaculture farms	197,015,913.00	171,860,981.00	25,154,932.00	Ongoing. Battery houses to be constructed to activate 10 centres	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr 2010	
11	CERAMIC INDUSTRY Develop the infrastructure and train individuals on the production of ceramic materials.	60,000,000.00	54,000,000.00	6,000,000.00	Completed; Fully operational		Project being affected by regular power outage
12	SONGHI STAFF QUARTERS Furnishing of 15 units of 2 bedroom flats at Sakpenwa Tai LGA	6,913,000.00	6,913,000.00				
13	Construction, setting up and management of 5 units of the Promise Fast Food outlets	241,700,000.00		241,700,000.00	3 outlets (Onroku, Ahada Ben) Functional; plans to build Elme and Elele	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2011	Delay is caused by fund constraint
14	HELICULTURE PROJECT SNAILERY Integrating snail production, demonstration & Multiplication in 3 RSSDA aquaculture Farm centres	75,000,000.00	52,520,000	22,480,000			
15	Establishment and Management of poultry farms in River State	45,000,000.00		45,000,000.00	Completed		
16	Establishment of 14 Regional Integrated Aquaculture Centres in Ahada, Onelga, Golara & Ilorin	368,000,000.00	368,000,000.00	Nil	completed		

- including counseling on animal disease prevention and treatment;
- 10. Provision of meat inspection services, that is, before animals are slaughtered the Ministry's staff inspects the animals to be sure they are safe for Human consumption;
- 11. Provision of Tractor Hiring services to Farmers;
- 12. Provision of assistance to farmers in a critical process in food production process:

practices through the employment of up-to-date expertise and knowledge in the production of commodities required by available markets.

### Women affairs

In recognition of the critical place of women in nation building as well as the various challenges that women face in society, the State Government committed to matters peculiar on the woman, the girl child and the family. Through the office of the Commissioner of Women Affairs coupled with the efforts of Empowerment Support Initiative (ESI) led by Lady Judith Amaechi, the wife of the Governor of Rivers State, various platforms, programmes and initiatives have been established or executed for the advancement of the plight of women.

S/N	MINISTRY	NOV.07-DEC.08	JAN.-DEC.09	JAN.-DEC. 09	TOTAL
1.	Education	22,797,872,098.00	17,701,024,031.00	17,939,454,294.32.00	58,438,350,423.32
2.	R/S Scholarship Board		412,700,000.00	995,000,000.00	1,407,700,000.00
3.	RSSDA	11,216,438,505.00	6,707,000,000.00	5,000,000,000.00	22,923,438,505.00
4.	Youth Development	403,766,653.00	106,543,100.00	72,619,420.00	582,929,173.00
5.	Women Affairs	725,654,560	63,945,813.00		789,600,373.00
6.	Employment Generation & Empowerment	386,152,253.00	286,500,000.00	5,000,000.00	677,652,253.00
		15,011,799,175.00	25,277,712,944.00	24,012,073,714.32	84,819,670,727.32

land clearing and other farmland preparation processes;

13. Sensitization of Rural farmers on dangers of malnutrition and under nutrition.

The Ministry has also established the Center of Excellence (Rumuodomanya) Farm Complex which is a unique initiative to showcase excellence in crop farming, Fisheries, Livestock and forest nurseries. The center is set to help farmers reap the benefits of modern, attractive and profitable agricultural

These include:

1. The establishment of the Widows Loan Scheme;
2. Convocation of a workshop on Home Management skills in collaboration with Nestle



Nigeria;

3. Empowerment Seminar on Peace and Conflict Resolution for Rivers Women;
4. The establishment of the Growing Into Real Life (G.I.R.L) platform for the empowerment of the Rivers State young women in the relevant themes and skills of life as well as the inauguration of the Pearls Vision Club for adolescent girls;
5. Creation of various forums for the mobilization of professional women in various fields for the overall development of women in Rivers State;
6. Engagement with representatives of women social movements and civil society for the advancement of the political, civil and cultural rights of women;
7. Mobilization of women as active participants in the recent voters registration exercise in Rivers State. ●



The unveiling of the Pearls Vision Club for Adolescent Girls



A health worker making her contribution during the round table discussion



Teachers and students during the flag off and inauguration of the Pearls Vision Club for Adolescent Girls



Cross section of participants at a forum with the Hon. Commissioner and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women affairs



Cross section of participants during the meeting of stakeholders and implementing partners of the widows loan scheme



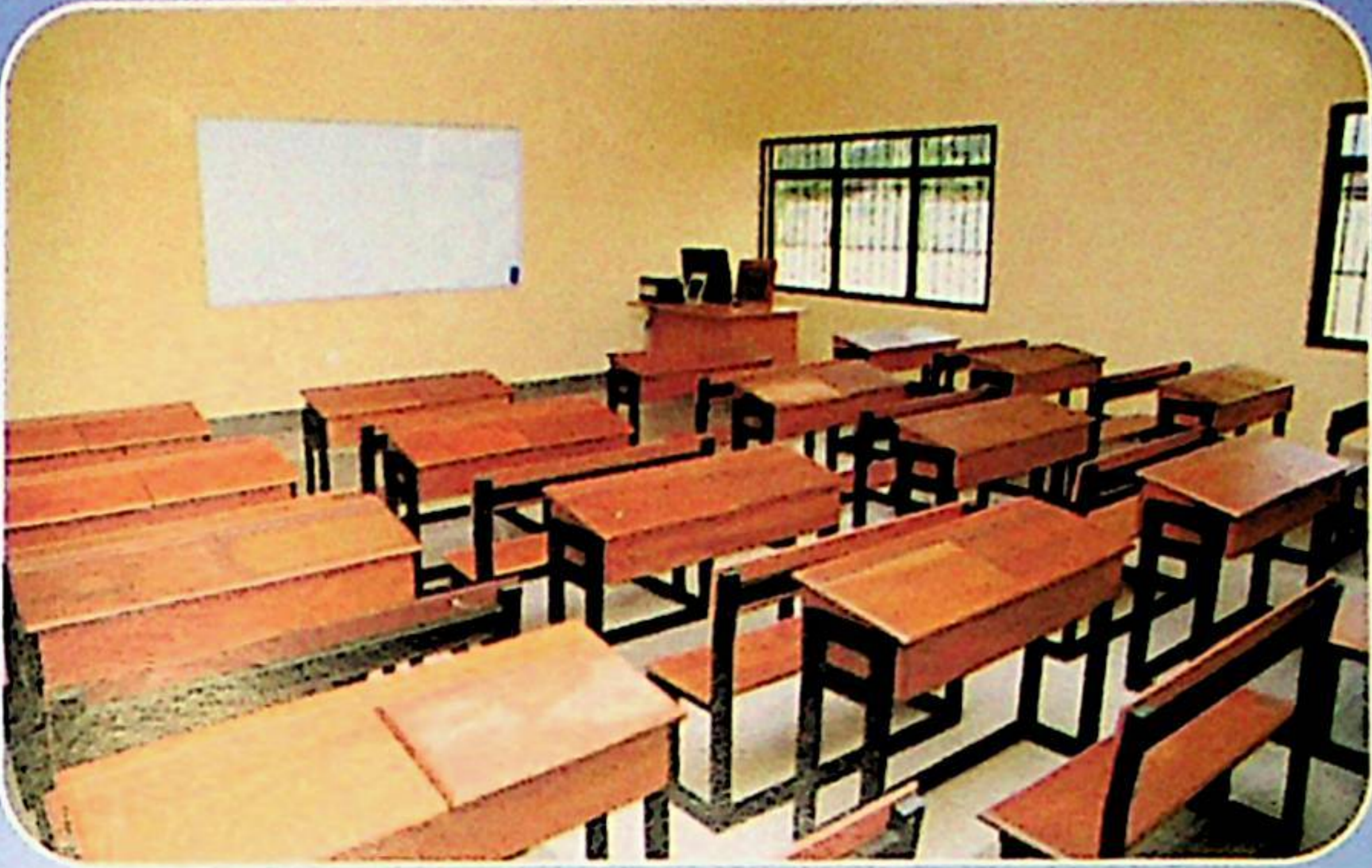
Registration screening of widows at abua /odual lga

Projects/Programmes, Activities, Status & Financial Report  
In the table below all the programmes and the projects undertaken by the Agency are listed as a summary.

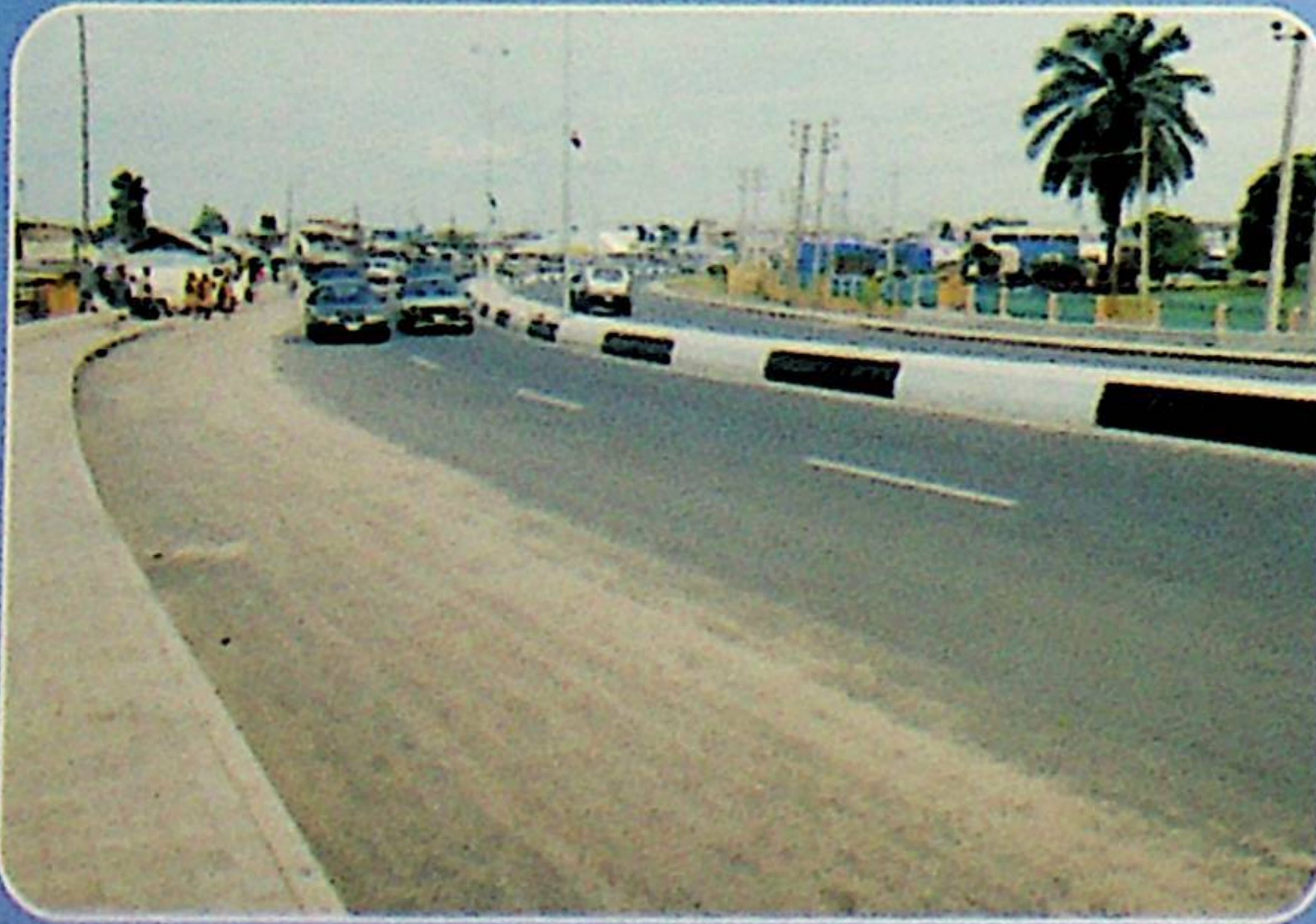
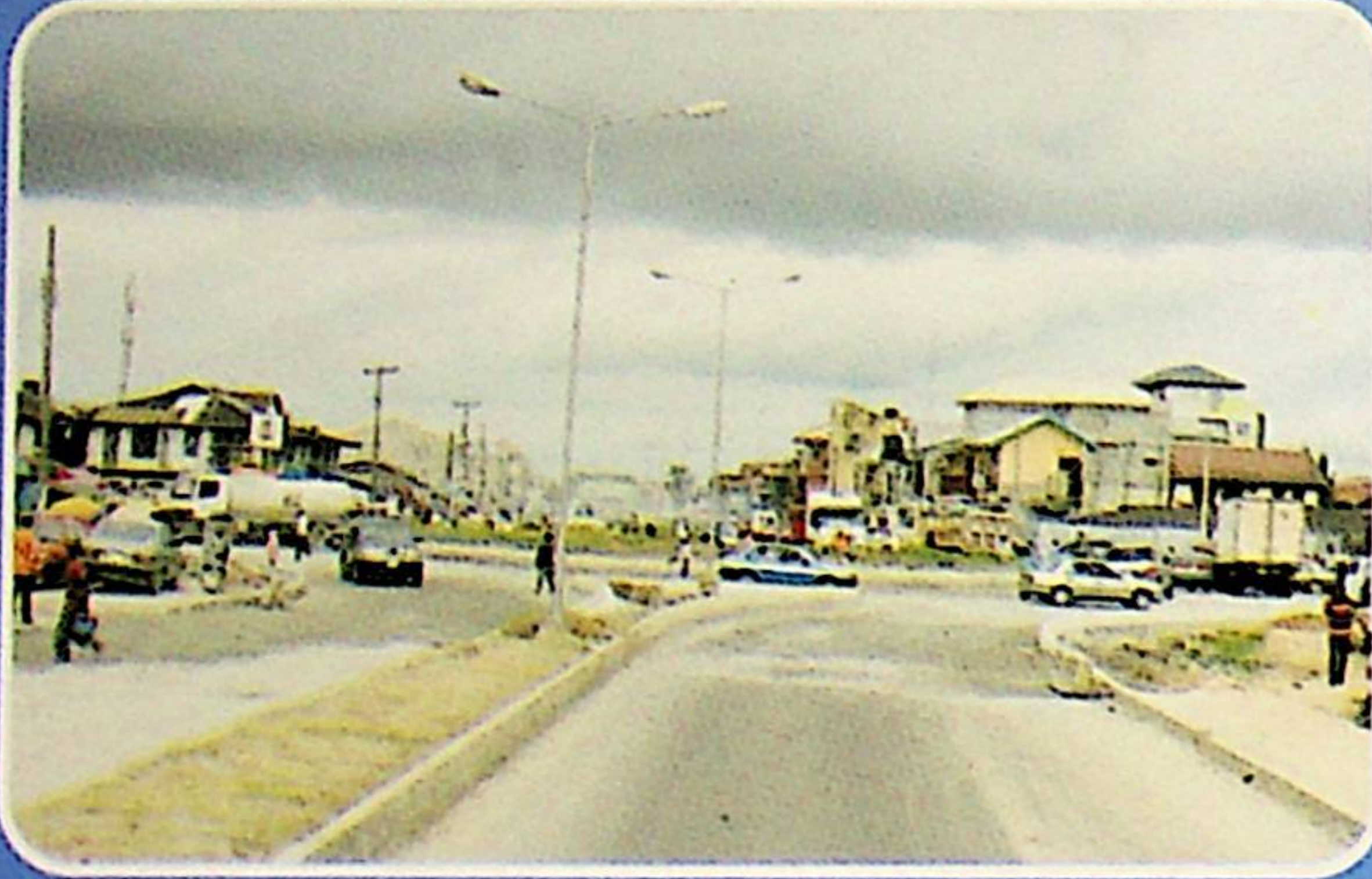
### Human Capital Development

N	Projects/Programmes	Amount Budgeted (N)	Budget Spent (N)	Amount Outstanding (N)	Completion Status	Scheduled Completion Date	Remark (Reason Why Project Target Has Not Been Met Eg. Fund Constraint)
1	<b>SCHOLARSHIPS:</b> Comprising overseas & Local scholarship scheme For undergraduates and Post-graduates studies in Diverse disciplines. The Length of the scholarship Varies from 4-8yr dictated By the field of studies. Overseas Scholarship 1120 Local Scholarship Oil & Gas Diploma Programme in PortHarcourt:67 Secondary education (Greater Horizon & Opportunity Programmes) For exceptionally brilliant Pupils from 23 L.G.As in 14 Secondary Schools -133	6,390,000,000	4,377,767,926.68	2,012,232,073.31	Supporting a Total of 1120 Overseas Students Comprising Undergraduate And post Graduate Students; 133 Secondary School students & 67 Upton ville Oil & Gas Diploma students	4-8 year Duration Beginning 2008	
2	<b>TRAINING &amp; CERTIFICATION OF 100 YOUTHS IN COMPUTER TROUBLE SHOOTING (2009-2010)</b> To carry out intensive Training for 100 youths on ICT as Internationally Registered & certified Computer Trouble Shooters. Certified Computer trouble shooters To be deployed as ICT Support as assistants in the Schools and Web-portals in the LGAs	42,500,000	30,015,000	12,485,000	100 youths Trained and Certified Computer Troubleshooters.	2009-2010	
3	<b>PROVISION OF SCIENCE TEXT BOOKS, WORKBOOKS AND BRANDED EXERCISE BOOKS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS (DURATION 2009)</b> Provision of 20,000 sets (8 vol per set) of science Textbooks & workbooks to Enhance Learning of Science subjects in Primary & secondary schools. Provision of 100,000 Branded exercise books For primary schools	224,700,000	246,783,000	(22,083,000)	Completed Production of Science text Books, Workbooks & Exercise books But awaiting Distribution.	2009	
4	<b>GRADUATE WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT SCHEME (GWEP)</b> A scheme to place Unemployed graduates of Rivers origin in Organizations/companies to enable them Acquire Valuable skills/experience For a period of 2years (Duration:2008 to date)	120,000,000	13,380,000	106,620,000	93 beneficiaries Placed 22 Beneficiaries Vacated the Programme, 71 Beneficiaries Currently in programme		Slow placement Rate due to lack Of appropriate Policy to support the Scheme as a Mandatory exercise For organizations in The State
5	<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH MOBILISATION &amp; TREATMENT</b> To carry out a comprehensive health sensitization /mobilization, treatment awareness and training Programme in selected communities in all LG.As in River Sta	60,000,000	30,070,000	106,620,000	Over 5,700 Community Members were Treated (de-worming, Vital checks, General Treatment etc) In 6 LGAs	2008-2010	
6	<b>ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKMANSHIP &amp; TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTRE (WTTTC)</b> (Duration:18 months Nov 2008-April 2010) in Partnership with City & Guilds, U K to establish a WTTTC that would improve The quality of technical Skills and reduce extensive Importation of skilled Technical manpower	1,524,657,200	1,018,884,016.50	505,773,183.50	Completed Construction Of structures, Replacement Structure, Realty (process) Design (M & E) and balance Of Equipment Procured.	2008-2010	Depletion of Funds.
7	<b>UNITAR/RSEDA Partnership Training Programme</b>	150,000,000	175,000	149,825,000	Selection Process Concluded and Documentation In progress.		
8	<b>EMERGENCY CALL CENTRE PROJECT (2008-2009)</b>	61,646,000	52,590,800	9,055,200	Equipment Deployed & Furniture Procurement In progress	2008-2010	Delay in project Caused by earlier Difficulty in securing Appropriate site
9	<b>HYDRAFORM PROJECTS</b> To assemble 10 units of Hydraform equipment for Production of interlocking Stones or other concrete Products and to construct A 1km road with kerbs as a Pilot test-run. & Subsequently build Hydraform production Base yards in 10 identified Locations in R/S.	194,350,000	135,000,000	59,350,000	1 deployed And Preparation For another Deployment Of 3 hydraform Machines in Progress	2008-2010	
10	<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEB PORTAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALL 23 LGAs.</b> Establishment of a robust ICT web portal system for All 23 LGAs with a view to Enhancing e-governance in R/S.	170,000,000	164,113,600	5,586,400	Subscription Renewal and Deployment Of additional One portal To ministry of LG affairs In Progress.		
11	<b>Excellence in local Governance Initiative (ELGI) LG ICT, capacity Building for LGS (sept 2008.</b> Annually supporting and Providing appropriate Incentives to local Government councils to Improve local Governance And become models of Emulation by other Local governments in the Country. (September 2008/ Annually)	550,000,000	365,403,718	184,596,282	Held activity Plan meeting With 2009 Award Ceremony Committee	Annually	
12	<b>MEDICAL MISSION</b> Deployment of free Surgical medical teams to Carry out a quarterly free Medical programme across The 3 senatorial districts of R/S (October 2008-April 2009)	150,000,000	34,522,500	115,477,500	1 <sup>st</sup> part of the Programme Completed. A total of 132 Surgeries were Conducted Across 6 centres In the 3 Senatorial Districts. A total Of 1420 Persons were Treated (600 Children and 820 Adults).	2008-2009	Lack of funds Affected future Deliveries.
13	<b>PROVISION OF COMMUNICATION LINES FOR PRIMARY &amp; POST PRIMARY, HOSPITAL &amp; POLICE STATIONS IN R/S (2008-2009)</b>	47,134,000	37,884,000	9,250,000	Wireless local Loop table sets Have Arrived Onne port And clearing is Ongoing.	2008-2009.	

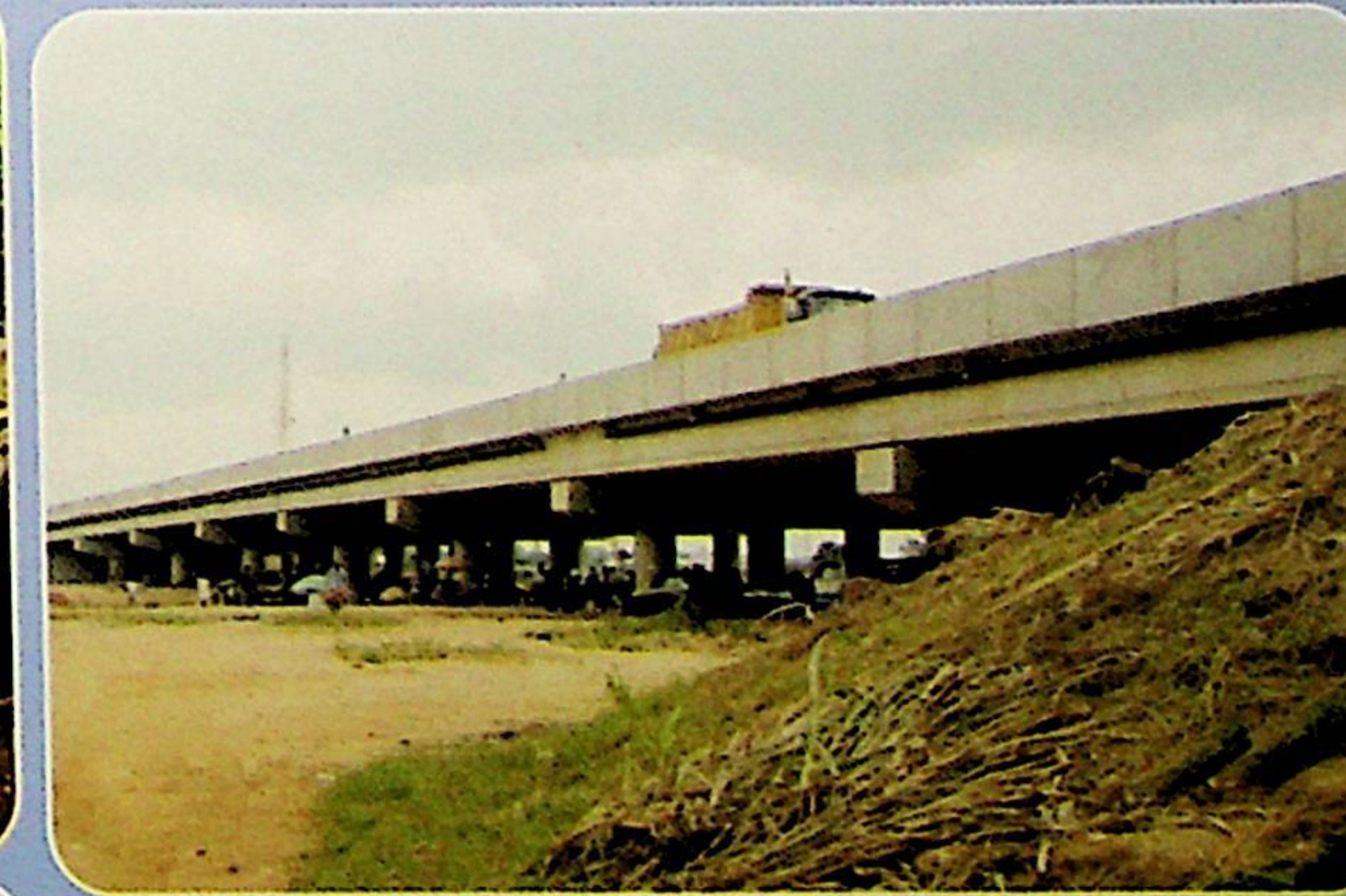
### Education



## Roads



## Infrastructure



## Health



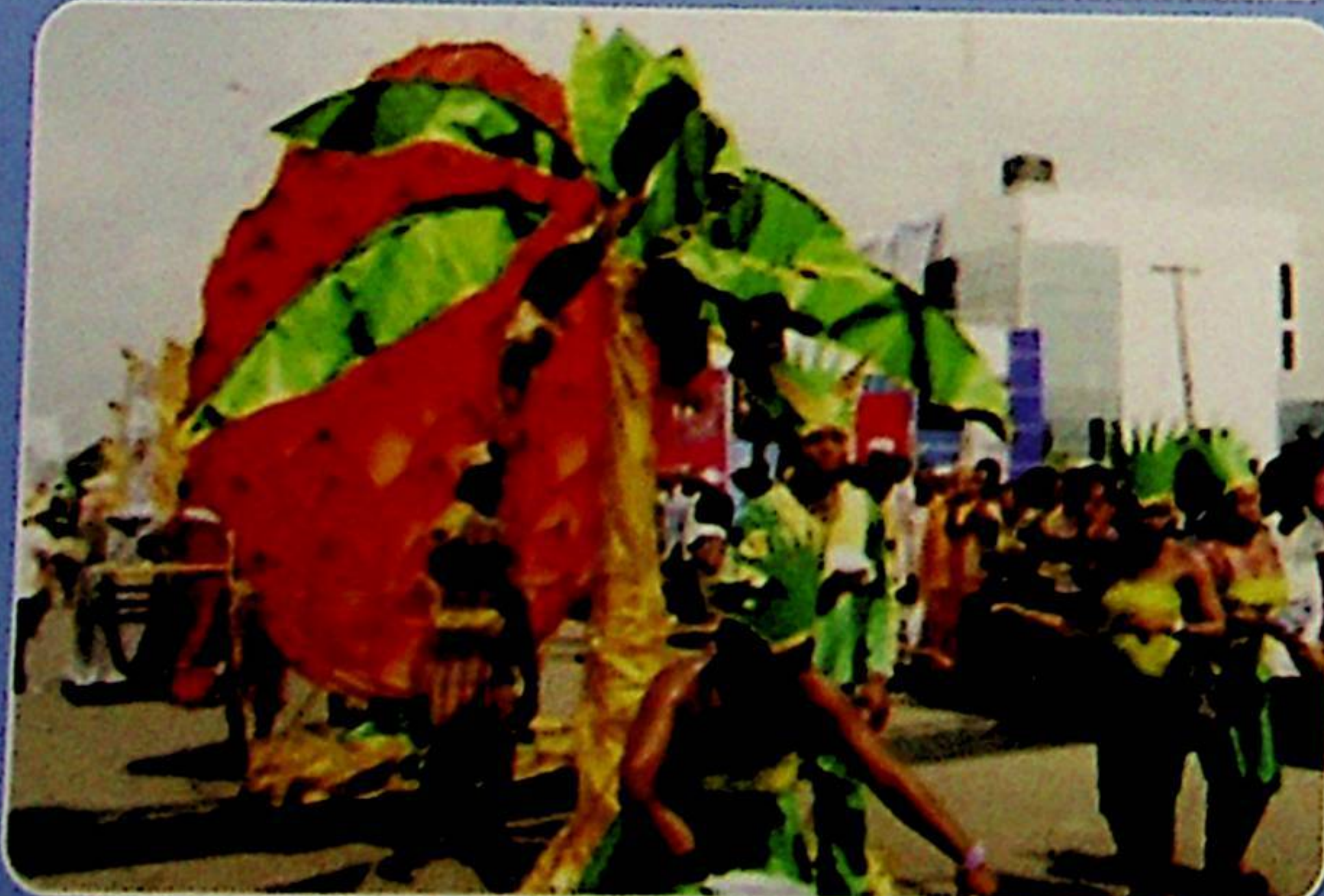
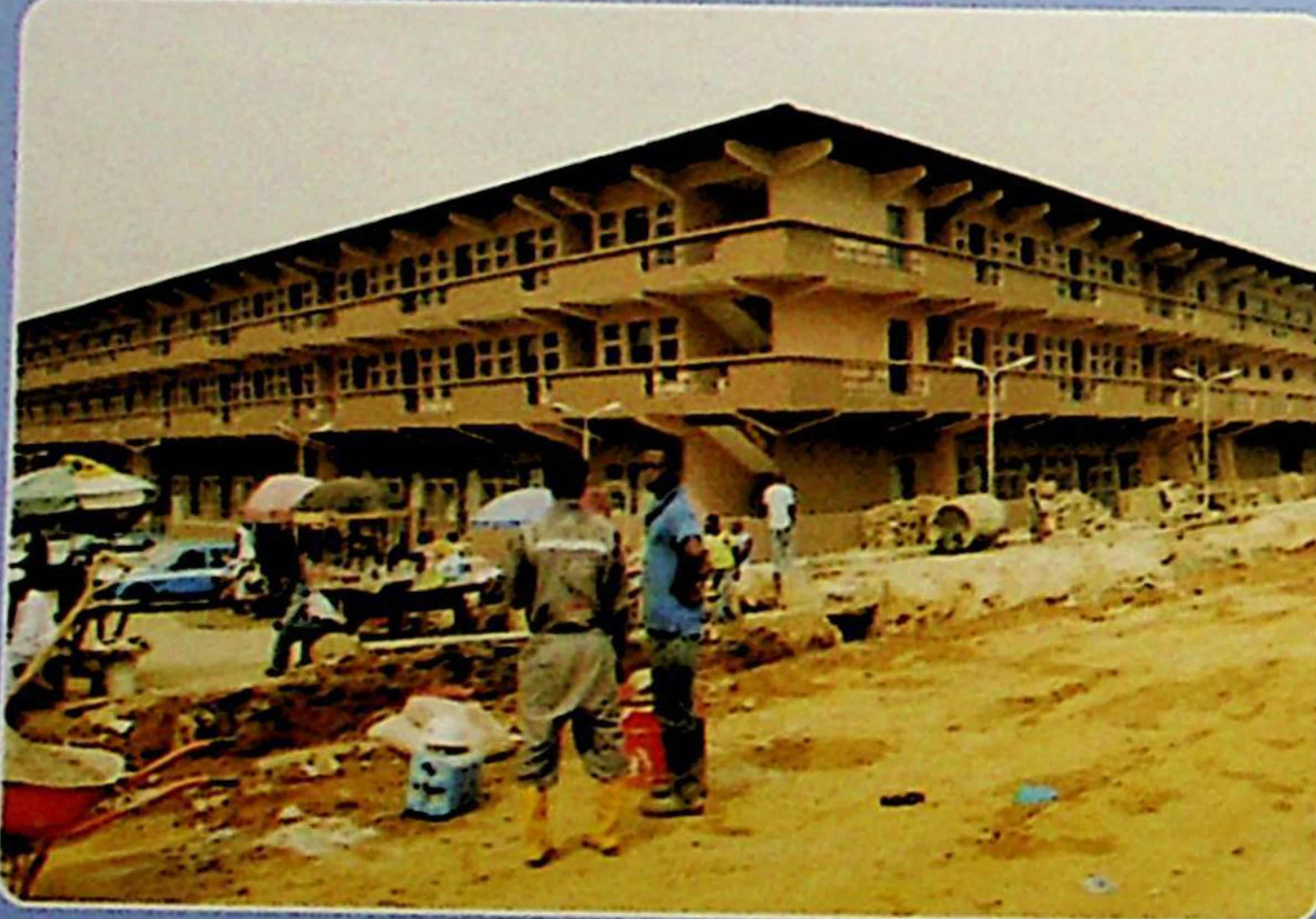


## Projects Inspection



# MANDATE DELIVERY IN PICTURE

RIVERS STATE-PerformanceReviewJournal



### Security

If there was one mandate Rivers People gave to their elected representatives in 2007, it was the deliverance of the State from the nightmarish security situation which made living a hellish experience within the State. Specifically, rampant kidnapping, violent crimes like armed robbery, rape, arson, bank robberies, murders of innocent citizens and constant clashes between rival cult groups.

The daily experience of most residents of the State was that of living out a survival under the heavy uncertainty of being the next victim. The poorly motivated police force in the State proved outnumbered and overwhelmed with the superior



fire-fire of the criminal elements. Even with the arrival of the military on the scene and the imposition of a dusk to dusk curfew, the uncoordinated efforts of the military only compounded the already bad situation of residents as the cultists continued to run amok just under the radar of the military members who had little or no knowledge of the terrain that the criminals had mastered. Walking in the street of Port Harcourt is even fraught with the indignity of having to raise up

one's hand so as not to draw the bullet of the military force.

The climax of the dark period, as most residents would readily attest came between April and October 2007, immediately after the Governorship elections.

However, relief reigned with the eventual coming of Governor Chibuike Amaechi who set about confronting the menace headlong. Analysts have identified key ingredients that led to the success the Governor Amaechi's administration in the area of security. These include:

#### Political will

The Governor proved able to don his authority as the elected Governor of Rivers State in the critical task of making a distinction between freedom fighters or militants and criminals ravaging the land under the dubious quest of frustrating the Federal government and oil companies. He also put pressure on the state House of Assembly to pass a law that provides capital punishment for those found to be perpetrating any level of criminality in the state. His third approach was the readiness to use the same political capital in extending a hand of fellowship to truly repentant militants through the establishment of a rehabilitation center under the Amnesty Programme of the Federal Government.

## Systematic approach

The Governor also led the formulation of a four-pronged approach to the restoration of law and order on a sustainable basis through the direct tackling of criminality in the State.

Even though, police and the deployment of the military was the exclusive preserve of the Federal Government, the Government proved able to strike win-win understanding with the federal Government under an arrangement whereby equipment, training, welfare/ technical/logistics support was provided by the State Government to a joint command involving the police, Navy, Air force, Army, State Security Services and other formations like the Joint Military Task Force (JTF) and neighbourhood watch. In specifics, these translated to:

**Equipment:** State-of the art patrol vehicles were donated to the Police, SSS, Navy, Army, Air force, JTF and civil defence. At the last count, over 200 patrol vehicles fitted with communication equipment had been distributed to the various security arms. In the early days when the hoodlums still possessed heavy weapons, about 10 classes of Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC) fitted with all necessities for combat were procured by the State government procured and handed over to the security agencies.

Bullet proof vests and ballistic helmets were procured and distributed to the JTF and other security arms. The State also embarked on modification of arms in the arsenal of security agencies in the State like the popular AK47 have been modified and is different from those used in other States to ease handling and enable quicker response in times of need. Effort was also intensified towards mopping up small arms through the procurement of



equipment which can detect weapons concealed in the most obscure of places. Also, increased marine patrols were mounted by the navy on the waterways and creeks while the police targeted and dried up the sources of supply of ammunition without which otherwise deadly arms became logs. Additionally, armoured boats were procured and shared among agencies like the Navy and Marine Police to combat piracy at the various waterways of the State and adjoining seas.

**Communication and co-ordination:** One of the problems of intercepting hoodlums after raids was the issue of linking up police formations through communications. To solve this problem, all the patrol vehicles were fitted with communications equipment while repeater stations were built to give the entire State total coverage in communication not only within the police force but also among the sister security agencies.

The State government also went a step further to procure High Definition Close Circuit Cameras (HDCCTV) which has not only been installed in crime endemic but in virtually every crime prone corner of the State. Specifically, the Waterfronts which were the landing points for criminals from the creeks are all covered by cameras. This move ensured that crimes were not only detected while they were budding but it has gone on to prove a successful deterrent to criminals who know that their activities were being watched from command centres. At the last count,

over N4 billion has been spent on camera installations across the state. The target, according to the State government is to have camera coverage for all the major streets in Port Harcourt and satellite towns in the State.

Unmanned surveillance system in drones and air balloons which relay information to Command Communication Control (COMPTROL) have also been deployed at strategic corners of the State. The COMPTROL is a clearing house for inter-agency communication thus enabling every agency mobilized for Rivers State to receive information in good time so as to ensure mutual support and prompt response to security threats. Reduction in inter-agency rivalry in the State has made for better security delivery and working harmoniously with each other has increased efficiency. Emergency numbers was also created in the State link the citizens one with the control room where all security agencies are put on conference call for them to know how to helm in criminals once they strike.

### **Training**

At a cost of over N3billion, The Amaechi government built a police training Academy in Nonwa to ensure the regular training of police personnel in the State. With the presence of that facility, it is now compulsory for police officers in the State to go through regular

refresher courses to bring them up to speed with advances in crime detection and prevention.

Additionally, the State government sponsored members of the police for training in Anti-Terrorism skills as an answer to the wave of violent kidnappings. The State even went a step further to bring Isreali trainers to provide the same training in tactics and marksmanship at the Police Academy in Nonwa for the generality of security operatives in the State.

As at the last count, at least 3,000 security operatives have now been trained to shoot better to the extent that the so-called invincibility of the once dreaded Egbesu cult boys have been demystified as the root cause have since been solved . Today, Rivers State is reputedly one of two states with the best marksmen leading to various attempts by other States to have security operatives from Rivers States deployed to their state.

### **Welfare**

The State government also went a step further to motivate security operatives through the provision of various welfare packages and incentives. For instance, those on assignments are paid allowances as well as feeding. Vehicles deployed by security agencies in the State are also fuelled by the State. In addition, compensation is paid for any life lost in active service in the State.

### **Other factors**

Governor Amaechi actively supported the implementation of the Amnesty Programme of the late Musa Yar' Adua led Federal Government, FG, for the rehabilitation of repentant



youths involved in the violent militancy in the Niger Delta region.

Even before the FG formally offered its amnesty package, the Amaechi led government established the Social Rehabilitation Institute at Okehi in Etche Local Government Area of the State to provide some levels of re-integration training like Leadership Training in Jos, Plateau for repentant members of violent cults or gangs. As part of the package, they were to be trained in various forms of trading and on graduation, the State offered to facilitate the necessary packages to enable them practise what they learnt.

To deepen and sustain the new order, the state's legal framework for the enforcement of law and order was reviewed. Particularly, anti kidnapping laws of the State were fortified with stringent penalties for offenders. A law was also promulgated to ban the illegal extortion of huge sums of money from property developers in the State by local youths in the name of 'marching ground'. That practice had in the past provided a major fuel for crime in the State. It also made investment in the property sector a very expensive affair. The State government also took very bold step in the redevelopment of the various waterfronts that dot the state. The quest was to rescue them from their status as shanty towns ruled by criminal elements including armed robbers and violent cultists who use the Waterfronts as hideouts, incursion as well as escape routes.

In a bid to reversing this situation the State

took steps to develop a blueprint for the Waterfronts development; accurate census and enumeration of properties and persons at the entire waterfront; structured demolition of shanty structures to pave way for proper development of the area; and the payment of the commercial values of the properties to the original owners of the structures on the Waterfronts on the basis of the valuation report. The quest is to deliver a new waterfront which would encourage successful commercial activities and tourism in all its diversity as well as create an innovative environment for persons from all works of life. The State government is also helping them become better citizens who are in charge of the primary security of their communities through the Neighbourhood watch is a scheme. The State is therefore helping residents start initiatives that come close to community policing which has proved so useful in the gathering of intelligence in several parts of the world.

Most importantly, the State government has committed to the establishment of the highest form of security by earning the trust and buy in of Rivers people in the programme and policies of government. This is demonstrated in the massive infrastructural developments in the state, the turn-around of the educational and health sector, the establishment of the capability to provide power that will power the economic aspirations of residents of the State as the daily display of a Governor committed to the advancement of the corporate destiny of Rivers State. The results is a Rivers State where economic empowerment and employment has once again become the preoccupation of young persons instead of crime thereby presenting a chance for business and people to thrive in what had once been touted as Nigeria's theatre of war. ●

### Budget

**The budget for Security is sourced from the Budget of the Office of the SSG**

S/N	Nov. 07-Dec. 08	Jan.-Dec. 09	Jan.-Dec.10	TOTAL
1.	17,805,493,224.00	12,300,419,378.00	9,203,072,938.04	39,308,985,540.04

## Fundamentals for healthcare delivery

The principal objective of a health system is to improve people's health. But that system needs to get the financing, the right staffing, equipment and drugs in different combinations to allow appropriate delivery of health interventions. Improving and scaling up service delivery depends on having key resources and on how those resources are organized and managed. The



extent to which people who need care are actually getting it is what matters most.

The Rivers State Ministry of Health has witnessed revolutionary changes since the advent of the government of Rt. Hon. Chibuike Amaechi in Oct. 2007

The governor had from the onset promised to lead a government that will pursue programmes and policies that directly impact on the lives of the less privileged. To achieve this aim, mindful of the broken down health delivery framework of Rivers State, he set out to rebuild the entire health system beginning from the foundational primary health care up to the establishment of a framework of tertiary and referral healthcare centers that will not only support the primary healthcare centers but will also recommend the state to Nigerians and other Africans desirous of obtaining quality healthcare that until now can only be accessed abroad. That thinking led to the award of contract for the mobilization of 160 primary health care centers across the state with at least five (5) units in every local government as the first step towards rebuilding the health system at a cost of about 200 million naira each. These state of the art primary health centres which can be compared with the best in the world are fully equipped, staffed and functional. The government recently commissioned 60 of these health

centres in a programme titled 60 in 60 in 60 to commemorate governor Amaechi's third year anniversary where 60 health centres were handed over to 60 communities within a period of 60 days, which attracted the Vice President of the federal Republic of Nigeria, the Senate President, as well as the Hon. Minister of Health at different days of the 60 60 programme. So far about 100 health centres has been completed. These health centres are expected to serve as mini disease control centres which in the long run reduce infant and maternal mortality and morbidity.

The Rivers State owned Braithwaite Memorial Specialist Hospital (BMSH) has commenced complete knee/ hip replacement surgeries in Port Harcourt in collaboration with Mathrxys orthopedic Group, Belgium/Switzerland. The state has carried out 53 knee replacement surgeries in 44 patients so far this means some patients have had 2 knee replacements. The construction of a Modular Theatre Complex preparatory to carry out open heart surgeries has been completed and in use.

The Braithwaite Memorial Specialist Hospital has been accredited by the West African College of surgeons, west African College of Physicians and the Nigerian Post Graduate Medical College in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Anesthetics, Radiology, and Family Medicine, it is also set to get accreditation in Pediatrics, surgery, internal medicine, Pathology and Optometry.

With these accreditation the Braithwaite Memorial Specialist Hospital is now qualified to train doctors for the proposed Faculty of Medicine in the Rivers State University of Science and Technology.

In line with the administrations policy of continuing programmes that positively impact on the lives of the Rivers People, even when such programmes or projects were initiated by previous administrations, it commissioned the auto-disable syringe factory, within one year in office, which has the capacity to produce 160 million syringes annually. Plans are on the way to increase the capacity to 1 billion annually. This has drastically reduced injection borne infections. Other projects are 250 Bed - multi storey New Niger Hospital (now Prof. Kelsey Harrison's Hospital) which is completed and awaiting equipment. The 5 storeyed ultra modern dental maxilla-facial hospital has also been completed waiting to be equipped.

The Amaechi led government has also completed an ultra modern Medical Centre in the premises of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology to cater for the health needs of the university community and residents within the catchment area of

the university. Investors are about to commence the construction of a 250-bed Women and Children's Special Hospital to handle maternal and child health. The state government has also taken delivery of a Boat Hospital as part of deliberate efforts to bring health care to the door steps of the hard to reach riverine communities at a cost of about 200 million naira, it has also taken delivery of 15 marine ambulances to strengthen referrals and handle emergencies on our water ways. The state is operating a functional Free Medical Care Programme/ Emergency Medical Service Programme.

The state government recently employed 200 doctors and 200 nurses as well as other medical professional to future boost the man power in the health sector. Training and retraining programme in Nigeria and overseas is ongoing to improve service delivery.

The State is also providing ancillary and special services and programmes like the establishment of emergency medical services, and a central medical store which runs a drug revolving fund account. There is also a plan for the establishment of an ultra-modern and auto-disabled syringe factory.

Aside from these, the State government is taking steps to ensure that Rivers people benefit from national and international health programmes like the Roll back Malaria programme, National Programme on Immunization, and various HIV/AIDS initiatives. The Amaechi Led administration met a comatose health care delivery system but with genuine political will and commitment demonstrated by His Excellency Rt. Hon. Chibuike Amaechi the story is different today. Most importantly, the Governor announced on October 1, 2010, a universal free health scheme under which residents of the state can access free medical attention at the State's health facilities. ●

### Budget 2007 -2010

S/N	Nov. 07-Dec. 08	Jan.-Dec. 09	Jan.-Dec.10	TOTAL
1.	16,049,122,152.00	9,069,841,646.00	24,189,760,312.91	49,308,724,110.91



## Social Infrastructures

Social Infrastructure and Rivers State in 2007 meant more than just physical works, it was to be an engine of socio-economic make-over of the State, job employment, urban renewal, peace building through the connection of all the communities in upland and riverine Rivers State. Most importantly, social infrastructure meant the rebuilding of the capacity of the people of the State to carry on dignified economic activities on a sustainable basis.

That was why the impetus for the provision of social infrastructure has been dispersed throughout

the various ministries and agencies of the Governor Amaechi government, albeit in varying degrees. Nonetheless, five core sectors have been identified by analysts as the core hub of social infrastructure development to include:

1. The Ministry of Works;
2. The Ministry of Transport;
3. The Ministry of Housing;
4. The Ministry of Urban Development;
5. The Ministry of Special Duties;
6. Greater Port Harcourt

AMOUNT SPENT ON WORKS, TRANSPORT, HOUSING, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, SPECIAL DUTIES (2007- 2010)

S/N	MINISTRY	NOV.07-DEC. 08	JAN.-DEC. 09	JAN.-DEC.10	TOTAL
1.	Works	88,073,077,050.00	68,284,225,874.00	52,501,108,999.14	208,858,411,923.14
2.	Transport	735,629,930.00	2,720,828,799.00	11,811,223,208.00	15,267,681,937.00
3.	Housing	6,933,216,611.00	106,148,356.00	500,000,000.00	7,539,364,967.00
4.	Urban Development		1,916,631,842.00	314,818,762.25	2,231,450,604.25
5.	Special Duties	296,061,206.00	1,044,777,702.00		1,340,838,908.00
6.	GPHDA		19,750,000,000.00	5,038,046,000.00	24,788,046,000.00
		96,037,984,797.00	74,072,612,573.00	70,165,196,969.00	260,025,794,339.4

### Roads

The Ministry of Works in 2007 was given a clear mandate by Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi to deliver sustainable roads and infrastructure that will drive economic growth within specified time and at a competitive cost. The aim was to leverage on world class infrastructure to attract investment and investors.

### Key /major projects

Key projects the Ministry of Works engaged in include the:

- Strategic Road Dualization Projects



km<sup>2</sup>;

- Over 30 Flyovers, Bridges and Interchanges to connect all corners of Rivers State, reduce the cost of transport and decongest major roads. These include 10 major bridges under construction with 7 already completed (Bridge No.1, 2,3,5 on the Unity Road, Eagle Illuabuchi Link road Bridge, Ndoni steel Bridge, Slaughter-Oginigba- Trans-Amadi Bridge and 20 minor bridges,
- Rural roads to provide access to the productive hubs in all 23 Local Governments Areas;
- 1000 kilometres of roads under construction at different stages of completion;
- 2 major markets and a shopping mall under construction (Phase 1 of Mile 1 market housing 1,030 shops and two banking halls completed);
- Additionally, the Ministry is also involved in capacity development, empowerment and employment generation by acting as the Technical Agency of Government and the provision of engineering support to all other Ministries doing engineering projects.

### Transportation

With a mission to build a world class transport system for Rivers people backed up with proper regulatory standards, the Ministry resolved to engage its mandate in four key areas:

1. Infrastructure: Building of bus stops and upgrading of traffic light systems; deployment of 20 buses and 50 taxis for

mass transit within the Port Harcourt metropolis; procurement of 5 water taxis and the on-going construction of a monorail in Port Harcourt;

2. Law Enforcement/Regulation: This encompasses the drafting of a Bill for the establishment of the State Traffic Management Agency, positioning the Ministry to play its statutory roles and the setting up of the Road Traffic Unit as provide for under Road Traffic Law;

3. Public Enlightenment: Apart from the use of the print and electronic media to enlighten the public on developments in the public transport sector, the Ministry has developed a holistic synergy with organized private sector, military and para-military formations in the State for the advancement and sustenance of the reforms in the transport sector.

4. Capacity Building: Aside from regular training and re-training of its personnel, the Ministry has 10 skippers and 10 engineers slated for training on the operations and maintenance of the State's Water taxis.

### Housing

With rapid increase in population and the consequences of the period of violent militancy when



little development was happening in the real sector, the current government inherited a significant Housing deficit. Through the State's Ministry of Housing and its parastatal, Rivers State Housing and

Development Authority, the deficit is being tackled through several initiatives including the Iriebe Satellite Town (Housing Project).

Additionally, the various housing initiatives under the Greater Port Harcourt Project promises new residential neighbourhoods that will help to alleviate the challenges of inadequate housing. The Water Front re-development scheme would also afford residents of Rivers State who once lived in shanties were presented with opportunities to own decent homes through the money they received for the purchase of their properties by the State government.

### Urban renewal

As a former theatre of local conflicts, the dawn of the Amaechi administration met a state in disarray as far as urban planning was concerned. In actual fact, the State had been carved up into several portions ruled by criminal elements in defiance of law and order.

the delivery of towns and communities that offer dignified existence to their residents.

The State's Ministry of Urban Development, Environment, and Greater Port Harcourt City Authority have all been at the front at restoring, not just Port Harcourt to its sobriquet as the Garden City, they have equally been involved in delivering an orderly and well planned Rivers State where development, cultural aesthetics and dignity of life have achieved a harmony.

Over the years, the Port Harcourt Waterfronts have remained largely underdeveloped. General misuse and lack of planning contributed in no small measure to this. Consequentially, it became a haven for hoodlums, armed robbers and cultists who found the Waterfronts very suitable as hideouts, attack as well as escape routes.



Re-establishing the reign of law and order in the physical planning of the State became not just a means of absorbing the displaced populations of Rivers State but a critical strategy to the restoration of law and order in the State as well as the restoration of the beauty of the 'Treasure Base' of Nigeria through

Nonetheless, there was also the recognition that before crime came to the waterfronts. That it had long served as the only home known to so many families and even communities. Tackling the festering crime menace in the waterfronts ,

necessarily became a very sensitive matter which needed to be tackled with the utmost circumspection since the wellbeing of the people remained the primary objective of any democratic government.

Among others, the State government:

- developed a blueprint for the Waterfronts Development,
- made it a cardinal practice to undertake accurate census and enumeration of all the sections of the waterfront slated for redevelopment. This was to ensure that owners of specific plots were adequately paid the commercial values of their properties;
- most importantly, the government created channels of communication to ensure that residents of the waterfronts and other critical stakeholders bought into the redevelopment plan.

The State also set aside the sum of Two billion naira (N2, 000,000,000.00), pending a proper field operation to be undertaken by professionals for payment to owners of properties and lands at the waterfronts.

Through the Ministry of Urban Development, the State Government has embarked on the redevelopment of the once dilapidated waterfronts of Port Harcourt with plans to turn the shanty towns that once played hosts to crime warriors as aesthetic neighbourhood that will serve as landmarks in the State.

The State Ministry of Environment has been very visible in the sustainable management of waste through various schemes which include:

- The institutional engagement of waste-to-wealth, scrap-to-wealth and other systems of mass refusal disposal;
- Landscaping, tree-planting and establishment of public gardens;

- Enforcement of laws against pollution especially by corporate organizations;
- Advocacy and other re-orientation campaigns for the adoption of healthier and better processes of domestic and industrial waste management.

The Greater Port Harcourt City Authority has the mandate of delivering a new Port City that encompasses an area of some 1900 Km<sup>2</sup> with the old Port Harcourt city, the International Airport and the Onne harbour as its key anchors. As a modern full serviced city, it would come complete with 30,000 housing units, a modern Science and Technology universities and other amenities that could accommodate conveniently about 2m residents.

### Emergency services

Before the advent of the Governor Chibuike Amaechi's administration, Rivers State was a theatre of war perpetuated by several criminal elements. During that period, the need for an emergency service that could respond to the security cries, health crisis, accidental and deliberate fire incidences and other forms of emergencies became very clear.

On the emergent of Amaechi led administration, the Ministry of Special Duties was charged with the critical duty of straddling the policy making, planning, management and provision of the infrastructural and human support for the provision of fire safety, flood, and other emergency/disaster management services in the state.

Among others, the Ministry is behind the enforcement of emergency laws in the State, provision of fire-fighting services, procurement of facilities and logistic centers for emergency purposes, training of fire fighters and other emergency workers. Specifically, they were involved in the management of the flooding in Ahoada West and Ahoada East Local Governments; Flooding and Thunderstorm in Andoni, Opobo/Nkoro, Khana LGAs; and the very unfortunate incidence of electrocution by high tension wires of a large number of persons leading to the death of 13 persons. ●

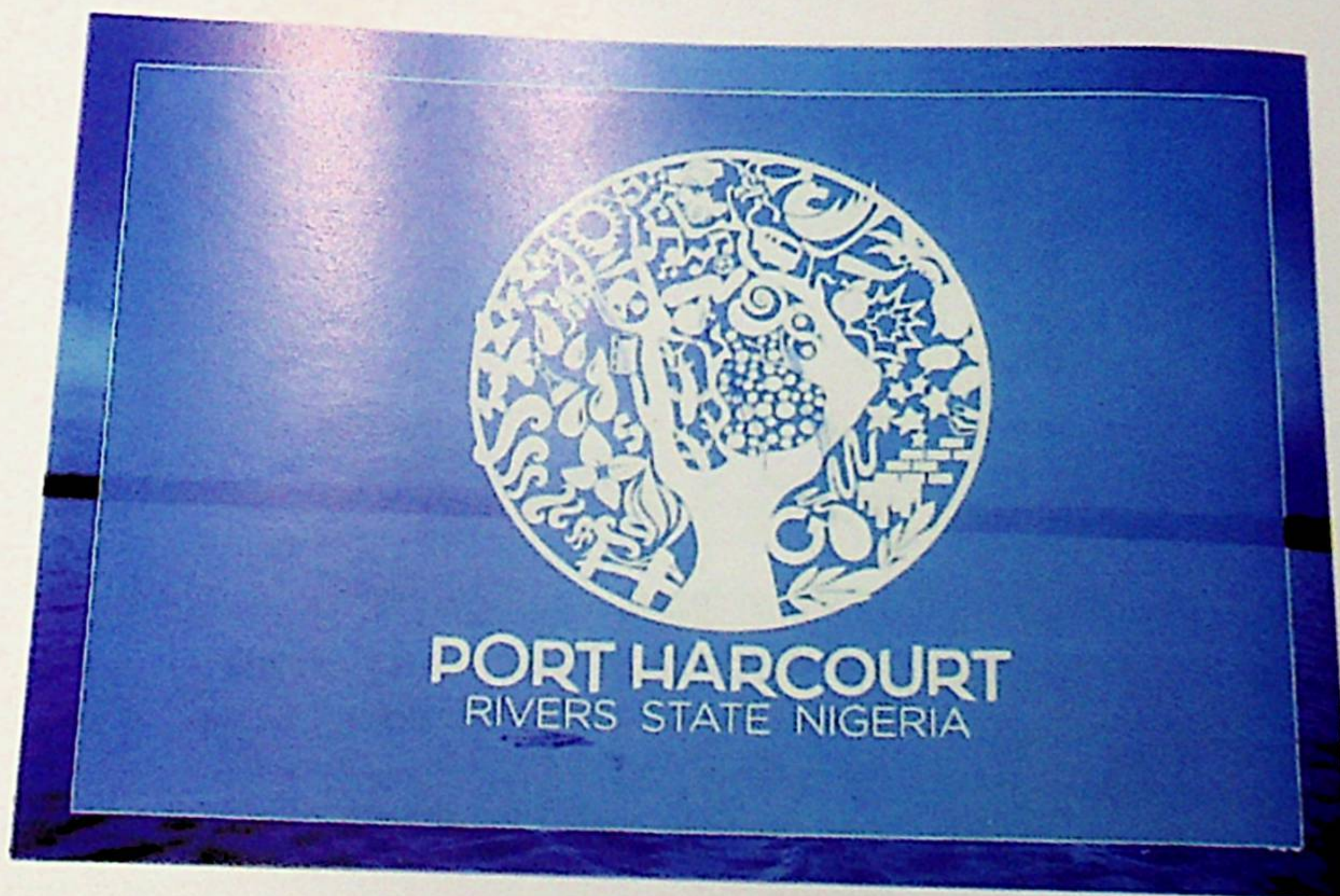
# MANDATE DELIVERY: THE GOVERNOR

**3rd Anniversary:**  
Account of stewardship

**W**e've done a lot in Three Years... we can do more!

*"Servant-leader is servant first .... It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead."*

**Robert K. Greenleaf** - Founder, Greenleaf Centre for Servant-Leadership



Since the 26th of October 2007, when it pleased God to place in my hands, the mantle of leadership of this wonderful state as Governor, I have been both guided and inspired by the desire to serve you. Over the years, our leaders had traumatized our consciousness and made us believe that we were to serve them as masters. I have, in the past three years made a conscious effort to live and work for you according to the true tenets of leadership as espoused by Christ Himself, when he said in the Gospel according to St. Matthew that,

*"... whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave---just as the Son of Man did not come:*

*to be served, but to serve..."*

**(Matthew 20:26-28a)**

Accountability is the cornerstone of true service. It is, to my mind imperative therefore, that I render a periodic account of our stewardship to the stakeholders in the Rivers State project, and give you the opportunity to ask questions about how we have managed our commonwealth in the past three years. In my foreword to the second Anniversary Account of Stewardship, I summed my assessment of our performance in office thus:

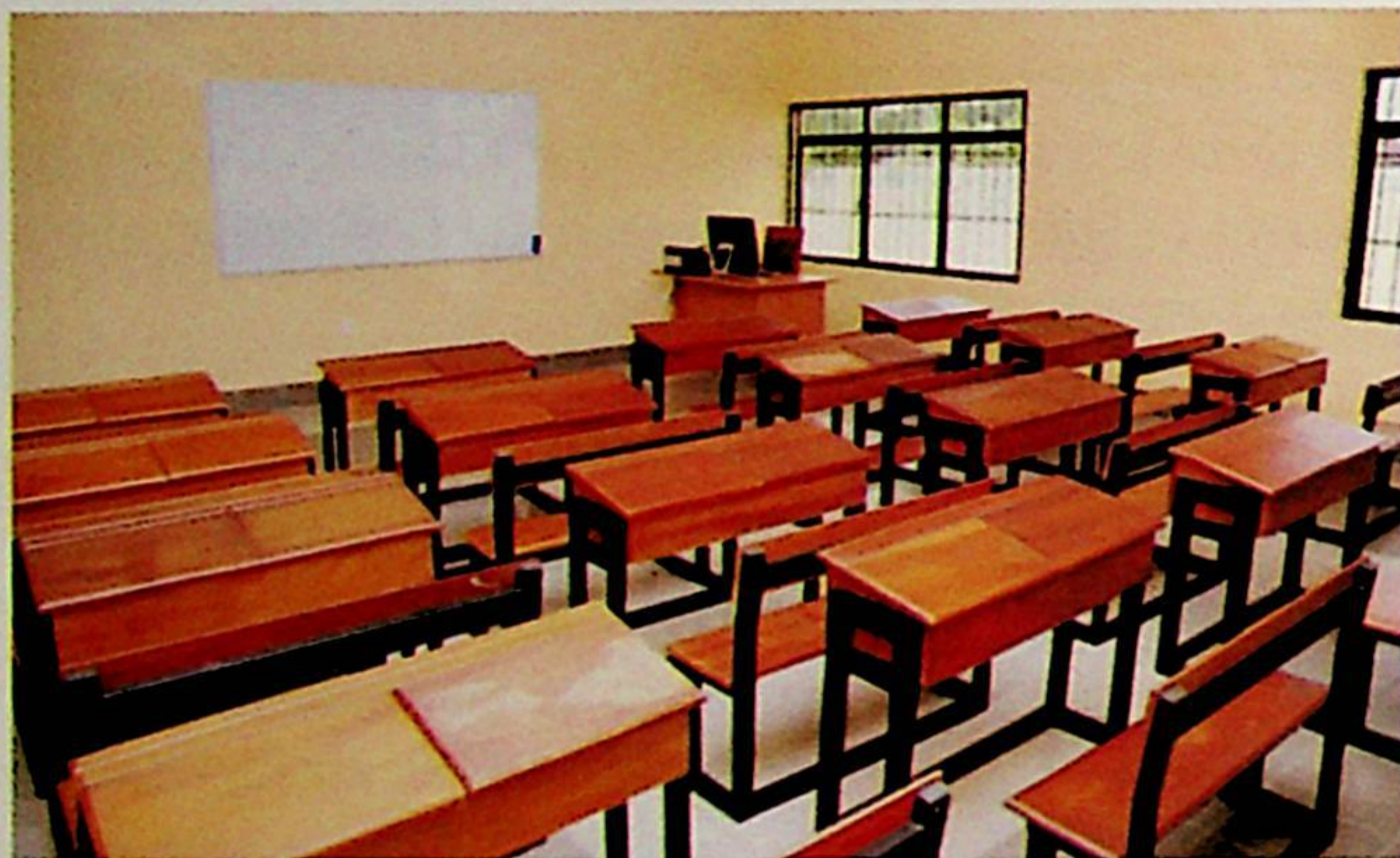
*"The period under review has been eventful. We have, in our modest view given it a good shot, but, much more remains to be done. Let me restate our commitment to the rebuilding of our State through massive urban regeneration programmes, infrastructural development by way of the construction and maintenance of roads, schools, hospitals and health centres as well as the provision of water, electricity and security of lives and property for our people."*

This was a year ago. Now, twelve months later, on this day, in this historic edifice, I can say assuredly, that we have kept faith. We have been in office for three years and, during this period, we have done a lot to rebuild our health and educational infrastructure. We have invested heavily on construction and reconstruction of roads and bridges. In the Riverine areas, we have invested enormous resources on land reclamation. On the whole, we cannot yet say uhuru, but we can say that the lives of Rivers people have not and will never remain the same again. Whilst most of our infrastructural projects have been completed, others are at various stages of completion. We are keenly aware however, that it is not enough to build the essential facilities in the health and education sectors. Consequently, we are working assiduously to build strong institutions that will drive these facilities and support them on a sustainable basis for us, for our children and for generations to come.

## WHAT WE HAVE DONE

### Education Sector

Within the past three years, we have embarked on the construction of over 350 model primary schools, about 120 of which have been completed whilst others are at various stages of completion. We are also building 24 model secondary schools across the State at various stages of completion. During the period under review, we have also



undertaken the following:

- Provision of ICT in schools and fully equipping of the schools
- Comprehensive training programmes for Teachers
- Overseas tertiary education for indigenes of Rivers State.
- Local tertiary education scholarship for Rivers State.

Our massive investment in the education sector is premised on the empirical truth that our ability to harness the potentials of our greatest asset, our youth and not oil is the substructure upon which the success or failure of our future as a people is anchored.

### Health Care

In the health sector, our policy objective is to provide integrated health services anchored on an efficient primary health care delivery. To this end, we



have embarked on the following:

- Construction of 160 Health Centres in all 23 LGAs of Rivers State
- Construction of 1000 bed specialist hospital
- The New Rivers State Ultra Modern Dental and Maxillofacial Hospital
- The new Kelsey Harrison (Niger) Hospital
- Syringe factory
- Construction of bio larvicide manufacturing company

### Infrastructure

We have invested a Minimum of N 100 Billion



yearly on roads/bridge infrastructure in the past 3 years. Some of the projects include:

- 800 km of roads under construction ( 250 km completed)
- 10 major bridges under construction (3 completed)
- 20 minor bridges under construction (4 completed)
- 2 Flyovers/Interchange under construction, 2 already completed.
- 6 land reclamation/shore protection projects (Andoni, Opobo, Buguma, Abalama, Olombie/Owukiri Island, Obama-Okirika) (1,140,000 sq km completed)
- 2 major markets and a shopping mall under construction (Phase 1 of Mile 1 market housing 960 shops and two banking halls completed)

### Power

Government has expended considerable resources on the building, completion or maintenance of the following power stations: Omoku 150 Mega Watts, Trans Amadi 130 Mega



Watts, Eleme 75 Mega Watts. We are also building a 7 Transmission Stations 132/33 KV, 7 Distribution injection sub-stations 33/11 KV and, by June 2015, we will have 500 MW available.

### **Transportation**

Our primary focus in this sector is the provision of mass transportation. To this end, we have embarked on the first Monorail project in sub Saharan Africa which is estimated to cost N60 billion, out of which N 11 billion has already been paid. We have also deployed resources for the provision of Buses, Land and water taxis and the construction of three bus terminals in and around Port Harcourt city.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

The Environment is a core component of the Rivers State Government infrastructure delivery package. Government is committed to ensuring environmental sustainability through various initiatives including the construction of the waste to wealth and the scrap to wealth yards.

### **Urban Renewal**

Port Harcourt, popularly known as the "Garden City" was characterised by well planned infrastructure, but over the years it has been stripped of this beauty due to rapid increase in population and influx of people, distortion of City plan and poor management as well as uncontrolled and unplanned spatial expansion and infrastructure decay. To reverse this trend, the Government has embarked on a state-wide

urban renewal programme and development of infrastructure, chief of which is the Greater Port Harcourt project.

### **The Greater Port Harcourt City**

The Greater Port Harcourt City is planned to be a modern comprehensively serviced urban area of 2500 hectares of land with residential accommodation for 30,000 housing units, commencing with 3000 housing units in phase 1A. Ongoing developments in Greater Port Harcourt City



include the All Nigeria Sports Festival Games Village, the one thousand beds Justice Adolphus Karibi-White Specialist Hospital and the New Rivers State University of Science and Technology

### **Guaranteed Security**

We can now most assuredly guarantee the security of lives and property within the territory of Rivers State. This guarantee is not based on negotiations or agreement with any person or group of persons but is anchored on the capacity we have built over the past two years, to enforce law and order within our state. The Government of Rivers State under our watch has consistently manifested the ability and political will to protect corporate and individual residents in the State pre and post the amnesty programme. We are pleased to report therefore, that Port Harcourt and indeed Rivers State is safe for Nigerians and foreign Nationals to live and do business. We are also confident that during the course of our tenure in office, we will build sustainable institutions that are structured after tested models of governance institutions in developed countries. This will in turn drive a peaceful, just and harmonious society. ●

## A Journalist's observation

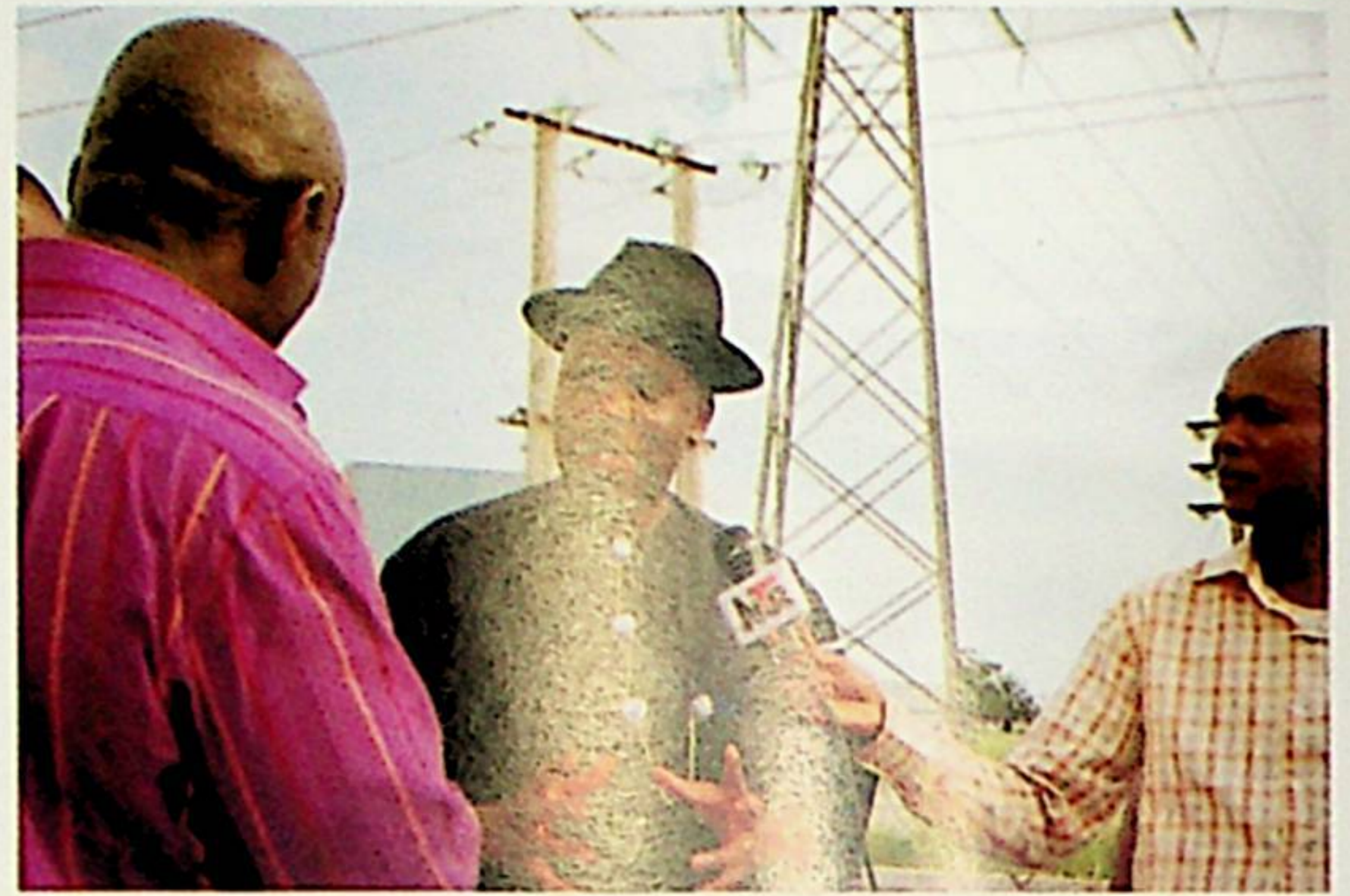
By Ignatius Chukwu

**A** well-respected publisher of one of Nigeria's influential dailies visited Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital late in 2009, as a resource person at a seminar. While having lunch with his bureau chief he spoke in a mix of admiration and exasperation, "Port Harcourt has become a giant construction yard, but traffic is a major casualty". This imagery was replayed later in the day at the pre-session of the seminar when the governor, as always, apologized for traffic chaos in the garden city occasioned by construction work almost on every front.

This is the image of the new Port Harcourt, a city under reconstruction. Since he came to power on October 26, 2007, following a landmark Supreme Court judgment that has laid new tracks on substitution politics in Nigeria, Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi is believed by most observers to have pursued project execution with one track mind.

He began by endorsing projects awarded by the five-month old Celestine Omehia administration (which was discarded by the Supreme Court), such as the Eleme Flyover, the Mile one Market, the Iloabuchi roads, Shopping Mall opposite the NDDC headquarters, etc. Then, he unleashed his own projects; 160 healthcare centres, 350 of the 750 model primary schools, 24 international standards secondary schools, etc. This, immediately made it clear to journalists covering the state that an era of huge figures and fast-pace of project execution had dawned on the practice.

Till date, the administration has unleashed one new construction project or the other in the key areas it has imposed on itself; roads, education, health, power, mega city, and water. Security is regarded as a fundamental area of responsibility but its execution seems to demand more of courage, gadgets, vehicles, intelligence, specialised training, and sensitive facilities.



Each time Amaechi played host to journalists covering or visiting the state, (and they have come in droves from within and outside Nigeria), the governor always makes it clear he wanted to be assessed in those shaded areas, and he flaunts education, roads and health as the front runners water, is in the pipelines, he says. President Goodluck Jonathan on courtesy visit, breathe





ss in his tours of projects, Journalists later gathered that the August visitor asked his host while inside the bullet proof car where he got fund to finance those projects from. Speaking on some educational projects in the state, Jonathan was understood to have warned his host to expect the project costs to balloon as time went on. Today, Amaechi seems to be faced with all this, especially the consequential projects (projects that arise from other projects).

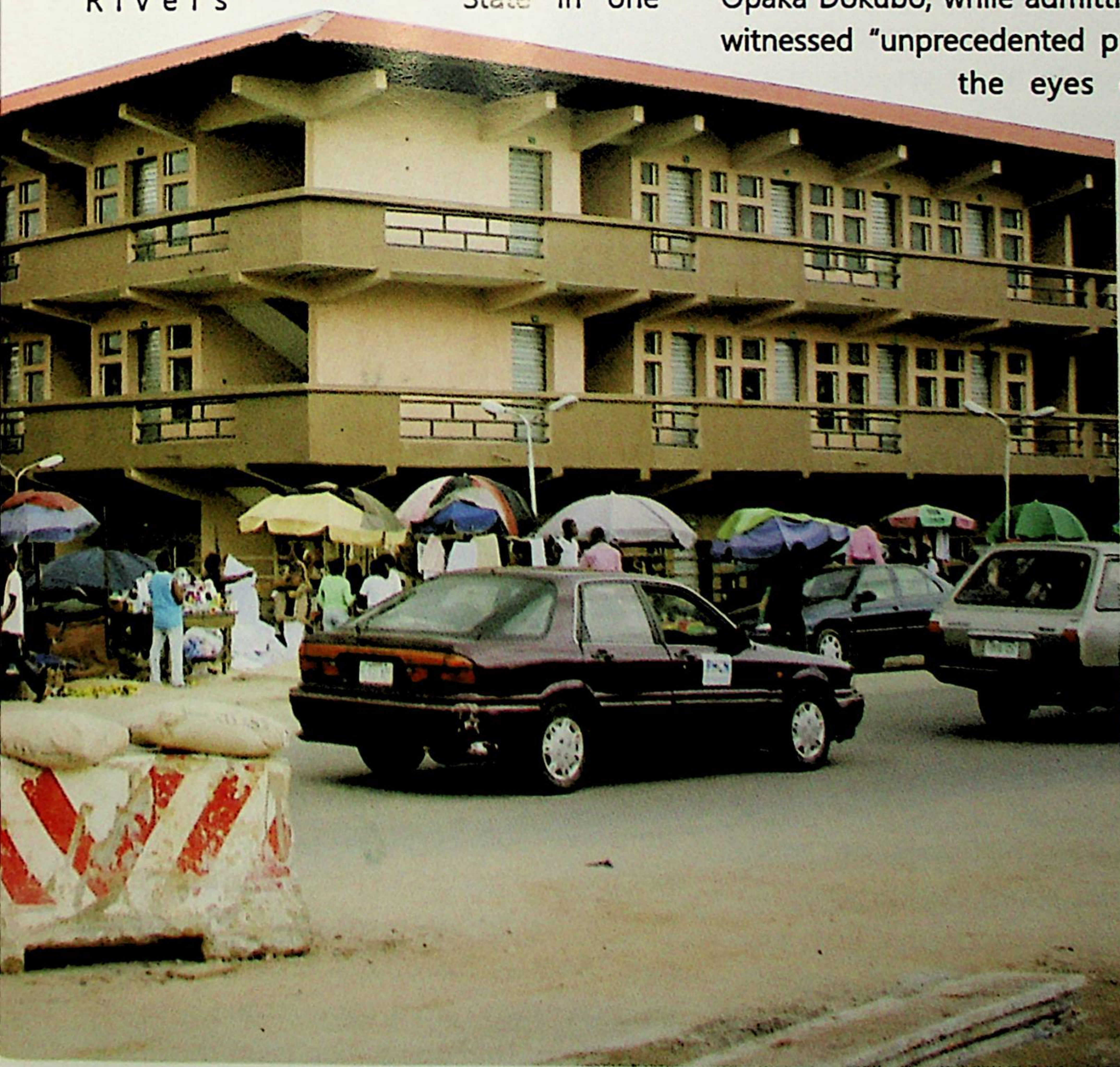
Amaechi came to power with a shovel and a digger in his hand, eager to show a difference. He seemed anxious to rebuild Rivers State in one

day, but that in itself, may prove to be his undoing. This is because, while the projects and their costs keep heading north, revenue accruals from the federation account keep heading south. From a budget of N554.5bn in 2008, the annual fiscal plans have continued downward to N432.2bn in 2009, further down to N429bn in 2010, and N415bn in 2011. Yet the income side of the budgets have not been encouraging. The ratio between capital and recurrent has also shifted negatively against capital, which is where projects are executed from, to as low as 65/35%.

This must be why the chairman of the state's council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Opaka Dokubo, while admitting that the state has witnessed "unprecedented project execution that the eyes can see", however

cautioned against what he called overloading. "Too many projects at a time have thrown the state capital to a halt. The government must take some, finish them and take up another batch".

But are projects too many? This is like asking the right age for a man to marry. It depends on so many factors. The communities want more and more projects in their areas, the lawmakers are

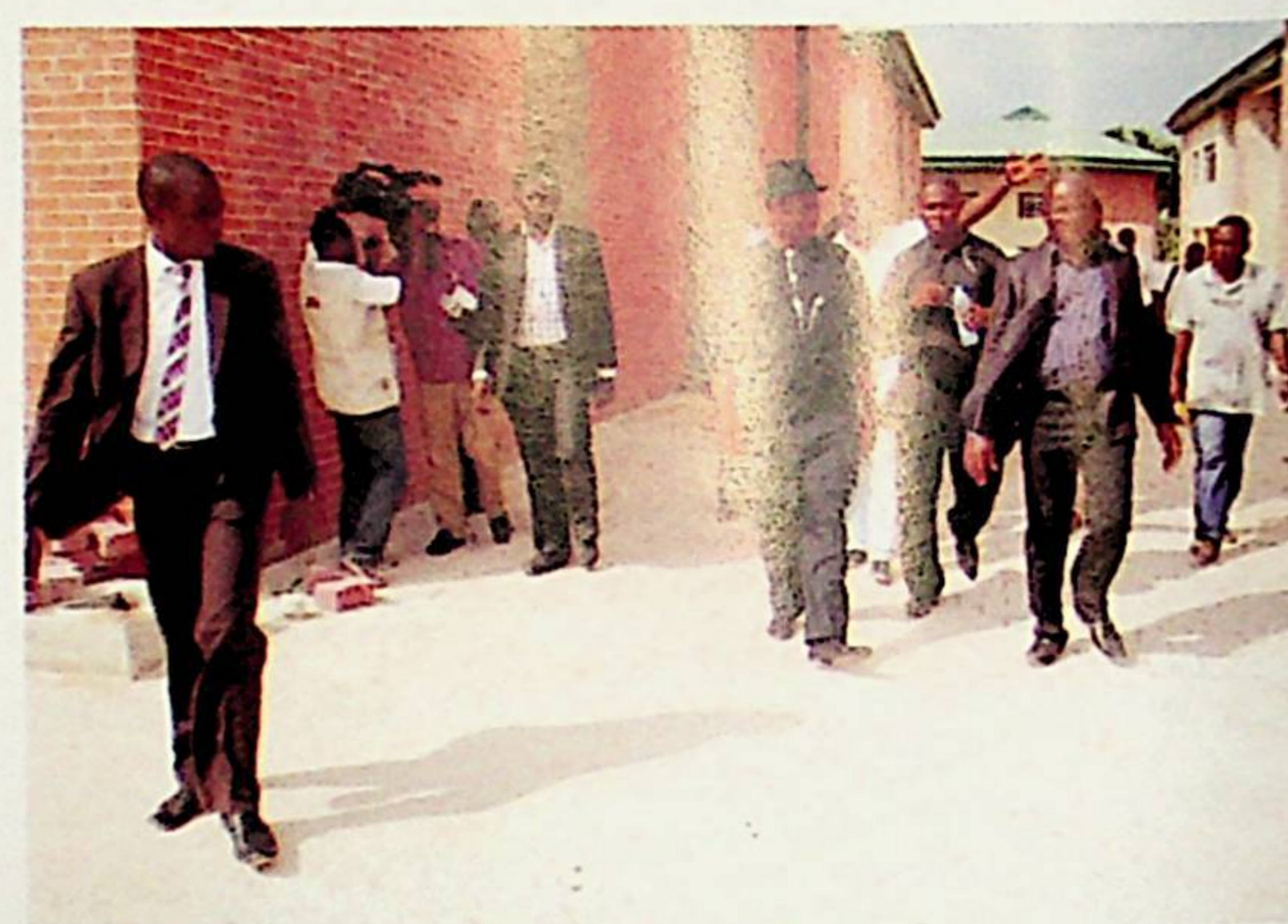


eager to point at projects they attracted to their areas, the local council bosses woo the state government to site projects in their areas by 'starting something', the commissioners, monarchs, etc, all want to justify their tenures with projects in their areas. Also, the economic advisers want the administration to stimulate and regenerate the economy, create wealthy, create jobs, all with projects.

on the other hand, the government's Financial Managers are ever ready with a word of caution. They are joined by an army of critics who want the Amaechi led administration to slow down because funds cannot cover all projects within a specific execution period. But re-election periods require promises to be fulfilled and new ones to be made. This is what many regard as the Bermuda Triangle of most governors.

Massive project execution has many insist, exposed the soft belly of the state government due to; technical inability to execute many projects at the same time, non-availability of project managers, absence of skilled manpower, lack of supervisory techniques, meager funds and lack of time to manage all this at the same time. A gap surely shows and this gap immediately promotes corruption. Governor Amaechi cannot say he has not seen the virus from the Bermuda Triangle.

The governor has often confessed to journalists about weakness in project monitoring and evaluation. This has turned him into a project manager for himself. Often, his voice booms from the public address system (PAS) from his media team as he shouts at one contractor or the other. Many think this is a sign of a hardworking state chief executive, but experts murmur that it is a sign of a failing process. From the Clinotech media health care facility that has been a nightmare to the governor to ordinary construction of schools, the administration has had reasons to shout at contractors. If Amaechi is asked to pick groups in order of dread, he would pick contractors first. And when he touted "Rivers money for Rivers people", most indigenous contractors misread this to mean



money without work, forcing a change of slogan.

His aides know that he would hardly step down from a plane and head to base, but he would surely detour to one project site or the other, even at night. There, surprises would meet him, to the extent that the murmuring aides would nod in agreement with his decision to jump the contractors. Yet, the governor's nightmares from projects hardly appear about to end.

Trust contractors to have a defence at all times, even if some are untenable. Some would come round to newsmen after the public lambasting to drop hints. Some would say they had not been paid to the right level, some even hinted that they were not really expected to execute the projects but to be on standby with the mobilization fees in case the courts ordered a fresh election arising from some of the cases in court then. The opposition loves this line a



contractor turned out to be a lawmaker in the state's parliament.

These nightmares are there, and they are part of the issues we cover, even if most times, journalists want to play down on the conflicts and give more arm to the fact that meaningful projects were being executed. This could be why the Regional



Manger of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Mike Mbonye, is of the opinion that Rivers State has been taken to a precarious position in her developmental history, and that consolidation was most crucial. "Yes, solid foundation has been laid but consolidation is very important. See numerous healthcare projects but they need doctors; exotic schools but they need to be equipped, power stations but they need to be distributed to homes, etc. I think there is no need for new ones but for the governor to now consolidate on these ones for the benefit of the people. Any disruption can lead to abandonment and chaos".



I agree that Rivers State is a huge example of a giant construction yard and an example to most states in Nigeria but the state also needs better project management and planning, especially in the face of steady revenue decline owing to loss of oil wells to other states. Amaechi must decide what to do with patronage-contracts, empowerment-contracts, and rogue contractors if he must escape from nightmares, but the overall result of the contracts on ground would be a new Rivers State close to Eldorado, a hub in the Gulf of Guinea, a truly emerging economy in the West Coast of Africa. ●

lot. A particular contractor unilaterally relocated a contract in the Ogoni areas to where he felt it should better be, forcing the governor to replace the project. The

# MANDATE DELIVERY

## MANDATE DELIVERY: VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE

### Preamble

The whole essence of responsive governance is to be able to make life meaningful. This means that for the governed to have a feeling of effective and responsive governance, there must be the acknowledgement of a mandate given by the electorates, actual engagement of that mandate through the provision of infrastructures, healthcare and educational facilities, and the improvement of security. Inherently implied is the need for transparency and accountability through the maintenance of a channel of communication between the elected agents and the people.

The incumbent Governor, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Amaechi had made it a cardinal part of his 4-year mandate to constantly engage the people of Rivers State through town hall meetings, stakeholder forums and other platforms.

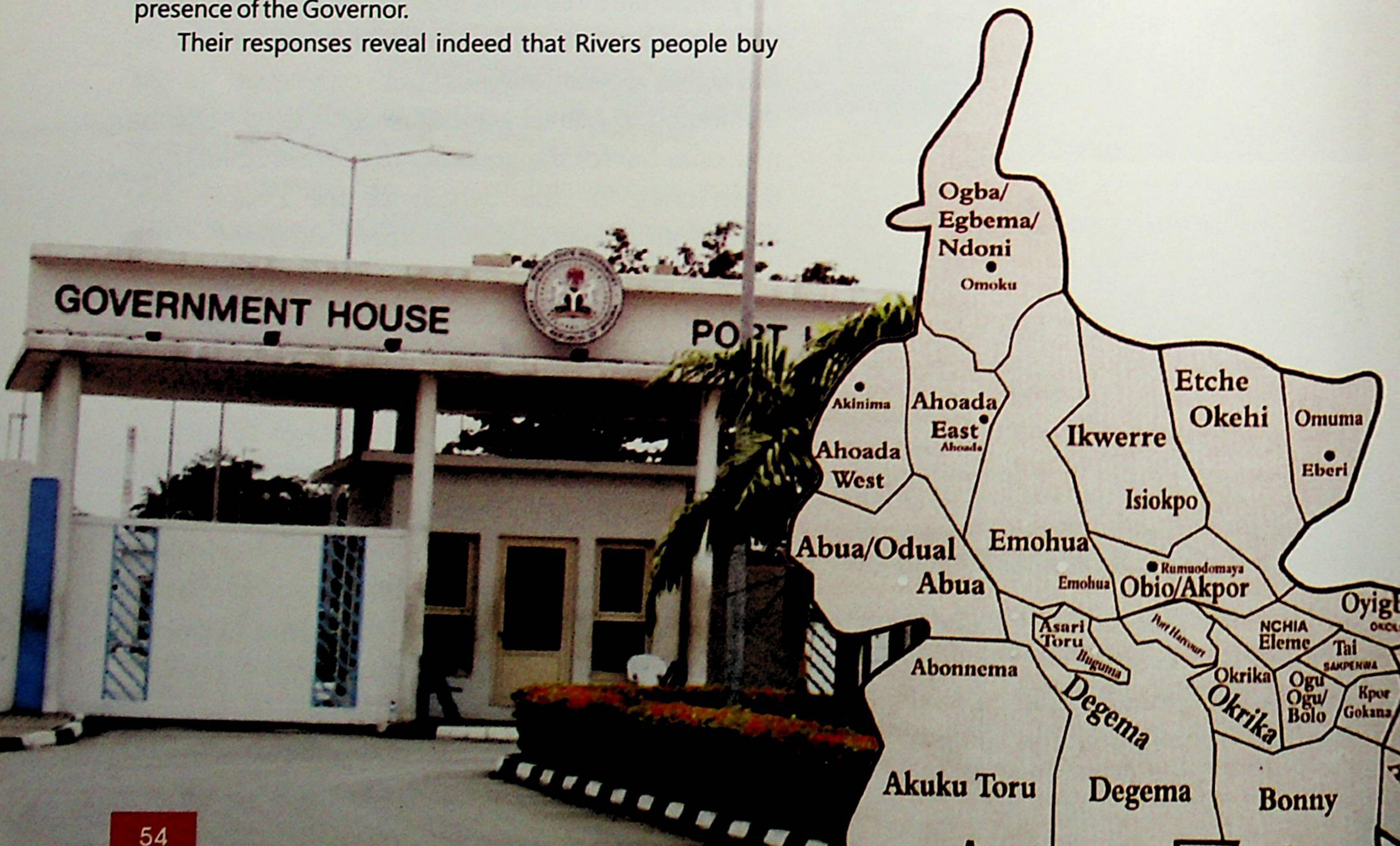
The account you are about to read, however is unique as it represents the independent thoughts of Rivers people from all the Local Government Areas of Rivers State. They were sourced by Students who carried out field works in all those LGAs just to hear Rivers people outside of the presence of the Governor.

Their responses reveal indeed that Rivers people buy

into the notion of democracy as government of the people, by the people and for the people. The varying shades of opinion is proof that democracy counts only when governance is felt by the people of a state and the people feel a significant emotional connection to it, enough to want to give their assessment of it.

Over the years, milestone achievements have been recorded. Many sensitive projects are today either being completed and commissioned for use or are near completion. In the applauses of a majority, the criticism of a very articulate minority and the cynicism of so many others, a picture emerges of a State where government is no longer a vague concept.

In this special report that took months to collate, we welcome you to the very minds of Rivers people on the Rt. Hon. Chibuike Amaechi led government from the upland to the riverine communities.



## Abua/Odual LGA



**A**t the time Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Ameachi took over the leadership of Rivers State, little or no government presence was felt in Abua/Odual Local Government Area of Rivers State.

But that has since been a thing of the past as the people of Abua/Odual now sing a different song. In the words of Jeremiah Saturday, Secretary to the Chairman of Abua/Odual Local Government Area, "Prior to December 2010 light has been a major problem in Abua/Odual but the Rotimi led government has brought relief to our people, the Ataba Road construction which is near completion, Ughema community health centre are all clear and visible things our amiable Governor has done in our local government to

mention a few."

According to the Chief of staff to the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Dele Lambert, when contacted, there are 17 model primary schools spread across the local government. In the area of infrastructure, there are 3 main roads under construction and they include Apiamdele Road, Ataba Road and Ring Road respectively. Also, several indigenes of this local government are enjoying scholarships to study within and even outside Nigeria. With this Mr. Lambert identified the Governor as a "talk-and-do-Governor".

A major project that gladdens the people of Abua/Odual people is the uninterrupted power supply they enjoy, which is made possible by the Rotimi led administration. In the area of security, a resident of the area, Miss MaryAnn Otuke stated that people hitherto lived in fear but that peace and stability have since returned to the



◀ local government.

However, Abua/Odual people believe that in the area of portable water supply nothing seems to have been done as portable water poses a big challenge to the people of the local government. Before now, they say, there used to be a utility board for the provision of water, but the board has since ceased to function, and the major sources of water available to the people is well water which is being complemented by a few boreholes donated by corporate



organizations. January Karibo, a resident of Oduga community pleaded that the government should look into the aspect of portable drinking water.

Mr. Otuame M.K., a Civil Servant lends a shout to the refrain. "tell the the Governor that we do not have good roads and our hospital has been neglected for years. Also, the civil servants in the state still have not enjoyed him as much".●

## Ahoada East LGA

**E**bah John, a resident of Ahoada East Local Government Area describes Rt. Hon. Chibuike Amaechi's government in the following words: "His government as long as this LGA is concerned has addressed the grassroots' problems. He is service delivery oriented. One thing I have not yet seen in his government is continuity, abandoned projects are not continued with and old projects are not revitalized too. As we bring up new ideas, the old ones should be maintained too. But, in general, service delivery in this government is satisfactory."

Mr. Freedom Oshiga, a student of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, is enthused about infrastructural development in the Local Government. "Talking about infrastructural development, Governor Amaechi has done well. Also, in Education at the primary and secondary levels, he is OK".

But Freedom Oshiga has his reservations "At the tertiary level of the education, the Governor has not done much. I suggest that he should also take his programmes to the people at the grassroots directly, programmes like the scholarships, skills acquisition, etc. This I say because, sometimes the persons he places in charge of these programmes hinder them from getting to the people".

Mr. Biralo, Principal Accountant at the Ahoada-East LGA hits harder: "We love Amaechi, but his government is not a welfarist government. He is turning civil servants to beggars. He is not labour-friendly. Infrastructural development without manpower yields a negative result. Also, his project distribution is not based on the people's needs. Unemployment in the state is also alarming. Edo state government created about 10,000 jobs in this administration, we expect at least 20,000 jobs opportunities from Rivers State government, but we don't have such. I emphasize that he should consider the civil servants, because they are the custodians of the administration. By building schools, he feels he is equipping education in the



Ahoada East Council Secretariat



The popular Ahoada roundabout in Ahoada East L.G.A.

State. If he so loves education, why are the state tertiary institutions not functioning properly since his administration?"

Nonetheless, Mr. John, a security operator with DNL

Damog, says this about the Governor: "He is our leader, he is trying his best. Not everybody will say good things about him, but his administration, to me, is OK." ●



Government Primary School In Ahoada East L.G.A. under construction



## Ahoda West LGA

**M**r. Fidelis Obi, a staff of the National Security Civil Defence is glad to have a chance to speak to the Governor of Rivers State.

He says: "Amaechi has tried in the health sector. The various health centres newly commissioned proves this. Also, the modern primary schools show how interested he is in education. The only ill about his government so far is that he is not friendly to workers."

Mr. Otuame M.K., a Civil Servant resident in Ahoda West LGA, makes a startling revelation, "Amaechi is the only person I can truly call a governor since the birth of the new Rivers State. In the area of infrastructure, he has performed above eighty percent. The health centres, the primary schools all prove this. He is even the one

constructing the Mbiama-Biseni road that was not motorable prior to the coming of his government. Also, he has done well in terms of developing manpower and has also given out scholarships."

Mr. Clement Emmanuel, the deputy local immunization officer at the Akinima Health Care Centre says: "We know him to be an implementer of projects. This Health Centre is one of his works. We have six others in this LGA. Also, he supervises his projects to make sure they are completed. In terms of salaries, he is prompt but, he is not too friendly with Civil Servants. Our Christmas bonus has not been paid since his government came into power."

Dr. Mrs. Victoria Eric-Ewoh, the resident doctor at Akinima Health Care Centre describes him thus: "So far so good, Amaechi has done credibly well. His administration is laudable. His evidence as a Governor is all over. So much has been done in the past four years the roads, the health





Mbiama River in Ahoada West L.G.A.

centres, etc. We should note that if other administrations had done as much as his, Rivers State would have been a better place. The health sector is thankful to him for the provision of jobs. State has been elevated. Governor Amaechi has made doctors who never dreamt of working in health centres to love this job. Health Care delivery has been brought close to the people. The dividends of democracy under his administration are evident in virtually every

sector. I encourage him to continue with the road constructions, and the improvement in security too". ●

Also, primary health delivery in the



Akinima Primary School under construction

## Akuku-Toru LGA

**A**kuku-Toru Local Government Area is one of the riverine Local councils of Rivers State. Its people are majorly of the Kalabari kingdom. Even though they are historically renowned for their prowess in the fishing trade, this local government area has produced great and enlightened academicians and professionals following their early exposure to western education.

Abonnema the council headquarters, is full of life, with great structures that shows that the town was once a business hub with a seaport in the early days, with the likes of UAC, JOHN HOLT'S etc. having their main offices in this town before they permanently moved to Port Harcourt following the shift of the seaport.

For many years, this council was only accessible by sea until a bridge was built to connect to the rest of the state. But now, many are quick to remember the quaint health centers, primary schools and the serviceable internal

road network that links the communities even though some are still under construction. Kudos is also given for the state of electricity supply in the State in spite of the fact that communities like Obonoma that houses a primary health center is yet to enjoy steady power supply.

Nurse Erikosima I.B and Matron Joyce E. Lawson whom we met on our visit to the primary health centre in Obonoma reveal that the health center, right from the day of its commissioning has been functioning. The only snag, Joyce says, is that "people are yet to take full advantage of their services. So to create awareness, we regularly embark on home visits calling people not to allow the facility go to waste"

On work welfare, Nurse Erikosima gave thumbs up to the government for providing housing quarters for them, and also applauded the local council for opting to renovate the old center to recruit more staff.

Joyce E. Lawson actually smiled before she says "My daughter who schools with the state secondary school was given text books by the local council. They also pay WAEC fees for SSCE students and also schools fees for wards of



# MANDATE DELIVER

RIVERS STATE-PerformanceReviewJournal



◀ widows".  
The sore point is electricity supply at the health center

which is yet to be taken care of. As for now they use Generator. ●



## Andoni LGA

**A**ndoni Local Government Area with council head quarters at Ngo, is credited with several development initiatives under the Governor Chibuike Amaechi led government. These include the Shore protection and Land reclamation projects at Egbormung/Oluk-Ama,

Landing Jetty at Ebukuma, Andoni. These are beside other major projects like several primary schools, an ultra modern secondary school and a number of health centres.

Edith, a civil servant, views the on-going developmental projects, especially the unity road linking the council with Bonny and other parts of the state as a good development



Construction of the 38 km Ogoni-Andoni-Opobo Road with 8 bridges known as the Unity Road, Construction/Completion of concrete

as this will boost trade and the fishing business which is the primary agricultural practice of her people. She also expressed her satisfaction with the changes in the education sector even though some of the schools are still in construction and are yet to commence operation, she said the new face of education will help transform lives of the children which in the long run will pay off for the community. For the meantime youth unemployment has reduced gradually due to the involvement of some their youths in the ongoing projects across the council

Other members of the council urged the State government to help in the area of transportation as well as access to banking facilities. ●

## Asari-Toru LGA

**A**sari Toru Local Government Area, with capital at Buguma is famous for its beautiful rivers and the unique fishing practices of the locals. It is an ancient city with historical structures.

At the time of this interview, the locals were savouring the cheery news of the on-going development of the Kalabari National college internet classrooms a Rivers State Government Special Intervention project. Just as in other LGAs, new model primary schools and health centers stand out in their modern architectures. Electric power is fairly stable.

Mr. Horsefall Owunari, a telecommunications operator commended the efforts of the government of the day in making available basic amenities which has made life much easier for the people of council. Nonetheless, Owunari was quick to point out that "various projects handled by the state government, like the primary health care which has been completed are yet to commence operation. The same

situation applies to the model primary school projects".

The linking of the local council to national grid, many locals agree, has to a large extent, made electricity supply constant in the council. The result is that business better and water supply constant.

The JTF maintains a visible presence in the area but the locals are not perturbed. "The presence of the Joint Task Force (JTF) in the council has restored total peace, which we didn't enjoy in times past, even during the militant era," says Horsefall.

But, a local who describes himself simply as John has this appeal to the Governor: "efforts should be made in the aspect of skills acquisition that will bring about self employment for the youths. We need support to revive fishing which



is the core mainstay of the people”.

Mr. Owunari concedes that employment may be a problem but he enjoins the state government to take active means to ensure young people actually take the opportunities



the schools represent to go to school. According to him “most young people of school age are reluctant to go to school, even after the government has equipped and made facilities available for learning”.

It is not all about the Governor though as Biokpo Horsefall, a young local insist, while pointing at some completed and ongoing structures). “This local council is blessed to have a chairman who so far has implemented several projects that have changed the face of the council. These include: the poultry farm, town halls, beach, internal roads and the market which is yet to be implemented. He brought to our notice, that the pressing need of the council is youth unemployment as most young men and women lacked Jobs except in few cases were they get involved in menial jobs by reason of the ongoing projects in the council”. ●



## Bonny LGA

**//** The era of socio-economic backwardness has ended in Bonny and Rivers State at large with Amaechi as Governor," says Hon. Maxwell Akwe, the Secretary of the Bonny Local Government Council. The one-time lawmaker lauded the Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi led administration for its resolve to take the development of Rivers State to an enviable height. He stated that Amaechi's government has embarked on developmental projects in the Local Government Area which if completed, will stand the test of time due to its acceptability by the people of Bonny.

The projects which include model primary schools of international standard, health centres and a link road are expected to be completed by the third quarter of this year especially the primary schools which are near commissioning stage. The schools are situated in Abalamabie, Isileogono, Ayama, Green's Iwoama and Bonny main town.

Locals however, frowned at the slow pace of work by contractors handling the link road project. The project is believed by many locals as capable of sabotaging the perception of the Governor in the minds of the people as its potentials for improving the living conditions of the island of Bonny and its people is enormous.

Likewise, many respondents were of the view that proportional to its population and urban status, Bonny should have been allotted more schools and health centres so as to satisfy the educational needs of the people. Residents of rural areas also complain that they are yet to benefit from the Governor's developmental initiatives like schools and health centers.

A very elderly woman who insisted on remaining anonymous to "enjoy peace and quiet" was full of praise for the Governor's effort in the area of security in Bonny. "The Governor's intervention during the Bonny crisis period which was characterized by indiscriminate attacks on the good people of Bonny for months by some indigenous disgruntled elements tagged "Okoloama Ikpangi" is very much appreciated. We are particularly happy that he deployed heavy security personnel to the LGA which curtailed the excesses of the militia and eventually doused the situation."



She was also grateful that even though military presence has been reduced in Bonny, "the State Government left an adequate number behind to curb any form of threat towards the renewal of violence in the area".

On education and human capacity development, Amaechi has awarded





scholarships to secondary, undergraduate and post graduate students in the state with over eighty (80) beneficiaries from Bonny. The model primary school project across the state did not elude Bonny as over six schools are distributed among the rural communities and Bonny main

town. However, other human capacity development schemes such as the skill acquisition programme and poverty alleviation programme have Bonny indigenes as beneficiaries.

Paul, is a young person from Isileogono. He has a bitter complaint. "Of the five health centres earmarked for Bonny, only the one in Isileogono (Banigo) has been completed which is yet to receive equipment so it can serve the purpose for which it was built".

His grouse, which is shared by his friends, is that those projects and the expected furnishings have become major avenues for employment for youths in the LGA as only few individuals in Bonny have the privilege of being awarded state contracts as a result of state projects sited in Bonny. And for effect, they pointed out that, the Abalamabie link road awarded by Gov. Amaechi which is currently under construction has generated employment for the teeming youths of the LGA who were employed. ●

## Degema LGA

**D**egema is bounded in the north by Asari Toru Local Government, in the east by Abonnema Local Government Area, in the west by Okirika Local Government Area, and in the south by the Atlantic Ocean. It has an estimated population of about 250,000 people.

Several efforts have been made by the current government to bring development to the council. Specifically, the intervention encompasses the provisions of healthcare facilities and services, building of model primary school, provision of electricity facilities, and so on.

According to Sukuye Mpan kaboaari, a taxi driver, "Governor Amaechi has brought an increase in the supply of electricity. The installation of 70KVA transformers at different locations in Degema helped to make it possible."

A trader, Martha Johnson, is proud of an ultra modern market centre in Degema. "This giant stride taken by Governor Amaechi has brought an increase in trading activities in the community. Before this time, the people traded in dilapidated market stores. The condition faced by the people included trading under harsh weather



One of the Health Centre at Harry's Town conditions and lack of security in the market. But as a result of the building of the ultra modern market the people are no longer faced with those problems".

Francis Nah and Paul Poko, civil servants are elated that the Council benefitted from the the project 60.60.60 of the State Government which has ensured that functional health centers complete with doctors and



Ultra modern market in Degema Centre (Front view)



One of new model school facility



**New model primary school structure**

nurses were provided for the community. "i am glad we now have a place where there is provision of free health service for children under 6 years of age and the elderly at 60".

Destiny Bassie, a student remembers the past dilapidated state of primary schools in the council. In his words, "they are now undergoing a metamorphosis to provide a better atmosphere for the children. In the past, some didn't have a class to sit and learn. There were no blackboard for teachers to write on. This would

surely elevate the academic standard of the people of Degema which include free education program".

Schools that have benefitted from these state government's efforts include St. Barthol Primary

School, New Model Primary/Secondary School, New Church Primary/Secondary School.

However, Sweiyi Abangwo, a bike rider says the pipe



**Old primary school structure**

borne water that was installed for provision of water for the people has not really been serving its purpose. "The water utility is bad and had been abandoned by the government. The people of Degema are therefore appealing to the government to come and restore the project". ●



**The utility pipe borne water project**

## Emohua LGA

**T**he L.G.A council headquarter is situated in Emohua town. It is located in the East central part of Rivers state, with an estimate of over 18 major towns and villages who are predominantly Ikwerres.

How does the people view the administration of the Governor Chibuike Amaechi led executive arm of government?

Sir I.K. Bello, is the son of the Paramount Ruler, Chief Owhor Okwe. He says, "We don't have good roads, no electricity, no water, no good schools, neglected widows. If Amaechi is doing very fine, then he should allocate contracts to neutral persons, instead of friends and cronies".

Another local who prefers not to be named also lamented angrily that all the projects awarded by the government have been abandoned by the contractors. The roads, which were actually in deplorable condition was said to have been awarded to Rockan Nig. Ltd. and Peace line Nig. Ltd. respectively. The Elibrada road connecting from Rumuakwundi through Odu-oha to Evekwu Community was in terrible State when visited.

Hon. Glory Wedum, the youth secretary of the community, however, stresses the fact that despite the lack of infrastructure, the Government has been trying to improve the lives of the people, in terms of Education. He reels off some positive developments "modern primary schools are under construction, scholarship has been awarded to young persons in the state. Somebody from here was even awarded scholarship to study abroad in Canada."

At the community secondary school, Elibrada, a teacher who would prefer not to be named lamented the poor state of the school. He said that "government's neglect of the school has left it in very bad shape." When asked about the standard of living in the area, He said that all is not well in the community: "people don't have access to good water, Electricity, good roads." He appealed, that government



should come to their aid.

In Rumuji Community, mixed reactions greeted the request to assess the performance of the State government. While some people complained bitterly about the neglect meted on them by the government, others maintained that the government of the day has tried, especially considering the short period it has been in place. But like Oliver twist they want more developmental projects.

According to Miss Faith Okachi, a student, "water is a major problem in Rumuji". For Miss Confidence Wogbu, "the government needs to review the scholarship scheme so that everybody, especially the poor can benefit from it." In Elele Alimini Community, the story was the same: they need urgent attention to pressing issues. In Ogbakiri, a community that has suffered severe communal Unrest, most of the respondents do not seem to be thinking about schools and health centers for now. Their need is more pressing: "government should come to our aid."

Mr. Sam Amadi, a single Father of two, an



Okada rider in the area, told us that he is a professional mechanical Engineer and an expert driver. Yet he drives Okada against his wish because there is no job opportunity and no funds to practice his profession. He blames the government bitterly for his predicament and said that the government does not care about the people.

Interestingly, Mr. Gift Udeh, a staff of the Emohua Council secretariat, at the office of the chief security officer, gave us a percentage run down of the general overview of the L G A. In his assessment, the government of the day scores 70% in electricity; 75% in security, 10% in water



and 70% in healthcare provision. It is also his assessment that in almost all the community, there are modern primary schools being built by the government. But on the aspect of road networks, even he maintained that a lot still need to be done in that area. ●



## Eleme LGA

**E**leme is nationally noted for its petrochemical industries. It is also a part of Rivers State where the present Government, led by Governor Chibuike Amaechi, has expended considerable resources to develop. The following interviews reveal the assessment of various members of that community.

**His Royal Highness, Obariwite Nchimaowin, the One-Eh Odido VIII**

**Q. How do you assess the present government in Rivers State?**

**Ans.** Amaechi has carried out many projects in this region and Eleme as a whole. As a matter of fact, the projects are numerous. In fact, comparing Amaechi to past governors in Rivers state, there's none that can be compared to Amaechi apart from Diette-Spiff. The projects are numerous.

**Q. Is there any major need of the Eleme people he has not met?**

The only thing that he has not effected is the issue of unemployment. Basically, government is focused on three

agenda, education, health, and basic infrastructure. But majority of the youths are still unemployed. You know human needs are numerous, you can't satisfy everyone. Amaechi has tried so far.

**Q. How many projects has he carried out in Eleme?**

Out of the ten communities in Eleme, Amaechi has built fourteen schools. Out of the fourteen, almost all are completed. Right now, I know that of Akpajo, Alesa, (Agbeta) Ebubu, (Eyaa) Onne, Agbonchia, Alode, Aletu, and Ogale are completed. He has also built health centres. Five in all in Eleme. We thank him very much but we need more. Old Bori Road is under construction (but the contractors are not working as expected. The work is very poor). Our youths are still unemployed.





**MR. PRINCE OLAKADA, TEACHER, OGALE ELEME**

**Q.What has Gov. Amaechi achieved in Eleme?**

Governor Amaechi has actually proven that there is money in Rivers state. So far as I can tell, Eleme has been greatly favoured in his developmental program. He has equipped us with new schools in every community. And health centres too. Amaechi is working. I can tell that because I see it with my own eyes. Apart from the buildings, some of our children are abroad studying. Even though the system is biased, we know no governor has done as much as he has done. He has done very well for the people of Eleme and I commend him for that. Let him continue the good work.

**Paramount Ruler of Ebubu Clan, Chief Emmanuel Bebe Xiii**

**Q.How would you rate Gov. Amaechi's**

**performance in Eleme?**



Chief Bebe

One major thing I want him to complete is the fencing of the community secondary school in Ebubu. Thieves can easily loot the properties. He's done very well.

I have congratulated Amaechi on the job he's done in Ebubu and Eleme as a local government. He built a primary school in Agbeta, and another in Obolo. He's also built a secondary school in Ejamah, the first of the model secondary schools in Rivers state. He's done well and we have even asked him to come back. We are thanking him very much and still asking him to remember Eleme again.

**Chief Sunday N. Osaroeyaa, CDC Chairman, Ebubu Eleme.**

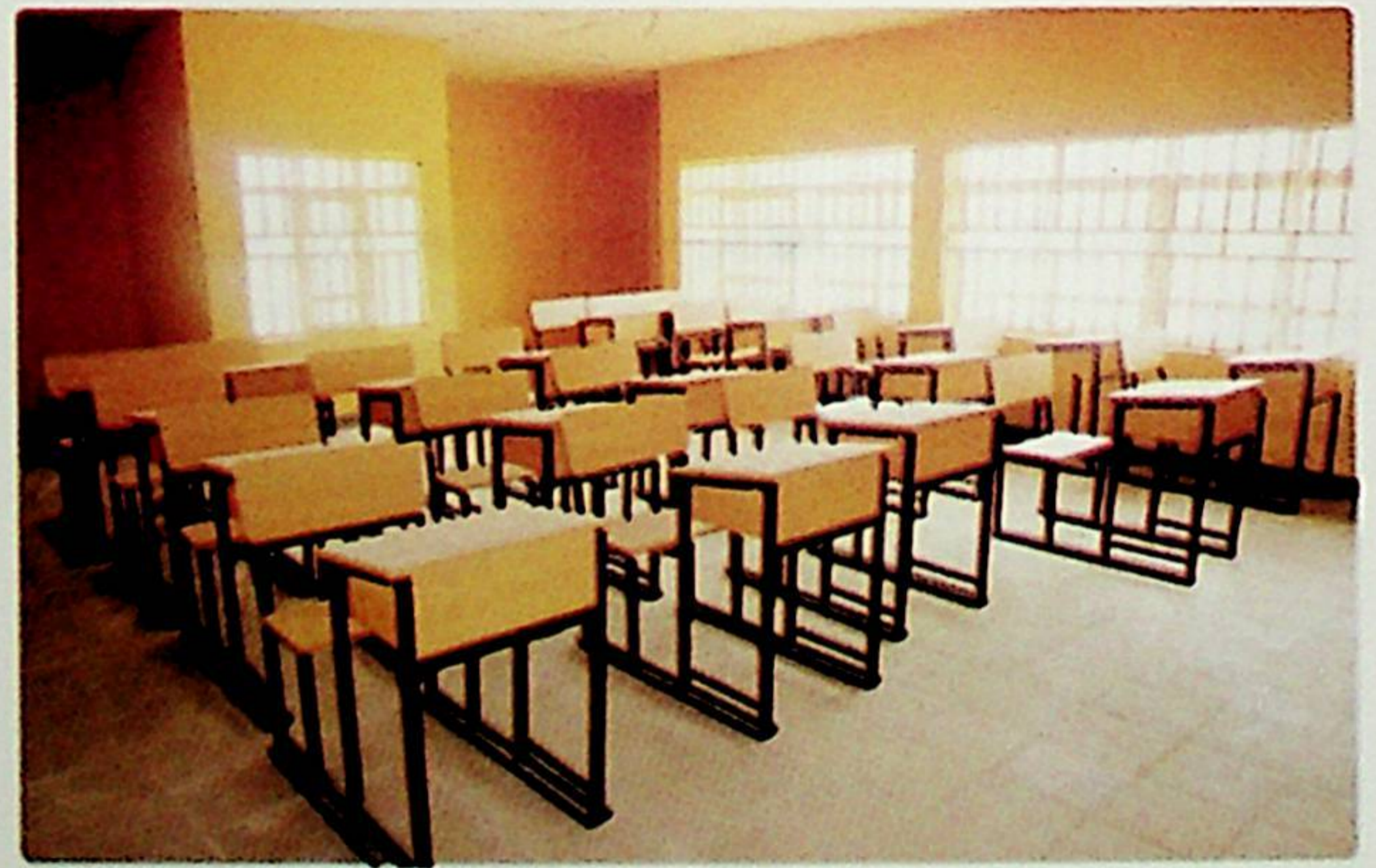
Amaechi's government is trying. If all governors in the past had been like this, Rivers state would be more advanced than what it is today. The difference between Amaechi and other past governors is that Amaechi has put the money in Rivers state to work while others squandered the money. We are happy with the infrastructure so far. We have the first of the model schools in Rivers state located in Eleme, each community has a primary school. Not just a primary school, schools that can compete with private schools home and abroad. Amaechi is working hard and we thank him for that. But as we know, what is worth doing is worth doing well. He has to look into the welfare of everyone in the society. Those houses he has demolished, most of them are not compensated up till today as I speak to you. We know the fault may not be his but that's why he's there to make sure everyone is satisfied. If he demolishes, he should see that compensation is done properly because some people's life actually depend on those demolished properties. Amaechi

is working very hard. We thank him for that.

**Mr. Godfrey Aforji of Agbeta Ebubu Eleme, Son of King Tokiada, The First King of Eleme**

***Q.How would you rate Gov. Amaechi's performance in Eleme?***

Amaechi has done a lot and I really appreciate what he's done. Talking about the model school and rural facilities he's carried out. Restricting the development to Eleme, the projects are a lot. The model secondary school, primary health care, old Bori Road construction and primary schools all over Eleme. But you know we are human beings. We still need a lot. We need more development. Eleme is not much favoured compared to other LGAs though. But we thank the governor all the same. Also the issue of electricity supply is a major problem. If this is tackled, our problems would be solved!







**Mrs. Georgina Osarollor, Nursing Officer, Akpajo Eleme**

"Before Amaechi became governor, I saw the potential in him to accomplish more than Odili and the others. Eleme is greatly affected by the ongoing development in the state. This is an incredible achievement because the projects are awesome. The basic health care centres in Eleme are up to five. All or most are complete already. The schools and the road, to mention but a few. Eleme is affected. Amaechi is a good governor. He has the welfare of the people at heart. He is working very hard. God will bless him."

**An Interview With Mr Osaro Amadi, Business Man, Ogale Eleme**

"Every reasonable man or woman in Eleme will attest that Amaechi is the best governor. The first model secondary school is located in Eleme. He did not stop there. Is it the health centres, the

road, the scholarships granted our children? We have never recorded such an achievement. In fact I just discovered there is money in this state (laughs). One of my nephews is studying abroad courtesy of Rivers state government. We want him to continue the good works and come and finish them in second tenure."

**An Interview With Mr Desmond Ngei, Politician, Alesa Eleme**

"Amaechi is working but some of his associates are bad elements spoiling his reputation. When the demolition exercise started, it wasn't totally heartbreaking to the owners because there was compensation attached. Today, the compensation has not been paid to some or is menial. We all can see Amaechi is doing his best for the betterment of everyone and I know he'll get their very soon. So far, the administration has touched the lives of Eleme indigenes and more in coming. We all can see. Amaechi is a man of his words. We thank him so much for everything." ●

## Gokana LGA

**T**he Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State is host to several initiatives and projects of the Rivers State government. Just like other LGAs in the state, great resources have been allocated to developmental initiatives aimed at uplifting the people. How do the people of Gokana Local government feel about those initiatives after three years?

Mr. Jeol Kabari, a 72 year old farmer lives in Kibangha Community of Gokana LGA. He is not impressed by the efforts of the government of the day yet as he decries what he terms the total neglect of his community. According to him, "government has tried by providing a modern primary school that is still undergoing construction but the government has neglected the youths. Three of my sons have been killed as a result of inter-ethnic clashes that they were not directly involved in". the septuagenarian also complained of lack of meaningful engagement for the youths whose parents cannot afford sending them to school. His litany of woes include "the flooding and erosion that has destroyed our crops which still threatens, if nothing is done, to bring down their houses".

His peer, Pa John picks out "the absence of electricity, water and the current demolition of their stores from where they earn a living", as the major monsters they are contending with right now. He also pleaded for the "government to pay adequate compensation on the demolished stores urgently to ease the suffering of poor local people". The stores, it is noticed, were demolished to enable the government expand the Gokana road.

In Biara, there is a model primary school nearing completion but residents bemoan the absence of portable water, flooding, lack of internal roads. Monbe Poronen, a young widower lambasted the government for total neglect. He said "this government has made us a lot of promises but we are still waiting for the fulfillment. We have a new primary school under construction, but our old primary issues like portable water, electricity and flooding are lording it over us".

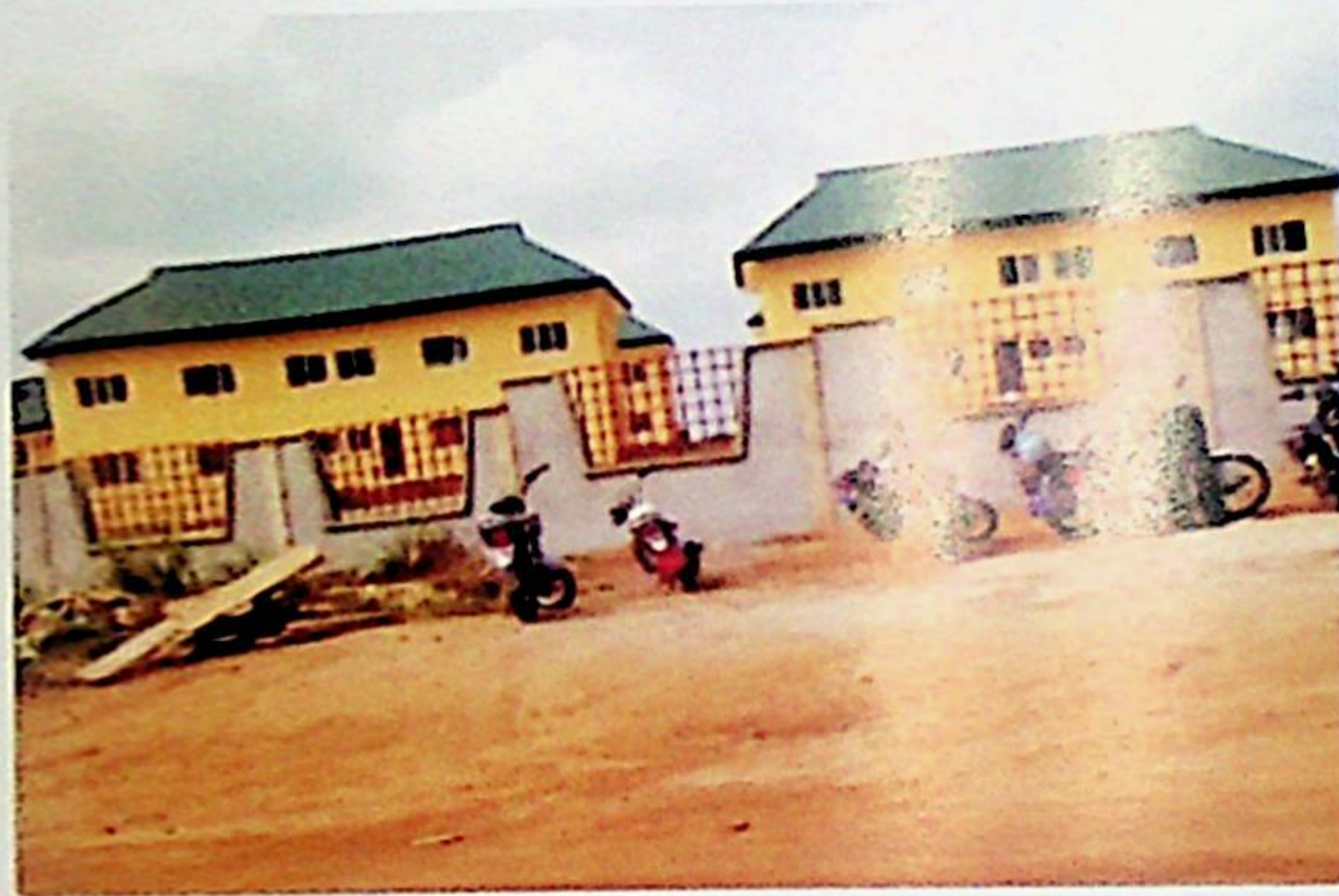
Giokoo, presents a happier locality as residents are happy with the efforts of the government in their community. Most however, prayed that the model primary school and health centre be urgently completed to ease the



people's suffering. A shop owner along the major road who pleaded anonymity complained of his demolished shop and asked the government to help them get new ones so as to enable him cater for his family.

In Nweol, residents easily point to renovated town hall, and a health care centre that is almost completed. The former Community Development Committee (CDC) Chairman, who is also the former Chairman of Gokana Council of Chiefs and Elders, His Royal Highness Chief (DR.) Mbari Baabel also stated that a site has been given to the government for the proposed model secondary school.

The challenge facing the community, Chief Mbari points out is the tussle for the stool of the paramount ruler between Mene (Chief) Baribor Dawo and Mene (Chief) Letom Dawo. The tussle which is before the court of law has hindered



meaningful development.

However, Chief Baabel who is the current Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee in Gokana has pinpointed lack of electricity, unavailability of portable drinkable water as their basic challenges. Dr. Mbari also lamented the great level of flooding bedeviling Nweol. He stressed the absence of good roads and effective drainage canals but expressed optimism that things are gradually looking up and that therefore, there are better days ahead. He, therefore, appealed to the state government to look into these needs while applauding the youths of the community for their calm disposition and obedience to the rule of law.

Kpor, the Local government headquarters had residents wearing long faces due to the challenges of electricity, portable water, good roads and flooding. Nonetheless, the paramount ruler of Kpor kingdom Mene (Chief) B. M. Taoh praised the state government "for at least remembering the community with the

provision of a modern health care centre which is almost completed and the approval of a model secondary school which is underway". He stressed "that the major challenge of Kpor people is security. In the case of an emergency, security response is very slow which often result in the loss of lives." He also mentioned the lack of gainful engagement for the youths who now resort to restiveness. He advised the government "to set up skills acquisition centers in rural communities so as to reduce crime and engage the youths meaningfully."

Mene Taoh is however unhappy that nothing has been done to address this pressing challenge facing the whole Gokana Local government Area. He is echoed by fiery youth leader, Comrade Dumadi Kingsley Lekpia who asserts that "Gokana Local Government area is one of those council areas in Rivers state where government's presence is yet to be fully felt. Issues like restiveness among the youth, lack of adequate infrastructure and security are its basic challenges." Nonetheless, he commends the government for its efforts and urged it to step up its developmental strides in the area but especially as it concerns security and power. ●

## Khana LGA

**T**ai, one of the Local Governments in Ogoni land is home to several developmental projects by the Governor Rotimi Amaechi led state government. After three years, residents of the LGA have varying views as to the effects of the efforts of the State government on their behalf.



Primary Health Centre at Beeri

Rev. Paul I. Igbara, the Registrar of the Rivers State Polytechnic is from Khana. "The people of Khana have benefited more from the government of Hon. Chibuike Amaechi than from any other administration in the past", he says. According to him, in Bori, the traditional headquarters of the Ogoni people where he resides, "almost all the streets of Bori have been tarred, and those yet to be tarred have already been awarded". Also he commended the government for the construction of model primary schools and health centres in the Local Government Area.



Primary Health Centre, Bori

season.

In Zaakpon, a village very close to Bori, the indigenes commended the state government for their efforts in ensuring peace in Zaakpon. As stated by Mr. Jonah Akeekue a palm wine tapper, "Zaakpon has experienced absolute peace in recent times, as there has been no form of



Model Primary School Zaakpon under construction



Primary Health Centre, Wiiyaakara



Model Primary School at Kur, under construction  
communal clash or youth restiveness which usually results in the loss of lives and properties in the area".

He is, however, clear that the success in the area of security did not also apply to water and some other social amenities. In the case of electricity supply, Mr. Akeekue said that after a very long period of being in total darkness, Zaakpon had electricity supply but it lasted only for the period that the political campaigns were taking place in January this year. He said that there is no source of water supply in the village, and that villagers have to resort to using water from the stream leading to various health challenges.

In other villages in Khana visited, it was observed that they all had model primary schools that were identical. Most of these had been completed and some were still under construction. Also, new primary health care centers were being built in Luawii, Beerii, Wiiyaakara, Kur, and other villages. ●



Babbe link road



Primary Health Centre, Luwail

# Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA

**O**gba/Egbema/Ndoni with capital at Omoku is a community noted for farming and fishing. It is also by facilities of oil companies. With an area of 969square kilometers and a population density of 284,010 as at 2006 census. ONELGA has its administrative capital in Omoku.How does the residents of ONELGA feel about the present government at the State level?.



A woman who works in works at the protocol department of Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA secretariat called attention to the availability of health care centers, a new high court and renovation of primary schools in the LGA, developments she credits to the State government.

Emilia Obowu, another resident appeals to the state government to come to the aid of teachers. Mrs. Emilia Obowu was of the opinion that: "We can't acquire the leaders of tomorrow without the teachers." She solicited for the increase of teacher's salary. However, in a reaction to the projects awarded by the state government in the community, Mr. George Ordu who also works at ONELGA secretariat as a pay clerk stressed that projects where done by the oil companies (Agip/Elf) in the community and not by the government. According to him, "Funds are actually allocated to the community by the state government but someone out there waits for the oil companies (especially Agip) to carry out projects at their own expense and then converts the funds the State government released to their own personal use."

In a visit to the rivers state primary health care center at Omoku, Dr. Dagogo Emmanuel Jaja who is the resident praised the Governor for helping the people with affordable healthcare services that has delivered them from the high cost of private hospital. Dr. Dagogo revealed that he sometimes delivers as many as 33 babies a month, at just 1500 naira per delivery. Although the center does not have



the entire medical equipment needed, he has called on the government to come to their aid. The center lacks incinerator, Bunsen burner, autoclave, lab reagent which are used to carry out various tests. ●

# Obio-Akpor LGA

**O**bio-Akpor with capital at Rumuodomoya is one of urban centers of Rivers State. With its proximity close to the capital city of Port harcourt, Obio Akpor plays host to several developmental projects and initiatives of the State government.

Mr. Alfred Woko, an indigene of Rumuapara in Obio-Akpor says that the Governor Amaechi led government has done so well for the L.G.A and State in general.

But he notes that his village has nothing to show for it. He said that "there are no improved secondary schools, and no internal roads which could be used as bye-passes to the major roads in the State".

Madam Felicia Amadi, a trader says "things are a lot better now. The thugs that come to bully us and collect illegal fees in the name of revenue collection are now a thing of the past as revenue is now paid into the bank and receipt issued immediately". She also says the roads (though some are still under construction) are good now as it enables her transport produce from the farm to the market.

Mr. Obinna Nwokocha, a civil servant says that in Obio-Akpor Governor Amaechi has done well in so many aspects. He points specifically at social infrastructure to education including extension of scholarship awards and healthcare delivery. "Even the primary health care and payment of primary school teachers that the local government is meant to do, he has done it for them". But he frowned at the fact that since his administration came into power "there has been no more allowances for civil servants".

Henry Nsrim, a young school leaver says that the Governor has done a lot in so many areas but



appeals that the state government look at "job creation and skills acquisition programmes as it will help get the youths not to be idle and indulge in evil". ●

## Omuma LGA

**O**muma is one of the local governments at the outskirts of Rivers State. It shares borders with Abia State. Omuma LGA comprises of 48 villages in addition to 4 others (Umumba, Umuoru, Umuochi and Umuimo) that have been integrated into it from Abia State. These villages are grouped into larger communities. Some of the major communities include Obhia, Ommlo, Eberi Omuma, Umuagu, Umuolilo Umuobasi and so on. There are basically 4 major entrances into the local government namely through Ekapara, Ogoke, Owaza and Emeri Omuma.

The serene and unruffled atmosphere around the communities of Omuma will undoubtedly capture the attention of any visitor. Hardly would anyone believe that a few months ago, these same communities were bustling with militants and kidnapping. Though not an urban area, the communities are full of life.

The very loud music blaring from the shop of Victor Chidi, a petty trader tells a story of the transformation in the Local Government Area. Pointing to the highway in front of his supermarket, he says, "The government has been doing well. You can see we have good roads in this community. That is something to be happy about. We also have good electricity supply here. The only problem we had here was the case of militancy and the incessant kidnapping of people. But the Government has also taken care of that. Now we are safe here doing business and life is going on as usual. The government can do more, but we are already feeling good from what has been done already."

Mr. Nwaanozie Reuben C., the Deputy Head Master of the state school, Umudu, established 1950, spoke extensively on the impact of the government on the educational sector. "We cannot deny the goodness of the current administration. "I like to mention that we have not participated in any national event for some time now like Children's Day, May Day, and so on. This was due to the security challenge and unrest we had here, but thank God for the intervention of the state government. We now have relative peace. But we pray that this peace will be sustained." Mr. Nwaanozie is also grateful to the State government for "dragging teachers out of the hands of local government councils in terms of payment of outstanding arrears of

salaries and other entitlements of teachers. We will continue to appreciate our Governor for that feat. The councils were not paying us, and we were suffering. But our able Governor said no, and that was it. As am talking to you, they cleared what we were being owed and now they owe absolutely nothing except for the bonus we are asking for that has not been granted. Our staff is willing to do their jobs. You can see their commitment. In fact, we are eager to work. Who would not be willing and happy to work when you are being paid and that promptly.

He continues, "Even the refurbishing of our schools makes the environment conducive for impacting knowledge. Currently we have about 10 modern state schools in this LGA. Our teachers are upgrading their skills, thanks to the government. But we hope this upgrading will also reflect in our positions (promotion) and wage.





Innocent Nwauju, an elderly business man and a core politician said, "You can see the roads; they are clear evidence of government impact on this community. We have new bridges on our linking roads, we have good electrification, look at our schools, they have been given new faces. There is hope for our young ones. What other impact does anybody want to see?"

"We believe in our Governor. He will do more, more so, he has promised he will do more, and we believe in his promise. However, the areas we would want the government to look into include working on the link road to Abia. I mean the one leading to Abia and the creation of jobs. Our boys need work to do; this will enhance more peace and productivity in this area of the state."

Reginald Onyeaso, a student (young school leaver), spoke more on areas she hopes the government will give more attention to. "I will not say that the government is not doing well, but as you can see, our local government is backward. Go around, you will not see anything



like a bank in the entire local government. So how can business spring up from such a place? The only general hospital we have here has been out of operation for some time now. So, if you need to do any money transaction, or you fall sick, one has to go to the city first which is not always feasible. We need government to create jobs for our men, our brothers and our fathers. Many of them are doing nothing. This is a concern. We need government to create enabling environment for investors to establish their firms and companies here. Our people have nothing to do. Can you imagine we have no such things like fast foods, no university; not even a polytechnic. We are majorly farmers. We need government to assist our farmers with fertilizers. These things, when done, will affect the ordinary man."

Mr. Chuks Anyamele, an entrepreneur, owner of several businesses and a contractor has this to say: "Of a truth, there are significant developments going on around the community. We have good schools. In fact, some of our schools have been built to international standards. The prototype government secondary school is also on going, these are great strides by the incumbent administration. But we have no peace. Of what use are the structures that



# MANDATE DELIVERY

RIVERS STATE-PerformanceReviewJournal

may possibly soon be destroyed for lack of security? We cannot eat the schools or the structures. Lack of peace is driving people out of the community. With the slightest opportunity, dwellers want to find their way out. There is no way such a community will be productive. It is people that bring about development with their initiative in any community. But when the people that are supposed to be in a community are migrating, for lack of peace and security, no matter the structure you build, as long as it is not being maintained, be sure, it will dilapidate. Now, we have relative peace that is why you could come here, but am talking about lasting peace and security. For example, because of the crises we had here, the two hospitals we have around are as good as closed. So, even when there are hospitals, it's like there are none. So, peace and security are very vital to any development the government wants to bring here. We are happy with government effort to restore peace in this area; at least, we have relative peace now. But we want it to be a lasting one, so businesses can spring up. Government will not do everything, but when the enabling environment is there, other things will take shape."

Members of Staff of Ugoeze business Enterprise (Matthew, Promise, and Nwayi Sunday) were of the opinion that though the government undeniably has executed some projects from which the common man has immensely benefited from, government should focus more on areas that help new and small scale businesses to spring up. One of them said government should intensify business support programmes, engage in the building of microfinance banks to enable small scale businesses get support and business funding in the rural areas like Omuma. Some of the staff said government should look into the rebuilding of link roads especially the link road to Aba, to ease the risk of transporting business and commercial materials and equipment, and the initiation of youth empowerment programmes. Others added that government should engage the youths meaningfully, build IT training centers even while commending the electricity system in the area.

Mr. Smart Adele, a civil servant, based in Port Harcourt, spoke quite unlike everyone else. He bluntly stated that nothing was being done. In his words: "Nothing is going on



here. We have no commissioned projects. If you want to rate the impact of any government, you measure the numbers of commissioned projects, you consider the number of ongoing and completed internal projects, these are what make up government performance. I can volunteer to take you round the Local Government Area. Yes, I can make that sacrifice, so that you can see for yourself, what am talking about. Am not a politician, so, am not being biased, prejudiced or political. Am just saying facts, just the way they are. If they are there, they will be seen and nobody will be able to remove the credit from the government. The projects we know of just exist in the radio and TV houses, they are not on ground. I am well enlightened and educated, so, I cannot be fooled or deceived by those gimmicks. I am not saying this to rundown the government either, but am speaking from a rational point of view. Even the electricity we are proud of here is not a project by this administration, the roads were not built by the incumbent government. So, what are we talking about? Even at the LGA, nothing is happening. Without sentiment or subjection, I want to say that every year, they read the annual budget to us, but there is no implementation of the budget. We want to see evidence. I don't have to continue talking, let's go round; the projects, if they are there, will prove me wrong." ●

## Oyigbo LGA



**O**yigbo Local Government Area with capital at Okoloma is the boundary that happens to be the last local council before Abia State. It also plays host to the Afam power plant. Its proximity to the commercial nerve center of Aba has turned the town into an enclave of astute traders.

Playing host to Afam power plant has translated to a relatively stable power supply regime in the council. But, how about other areas of social infrastructural?

Ifeoma Okoli, a fashion designer says she is impressed with the efforts the state government has invested in the council especially in the areas of education and health services. Ifeoma has one worry though which she shares with other traders "the only major road in the council is a nightmare" According to her, "in spite of our sufferings and agitations, nothing has been done to fix the road. It has affected the progress

of our businesses and we are afraid it would only grow worse as the rainy season returns". She pleaded with the appropriate body to do something to fix the road as that will be appreciated by all and sundry in the council. ●



## Opobo/Nkoro LGA

**O**pobo/Nkoro local government area of Rivers State with capital at Opobo is one of the foremost riverine councils of the State. It also the historical home town of the famous king Jaja of Opobo. It is also known as a home that has produced sound and enlightened professionals in various facets of life, following their early exposure to western education.

The past three years in this local council has witnessed major changes in the areas of infrastructural development as can be seen in the development of model primary schools, shore protection and land reclamation which happens to be a major project being handled by the state government. Also, Opobo/Nkoro LGA is a beneficiary of the Unity link road project that connects and creates access to the riverine communities by road.

Mr. Njoku Clarkson the Principal of comprehensive Junior Secondary School Opobo is of the view that "the government of the day has done a lot in bringing infrastructural developments to all the nooks and crannies of the state. By so doing, the State has been able to touch both city and rural dwellers".

While praising the efforts of the government in the area of infrastructures, he, however, noted that education in Opobo is dwindling seriously. For instance, "in his school, there are only three full time teachers. The rest are members of the National Youth Service Corps, majority of who have

no training as teachers whom they nonetheless use as teachers". He warned that the trend if not checked maybe to a total failure of the community no matter the infrastructures provided. He also noted that teachers in the LGA were not being involved in the various trainings organized by the State as none of them participated in the training program organized by the state government/British council.

Mr. Dickson Otueme, a staff of the school made it known that the temptation of most teachers coming up with illegal levies could be taken care of if the government revives welfare package and allowances for teachers. He, as well as Mr. Clarkkson complained of the poor power and water situation in the State.

Senibor Harold G.S. Jaja, a retired Assistant Superintendent of Police expressed his gratitude to the government of the day for making "health care delivery better than what it used to be before, as adequate drugs and attention is now seen in the health centre. For the access road to Opobo which is still under construction, Senibor Harold said that "it will be a great boost for business with the local council which will address the difficulties and challenges travelling only by waterways imposed." He also made a case for electricity and water supply which remains "a big challenge in Opobo/Nkoro LGA. In fact, Senibor Harold said, "electricity comes for about three times (mostly in the night) a week".

Mina F. Jaja, a civil servant and a petty trader expressed her satisfaction in the area of free education which her wards received, saying that the free books and NECO fees that was taken care of by the state and local counsel respectively has really lifted some of her burden. Though youth employment has been a problem, she remarked that so far, the shore protection project embarked upon by the State government has provided job opportunities for the youth. "The challenges which needs

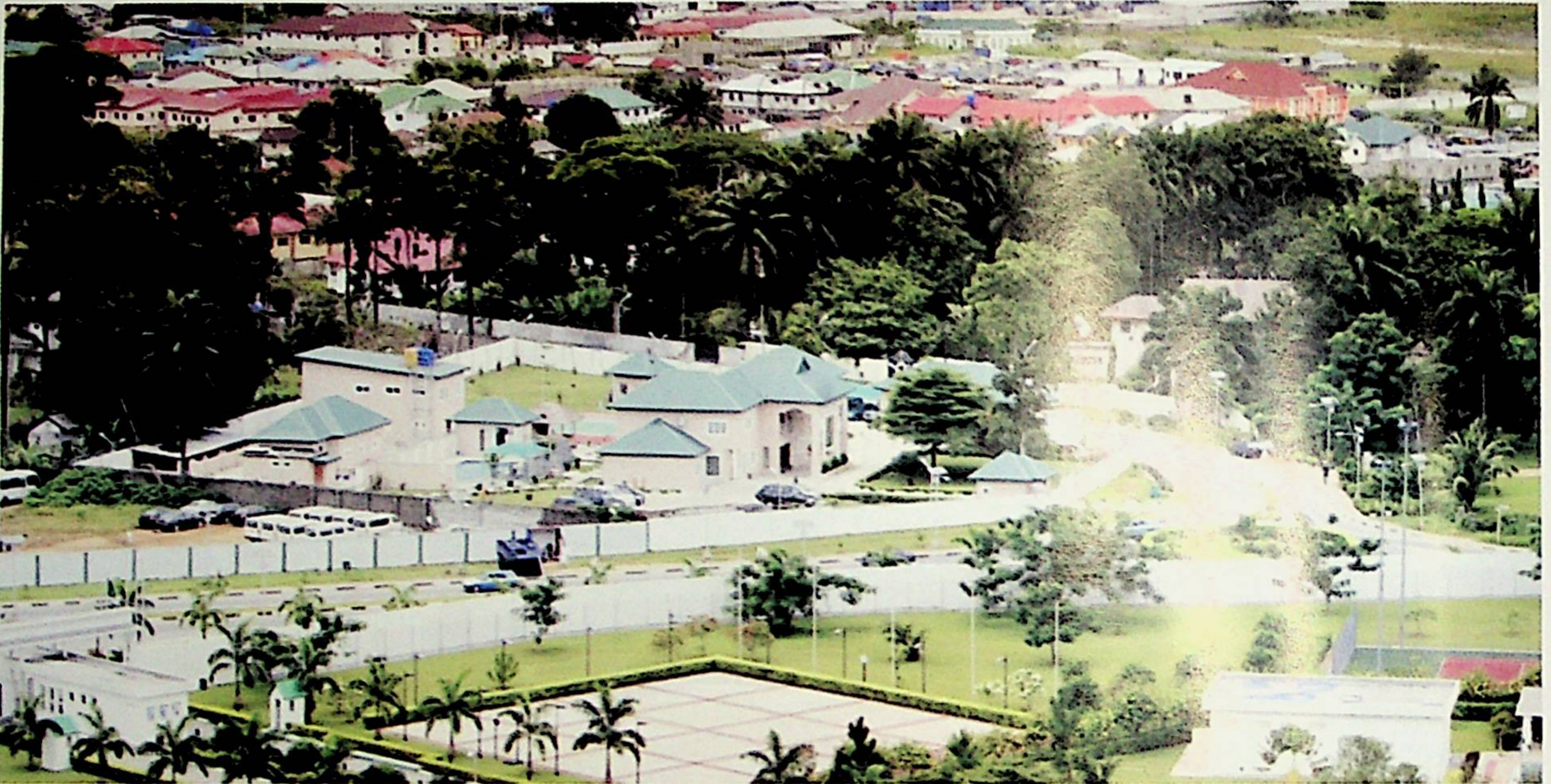




immediate attention include the flood that happens during the rainy season and also the need for a bank as most civil servants and businesses leave for the city to get cash when paid salary, and this has affected business negatively in their local council. ●



## Port Harcourt LGA



**P**ort Harcourt is seen by so many as the greatest beneficiary of the investments of public funds by successive state governments. Under Governor Chibuike Amaechi, analysts argue that the trend has not only continued but have been taken to a whole new level. Many easily point to the number of new or refurbished schools, health centers, roads and bridges, modern transport amenities and many other physical developments as clear evidence of the favourite status the state capital continues to enjoy. Responses from residents of the city are however varied as to their views on seven of the choice areas where the current administration seems to have concentrated its efforts in Port Harcourt.

Madam Patricia is a business owner in the Rumuola axis of Port Harcourt, who lives in Woji. "Really the only school I have seen is that one in my area in Woji. it's really good. You know before now public schools resembled public toilets, but what the government is doing now is good", she says. Esther Koko, runs a restaurant in the Elekahia area of Port Harcourt. "What I will want to say about the primary school here is that Governor Amaechi is doing very well. This primary school was not like this before, but u can see now here looks like New London, I appreciate him, he is doing well".

### Power

*Ibimina Pokubo: She operates a hairdressing salon in the Mile One area of Port Harcourt*



"When power supply was not steady, business was slow because customers don't like using generator because it costs them more so many of them ran away and we lost business. But now that electricity has improved they are responding very fine. We had to start charging higher in the past because we were using generator, but with the return of steady electric power supply, customers don't have to pay much again. This has brought back many of our lost clients".

*Bolarinwa John Odutoye runs a computer school/cyber cafe in Port Harcourt*

"The light situation had improved a bit, compared to what we used to have in the past and the rate we used to buy fuel for our generator has also reduced. Back then, we could spend like N5000 on fuel, but now it has reduced to between N2000 and N2500."

### Works

The administration has spent billions of naira to fix dilapidating roads and create new access to nooks and crannies of the state capital.



*Esther Koko has a business at Elekahia*

"About two years ago, the Elekahia road was not like this but now it is wider and has given Elekahia area a new look. Besides, the issue of traffic jam has been taken care of by the widening of the road, the only holdup we now have here is caused by the police. Government has really done well".

*Madam Patricia has a business on Rumuola Road, a major road project that has been completed*

"For now the development is better, you now have enough space and no more traffic jam".

### HEALTH

*Ahaolu Naomi lives at Elekahia, near the healthcare centre*

"For the healthcare centre, at least those who cannot afford going to bigger hospitals will be able to go there and get immediate medical attention for themselves and their wards."



**Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency (RSSDA):**

*Sobomate Sobrasuaipiri, a 200L student of Environmental Sciences in Brighton University, South England, on scholarship.*

"The RSSDA is a well packaged programme that has really lived up to its calling. If I may go into the selection process for the scholarship programme, I will say it was one of the most competitive processes I have ever seen. I was just lucky to be one of the three hundred who sailed through.. And I must say again that the agency has lived up to its responsibilities towards us in terms of our upkeep and provisions".

*Lugbe, on scholarship to study Electrical/Electronic Engineering in Brighton University, South England*

"It is a very good programme and the government is trying its best. What they are doing is sending the younger generation to go acquire knowledge from the best places. While I will say we will not let our state down, I will also appeal to the government not to relent in this noble ▶

# MANDATE DELIVERY

RIVERS STATE-PerformanceReviewJournal

effort”

## Security

*Mrs. Patience Edward is a local government employee in Port Harcourt*

“For now, the security situation is better than before



because two years plus ago when there were bad boys all over the state, doing all sorts of things. I remember that it even got to the point where you could not walk the streets without being asked to raise your hands up. Now it is not like that again, it is better than before now”.

*Charles Igomo is a computer engineer, resident in the once volatile Diobu part of Port Harcourt*

“As it stands, we now see a State that has regained its order and peace. Port Harcourt is now coming back to what it used to be back then. The situation got calmer when this Okada thing was stopped. For now we don't have serious bloodshed, kidnapping and other criminal activities again. In fact many houses don't have fences again. People now sleep with peace of mind”.





## Tai LGA

**T**ai local government of Rivers state with headquarters at Sakpenwa is another part of Ogoniland. It is also an LGA where the Governor had committed to deliver developmental social infrastructure and other amenities.

Faajor Nte, a resident of Kibi-Tai community lauded the Rivers government for locating Model primary and secondary schools in the council to benefit local children. He described the scale and grandeur of the schools as unprecedented in the history of the state and the community. He however pleaded that the government "look into their major problem which is electricity".

In Nonwa Uedume, Comrade Mark Gorgor, a youth leader praised the government for "its huge presence in this community and the whole of Tai". He listed "a standard health care centre, a model primary school and model market, free textbook for school pupils and temporary light" as what they have benefited from the state government. He, however, encouraged the government to step up the electricity supply and make it more stable saying that steady electricity supply will improve the livelihood of the people. Mrs. Sarah Lekue, an indigene of Botem in Tai, on her part applauded "the state government for maintaining a huge developmental presence there". Among other amenities embarked upon by the government are: Botem modern primary health care centre, Model primary school and construction of drainages and roads. Sarah Lekue however is of the view that flooding is a major challenge to the people of Botem and the government has shown the needed response as there is a massive construction of drainage in the community.

On the other hand, Ms Epsi Akpedam stated that though the government has tried enormously in ameliorating the problems of the Botem people, there is dire need for water and a



standard market. She also pleaded that the electricity supply be made stable. ●





# The Return of the Dance of Peace

**I**t was a hilarious story. The Governor of Rivers State went to a night club. To dance. Even though he is not, as young people would like to say, a 'stepper'. Even more hilarious is that night clubbing and all that goes with it is not part of the past-times of the conservative Governor. But, when mission seizes a man on a mission, personal comfort and mechanistic perceptions of one's reputation takes the backseat.

Governor Amaechi's foray onto the dancing platform of a night club was more than an indulgence. It was a statement: that the night had been reclaimed from the shadows of death. As majority of the people of Rivers State remember, there was a time when even Governors could not enjoy the basic luxury of a dance, in the night. That in itself was a major disaster to a people noted for a culture of songs and dances. A people famed for celebrations in moonlit squares, of serious but celebratory night fishing engagements in the creeks, rivers and adjoining oceans. For a people for whom the waterways were playgrounds instead of boundaries and for whom the night was a square for boundless celebration, the regime of violent criminality that once overran the State was more



than a disaster: it was a threat to a way of life.

Governor Amaechi's dance was therefore a declaration: that the night had been reclaimed. He was extending an invitation for the patrons of hotels to go back as that sector had been reopened for business. His dance was an invitation to tourists from far-flung lands to come back and share in the joy of the Treasure Base of the Nation.

Flowing from that, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has since provided a formal pedestal for the Governor to go beyond his dance and provide a wider platform to relaunch the emergent brand of a new Rivers State as an enclave filled with modern serviceable and quality infrastructure

# MANDATE DELIVERY

RIVERS STATE-PerformanceReviewJournal



riding on ancient customs that bespeak a heroic but honourable people. In 2008, the State took steps to launch an international carnival, 'CARNIRIV' celebrating the heritage, honour and capacity of Rivers State to host and engage the world. CARNIRIV was launched to celebrate the return of life to the State, set up and uphold the new face of Rivers State that is built on hard work, love for community, transparency and accountable leadership. This new face was to replace the brand of an area for youth restiveness, arms struggle and violent crimes such as kidnapping. So far the carnival has proved a huge success as it has, through its three editions, not only attracted participants from various parts of the world but has proved to be dynamic as it has evolved to incorporate various creative devices leading to a

fast emerging industry. It has also created a window for the world to see the real face of the new Rivers State, different from what they had been fed by the many international news media.

Other tourism and cultural events have also emerged leveraging on the peace that now reigns in the State. The Gov. Amaechi led administration had also received the mandate of the 702 Production, a Ghanaian based outfit and with the endorsement of the ECOWAS Commission, organized the first ever MISS ECOWAS PEACE BEAUTY PAGEANT in 2008 as well as the second edition in 2009.

The administration has since hosted the ION



Film Festival, a travelling movie makers platform dedicated to promoting the production of independent Films and Documentaries. The state hosted the sixth edition and the first in Africa. To further strengthen the desire of the administration to involve the youth in social development, the state, in December 2010, hosted the first African International Film Festival.

This year 2011, the Governor has awarded the contract for the construction of the new **AGBANI DAREGO CULTURAL CENTRE**. It is a cultural development center, named after Rivers State born former Miss World, Agbani Darego,

and dedicated to youth development, especially in the arts and culture tourism industry. The N1.1billion project with a capacity for 2400 seats is expected on completion, in 14 months, to become the symbol for delivering Port Harcourt, the capital of Rivers State as one of the tourism and arts capital in the world. ●

## Rivers State is talking again

**B**y the time, Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi came on the scene, talking as an option in societal relations was bad news in Rivers State. Rather, what was in vogue was the high decibel language of violence, intimidation, survival of the fittest and the whimpers of the oppressed.

In rebuilding the social fabric and infrastructure of the State, the Governor recognized the critical need for the rebuilding of legitimate platforms for multi-level interactions: among Rivers people in groups or as individuals; between communities; between corporate and individual citizens; and between government and stakeholders of the State.

That understanding informed the establishment of various forums by the Governor to ensure that channels of communications are kept open, that wisdom is gleaned from among the citizenry for the benefit of the whole state and that misunderstanding is given no room at all to thrive. Some of the forums established by the Governor include:

- Town Hall meetings which the Governor regularly had with residents of each of the 23 Local Government areas;
- stakeholders forum where the state government engages indigenous and non-indigenous locals, corporate stakeholders and national/ international development partners;
- Intergovernmental forum where the state government facilitates a platform for leaders of various arms, ministries, extra-ministerial bodies, parastatals, and other agencies to share and ventilate ideas as well as identify their mandate within the larger mission of the current administration;

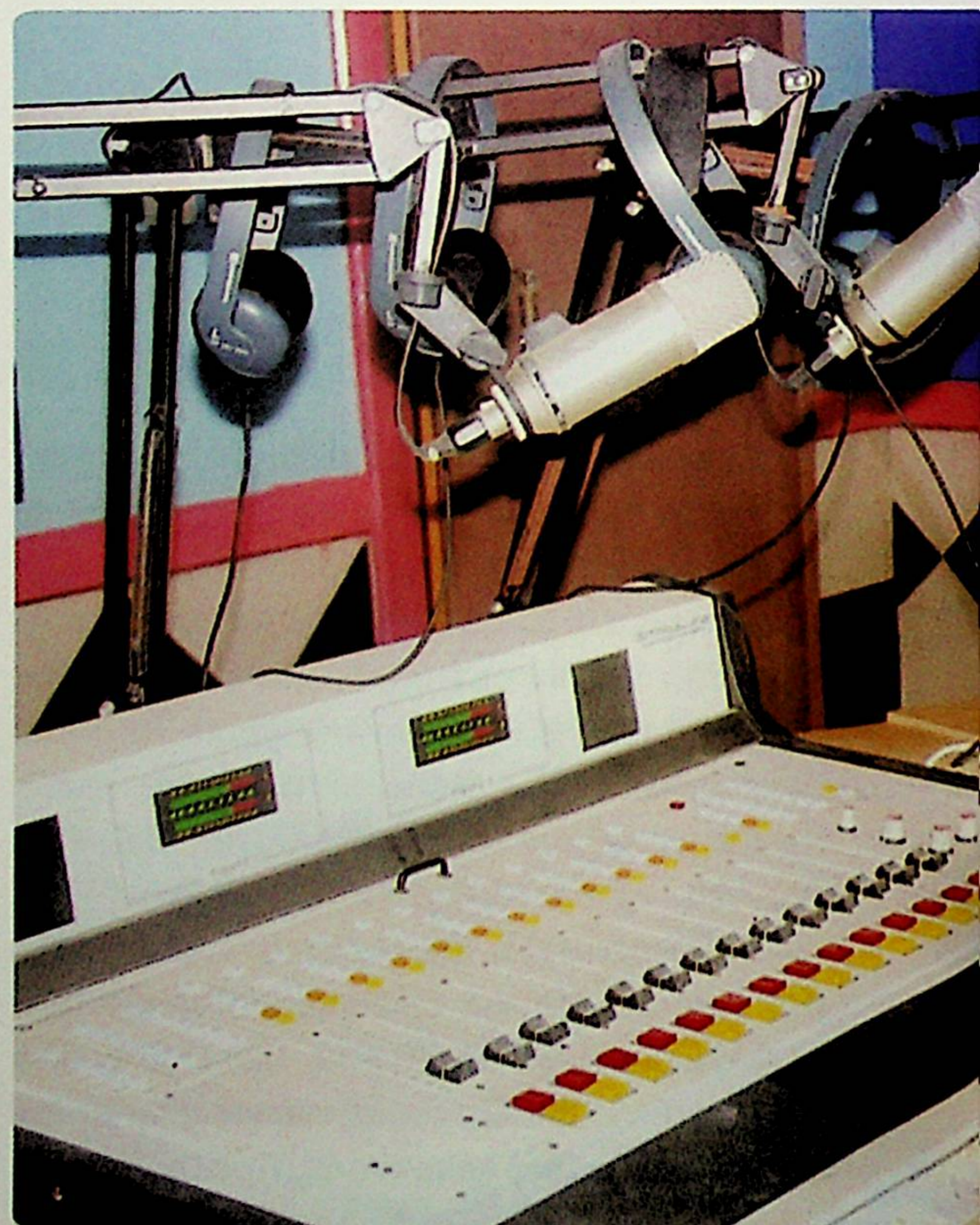
Notwithstanding, the State government charged the State's Ministry of Information and Communication with a reinforced mandate built on the mission of informing, educating and mobilizing the Rivers State citizenry on the policies and programmes of Government in order to elicit their active participation in governance.

In concert with the various parastatals of the Ministry spanning electronic broadcast (radio, television and internet) and print, the Ministry has employed various creative vehicles in mobilizing a harmony out of the once

discordant voices of Rivers people. Some of these measures include the deliberate engagement of public enlightenment opportunities, orientation campaigns, and feedback drives.

*Some of the landmark achievements of the Ministry include:*

1. The successful management of the once



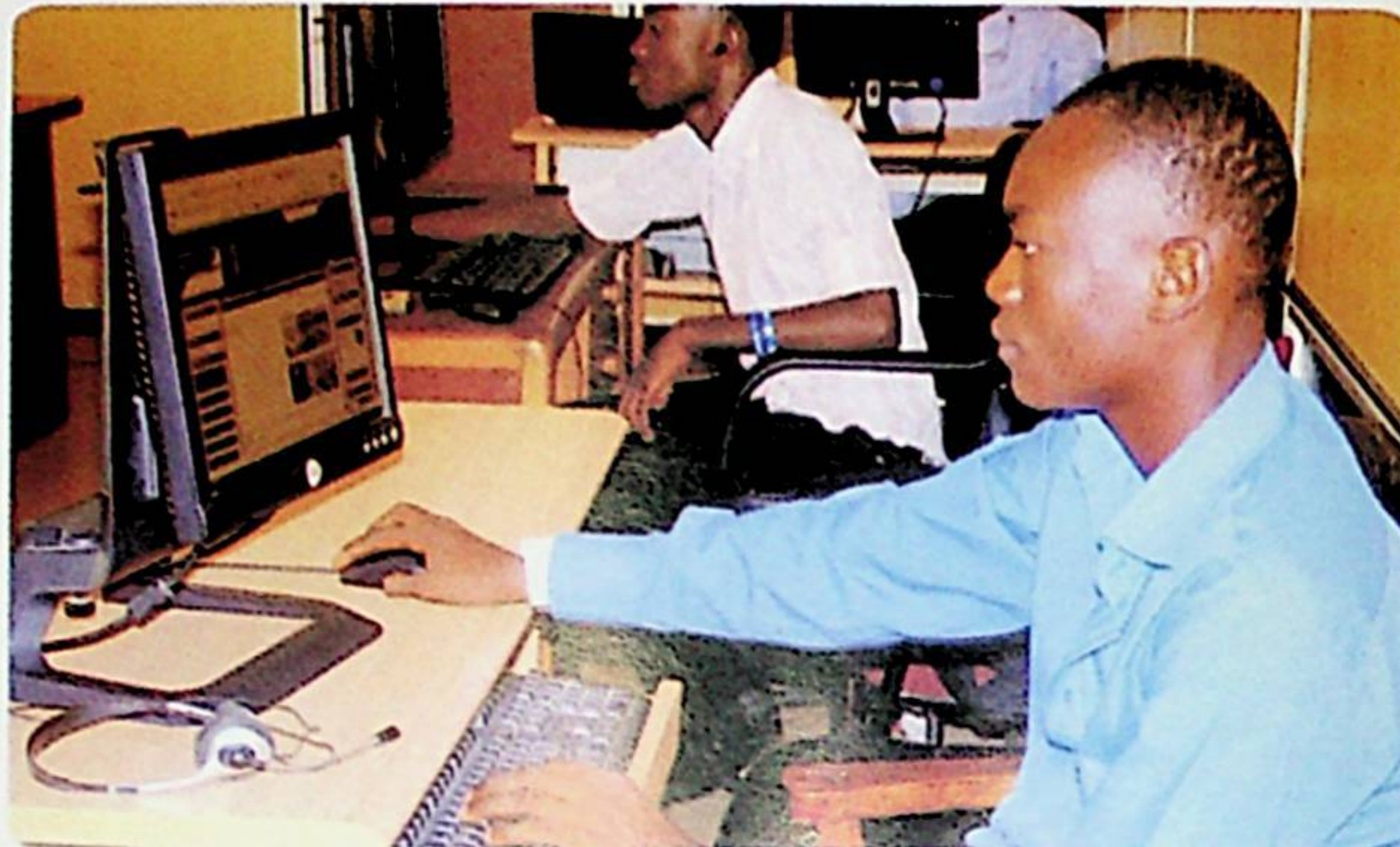


volatile issue of waterfront redevelopment which threatened to tear the state apart which the Ministry engaged with an open-door-policy for all aggrieved parties, various public enlightenment instruments like radio drama, television and radio jingles, billboard and postbill messages, advocacy campaigns to break down the myths and release the real issues, and above all, the presentation of the true face of the government as an accountable one that could be trusted;

2. The training and retraining of information officers working in all the Local Government Areas, and in Ministerial and extra-ministerial bodies so as to become credible and effective vehicles of information exchange between the government and the people of Rivers State;
  3. The empowerment of independent players in the State's media sector to focus on their critical duty of advancing informed development in every nook and cranny of Rivers State. This was done through several training and skill acquisition initiatives. The Ministry also took steps to engage, as well as mobilize other independent players to engage, foreign purveyors of negative and incorrect information about Rivers State in the international media space. The direct effect is a clear shift in perception of the brand of the State. From the hub of criminality in the Niger Delta, the State now has received the benefit of doubt to begin to tell its own story towards the building of a new but sustainable brand for the state;
  4. The advancement of the core tenets of the Governor Chibuike Amaechi led administration on national and international platforms, especially the administration's reputation as a firm believer in open and accountable governments. Specifically, the Ministry, in partnership with the Open Society Justice Initiative and Right to Know, R2K organized Africa's first Open Government Summit in Port Harcourt in 2010 with facilitators and participants from several continents of the world.
  5. The development and launch of a new brand celebrating the change that has come to Rivers State.
- Today, talk is cheap again as residents, rich and poor alike have reclaimed their natural right and constitutional right to expression. Healthy debates are back on the airwaves. Anger is meeting reason and fizzling away. An atmosphere for social development and engineering has once represented itself to the good and peace loving people of Rivers State. ●

# RIVERS STATE IS TALKING AGAIN

RIVERS STATE-PerformanceReviewJournal







# Unlock your potentials

- *Media services*
- *Printing and publishing*
- *Corporate gifts*
- *Consultancy*

At Shophar Nigeria Limited, we place emphasis on delivering quality services. That is why we are key to **unlock your potentials.**

**SHOPHAR** Nigeria Limited

Corporate Head Office: 29, Norman Williams Street, Off Keffi Street, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria. Tel: +234 1 7403552, 08022562144, 08062441008 Fax: 1 509 695 7676,

Port Harcourt: Ven. ODC Brown House, 1, Ilorin Street, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Tel: 08058033813

Abuja: Suite 124, Anbeez Plaza, Opp. Corporate Affairs Commission Hqts, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.