

CHIEF
THEODORE A.
ORJI
(OCHENDO)



THE NEW **Abia**
AGENDA

M A N I F E S T O



Let's Abians
DO IT
again

Abians
Let's **DO IT**
again

AHAMEFULE:
RETURNING
ABIA
TO
GOD AND ITS PEOPLE



THE NEW Abia

A G E N D A

Agenda

I am humbled by your support through thick and thin as was unequivocally manifested when, unwilling to betray your mandate; GOD used me with your support, to liberate our State from its unfortunate past. This new political and economic freedom has led to the re-engagement of Abians from all works of life in the development of our State.

We thank them and all friends of Abia State who have been part of this engagement and extend our hands of brotherhood to all to join us to re-dedicate ourselves to the task of building a New Abia State for the good of all our people.

Agenda





Challenges

Challenges

We are not unmindful of the numerous challenges confronting the State, those we have been grappling with include:

- The breakdown in the machinery of governance;
- The collapse of our traditional values-hard work, integrity, honesty, communal and self-help spirit, discipline, transparency, accountabilitys;
- Limited opportunity for productive activity leading to poverty, unemployment and their negative consequences like crime, insecurity and youth restiveness:
 - Weak infrastructure;
 - Decline in the quality of education;
 - Legacy of impunity;
 - Inherited and crippling debt burden;
 - Poor revenue generation and financial leakages.

In continuation of our effort to tackle these challenges, we reached out to Abia professionals from diverse disciplines to dialogue on the way forward. Their enthusiastic response led to the first ever Abia Economic Summit on 6th-7th December, 2010, where these scholars and technocrats joined us to envision a New Abia ---" *A modern, prosperous and secure State built on the energy, drive and enterprise of its people*".

This vision underpins our agenda for creating shared prosperity through the development of infrastructure, industry, agriculture and mutually beneficial linkages to our neighbors, Nigeria and the world. We will realize this vision and sustain the successes so far achieved, when you, the people, graciously renew my mandate for a second term in office as your Governor.

Achievements

We have made appreciable progress in the realization of our programmes and we are poised to do more although the paucity of resources has been a major challenge.

We believe that security of lives and property and the pursuit of legitimate livelihood without fear is our people's inalienable right. Indeed securing its people is the *raison d'être* of Government. We therefore pursued the restoration of security agencies especially the Nigerian Army, the Police and Department of State Security in combating the security challenges that plagued our State which led divestment. We adopted the Tricycle (Keke) as an intra-city transportation mode to reduce accidents and violent crimes in our major cities.

Our Disarmament/ Amnesty programme is active and we have restructured the Abia Vigilante Service.

Partnering with private investors we successfully revitalized a 5-ton/hour industrial oil palm mill at Mbawsi. That partnership also reactivated the 2,600 hectare (1,500 ha with improved seedlings) oil palm estate at Ohambele, and is reactivating 2000 hectares of oil palm at Ulonna North/South and Ozuitem/Amamba. We have ordered 1 million improved seedlings to replant the fallow areas of these plantations. We are developing a pilot "*Songhai Integrated Farm*" on 55 hectares at Okwoi, Ibeku for plantain, banana and pineapples and 200 hectares in Ndibe, Abam/Bende for rice and fish farming. We will soon send 20 more workers to Songhai in Porto Nova, Benin Republic for training/manpower development.





Over 400 youths have been employed in these plantations with a projection to employ 1,000 more. We also just recruited 1000 young people into the State Civil Service.

We have undertaken the rehabilitation of major economic access roads in the State and have almost completed the Housing Estates at Adelabu Street, Umuahia, Amauba, Ubakala I and Garden City, Osisioma Ngwá and are providing "site and services" at Amauba, Ubakala II and Isieke Ibeku Housing Estates for private development.

The government regards the health of Abians as priority and has established 2 world class specialist and diagnostic hospitals with state-of-the-art equipment, 1 each in Umuahia and Aba. We hope this will discourage spending scarce foreign exchange to travel abroad for medical attention and redirect the traffic of medical tourism to Abia. We have in partnership with MDGS built and equipped 207 Primary Health Centers and sank 130 boreholes in various communities in the State to increase access to potable water.

THE NEW ABIA

The New Abia Agenda is designed to:

**REFORM AND RE-ENGINEER
GOVERNANCE**

**REDEVELOP ABA AS AN INDUSTRIAL
AND COMMERCIAL HUB**

**DEVELOP OUR HUMAN CAPITAL AND
EMPOWER OUR WOMEN AND YOUTH**

**ESTABLISH NEW PARTNERSHIPS TO
CREATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

**MODERNIZE OUR AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES
TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY
AND EMPLOYMENT**



The New Abia





1. REFORM AND RE-ENGINEER GOVERNANCE

We recognize that the essence of governance is to ensure the welfare and security of its citizens and facilitate their access to economic opportunities. We have begun the process of re-engineering governance to be more responsible and responsive to the electorate at whose pleasure we all serve. As part of this effort we have sent the "Due Process" and "Fiscal Responsibilities" Bills to the House of Assembly for enactment into law.

To achieve effective and efficient service delivery, we are redesigning the incentive structure to reward leadership, initiative and honesty, promote capacity to acquire new and relevant knowledge and conscientiousness.

We pledge to:

- Make governance open and transparent; hire the best hands and apply best practices in doing government business and improve synergy amongst MDAs.
- Introduce Town Hall meetings to increase stakeholders' participation in governance; emphasize Budget discipline and active Joint State/Local Government planning and budgeting;
- Ensure that the laws on "Due Process" and "Fiscal Responsibility" are fully implemented;
- Improve staff and pension records with information Technology and introduce 'e-payroll' to eliminate delay in payment of salaries and pensions;
- Re-engineer the financial management of the State to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency in the management of our finances;

- Create incentives to encourage greater productivity and good labor relations
- Increase the participation of Youth and Women in governance; and
- Create institutions for Public / Private Collaboration in development projects

2. REDEVELOP ABA AS AN INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL HUB

The Government will redevelop Aba as a hub for industrial and commercial activities. Aba has had a special place in commerce in West Africa, due to decaying infrastructure and new trade patterns its place is being eroded and undermined. We will leverage on her endowment with self awareness, political Sagacity, industry and entrepreneurial skills to develop bold initiatives to facilitate and fast track the growth of Aba into a modern City.

The role of international development agencies will be particularly welcome we have substantially addressed the security and waste management challenges and have commenced the reconstruction of major access roads and new drainages to address the flooding of the city.

We will:

- Partner with International Development Agencies and investors to improve the productivity and competitiveness of our enterprises, enhance market information and showcase 'Made in Aba' products;
- Strengthen our environmental management agencies, encourage the "greeting" and beautification of Aba and fast-track-waste recycling and the "Waste to Bio-energy" project;



The New Abia

WELCOME TO
GOD'S OWN

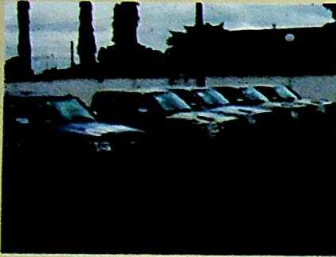
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Save our environ
invest in your fut

ABIA TOWER:
THE PRIDE OF ABIA PEOPLE

ABIA
STATE

ment.



- Develop satellite towns, industrial clusters and layouts to decongest the city.

3. ESTABLISH NEW PARTNERSHIP TO CREATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

The New Abia Agenda will deepen economic opportunities in the State by attracting investment to Abia. An important platform of this transformative initiative is to strengthen our partnerships with Federal Government, Multilateral Agencies, International Institutions and the private sector. Abia is now in the hands of its enterprising people and the return on our investment on security will be the reengagement of investors to create value and employment opportunities. Our new relationship with the Federal Government will also attract development assistance and Federal presence in the State. To foster these partnerships we will continue to invest in:

A. SECURITY

- Consolidate on the successes achieved and build on them;
- Continue to collaborate with the military and other security agencies in the state to address security challenges;
- Continue to assist the security agencies with logistics;
- Explore the use of technology e.g. CCTV to enhance the security and policing of the state
- Encourage citizens to assist the police with information for crime prevention and detection.

B. INFRASTRUCTURE

Electricity

In partnership with the Federal Government and the private sector, we would ensure the completion of the 133KVA Sub-station. We facilitated the ferrying of the gas turbines across the Imo River to encourage the early completion of the NIPP Project at Alaoji and expect the Geometric plant to also come on stream soon. Abia and other Southeast states are bidding to buy the Enugu Distribution company of the PHCN, managed by a Special purpose Vehicle (SPV), to improve electricity distribution. We will continue to assist needy communities gain access to electricity transformers.

Roads

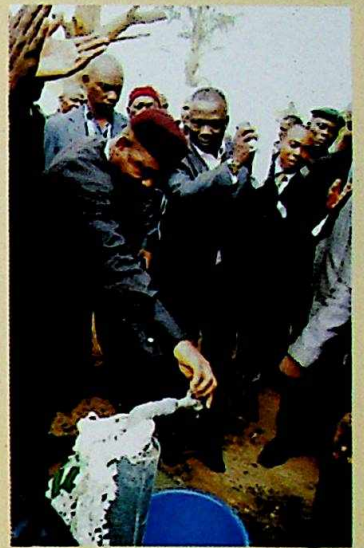
We will re-double efforts to improve access to our major economic centres by continuing to build and rehabilitate roads/drainages across the State and generate employment by recreating the Public Works Maintenance Teams. We will partner with the Federal Government to rehabilitate Federal roads in our State.

Water

Access to potable water is critical for the sustenance of life. We will facilitate private participation in rehabilitating and reticulating the regional water schemes in Umuahia, Aba, Ohafia, Bende etc. We will also encourage International Agencies UNICEF (WES), World Bank etc to participate in the provision of portable water for our people.

Housing

We are aware that housing is a major need of Abians especially urban dwellers. There is serious housing



The New Ab





deficit, worsened by the enormous financial outlay required, which the government alone cannot handle. We will create the infrastructural (Site and Services) required to actualize the private Sector and international agencies' commitment to develop 5,000 Housing units (3,000 units of 2 Bedroom 1,500 units of 3 Bedroom and 500 units of 4 Bedrooms) at reasonable prices and tenor. We will also encourage the development of mortgage financing of home ownership.

C. TOURISM

- Plans have advanced with investors interested in constructing and managing a 5-Star Hotel in Umuahia. This will also create enormous employment opportunities.
- We will explore all opportunities to exploit our tourism potentials e.g. Azumini Blue River, Ojukwu Bunker, War museum etc.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND SANITATION

Government will pursue a policy that ensures sound environmental management/cleanliness to enhance the health of its citizens and encourage investment. To this end, we will:

- Encourage the "greening" of our cities through tree planting and beautification;
- Strengthen the agencies responsible for waste management;
- Improve access to the Ecological Fund to address erosion ravaging part of the State through our good relations with the Federal Government;

- Partner with International Agencies to attract environment and "climate change" related funds to the state.

E. INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

We recently installed a new Analogue transmitter, returning BCA TV to life. A State-of-the art Digital transmitter has been procured and waits for NBC licensing. We have also procured one (1) Outside Broadcasting (OB) Van for live coverage of events within and outside the state. We will further:

- Establish a "Data Bank" to assist the state's economic planning/management and facilitate the engagement of international intervention funds and investors.
- Commission an Aerial Geographical survey of the State.

F. OTHER INCENTIVES

- Liberalise and fast track land acquisition and the issuance of property titles;
- Re-vitalise vocational and technical education to provide a pool of skilled labour;
- Create a "One Stop" shop for investors;
- Introduce fiscal incentives;
- Encourage the Federal Government to revisit "Dry port" project at Isiala Ngwa;
- Strengthens the industrial parks/estates in the 3 senatorial districts to encourage the growth of MSMEs and develop local resources;





4. DEVELOP OUR HUMAN CAPITAL AND EMPOWER OUR WOMEN AND YOUTH

Appropriate human capital is the cornerstone of any programme of economic transformation and empowerment. Our people are the single most important resource of our state and we will spare no effort in ensuring that they acquire the knowledge, skills and health that will enable them compete in the global market place. Our effort will be directed towards:

A. EDUCATION

There is a crisis in the educational sector, beginning with the primary on to secondary levels; We need to rebuild the foundations. Government will initiate consultation with all stakeholders-Missionaries, Town Unions; Teachers' Unions etc to x-ray the problems and work out solutions. We will also realign the educational system to emphasize Vocation/Technical training to develop the skills required and seize the opportunities created by the New Abia Agenda.

B. HEALTH

We will sustain our Primary Health Care system by properly equipping and staffing them with appropriate medical personnel. To achieve this we shall encourage the massive training of nurses and other health workers. We will attract Abians with medical expertise in the diaspora to partner with state in ensuring a viable and efficient health care delivery system for its people.

C. SPORTS

The government will continue to sponsor the Abia Warriors and Enyimba Football Clubs and

encourage the development of other sporting activities to bring laurels to the State. Already we are partnering with a European Football Club to establish a Soccer Academy in the State.

D. EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS

Creation of employment opportunities is critical to the New Abian Agenda. All our focal areas are employment- generation centered, and will enable Government create opportunities for 10,000 new jobs for Abians. Since there is limit to government direct employment, we shall empower the youth and women to explore self employment i.e. through mentoring, micro-finance, access to credit/loans to cooperatives, skills acquisition, entrepreneurship and vocational training. We shall ensure cordial labour relations. The Abia State Public Service will benefit from the new National Minimum Wage.

5. MODERNIZE OUR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY.

Our agriculture policy is targeted at ensuring food security, employment generation and rural development. Rural communities face numerous challenges but also many opportunities. Government has identified key agricultural commodities in which Abia has competitive and comparative advantage, such as Cassava, rice and oil palm. The policy of government will be to develop their full value chains for wealth creation. Government will partner with farmers' cooperative to procure and distribute farm inputs and continue to subsidize the price of fertilizers to increase yield. We will provide subsistence farmers and rural agro-businesses access to micro credit/financial





services, market information, subsidized fertilizer and farm inputs. We will also:

- **Encourage** agro-business clusters to create economies of scale for farm enterprises
- **Encourage** young people to become farmers and establish new programs to identify and train the next generation of farmers
- **Upgrade** rural infrastructure by investing in feeder roads, bridges, etc that rural communities need to evacuate their produce

The New Abia

WE CAN SEE THAT
EVERYTHING IS
TURNING AROUND
FOR GOOD

