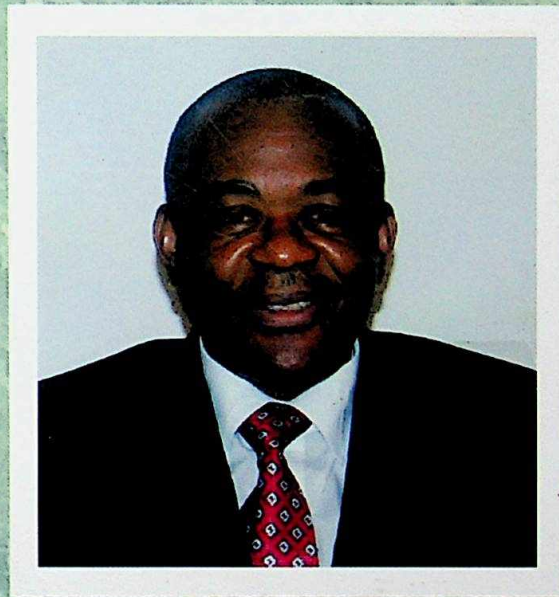


WHERE THERE IS A WILL

VOL 2

DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE



CHIEF T. A. ORJI

Administration on the saddle as Governor of Abia State

29 MAY, 2008 - 29 MAY, 2009

COMPILED BY SAM HART

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Volume Two

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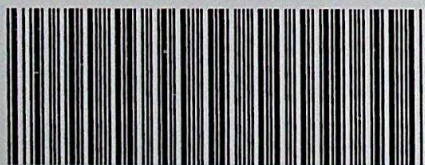
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WHERE THERE IS A WILL



His Excellency
Chief Theodore Ahamefule Orji
Governor, Abia State

WHERE THERE IS A WILL



His Excellency
Comrade Chris A. Akomas
Deputy Governor, Abia State



Her Excellency
Chief Mrs. Mercy Odochi Orji
Wife of the Governor, Abia State

WHERE THERE IS A WILL



Her Excellency
Chief Mrs. Uchechi Chris Akomas
Wife of the Deputy Governor, Abia State

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to His Excellency, Dr. T.A. Orji, the 3rd Executive Governor of Abia State, a man who has by virtue of his actions, redefined the concept of service within the Nigerian political firmament.

I proffer my deepest appreciation to him for the opportunity he has given me not only to serve him, but also to exercise my judgment in the implementation of the far-reaching duties he has been assigning to me. It has been a privilege sir and I say May God Bless You.

INTRODUCTION

Theodore Ahomefulu Orji was born in his hometown Amaokwe Ugba, Umuahia Ibeku in Umuahia North Local Government Area of Abia State in 1950. He attended St. Michaels Catholic Primary School, Umuahia, Santa Crux Secondary School, Olokoro, Holy Ghost College, Owerri and capped his educational pursuit with a Bachelor of Art Degree in English from the prestigious University of Ibadan in 1977.

As a patriotic young Nigerian, he gladly enlisted for the National Youths Corps Scheme on graduation and was deployed to Sokoto State where he was posted to teach at Government Secondary School, Shinkafi, Isa Local Government Area of the State.

On the successful completion of the National Youth Service Corps Scheme in 1978, the Young Theodore Ahomefulu Orji offered himself for public service and was promptly employed as an Administrative Officer in the old Imo State civil service on 18th December, 1979.

Subsequently, he served in various capacities in The Cabinet Office, Ministry of Lands and Survey, Ministry of Agriculture and Imo State Government House.

At the creation of Abia State in 1991, it was a relatively experienced T.A Orji that returned to Umuahia to champion the course of laying a strong foundation for the new state. He therefore served in Government House, Umuahia, Bureau of Budget and Planning and Ministry of Agriculture.

On March 1st 1996, T.A Orji was seconded to the National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (NECON) now INEC, Abia State as Administrative Secretary and was later redeployed to Enugu State in 1997 where he supervised the elections that ushered in the democratic government in the state in 1999.

Thereafter, he returned to Abia State as Principal Secretary, Government House, Umuahia and Chief of Staff to the Executive Governor.

In December 2006, he won the Gubernatorial Primaries of the Progressive Peoples Alliance to contest the 2007 governorship elections in Abia State.

On April 14, 2007, he resoundingly defeated his closes rival by over 200 thousand votes to emerge Governor of Abia State. He thus made history as being the first Governor in the History of Nigeria to win his election while in detention.

To the Glory of God, he was sworn in on Tuesday, May 29, 2007 as the 3rd Executive Governor of Abia, Gods Own State.

Chief T.A Orji has been recognized and conferred with many traditional titles. Some of which include

Ochendo Ibeku, Utuagbaigwe of Ngwaland and Ohazurume of Abia South.

The Executive Governor of Abia State is happily married to Chief Mrs. Mercy Odochi Orji and their marriage is blessed with Five Children.

Today, it's been two years since that faithful day in May when Chief Theodore Ahamefule Orji assumed office as governor of Abia State and it has been one year of non-stop action.

Viewed independently, these achievements could be deemed as routine but when taken collectively and juxtaposed against the backdrop of scarce resources available to the state, a systematic pattern of determined achievements emerge which bears testimony to the fact that this is an administration ordained by God and enjoying God's tremendous favour and blessing.

For everyday Governor Orji spends in office, its either a project is being flagged off, inspected or commissioned.

At the rate at which the T. A. Orji administration is moving, there is no doubt that the glory days of Abia State are around the corner.

He has shown an uncommon zeal to better the lot of Abians and the people are extremely happy with their Governor.

This book is an attempt to chronicle these projects on a sectoral basis to give us a deeper insight into the person, idiosyncrasy, driving spirit and passion of Dr. T.A. Orji.

APPRECIATION

A work of this magnitude and depth cannot be actualized without the substantial input and support of a wide range of people. My first appreciation goes to God for his gift of life, grace and mercies. I want to in a special way thank His Excellency, Dr. T.A. Orji, the man I have the honour of calling 'My Boss' without whose foresight and determination there would not have been anything to write about. Special thanks also goes to 'Osin'ulo Maranma Puo Nama', Chief Mrs. Mercy Odochi Orji for her constant encouragement and motherly disposition.

To my esteemed *ogo*, His Excellency, Comrade Chris Akomas, Deputy Governor, Abia State and his amiable wife, Chief Mrs. Uchechi Chris Akomas, I say thank you sir for all the encouragement.

To the one I call *Ochiagha* whom i know would not want his name mentioned here, i'm gratefull for all the encouragement and assistance.

I thank in a special way, former Governor Orji Uzor Kalu for teaching me that the word impossible does not exist. Gratitude also to the Secretary to the State Government, Mazi Donatus Okorie, the Chief of Staff to the Governor Mr. Mascot Uzor Kalu and the State Head of Service Barr. Ngozi Chikwendu.

A major inspiration for this book came from professor Chibuzo Ogbuagu's **Landmarks in Diversified & Qualitative Development: Governor Orji Uzor Kalu in Abia State since 1999**. Ideas also came from past works of Mr. Onuoha Udeala, Iyke Ekeoma, and Dr. Victor Ike Oye.

I thank all the Permanent Secretaries, all Heads of Ministerial and Non-Ministerial Departments, Parastatals and Agencies who contributed the data used in collating this work.

To the Director of Protocol, Government House, Umuahia, Felix Ibelegbu, the Director of Finance, Government House, Umuahia, Sir Gabriel Onyendilefu Personal Assistant to the Governor, Chief Emeka Enyiazu, the Aide-De-Camp to the Governor, SUPOL Isaac Okoro, the Chief Detail, Oliver Nwoko and all security, protocol, press and general staff of Government House, Umuahia, I say it has been a pleasure working with you all.

My appreciation to the Vice Chancellor, Abia State University, Professor Mkpa Agu Mkpa, the Registrar of the Institution, Mr. O.E.Ornuoha, the Dean, Lecturers and students of the Faculty of Law, Abia State University, Uturu for teaching me that knowledge, no matter when it is acquired, is priceless.

My sincere appreciations to Mr. Onuoha Udeala for opening the doors of Government House, Umuahia to me, Mr. Iyke Ekeoma for allowing me room to develop the talent God deposited in me and Dr. Victor Ike Oye for keeping me on the straight and narrow path.

My deepest gratitude goes to my delectable wife, Mrs. Jennifer C. Hart and all the joy a father can hope for, my daughters, *Akunnaya*, Bella Adaeze Hart and *Akuabata* Karina Amarachukwu Hart for bearing with me through the late nights and lonely nights.

I wish to specially thank Amb. Prof. Chinedu Asinu-Anosike and the entire CONA family for the personal dedication and enthusiasm they bring to all the projects we have been involved in over the years. We will do a lot more in future Chief. Thank you.

I must not fail to acknowledge the staff in my office: Jinanwa Azubuike, Comfort Nwachukwu who retyped all the manuscript for this work, Darlington Njoku, Uche Martins Kalu, Ikechukwu Onwuzuruigbo, Victor Vincent and Chijindu Otuonye for allowing me push them to provocative extremes.

I say thank you to all of you and may God Bless you all.

It is well with Abia State.



Sam Hart
May, 2009

PREFACE

There is nothing as challenging as one finding oneself in leadership position, and leadership becomes more compelling and purposeful when it emerges from a stiff contest of election. The leader becomes the cynosure of all eyes, some protruding with skepticism, very eagerly looking for loopholes for endless criticisms.

Such was the situation when **Chief Dr. Theodore Ahamefule Orji, (Ochendo)** the astute bureaucrat mounted the leadership saddle of Abia, God's Own State, on 29th May, 2007. When therefore we talk about **landmark achievements**, one begins to wonder what the man, **Theodore Ahamefule Orji**, has achieved to earn such accolade. But the question is readily answered by the very eloquent self-evident and self-advertising landmark achievements he has recorded within two years in office as Governor of Abia State. Perhaps, never in the history of this State has such monumental feat in development in such short a period been recorded.

People have not forgotten that there are still a number of politicians on ego trip, making desperate efforts to place blocks on the way of success, but **T.A** as fondly called by numerous admirers has been undaunted, moving in the right direction in implementing his manifesto to the people of Abia State.

Despite the travails that trailed his emergence as the third Executive Governor of Abia State, **T.A** could not wait for the ovation, which heralded his swearing in to subside when he swung into action. As the people-oriented servant leader, he took bold steps to confront the developmental challenges facing the State.

A leader's background influences his view, motivation and direction. And to this extent, he has delivered and continues to deliver according to his perception of what things are and how they ought to be. It has been a story of one achievement after another in progressive dimension.

The present effort of Governor **T.A Orji** and his administration to place Abia at its foremost position is therefore unique and unprecedented in the history of Abia State. He is succeeding in blazing new trails in peaceful and social transformation of the State through systematic and well co-ordinated provision of necessary infrastructure, social amenities and other democratic dividends never witnessed in Abia State.

Giant strides have been recorded in the areas of water, rural development, pension arrears and gratuity, enhancement for workers, education, etc. Perhaps the most striking, among others, is the transformation of Umuahia into a modern capital city, a development which has kept cynics gaping. And those who left Abia before **T.A** came on board may find it difficult to recognize the State whenever they return.

It is a huge success story. Streetlights are now spectacles of delight in all major streets in Aba and Umuahia, water is not left out as residents now enjoy water from public taps and major roads have been dualized to ease traffic. Civil Servants in the State now have a lot to smile about as Government has promoted them to their

next grade level, even as they are consistently promoted as at when due.

Crime prevention has received a boost with the support His Excellency has been giving to the Abia State Police Command and other Security Agencies through the provision of crime prevention equipment and vehicles.

The tuition free primary and secondary education policy has been in place while the Free Bus Scheme initiated by this administration has grown with additional buses purchased to complement the existing ones.

Encouraged by the maxim that "Health is Wealth" His Excellency has not only sustained the free medical scheme introduced by his predecessor, **Chief (Dr.) Orji Uzor Kalu**, but has also taken it to an enviable height for the benefit of Abians.

One of the cardinal programmes of **Dr. T.A Orji** is to encourage the private sector in the State to operate maximally. This will ensure job creation where our teeming youths will be gainfully employed. In this regard, the government of Abia State has stepped in to revamp all ailing industries and companies that are moribund.

In the shortest possible time and in partnership with the private sector companies like the Golden Guinea Breweries, Umuahia, Ogwe Gold Chicken, Abia Palm Nig. Ltd, International Glass Industries Aba etc will be fully resuscitated as well as the establishment of Industrial Estates in each of the three senatorial zones of the State.

The visionary **Ochendo**, true to the title did not overlook the accommodation problem in the State. He has variously taken on the provision of a befitting Secretariat Complex, new housing estate projects especially at the old clerks quarters on Adelabu Street in Umuahia, the Amauba Housing Estate and just recently, Isieke Housing Estate etc. for a visionary, committed and dynamic leader like **Chief Dr. T.A Orji**, not less is expected.

The book '**WHERE THERE IS A WILL**' is definitely a compendium of the formidable achievements of Governor T.A Orji in his first two years in office. With such unprecedented feat in so short a time, T.A is indeed the man of the moment and a colossus.



Mazi Donatus Okorie
Secretary to the State Government

The next two years will see Abia State turn to an El Dorado. The Onus is on all to join hands in support of this great leader and an icon of good governance anointed by God to serve his people.

Abia is God's Own State and the Glory of God is manifesting in the midst of His people.

FOREWORD

A very long time ago, in the distant past, a philosopher King, Plato, using an allegory of metals categorized men into three distinct types, namely, gold, silver and lead. His **Excellency Dr. Theodore Ahamefule Orji**, as a man, leader and Governor, is unquestionable pure and superb gold. He reflects gold in his humane, humble and warm disposition to fellow human beings, and in being a tireless worker who specially treasures and is gifted in problem-solving in society through worthy and tested policy interventions. His brilliant and development-inducing performance in government, socio-political and economic development is golden just as his impact in Abia in his first one year in office.

On a related score, one of my long standing friends and a colleague drew my attention to the days of yore in the fabled Igbo world-view of animals and human beings; when men and women were men and women, when honour and privileges were duly granted to those who truly deserved them, when fireside folklore stories were common in Igbo homes and the wider village squares. The story was told of the red "crowned" lizard who with a strong conviction reminded its audience of the following facts drawn from an analogy which argues that "any chick which would survive into a cock, is known even from the first day of hatching" (Iloeje, 2006:1). It has long become an entrenched tradition in assessment of the performance of leaders in government and society to refer to the first 100 days, first year, and so forth during their term of office.

Following conventional yardstick and traditional analogy, Governor Theodore Ahamefule Orji is pure gold as a man and in his service to Abia State. Based on this unalterable fact, he has "survived" into a great leader among the highest rank of achievers in the society.

For the above reasons, I am delighted to write a foreword for the publication entitled, Landmark achievements of the administration of Dr. Theodore A. Orji in his second year in office as the Executive Governor of Abia (God's Own) State. This is because Governor Orji's splendid performance in government and governance of the society makes it an easy task. In addition, the material comes to the bookshelves at a propitious time given the socio-economic development strides that have been taken towards a better society since May 29, 2007, when he assumed the mantle of leadership of the State.

He is clearly a consummate manager of human and material resources. It is therefore not at all panegyric to sum up that Governor Theodore Orji has worked in a way that has re-inforced the immediate past development efforts in the State. A wide horizon, ability, high experience topped with the fear of the Eternal and Almighty God largely account for the success of his government so far.

WHERE THERE IS A WILL

Indeed, his experience in public administration is diamond-edged having served as a top civil servant for more than two and half decades, part of which was spent as Permanent Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Governor in the immediate past administration of Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu, MON.

In point of fact, Governor T. A. Orji has clearly established himself as a solid, superb and indefatigable administrator of high height. This book therefore, simply and clearly presents a fairly detailed, captivating account of his second year in office. Equally important is Governor Orji's humane disposition, which has enabled him to make immeasurable impact in the minds of many people in Abia State. Those who have worked with the Governor find him as an authentic leader, calm, genial, an extraordinary and highly skilled administrator who hardly shows stress even under huge pressures he faces in public service.

Indeed, he has the energy to go the extra mile in logging in very long working hours and for meeting the brass tacks of the chores of government in most effective ways. It is alien to find Dr. Theodore Orji engaging in hedging or perversity often practiced by many administrators or bureaucrats. Instead, he is tip-top in finding ready answers and solutions for varied matters that confront government.

In addition, Governor Orji hardly hides under the easy-to-reach style of pleading for time to think about what to do. On this score, he is noted for giving frank advice to his superiors and subordinates alike. Thus, demonstrating leadership by example.

Very significant in the attitude of the Executive Governor is that he firmly believes that honesty, hardwork and the fear of the Lord are 'glues' that energize and propel government for effective, efficient, responsible and responsive service to the people. Underlying the very impressive steps already taken to improve the State and the living standards of the ordinary citizens is that the Governor considers his electoral victory at the polls as divine.

This was achieved despite his incarceration at the critical period of electioneering campaigns and while under the difficult weight of political falsehood against him. Often, in his appreciation of how he got to power, he is emboldened to believe and strongly feel challenged to serve God's Own State to the best of his ability.

No wonder the Governor's first year in Office (May 29 2007 May 29, 2008) has witnessed monumental efforts directed at meeting the multifaceted demands for rapid and enhancing development in the polity. His ability and toughness in pursuing worthy government goals and interventions in social, economic and political spheres are exemplified by the following achievements:

- Across-the-board raising to the next salary grade-level for all categories of public servants in the State a policy posture which has thrown huge challenges to Abia workers and labour to contribute their might to the development of the State;

- Continuing and strengthening free medical services to Abia communities. Particularly in rural areas and for the masses. As at the end of April 2008, virtually all the many locations in the 17 local Government areas of the State have received free medical attention a number of times

over;

- Releasing regular funds for payment of pensions and gratuity to varied retired workers of the State over;
- Uplifting and enhancing funding of the education sector at all levels. Of particular note is that institutions such as Abia State University, Uturu; College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu; and the Abia State Polytechnic, Aba are accorded reasonable attention particularly in the areas of increase of monthly subventions and sufficient funds to meet their diverse accreditation responsibilities;
- Massive road construction and maintenance. Significant works in the area of road construction and rehabilitation are the dualization of Ibiyam and Library Avenue and Umuahia-Ossah road; A-Line and F-line in Ariaria market, Aba; Timber market roads, Uratta Aba and Umuafai-World Bank Housing Estate Road, Umuahia. Others include, Osisioma Ring Road and Unity Garden Road; Ntigha-Mbawsi, Isieke-Ahieke, Afara Ukwu, Abiriba, Nunya-Eluama Isuikwuato, Obikabia, Achara Ihechiowa, Oboha, and Abam roads, etcetra;
- Introduction of streetlights where not available in many areas of the State;
- Improvement on and ensuring regularity of water supply particularly in Umuahia and Aba;
- Beautifying and upgrading of infrastructures at Abia State Capital, Umuahia and other areas of the State;
- Commencement of the building of a new and befitting State Secretariat for civil servants in Umuahia;
- Work is in progress for the Umuahia new market located at Ubani Ibeku. The primary objective is to achieve the construction of an ultra-modern market for enhancing economic activities in Umuahia capital area and also to relocate the old market to a better and more spacious site.
- Providing free bus service for students; and
- Construction of an ultra-modern complex at the Government Layout Umuahia, to house the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Joint Account and Allocation Committee (JAAC) and the Secretariat for the Abia State Council of Ndi-Eze.

As earlier implied, beyond Governor Theodore Orji's drive for socio-economic development, his personal disposition is supportive of progress in the State. This is because he is a warm and friendly, personable, approachable and broad-minded person with enduring sense of fairness, kindness, generosity and virtue.

He is a very good example of a disciplined gentleman who is committed to meeting history at a point where Abians and other Nigerians will, in fair assessment, record or acknowledge him as a notable and diligent leader, worker and shepherd of our time. With an energetic, dynamic, loving and progressive wife, Her Excellency Chief Mrs. Mercy Odochi Orji, Abians are lucky to have two eminent achievers for the price of one in the Government House, the seat of power in the State.

The history of successful leaders, who helped and saw society pass through the darkness of the medieval period, which successively enabled the middle, renaissance, enlightenment and reformation ages, and then to the period of industrial revolution which brought massive intellectual, scientific and

technological revolutions of the contemporary age, support the fact that great achievers are made of the stuff of men and women who know their minds and by so doing, seek the path of earned success in leadership.

His Excellency Theodore Ahamefule Orji is, without doubt, firmly committed to these values with thoughtful intelligence, deep-seated fortitude, confidence and above all, the fear of the Lord.

At the national front, Governor Orji has achieved speedy and unrivalled access to the powers that be in Abuja, the highest policy making location of the nation-State. In specificity, he has established warm, genial, calm and loyal linkage with the Presidency particularly with President Umaaru Musa Yar'Adua, and the Vice President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan.

For example, in the recent past when the Vice President Dr. Jonathan visited Abia, he was impressed with the achievements of Governor Theodore Ahmaefule Orji and his administration within the short period he has been in the saddle of leadership of the State. The Vice President specifically highlighted clearly visible signs of well-organized development in Abia State.

The probability is high that the Theodore Ahamefule Orji administration and its brilliant performance will continue the trend in the future.



CHIBUZO OGBUAGU, Ph.D (Yale)
Professor of Political Science

Landmark achievements of the administration of Dr. Theodore A. Orji edited by **Sam Hart** reveals what should be obvious to observe of the high level developments that have taken place in Abia (God's Own) State in the past one year.

It stands on its merit and does not require a foreword to attract the attention of readers. It is worth reading. We recommend it to all persons who are interested in highly expert management of an economy and polity through the guiding hands of public policies and problem-solving interventions.

Chapter One

ROADS

This is by far the most active sector in the state from the inception of our administration till date. We have displayed uncommon zeal and determination to confront the need to create access roads for our people.

We sampled opinions and came to the realisation that our people are most passionate about roads. We do not have an airport in Abia State, neither do we have a seaport therefore it only makes sense that we should ensure that all the roads in Abia State are motorable to an acceptable standard.

To that end, a number of road construction, rehabilitation and expansion projects are currently ongoing simultaneously in Abia State for the twin objectives of beautifying our urban areas and providing access to the rural agrarian communities of Abia State.

At the moment, the roads that are receiving attention are the Timber Market Internal Roads, Uratta Road, Aba-Owerri Road, Aba-Port-Harcourt Road, Faulks Road, Brass Road, Okwu Avenue, Ikonne Street, Nwala Street, Nwogu Ukonu Street, Umule Road, Mount Zion Road, Ezeogu Street, A and F Lines inside Ariaria International Market, Aba-Obikabia Road, Unity Garden Estate-Osisioma Ring Road, Umugo-Alaoji-Umunka-Umuodo-Ugwunagbo Road, Mkporobe-Ohanku Road all within the Abia South Senatorial Zone. We also have the Amaekpu-Okagwe Ohafia Road, the NdiOkereke-Ozu-Abam Road, the Amangwu-Achara Ihechiowa Road, the Ihechiowa-Amuvi Road, the Ovim-Isuikwuato Road, Amankalu-Alayi-Akoli-Imenyi Road and the Isuikwuato-Nunya Road in Abia North Senatorial Zone.

In the Abia Central Senatorial Zone, we have the Ntigha-Mbawsi Road, the Nkata-Alaike-Umukabia Road, the Amaogwugwu-Umukabia-Umuekwule Road, the Isieke-Okwuta-Ahiaeke Road, the Nkata-

Isiadu-Amaeke Road, the Umueze-Agbo- Ubani Ibeku Road, the Nkata Mbom Road, the Okpara-Ofeme Road, the Enyiukwu-Afara Road, Umuafai-Lodu-Ahieke Road, Umuafai-World Bank Road, Abia Transport Road, Okigwe Park Bypass, Umuovom Nkata Road (Ochendo Bypass), the Uwalaka-Ahia Orié Ugba Road, the Ahii-Isiama Afara Road, the Ibeku Road Extension, the, the Iyienyi-Okwoi-Ozuiem Road, the Umuafai-Ndume Road, three internal roads in Ossah, link Road from World Bank Housing Estate to Aba Road, Link Road between Aba Road and Olokoro Road, Abam Road Extension, Oboro Street, Obowo Street, Udi Street, Ozuiem Street, Udenkwu-Achara Street, internal roads at the Abia State House of Assembly, Worthy of mention is the fact that some of these rural roads mentioned above cut across several local government areas in length and significance, the aim here being to provide an access road for the movement of agricultural produce across the local government areas and to urban areas.

Some of these roads have also hitherto constituted a source of perennial concern to the residents of these communities who were unable to get to their compounds as a result of the state of their roads.

This is in addition to the rehabilitation of Federal Roads in Abia State which has seen to the massive reconstruction of the Aba-Owerri Road, the Aba-Port-Harcourt Road, the Ohafia-Arochukwu Road and the Aba-Ikot-Ekpené Road which had hitherto remained impassable.

We have also just commenced work on the dualisation and expansion of Ubakala Road which is the alternative entrance and exit of Umuahia. The objective here is to ensure that anybody entering Umuahia will not need to be told that he has entered the capital of a state.

We have equally installed reflective street signs in Umuahia to serve as guide and to bring the city at par with international standards.

In Umuahia, I am proud to announce to you that the Dualisation of the Abia-Tower – Okpara Square Road is complete with street lights mounted and functional. As you all are aware, the Vice President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan was in Abia State in January to commission the Road which is the manjor entrance into Umuahia.

Also in Umuahia, dilapidated federal roads which were causing major hold-ups in the city have been rehabilitated by the state government. These are the Ikot-Ekpené Road especially at the World Bank-Ehimiri Axis and the BCA Junction bad spot. Also repaired is the stretch of bad spot on Aba road.

As you may have noticed, some of the repair works on the bad spots along the Ikot-Ekpené Road and Aba Road in Umuahia have been effected with iron rod baskets, stone base and cement to guarantee its longevity.

We also have a resolve to build at least one road in every local government area of Abia State. Most Local Government Areas will have more than one but my pledge here to you today is that no part of Abia State will be left behind in our developmental efforts.

My dear Abians, let me intimate you of a very important decision we have taken as a government. From

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now henceforth, we shall no longer discriminate against Federal or State roads in Abia State. For as long as a road is in Abia State and it is dilapidated, we shall repair it irrespective of whose responsibility the road is.

This decision is borne out of the realisation that it is our people that mostly use these roads and if the federal government, whose responsibility it is neglects to fix their roads, we will go ahead and fix them for the benefit of our people and to the Glory of God.



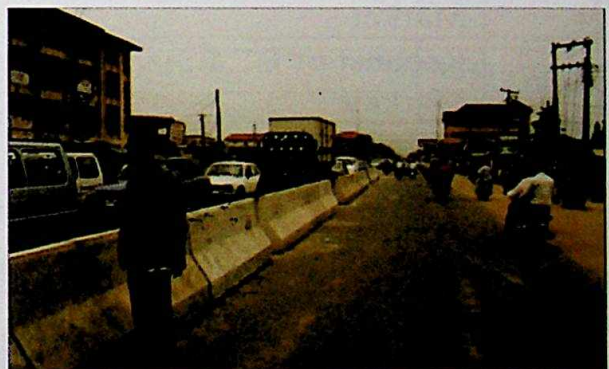
NEW LOOK ABIA TOWER -
THE MAJOR LANDMARK IN ABIA STATE



NEW LOOK OSSAH ROAD - UMUAHIA



PERENNIALY IMPASSABLE ABA-PH ROAD REBUILT,
DUALISED AND EXPANDED FOR EASY FLOW OF TRAFFIC



PERENNIALY IMPASSABLE ABA-OWERRI ROAD REBUILT,
DUALISED AND EXPANDED FOR EASY FLOW OF TRAFFIC

**ROADS CONSTRUCTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF
CHIEF T. A. ORJI FROM MAY 2007 TO MAY 2009
(2YEARS)**

ABIA SOUTH

| S/No | PROJECT | L.G.A LOCATED | STATUS |
|------|--|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Const. of Timber & Allied Products Market | Aba South | 30% |
| 2 | Reconst of Uratta Road | Aba South | 30% |
| 3 | Reconst of Aba Owerri Road | Aba North | 30% |
| 4 | Reconst of Faulks/Brass Road | Aba North | 5% |
| 5 | Const of Okwu Avenue | Aba North | 90% |
| 6 | Const of Ikonne Street | Aba North | 90% |
| 7 | Const of Nwala Street | Aba North | Completed |
| 8 | Const of Mount Zion Road | Aba North | Completed |
| 9 | Const of Ezeogu Street | Aba North | Completed |
| 10 | Reconst of A Line, Ariaria Market | Aba North | Completed |
| 11 | Reconst of F Line, Ariaria Markey | Aba North | Completed |
| 12 | Vegetation Control of P.H. Enugu Dual Carriage Way | Aba South/ Ugwunagbo | 50% |
| 13 | Const of Unity Garden/Osisioma Ring Road | Osisioma | 30% |
| 14 | Const of Umugo Ugwunagbo L.G.A Headquarters Road | Ugwunagbo | 10% |
| 15 | Const of Mkporobe Ohanku Road | Ukwa East | 5% |

WHERE THERE IS A WILL

| | | | |
|----|--|---------------|-----------|
| 16 | Const of link Road between World Bank Housing Estate & Aba Road (Opposite G.G.B.Plc) | Umuahia North | |
| 17 | Const of Ahii Isiama Afara Road, Umuahia | Umuahia North | 40% |
| 18 | Rehab of Cyril Ibeto Street, Umuahia | Umuahia North | Completed |
| 19 | Asphalt overlay of Internal Roads of Modern Ceramics | Umuahia North | Completed |
| 20 | Const of Nkata Alike Umukabia Road | Umuahia North | 30% |
| 21 | Const of Amogwugwu Umukabia Umuekwula Road | Umuahia North | 20% |
| 22 | Const of Umueze. Agbo Ubani Ibeku Market Road | Umuahia North | 10% |
| 23 | Const of Link Road between Aba and Olokoru Road (at Uchenna Motors)Umuahia | Umuahia North | Completed |
| 24 | Const of Abam Road Extension up to Orie Ugba Market, Umuahia | Umuahia North | Completed |
| 25 | Const of Oboro Street, Umuahia | Umuahia North | 95% |
| 26 | Const of Obowo Street, Umuahia | Umuahia North | 30% |
| 27 | Const of Udi Street, Umuahia | Umuahia North | 30% |
| 28 | Const of Ozuitem Street, Umuahia | Umuahia North | 80% |
| 29 | Const of Nkata Amaeke Road, Umuahia | Umuahia North | 50% |
| 30 | Const of link Road between Aba Road & Afara Road (Beside G.G.B.Plc) | Umuahia North | 20% |
| 31 | Const of link Road between Aba Road & Afara Road (Beside G.G.B.Plc) | Umuahia North | 20% |
| 32 | Const of Udenkwu/Achara Street, Um. | Umuahia North | 20% |

| | | | |
|----|--|---------------|-----------|
| 1 | Const of Isieke Okwuta Ahiaeke Road Road with spur to CENOTAPH | Umuahia North | 80% |
| 2 | Dualization of Umuahia Ossah Road | Umuahia North | Completed |
| 3 | Rehab/Bifurcation of Library Avenue, Um. | Umuahia North | Completed |
| 4 | Const of Internal Roads of Abia House of Assembly Complex | Umuahia North | Completed |
| 5 | Beautification of Umuwaya/Aba Roads,Umuahia | Umuahia North | 70% |
| 6 | Const of Umuafai Lodu Ahiaeke Road | Umuahia North | 85% |
| 7 | Const of Umuafai World Bank Housing Estate- Low Cost Housing Estate Road,Um. | Umuahia North | 60% |
| 8 | Const of Enyiukwu Afara Road | Umuahia North | 40% |
| 9 | Const of Ibeku Road Extension | Umuahia North | Completed |
| 10 | Const of Abia Transport Corp. Hqtrs Road | Umuahia North | Completed |
| 11 | Const of Okigwe Park Ubakala Street Bye Pass,Umuahia | Umuahia North | Completed |
| 12 | Const of Uwalaka Orié Ugba Market Road | Umuahia North | Completed |
| 13 | Const of House of Assembly Nkata Road | Umuahia North | 80% |
| 14 | Const of Umuovom Nkata Road (Ochendo Bye Pass) | Umuahia North | Completed |

ABIA NORTH

| | | | |
|---|---|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Const of Ozuabam Ndi Okereke Arochukwu Road | Arochukwu | 10% |
| 2 | Const of Eunice Kalu Road, Igbere | Bende | Completed |
| 3 | Amankalu Alayi Akoli Imenyi Road | Bende | 20% |
| 4 | Const of Amaekpu Okagwe Road | Ohafia | 25% |
| 5 | Const of Amangwu Achara Ihechiowa Road | Arochukwu | 5% |

VIABLE ROAD MAINTENANCE PROJECTS
FROM MAY 2007 TO MAY 2009

ABIA SOUTH

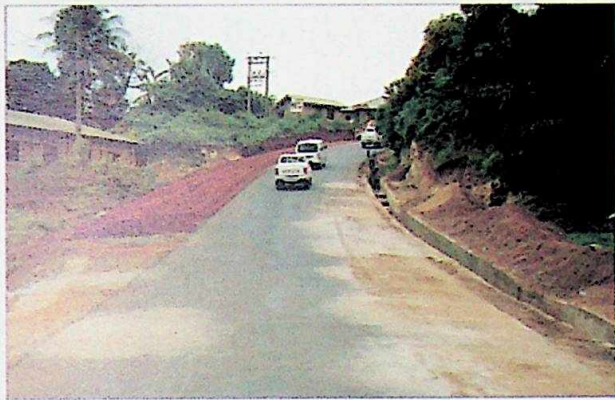
| S/No | PROJECT | L.G.A. | STATUS |
|------|---|--------|----------------|
| 1 | Rehabilitation of Nwogu/Ukonu Ajiwe Street, Aba | Osioma | 100% Completed |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of Umule Road by Tonimas Junction, Aba | Osioma | 100% Completed |

ABIA CENTRAL

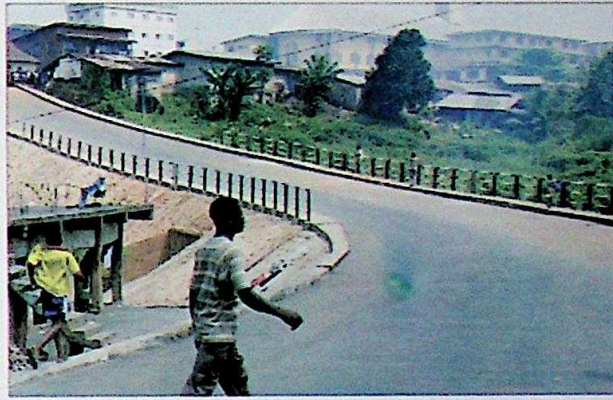
| | | | |
|---|--|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | Asphalt overlay of 9 No Roads in Umuahia Township | Umuahia North | 80% Completed |
| 2 | Demolition and Construction of Aba Road Drains, Umuahia | Umuahia North | 60% Completed |
| 3 | Construction abd Beautification of a Round About at Aba Road by Old Umuahia Railway Crossing | Umuahia South | 100% Completed |
| 4 | Painting of Road Mdeian and kerbs (From Abia Tower to Okpara Square) Umuahia | Umuahia North | 100% Completed |
| 5 | Asphalt Overlay of Cyril Ibeto, Uche Drive, Sergin Close, Umuahia | Umuahia North | 100% Completed |

| | | | |
|----|--|---------------|------------------------|
| 6 | Rehabilitation of Ceramics Factory Road | Umuahia North | 100% Completed |
| 7 | Construction of Afaraukwu Road from Total Filling Station to City Gate Mortuary, Umuahia | Umuahia North | 100% Completed |
| 8 | Construction of Afaraukwu Road Additional Drainage Structure | Umuahia North | 100% Completed |
| 9 | Construction of Concrete Drains along T. A. ORJI Road (Upper & Lower parts) Ugba Ibeku, Umuahia | Umuahia North | 100% Completed |
| 10 | Construction of Open Drain along Winners Chapel Road, Umuahia | Umuahia North | Excavation in Progress |
| 11 | Installation of Reflective Street Sign Posts in Abia State Capital Territory | Umuahia North | 60% Completed |
| 12 | Construction of Open Drain along Timber Market Olokoro Road | Umuahia North | Excavation in Progress |
| 13 | Rehabilitation of Culverts, Drainages/ Drainage Cover and Roads at Eze Ogbulafor, Afara and Umuobasi Roads | Umuahia North | Excavation in Progress |
| 14 | Rehabilitation and Flood Control/Drainage (1.5km) Ubakala Expressway Junction Nsirimo Road | Umuahia South | 20% Completed |

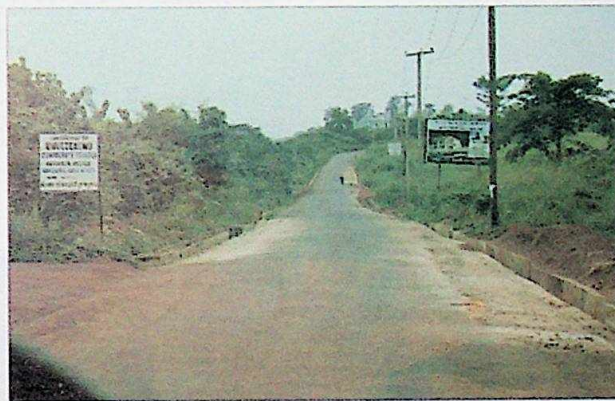
WHERE THERE IS A WILL



AMANKALU-ALAYI-AKOLI-IMENYI ROAD



COMPLETE OKIGWE PARK BYE-PASS TO DECONGEST TRAFFIC IN UMUAHIA



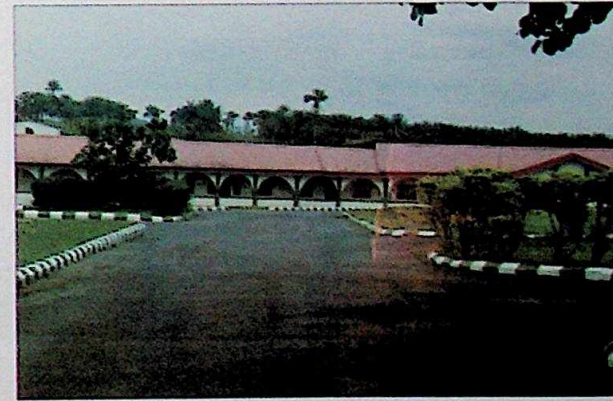
COMPLETED ISIEKE-OKWUTA-AHIEKE ROAD



ONE OF THE 4 BOX CULVERTS ON AMAOGGWUGWU-UMUEKWULE-UMUKABIA ROAD.



NKATA-ALAIKE-UMUKABIA ROAD



INTERNAL ROAD AT THE ABIA STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Chapter Two

TRANSPORT

In our determination to provide a lasting legacy for our people, we have rolled out the Abia City Transport Scheme which seeks to create gainful employment for our people while resolving the perennial problem of lack of adequate and befitting intra-city transportation in Abia State.

As a response to the problem, we have launched the Abia City Transport Scheme which has rolled out 125 Taxis and 100 buses in the first phase of operation. The taxis and buses are fully airconditioned and luxurious because only the best is good enough for God's Own People.

The scheme has since commenced and the vehicles are all over town rendering essential services to the people.

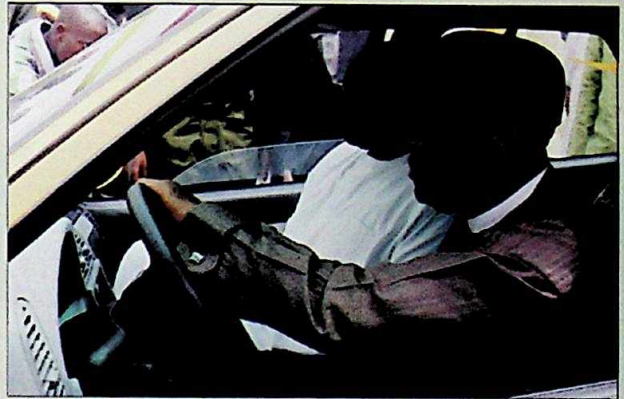
In addition, we have entered into partnership with Carnation Limited, operators of the Hello Taxi to roll out Taxis in Abia State. At the moment, they have rolled out 40 Taxis in Umuahia and 60 in Aba in the first phase and more will follow shortly.

We have equally boosted the fleet of Abia State Transport Corporation, operators of Abia Line fleet of buses with additional buses and manpower. The company has been repositioned and equipped to compete favourably with private Operators in the industry and they are making giant strides.

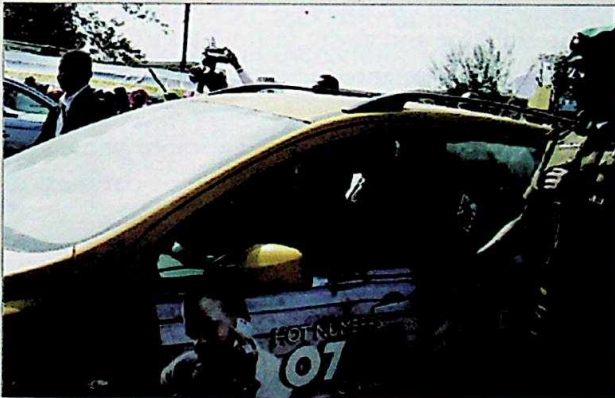
WHERE THERE IS A WILL



100 HELLO TAXIS DEPLOYED IN ABIA STATE



TEST-DRIVING ONE OF THE 100 HELLO TAXIS



TEST-DRIVING ONE OF THE 200 CITY CABS



SOME OF THE 100 BUSES DEPLOYED FOR MASS TRANSIT IN ABIA STATE

Chapter Three

PUBLIC UTILITIES

this is another sector where we have defied the predictions of the enemies of our administration that we shall soon falter. Instead of faltering, we have grown in leaps and bounds.

In the area of street lighting in Abia State, not only have we sustained the street lights in areas where they were installed, several streets have since been linked to the scheme and at the moment, virtually every street in Umuahia is lighted at night while Aba is gradually being implemented.

The street lights provide the dual services of aesthetic beautification of the state at night while also serving as a security measure to check the menace of criminals who hide under the cover of darkness to perpetrate sinister acts.

In addition, we have intensified our drive towards rural electrification by distributing transformers to about 100 communities in Abia State to ensure that they are connected to the National Electricity Grid.

We are also vigorously partnering with Geometric Power Incorporated to ensure the speedy realisation of the Aba Independent Power Project. The project has attained 85% completion and I am excited to announce to Abians that your state will make history as the first state in Nigeria to enjoy uninterrupted power supply as soon as the project comes on stream in April this year.

I am proud to announce to you that your darling state is now the toast of other states who now write to us on a daily basis requesting for advice and input on how to enter into partnership with companies desirous of setting up Independent Power Projects in their states.

The Vice President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan was also in Abia State in March to inspect on-going work at

the 504 MW Power Line under construction at Umuobasi-Ukwu, Ugwunagbo L.G.A under the auspices of the National Integrated Power Project (NIPP).

Funds have been release to the contractor handling the project – Rockson Nigeria Limited – and they have assured us that the project will be realised on schedule.

In the area of Water Supply, we have since sustained our water must flow programme with the constant maintenance of existing water works while also opening up new Regional Water Schemes in various communities in Abia State. As I speak to you, arrangements have been concluded to open up several other Water Schemes around the state.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC UTILITY

| S/No | NAME OF PROJECT |
|------|---|
| 1 | Mtee Gen set @ Aguiyi Ironsi Conference Centre |
| 2 | Umuokeyi Ndiakpataakpim, Ozuitem in Bende LGA elect project |
| 3 | Ndibe Ohafia Community elect Project |
| 4 | Additional electricity works @ Ossah Uhabiri Umuahia |
| 5 | Installation of Transformer @ Ohokobe/Agbama |
| 6 | Umu Okpeiyi Ndiakpataakpim, Ozuitem electricity Project |
| 7 | Akasi-Uturu in Arochukwu Electricity Project (Phase 1) |
| 8. | Usaka Ehiogu electricity Project (Phase 11) |
| 9 | Umuohu Okpala Ndume Electricity project (phase 1) |
| 10 | Installation of transformer @ Umuoji Ohaneze Obingwa LGA |
| 11 | Construction of double Arms streetlight poles |
| 12 | Construction of 200 No double arms streetlight poles |
| 13 | Umuohu Okpuala Ndume electricity Project (phase 11) |
| 14 | Amaegbuato Nkpa Electricity project |
| 15 | Akasi-Uturu in Arochukwu LGA electricity project (phase 11) |
| 16 | Supply & Installation of 500KVA gen set @ NYSC Orientation Camp, Umunnato |
| 17 | Extnsion of streetlight from Nkata to Isieke Ibeku |
| 18 | Installation of streetlight in Aba (seamark Elect. Co. Ltd) |
| 19. | Procurement & Installation of 300KVA Gen. set @ Commissions quarters |

| | |
|----|---|
| 20 | Extension of electricity to Umuovom Community, Umuahia North LGA |
| 21 | Extension of elect. To Mgbko Okengwu, Obingwa LGA (phase 11) |
| 22 | Installation of transformer @ Fed. Housing Estate Umuahia |
| 23 | Installation of transformer in Uzuakoli Urban in Bende LGA |
| 24 | Installation of streetlight in Umuahia |
| 25 | Azuiyi Oloko Electricity Project (phase 1) |
| 26 | Installation of streetlight @ Aba (Emebo Elect. Co. Ltd) |
| 27 | Construction of streetlight poles |
| 28 | Okpuhu Nkpa Autonomous Community electricity project |
| 29 | Installation of streetlight from Ikot Ekpene Rd to Ahiaeke Umuahia (Sec-Tech) |
| 30 | Construction of 400 double arms street poles |
| 31 | Procurement of 20 units of transformers |
| 32 | Extension of electricity to Common Facility Centre, Aba |
| 33 | Payment of Solar Powered streetlight (Kristofferson Intl Ltd) |
| 34 | Azuiyi Oloki Electricity project |
| 35 | Extension of electricity to Isieke Amaegbuato Nkpa community. |

DISTRIBUTION OF TRANSFORMER FROM 2007 TO 6th MARCH 2009

| | | | |
|----|----------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 12/03/09 | 300kva.11/0.414kv | Umuomaiukwu Nsulu |
| 2 | | | Abaukwu Aut. Community |
| 3 | | 300KVA.33/0410KV | Okopedi Aut. Community |
| 4 | | | Ibeme Ancient Kindom |
| 5 | | | Akanu Umuorie Comm. |
| 6 | | | Abala Aut. Community |
| 7 | | 300KVA.11/0415KV | Agburuikwe Agbamaeze Community |
| 8 | | 300KVA.11/0.415KV | Obeaku community |
| 9 | | 300KVA.33/0.415KV | Amaihi Nvosi |
| 10 | | 300KVA.11/0.415KV | Okpuhu Nkpa Community |
| 11 | | | Umuagu Ibeku |
| 12 | | | Umunmeze Afuguri comm |
| 13 | | | Umuekwule Afugiri comm.. |
| 14 | | | Amangwu Ohafia |
| 15 | | 300KVA.33/0.415KV | Akanu Item Comm |
| 16 | | 300KVA.11/0.415 | Amaekpu Ohafia |
| 17 | | 300KVA.11/0.415KV | Amuke Ohafia Comm |
| 18 | | 300KVA.33/0.415 | Urban New Layout Uzuakoli |
| 19 | 13/03/07 | 300KVA.11/0.415KV | Eze Ikonne & Environs |
| 20 | | 300KVA.33/0.415KV | Isieke Aut. Community |
| 21 | | 300KVA.11/0.415 KV | Umunmaise Osisima |
| 22 | | | Amavo ukwu Aut. Comm. |

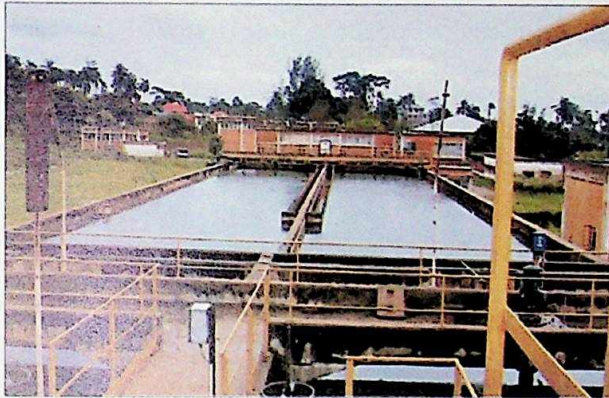
WHERE THERE IS A WILL

| | | | |
|----|----------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 23 | | 300KVA.33/0.415KV | Umuobasi Amavo |
| 24 | | 300KVA.11/0.415KV | Ihite Ude Ofeme |
| 25 | | 300KVA.33/0.415KV | Owere Isunabo Uturu Comm. |
| 26 | | | Amayi Ahaba Imenyi Aut. Comm.. |
| 27 | | 300KVA.11/0.415 | Agbama Housing Estate Umuahia |
| 28 | | 300KVA.11/0.415KV | Apanu Item |
| 29 | 14/03/07 | | Umuokpu Ossah |
| 30 | 15/03/07 | | Ehere Community Aba |
| 31 | | | Esiagwa Comm. Aba |
| 32 | 22/03/07 | | Federal Low Cost housing Estate |
| 33 | 23/03/07 | 300KVA.33/0.415KV | Umuorji Ohanze Comm.. |
| 34 | 25/03/07 | | Amaoofufe Igbere |
| 35 | 11/04/07 | | Umuadinwe Town Ukwa West LGA |
| 36 | 13/03/07 | | Kputuke Comm Isiala Ngwa South |
| 37 | | | Amayi Amato Nvosi |
| 38 | | | Uruakpa/Erondu road Aba |
| 39 | | | Iheiyi Ugwunagbo |
| 40 | 13/04/07 | 300KVA.11/0.415KV | Umuakaka Ibeku |
| 41 | | | Seat of Wisdom Seminary Ariam |
| 42 | | 300KVA transformer | Obasiukwu Aut. Comm |
| 43 | | | Osusu Amaukwa Obingwa LGA |
| 44 | | | Umuagbagbai/Umuoyoro Umunka/Umuru |
| 45 | | | Amuzu, Amasaa Osisoma LGA |
| 46 | | | Arongwa Osisoma LGA |
| 47 | | | Obuba Nvosi Isialangwa North |
| 48 | | | Atani Asaa Ekiti Abam Aut. Comm. |
| 49 | | | Obina Etiti Uturu Comm. |
| 50 | | | Umunkalu Ntigha Isiala Ngwa South |
| 51 | | 300KVA.11/0.415KV | Itaja olokoru Umuhia South |
| 52 | | 300KVA Transformer | Itaja Olokoru Umuahia South |
| 53 | | | Iyabo Uturu Comm. |
| 54 | | | Ndudu Isuikwuato Aut. Comm |
| 55 | | | Okal Item Bende LGA |
| 56 | | | Amaigbo Oguduasaa Isuikwuato LGA |
| 57 | | | Umuomee Comm. Obingwa LGA |
| 58 | | | Amaeke Item Bende LGA |
| 59 | | | Oriegwe Oboro Comm. |
| 60 | 30/05/07 | 300KVA.11/0.415KV | Onicha Ngwa Amaimoano Aut. Comm. |
| 61 | | 300KVA.33/0.415KV | Amapu Ngwaukwu Aut. Comm. |
| 62 | | | Etiti Amavo Aut. Comm. Osisoma LGA |
| 63 | | | Ehere Aut. Comm. Obingwa LGA |
| 64 | | | Aro Ikpa Aut. Comm. Umunneochi |

WATER PROJECT

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1 | Nkwo Amiyi Item Water Scheme Project | Completed |
| 2 | Mtce of pumps and Motors @ Regional Water Scheme | Complete |
| 3 | Pipeline work @ Nkwo Amiyi & Amangwu Okoko Item | Completed |
| 4 | Purchase of various water treatment chemical | Completed |
| 5 | Provision of Water & Common Facility Centre, Aba | Completed |
| 6 | Procurement of Water Treatment | Completed |
| 7 | Preliminary Services for & Expansion of Water Scheme | Completed |
| 8 | Drilling of additional Boreholes @ NYSC camp Umunnato | Completed |
| 9 | Construction of Ugba Water Reservoir Structural fence | Completed |
| 10 | Release to Water Board for the Procurement of Diesel | Completed |
| 11 | Elu-Ohafia Water Scheme in Ohafia LGA | Function & Delivering water |
| 12 | Igbere Water Scheme in bende LGA | - do - |
| 13 | Ovim Girls Sec. Sch. Water Scheme, Isuikwuato LGA | Functional/Vandalized |
| 14 | Ogwe Water Scheme in Ukwa West LGA | Functional & delivering water |
| 15 | Ariam-Usaka Water Scheme in Ikwuano LGA | |
| 16 | Nnono Water School in Ikwuano LGA | |
| 17 | Afugiri Water Scheme in Umuahia North LGA | |
| 18 | Olokoru Water Scheme in Umuahia South LGA | |
| 19 | Uturu Water Scheme in Isuikwuto LGA | Undergoing rehab. By MOPU |
| 20 | Ubakala Water Scheme in Umuahia South LGA | Functional/Sumo pump needs |
| 21 | Umuahia Regional Water Schm(Umuopara/Umungwa) | Functional & delivery water |
| 22 | Mbutu Water Schm Isiala Ngwa South LGA | Functional/faulty Riser |
| 23 | Mbawsi Water Schm Isiala Ngwa North LGA | Functional & delivering water |
| 24 | Government House Water Scheme Umuahia | |
| 25 | Ohuhu Water Scheme in Ukwa East LGA | |
| 26 | Abiriba Water Scheme in Ohafia LGA | Undergoing rehabilitation |
| 27 | Eziama-Nvosi Water Scheme in IsialaNgwa /S LGA | |
| 28 | Ebem-Ohafia Water Scheme in Ohafia LGA | Functional |
| 29 | Ngwa-Ukwu Water Scheme IsialaNgwa North LGA | Functional & delivering water |
| 30 | Okeikpe Water Scheme in Ukwa West LGA | |
| 31 | Aba Regional Water Scheme, Aba South/North LGA | Undergoing rehabilitation by Fed. Min. of Agric. & Water Resources |
| 32 | Umuagbai Water Scheme in Osisioma LGA | Functional & delivering water |

WHERE THERE IS A WILL



DIS-SLUGGED SEDIMENT BASIN
AT UMUOPARA TREATMENT PLANT



FENCING IN PROGRESS OF THE
WATER RESERVOIR AT BENDE ROAD



ITS BEEN TWO YEARS OF 'WATER MUST FLOW'.



MONUMENTS AND ROUNDABOUTS ARE BRIGHTLY
LIT AT NIGHT TO PREVENT MISCREANTS LURKING AROUND



ALL MAJOR STREETS IN UMUAHIA AND ABA ARE BRIGHTLY
LIT AT NIGHT ENHANCING AESTHETICS AND SECURITY



ALL MAJOR STREETS IN UMUAHIA AND ABA ARE BRIGHTLY
LIT AT NIGHT ENHANCING AESTHETICS AND SECURITY

Chapter Four

EDUCATION

In the year 2008, we were able to reactivate the Abia State Scholarship Board after several years of dormancy. We gave out bursary grants of N10,000 each to 1,000 students of Abia State origin making it a total of N10 Million disbursed as bursary awards. Allocation has also being approved for the Abia State Scholarship Board to ensure that the scheme is continued. Let me also inform you that we have since sustained and improved upon the Tuition-Free Education policy instituted by my predecessor, Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu.

In addition, we have increased the fleet of buses in our Free School Bus Scheme and repackaged the scheme to ensure effective and efficient service delivery.

Subventions to tertiary institutions in Abia State have since been increased and we have diverse results to show for it. The Abia State University, which applied for accreditation for 24 of her courses, got full accreditation in 23 of the courses with only one being granted partial accreditation.

The Abia State Polytechnic has had all her courses fully accredited by the National Board for Technical Education after a massive injection of funds by our administration to ensure the realisation of that goal. Similarly, about N200 Million was expended in the realisation of massive renovation works in our primary and secondary schools to ensure their suitability for learning with the project spread across the three senatorial zones in Abia State.

As a mark of the success of our intervention in the educational sector, Abia State recently came second in the South-East Zone in the area of attainment of Universal Basic Education Goals according to the ranking released by the National Universal Basic Education Commission.

12. Won 1st position under 18 years hunt talent competition
 13. Won 37 gold medals, 7 silver and 5 bronze in school competition
 14. Won 2nd position in Shell Cup competition at Ilorin
 15. Successfully conducted Abia State Cowbell competition in collaboration with Cowbell.
 16. Successfully celebrated State Common Wealth Day.
 17. During the period under review, the Ministry also achieved the following:
 - (i) Conducted Maltina National Reading Competition for Senior Secondary School
 - (ii) Conducted Presidents inter-schools debate competition and Abia State came second in the Nation.
 - (iii) Conducted 2008 supplementary Book Review for the 9 year Basic Education
 - (iv) Conducted a One-day sensitization on advocacy interactive workshop on the 9-year basic Education Curriculum Structure.
 - (v) Critique the Quality Assurance Document from Federal Ministry of Education Department.
 - (vi) Invited Publishers/Authors to register their books for 2009 Book Review.
 - (vii) Distributed Books from the Ministry's Library to Public Schools, to replenish the stock of books in their libraries.
 - (viii) Closed down all "miracle" centres operating in the state.
 18. Learning and teaching materials such as Brail papers and radio sets with cassettes were procured and distributed to students and teachers.
 19. through State planning Commission, counterpart support for UNICEF sponsored programmes were paid.
 20. Web-based curriculum project by NERDC has been replicated for Inspectors.
 21. Support for HIV/AIDS capacity building workshops for Education Officers (state Ministry of Education) and Special Education teachers at state level through SACA.
 22. Capacity building and Institutional building through sensitization of Teacher Educators in CEOs in a field office (Unicel) including College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu.
- Distribution of Information Education Communication (IEC) materials to schools from Government support to SACS.

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The Ministry of education, has within the above period achieved the following:

1. Re-introduction of Pivotal teachers Training Programme (PTTP) to fill the gap between Teachers grade Two Certificate and NCE.
2. training of Mathematics teachers in the state, in collaboration with the National Mathematical Centre Abuja, (200 No)
3. Supply of Science and Mathematical Teaching kits to 20 Public Secondary Schools.
4. training of Science teachers to handle the equipment (60 No)
5. Accreditation of some trades in two Technical Schools in the State at Aba and Ohafia Zones.
6. Re-activation of Bursary and Scholarship programmes to students in Tertiary Institutions within and outside the country.
7. Over 1000 Abia Students in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria benefited in the 2008 Bursary and Scholarship awards, total sum of N10m. A monthly subvention of N0.15m was approved for the scholarship Board in the period under review, as running cost.
8. The Ministry conducted inspections to monitor existing private/public schools (N/P, JSS and SSS) to ensure that minimum standards are maintained. This has led to the closure of some schools that do not meet the required standards such as:
 - 7 Schools - Osisioma local Government Area
 - 8 Schools - Aba South Local Government Area
 - 4 Schools - Umuahia South
 - 25 Schools - Aba North.
9. Also conducted subject approval inspections to enable qualified schools present candidates for JSS and SSS (Examinations)
10. Revalidated schools that have stayed upto 5 years after approval.
- 10a. Carried out investigations in some schools in respect of Land disputes e.g. Nvosi High School, Owerinta Secondary School and Ibeku High School.
11. Successfully attended all statutory meetings such as National Council on Education, JCCE, NECO, WAEC Quality Assurance meeting etc.

One hundred and twenty-nine point, seven (N129.7) million naira was spent in renovation and construction of buildings in six secondary schools in the State namely;

1. National High School Aba
2. girls Secondary School Umuahia
3. St. Joseph's Model Secondary School, Aba
4. Government College Umuahia
5. Ohafia Model High School (Junior)
6. Secondary School for the deaf Ntalakwu Oboro.

Also under ETF projects

Classroom blocks were erected in seven schools in the state, at the cost of N6,212,055.00 each as follows;

1. National High School Aba (completed)
 2. Egwuena Girls Secondary School Abiriba
 3. Girls Secondary Commercial School Aba
 4. Nkporo Comprehensive Secondary School
 5. Umuokpara Secondary Secondary Umuahia
 6. Community Secondary School Isieke Umuahia (completed)
 7. Ariam Senior Science School Ikwuano
- 8 buildings were refurbished at each of the 2 technical schools in the state, namely Boys Technical College Aba and Government Technical College Ania Ohafia, at the cost of N6m

EQUIPMENT

45KVA generating sets were supplied to two technical Schools in the State, namely;

1. Boys Technical College Aba
2. Government Technical College Ania Ohafia

Over 263,548 Exercise books were produced and distributed to Secondary School students in the state.

In order to have correct data base for all the students and pupils in the state, an electronic Registration System was established and data collection is on-going.

WHERE THERE IS A WILL



WINNER, 2ND BEST GOVERNOR IN UBE IMPLEMENTATION



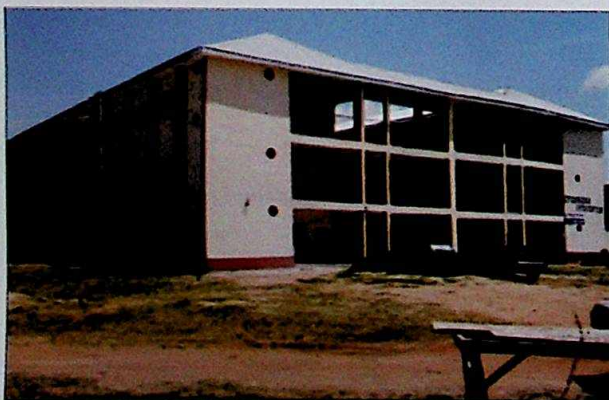
WINNER, 2ND BEST GOVERNOR IN UBE IMPLEMENTATION



THE 100-ROOM NEW HOSTEL BLOCK AT THE ABIA STATE UNIVERSITY NEARING COMPLETION



THE NEW FACULTY OF LAW, ABIA STATE UNIVERSITY.



THE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY COMPLEX, ABIA STATE POLYTECHNIC, ABA



TWO YEARS OF FREE SCHOOL BUS FOR ABIA STUDENTS

Chapter Five

ENVIRONMENT

The environmental sector is one sector where we have made appreciable impact. Prior to the advent of our administration, the environmental problem in Abia State was one that had constituted a source of international embarrassment to the state.

At the advent of our administration, we resolved to confront this menace head-on and contain it once and for all. Concerted efforts were put in and the result is that today, Abia State is one of the cleanest states in the country.

To underscore our seriousness to confront the refuse problems in the state with particular emphasis on Aba, government terminated the arrangement it entered into with Phoenix Environmental Services Limited to manage the refuse situation in Aba. The company, after a considerable period of grace was not matching our pace as regards the cleanliness of Aba therefore we decided to terminate the arrangement and to avoid a vacuum, we have signed another agreement with ANCOLD Environmental resources Limited to work in partnership with the Abia State Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) to ensure the cleanliness of Aba.

In addition, we have engaged street sweepers who sweep our streets on a daily basis and water the flowers we have planted on the median of dualised roads in Abia State.

We are also vigorously pursuing our beautification project by ensuring the mapping out of selected areas as green areas and parks. These green areas and parks will be fully realised next year.

ENVIRONMENT

| PROJECT | LOCATION | OBJECTIVES | BENEFITS OF PROJECT TO OUR PEOPLE | PROJECT COST N | PROJECT STATUS |
|--|----------|--|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Desilting of some parts of Umuahia town drainages | Umuahia | To ride the drainages of waste that block them and improve the cleanliness of the state capital and prevent flooding | To maintain optimally clean environment | 900,000 | On-going. |
| Monthly maintenance of rail line between old Garki Isigate in Umuahia | Umuahia | To ride the site Of filth and Accumulated Waste that Constitute Aesthetic blight. | To keep the site Clean since it is Strategically Located. | 700,000 monthly | On-going |
| Desilting of Drainages at govt. House Umuahia And its environs | Umuahia | To allow for a Free flow of Water, stop Mosquitoes from breeding There and keep The area clean | To stop the Incidence of flood and flooding and prevent mosquitoes that cause malaria from having a breeding place. | 2,430,000. | completed |
| The cleaning of Govt. House, Okpara Square, Express round about, Abia Tower and Presidential lodge | Umuahia. | To ensure regular cleanliness of the place mentioned. | To have a clean environment conducive for living. | 600,00 monthly | On-going |

WHERE THERE IS A WILL

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|--|---------|--|--|-------------------|-----------|
| Beautification and maintenance of Govt. House And its environs | Umuahia | Improve the aesthetic appearance of Govt. House and its environs. | To make the place beautiful and conducive for work | 650,000 per month | |
| Beautification and maintenance of Abia Tower, Okpara square, BCA roundabout and some major roads through planting of masquerade trees and flowers. | Umuahia | To beautify the capital city. | The capital city will be beautiful and clean. | 590,000 per month | |
| Maintenance and watering of flowers planted along Umuwaya road in Umuahia | Umuahia | - do - | The capital city will be beautiful It will be something to be proud of.. | 700,000 per month | |
| Waste Removal and beautification of the Rail line between old Garki and Isigate in Umuahia town | Umuahia | To make the rail line clean and the beautification is to improve the aesthetic appearance of the capital city. | The citizens will be proud of the capital city if it is clean. | 700,000 | |
| Cleaning of the major gutters in the state capital and construction of perforated slab | Umuahia | To make the drainages clean for water to flow freely and stop mosquitoes from breeding there. | The incidence of malaria will be stopped and water will flow freely; flooding will be reduced. | | completed |

WHERE THERE IS A WILL

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|---|---|---|--|------------------|-----------------|
| <p>Pushing of refuse dumps at Obikabia and Aba/Port Harcourt Express Way</p> | <p>Obikabia/Aba Port Harcourt Express way</p> | <p>To make the area clean</p> | <p>Passersby will not cover their nostrils again when travelling</p> | <p>7.5m</p> | <p>On-going</p> |
| <p>Scooping/Evacuation of gutters and drainages and maintenance of streets in Umuahia namely: Uwalaka street, Umuwaya road, Mission Hill, Ossah road to express junction and Timba Road.</p> | <p>Umuahia</p> | <p>To make the area clean and tidy</p> | <p>People will be happy if the area is clean</p> | <p>3,550,00</p> | <p>On-going</p> |
| <p>Monthly sweeping/cleaning of the following roads in Umuahia metropolis:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From Finbarrs street junction through Serjin close. 2. From Azikiwe road junction to Serjin close. 3. From Sch. Rd to Azikiwe junction to Mater Dei Cathedral. 4. From Ikot Ekpene Rd junction to Commissioners village. | <p>Umuahia</p> | <p>To make the area clean because neatness is next to godliness</p> | <p>Abians will be happy that the area is clean.</p> | <p>2,195,000</p> | <p>On-going</p> |

WHERE THERE IS A WILL

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|--|---------|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Desilting of gutter and dirt including refuse in Umuahia.</p> <p>a) Umuwaya Rd to gate; Gate to Ceramics</p> <p>b) Aba Rd from Uwalaka to Owerri Rd to Gate two sides</p> | Umuahia | To keep the area very clean | The people will be happy to do business in clean environment | 900,000 | On-going |
| <p>Grass cutting in some selected areas in Umuahia;</p> <p>a) Umuahia North LGA to Isieke Marc=ket; Queen Elizabeth Hospital to Ehimiri</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Okpara Square to Express Tower, Ugwunchara to Bawas Filling Station to Ohuhu road . About.</p> | Umuahia | To keep the place clean | The people will be happy if the area is kept clean | 90,000 per month | On-going |
| <p>Implementation of Aba Build Own and Operate Municipal Solid Waste management</p> | Aba | To create wealth from waste, keep Aba and its environs clean, create employment | Employment opportunities will be created, and Aba and its environs will be kept | N28m monthly subvention to Phoenix Environmental Services, the experts | On-going But subvention will stop at the end of 60 months, |

WHERE THERE IS A WILL

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|---|----------------|---|--|--|---|
| and Recycling Olan | | opportunities for Abians and improve internally generated revenue of government | clean. | handling the project | Revenue shall begin to accrue from the project. |
| Comprehensive Desilting of drainages not mentioned above in Umuahia and Aba | Umuahia/Ababa | To avoid flooding and to stop mosquitoes from breeding there. | People will be happy when flooding is minimized | N10m | Completed during the rainy season. |
| Desilting of comprehensive carting away of mountainous heaps of refuse along Ukwu mango Aba | Ukwu mango Aba | To help keep Aba clean and remove refuse that cause flooding in the area and to prevent mosquitoes from breeding there. | This is part of democratic dividend to our people. The people feel happy to transact their businesses in optimally clean environment | Out of N40m requested, N18m approved but yet to be released. | Completed |
| Opening up the above mentioned block drainages | Ukwu mango Aba | To prevent flooding and to ensure that flood does not cover the road during the rainy season | The residents are happy with government when the area is clean and free from flood. | The above sum will be used to executed the project | Completed. |

WHERE THERE IS A WILL

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|---|---------------------|---|---|---------------|--|
| Desilting and carting away of slit from some roads in Aba namely; Okigwe Rd, Ngwa Rd, Osusu Rd and Brass Rd all in Aba. | Aba | To rid the roads of refuse and open up the drainages. The aim is to reduce the menace of flooding in Aba. | | | On-going |
| Control of gully erosion along Abiriba, Ohafia road Abia State. | Abiriba Ohafia Road | To make sure that the deep gully does not cut the road into two. | The road is of vital importance to ABSG and farmers from there bring their products to the market by the use of the road. | N21m | 50% completion and fund badly needed to finish the job before the rain starts. |
| Contract for the control of Amaokwe Amiyi Gully erosion awarded | Amaokwe/Amiyi | To make sure that the gully erosion does not cut the road into two. | The residents were visibly happy when the contract was awarded and equipment mobilized to site. | 63,580,517.00 | Fund yet to be released for the project and the Ministry is afraid if the road will survive the next rainy season. |

WHERE THERE IS A WILL

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|--|---------|--|--|--|------------------|
| Stakeholders Conference on Industrial Effluent Treatment Facilities in Aba Abia State. . | Aba | To create the needed awareness to establish the Effluent Treatment Facility in Aba Abia State by Federal Govt. | The people will be happy to have the facilities to minimize industrial Pollution in the State. | N6m | Yet to commence. |
| Evacuation of relics at school road by Ochefu | Aba | To rid the area of junks that constitutes aesthetic blight. | Residents are happy with the project because cleanliness is next to godliness. | Part of the N18m earlier approved will be used to execute the project. | Completed. |
| Monthly desilting and sweeping of some selected roads and streets in Umuahia capital city on monthly basis namely; Umuobasi Isiama Afara Ukwu ring road, factory road, mission Hill bypass to Ubakala street, Queen Elizabeth Hospital through Library Avenue to Okpara Square.. | Umuahia | To keep the state capital clean and habitable | Clean environment promotes good health. | 950,000.00 | On-going |

WHERE THERE IS A WILL

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|--|----------------|---|--|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <p>Beautification of front of Ibeku High School Umuahia by plastering, painting and planting of both grasses and flowers</p> | <p>Umuahia</p> | <p>To beautify the capital city.</p> | <p>To make the place beautiful and aesthetically appealing</p> | <p>N20,000,000</p> | <p>90% completion</p> |
| <p>Monthly cutting and cleaning of the road leading to School of the Blind, drainages of Adelabu street and monthly packing of sachet water bags that litter the major roads in Umuahia.</p> | <p>Umuahia</p> | <p>To keep the road clean and rid the drainages of wastes that block them.</p> | <p>To maintain optimally clean environment.</p> | <p>N1m monthly</p> | <p>On-going</p> |
| <p>The beautification, maintenance of Dr Orji Uzor Kalu road, phases 1 & 2 Aguiyi Ironsi Layout, Umuahia</p> | <p>Umuahia</p> | <p>To rid the site of filth and accumulated waste that constitute aesthetic blight.</p> | <p>To keep the place clean</p> | <p>N2.1m</p> | <p>On-going</p> |
| <p>Monthly sweeping and cleaning of Orié Ugba Enugu Road junction to Bende Road, Umuahia</p> | <p>Umuahia</p> | <p>To keep the place clean</p> | <p>To have a clean environment conducive for living.</p> | <p>N1.5m</p> | <p>On-going.</p> |

ACTIVES OF THE ABIA STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ABIA STATE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN RETROSPECT

Abia State of Nigeria has (2) two major urban cities:- Umuahia the political capital and Aba “Enyimba city”, the Economic nerve centre of the State. The Environmental management and maintenance of these cities over the years had posed great challenges to the successive governments in the State.

It is evident that the previous environmental situation of Aba and Umuahia cities in the past fifteen years constituted a perennial source of embarrassment not just to the government or the Abia citizens, but also to the investors and all tourism and Aesthetics loving individuals.

On assumption of office, on May 29th 2007 the Governor, Dr. T.A Orji led government has boldly confronted the environmental quagmire in both cities with zest and made a promise to change the tide and cloth the cities with beauty hence forth. Since then the government has employed various strategic approaches towards achieving the set goal.

This administration has within a short time since it came on board left landmark achievements by introducing a system that guarantees for sustainable environmental friendliness thereby returned the lost glory of these cities and that of Abia State in general.

A critical evaluation of some of the achievements so far made in the environmental sub sector especially as it concerns waste management, sanitation, aesthetical beautification of the cities and pollution control will be found in the subsequent chapters of this book.

PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO WASTE MANAGEMENT IN ABIA STATE

This Government had inadequately shown high degree of sensitivity to the plight of the Abia inhabitants, it has procured several waste management equipment and implementation to complement the existing ones for efficiency in waste management in the State.

These include:-

- ECO poer trucks and tippers
- Industrial size receptacles
- Waste bins
- Bulldozers
- Graders
- Light weight waste containers
- Domestic waste bins
- Motor vehicle waste baskets/containers
- Bio-degradable waste bags (Black bag)

With this equipment already provided, government hopes to fast track the waste management and sanitation mechanism.

To further ensure effective waste management and to forestall the outbreak of epidemics associated with a dirty environment, the state government has closed down the Ubakala Umuahia and Ariaria Aba, dump sites due to wrong siting and poor management. Both dump sites are situated along Enugu-Port Harcourt express way and relocated them to more convenient sites with improved maintenance.

With the increase in waste materials and the massive provision of waste management equipment in the State, Abia State Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) is greatly saddled with the responsibility of ensuring that Abia wear a new look environmentally, in line with the goals and aspirations of His Excellency, Dr. T.A Orji.

The ASEPA General Manager Dr. Cosmos Ndukwe being poised for action, had constituted an Environmental Management Strategic Committee (EMSC) made up of some consultants and experts in waste management and related areas to brainstorm on ways of tackling the waste up surge in Umuahia and Aba respectively.

The General Manager directed for immediate division of both cities into initial six (6) environmental sub-zones each and new strategy for monitoring and control has also been channeled accordingly for effectiveness in waste management.

For effective coverage the Agency had further created additional (36) thirty six sub-zones out of the existing ones and deployed more hands accordingly.

It could however be recalled that the Agency has also introduced new strategies to ensure positive result in the task of waste management and improved sanitation in the State.

The Agency had further positioned the industrial capacity receptacles and lights buckets at close Neighborhood proximities, while the light weight waste buckets are placed at 50m intervals in Umuahia and Aba.

This approach is aimed at discouraging illegal dumping of wastes and to serve as an “anti-trash device” in the State. This could be attested to for its effectiveness that the method has greatly put street littering under check.

To further complement this effort for optimum success, the bio-degradable waste bags known as the environmental (black bags) and waste Buckets are usually introduced to homes and offices, to encourage waste bagging consciousness for easy disposal of the refuse at all levels in the State.

The Agency also introduced a unique waste sorting device known as “Medical Waste Management Device” a very special environmental management approach designed for sorting out medical related wastes for effective disposal.

Further, to the effort of government to rid Aba of heaps of refuse, Abia State government entered into

partnership with an American Refuse Management firm (Phoenix Environmental Resources) based in California USA whose terms of reference in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) include:

The evacuation of all waste materials in the State and move them to their factory at Obingwa and expected to convert the waste into organic manure which they will in turn sell it at affordable rate to farmers to boost agriculture in the State.

However, this contract has been summarily terminated after two years of inefficiency of the organization in carrying out the task, because Aba became worst than it was when they came. That schedule has subsequently been returned to ASEPA by the Government.

The General Manager ASEPA has initiated strategies to carry out the failed task.

Three months arrears of salaries owed to workers has been completely paid also special allowances paid to waste workers as an incentive to motivate them to work. Further to the above, he had donated brand new motorcycle to the best waste worker in Aba.

Furthermore, all the dilapidated waste containers and receptacles has been repaired. All broken down equipments and trucks have been repaired and put in use, drivers and other workers have been greatly motivated to work even at nights and weekends, Aba is currently wearing beautiful looks. Interestingly, Dr. Cosmos Ndukwe, GM ASEPA has promised to re-brand Aba environmentally in couple of days.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SCHEME

The Agency has introduced a monitoring scheme a strategy aim at policing all the various dump sites and waste collection points to ensure proper and regular disposal of wastes. The Agency also embarked on periodic fumigation of this dump sites to optimize the control mechanism for environmental friendliness. Interestingly, Environmental Hotlines, an emergency waste management mechanism through phoning system has been introduced at the Agency for the public to call in and inform the Agency of the environmental situation in their different areas for prompt attention.

SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS

Mindful of the imperativeness of effective sanitation in the State, government has reconstituted the Environmental Sanitation Mobile Courts (ESMC), the mobile courts have been well equipped and repositioned to ensure effectiveness in the job.

It is made up of magistrates, lawyers and the police. This court enforces compliance to environmental laws and standards of the state. They monitor all aspects of sanitation and pollution activities in the state, these include:

- Wrongful disposal of wastes
- All forms of pollution regulations
- Dirty environment
- Blockage of drainage systems
- Wrongful disposal of sewage
- Non payment of environmental fees
- All forms of environmental nuisance.

These are in accordance with the Abia State Environmental Basic laws 2004.

STREET SWEEPING AND DRAINAGE DE-SILTING

The Governor, Dr. T. A. Orji directed the Agency to recruit hundred of Abians as street sweepers to sweep and clean all the streets in Umuahia and Aba cities. This effort is usually carried out twice daily as the need arises; this thrust has left eloquent testimonies of the cleanliness of the streets in Umuahia and some parts of Aba cities.

DE-SILTING OF BLOCKED DRAINAGES:

Abia State Environmental Protection Agency has embarked on aggressive clearing and cleaning of all the blocked drainages in Umuahia and Aba cities. This has undoubtedly assisted the free flow of rain water thereby discouraging the germination and nurturing of mosquitoes, disease-bearing germs and fungi thriving on stagnant waters. In addition, this has provided job opportunities to several jobless youths of the state.

AETHEIC BEAUTIFICATION OF THE CITIES

It is worthy of note that one of the cardinal thrusts of the present government of Abia State is the rehabilitation and beautification of Umuahia and Aba cities.

In Umuahia, all the roads are currently wearing new looks with pavements and walk ways constructed, City monuments have been renovated and beautified. Abia tower at the Express and Okpara square are wearing entirely new looks. The watch tower in the city is completely renewed and remodeled.

Similarly, the over grown bushes and trees are either pruned or cut down. Flowers, trees and ornaments are planted at roads sides. Some major roads are dualised and resurfaced. Street light system introduced with specialized power system to generate regular power supply which adds some glow to the city aesthetics at night.

Furthermore, city directional signs are positioned at strategic places. Above all is the recent introduction of ultra modern Bus Stops in the city which has made Umuahia to rank with other modern citites in Nigeria.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The Agency has mounted environmental advocacy and awareness campaigns both at schools and neighborhood; the essence is to enlighten the public on all the strategies of government on environmental management, enforcement and regulation.

The school awareness programme is yielding invaluable results as it is a medium of inculcating the ideas and values of the environmental management into the young people.

The Agency also encourages the formation of environmental clubs at various schools in the State.

ABIA STATE ENVIRONMENTAL VANGUARD

The Agency's desire to carry through the Advocacy and awareness campaign programme has led to the formation and inauguration of Abia State Environmental Vanguard, this uniform men and women carry our programmes of sensitization and enlightenment to the public on all aspects of environmental regulation and enforcement.

They also serve as the Agency's environmental watchdogs in the society.

INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION CONTROL AND OIL FIELD INSPECTION

This programme is designed to carry out all industrial pollution control inspection programmes with specific functions of enlightenment and certification of industries when they have strictly complied to industrial regulatory standards viz:

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Environmental Audit Report (EAR)
- Effluent control/installation of treatment plant
- Water quality control analysis
- All forms of industrial pollution control (Water, noise and Air pollution)
- Industrial workers protective wears and safety control
- Industrial cleanliness emphasis
- Anti toxic waste disposal control and monitoring.

Over the years, the Agency has embarked on quarterly industrial inspection tours to enforce compliance on the above standards. This effort has achieved unprecedented success. While the defaulting industries were subsequently sanctioned in accordance with the prevailing environmental laws in Abia State.

OWAZA OIL SPILLAGE INSPECTION AND INVESTIGATION

The Agency has embarked on aggressive inspection and investigation of oil spillage at some oil producing communities in the State. This investigation revealed that Owaza community environment is severally degraded as a result of the excessive oil spillage caused by Shell flow station in the neighborhood. Abia State Government action plan is on the way to stem the ugly development in the State.

CONCLUSION

It is on record that the effort of the government in this sub-sector has yielded great dividends. Most interestingly, the heaps of refuse that use the mount at some locations both in Umuahia and Aba have all disappeared and become things of the past. Also the current environmental standards of Abia State is now a source of encouragement and motivation to both local and foreign investors and visitors.

It is however, gratifying to note that His Excellency, Dr. T.A Orji has unequivocally demonstrated deep commitment to the activities of the Agency in the management of the environment. Government has greatly encouraged the Agency by providing the needed funds, establishing the enabling laws and

subsequently, the supply of equipment to combat the environmental menace in the State.

The Governor's interest in ensuring that the job is well done has brought the Agency under his supervision.

The Abia State Environmental Protection Agency is now a Parastatal under the office of the Executive Governor of Abia State.

WHERE THERE IS A WILL



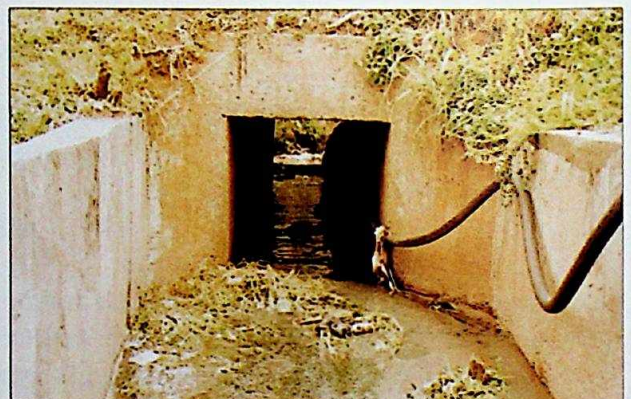
STREETS IN ABIA STATE ARE SWEEPED CLEAN EVERYDAY TO ENGENDER A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT



MONUMENTS IN ABIA STATE HAVE BEEN RENOVATED AND BEAUTIFIED



CLEAN STREET IN UMUAHIA



ALL DRAINS THAT WERE HITHERTO BLOCKED HAVE BEEN OPENED UP FOR FREE FLOW OF RAINWATER



STREETS IN ABIA STATE HAVE BEEN DEMARCATED AND BEAUTIFIED WITH STREET LIGHTS INSTALLED



ALL DRAINS THAT WERE HITHERTO BLOCKED HAVE BEEN OPENED UP FOR FREE FLOW OF RAINWATER

Chapter Six

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PROJECT/ACTIVITIES

1. ABIA STATE ICT EMPOWERMENT CENTRES:

This project was inherited from the Ministry of Education in 2005 immediately after creation of Ministry of Science & technology in July 2005.

These centres have been built in the three senatorial zones of the state, each zone can boast of two such empowerment centres.

Abia North has Ohafia Girls' Secondary School, Ohafia and Igbere Secondary School, Igbere. Abia Central can boast of Government College, Umuahia and Ihie Senior Science School, Ihie. For Abia South, we have Asa High School, Asa and Community Girls' Secondary School, Umungasi, Aba.

The centres will provide Internet Services for those wishing to do such business in the community where they are located. The Empowerment centres have reached 80% completion and are yet to be commissioned. The sum of N95.4m has so far been spent by the State Government on the project.

2. INSPECTION OF SCHOOL SCIENCE LABOURATORIES AND TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS IN THE STATE.

The Ministry undertook this exercise to ascertain the state of Science laboratories and Technical Workshops in Abia State School System.

This activity is on-going and over 10 (No) schools have been inspected and appropriated recommendations made.

The aim is to achieve the required grassroot development in Science and Technology, therefore School science laboratories and Technology workshops which are the engine room for the grooming of future Engineers, Technicians and Scientists must be adequately equipped.

Inspected schools laboratories and workshops that meet the required standard will be allowed to register students in science. Already letters have been written and dispatched to appropriate examination bodies to ensure strict compliance.

3. ICT COMPUTER FOR ALL ABIAN INITIATIVE (CAAI)

The above activity was not in existence rather was conceived within the period under review. His Excellency, Chief T.A. Orji launched this laudable project on 17th July, 2007.

The aim was to make Civil/Public servants own their personal computers to keep them abreast of the ever-changing world. The activity is on-going and over 500 civil/public servants now own their personal computers and are to pay for the computers in 24monthly installments. The set of computers so far collected are valued at over N50m

FREE COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR ABIANS

This activity was initiated by the Ministry with its location at the Ministry's Integrated Skills Acquisition Centre, Aba.

The idea was to offer a free computer training programme for empowerment purposes for Abians in the State. The activity being on-going has graduated over 1,000 Abians who are now on their own, practicing the skills acquired from the programme. The grandaunts for the centre have been able to establish their personal business with additional employments created in the state. The sum of N500,000 has so far been spent by the Ministry.

4. NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR YOUNG INVENTORS/INNOVATORS

The above competition was initiated by National office of Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) Abuja and was competed for in two phases in the State before national level. The aim was to collaborate with National office of Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) Abuja for the National Competition on inventors/innovators. In addition, the competition provided an avenue for national competition for the young ones in Abia State.

The competition was successfully held on 20th November, 2007 while Abia State was adjudged the best organizer state at the National competition in Abuja during the competition.

The competition has exposed our young inventors/innovators of their skills in different areas. It has also encouraged them to develop their talents and skills in Nigeria. The amount of N2.2m was spent for the three levels of the competition.

6. LICENSING OF ALL ICT BASED BUSINESS CENTRES IN THE STATE

The licensing of these ICT Based Business Centres was approved by EXCO in 2006 and Demand Notices were issued to qualified Agents to start work.

The project being the brain child of the Ministry was ensure that all ICT Based Business Centres in the State were enumerated and licensed for easy monitoring. The project is on-going and the areas covered include all the 17 (No) LGAs in the State.

The derivable benefits include the compilation of directory of All ICT centres in the State for proper references and planning. It will help the Government to check Computer/Cyber crimes and organize training. The exercise when completed will enhance revenue base of the Ministry.

7. ARTISAN CLUSTER GROUP IN ABA

When the Ministry came on board in 2005, the Artisans in Aba were not settled in a particular cluster till the year 2007, when the Ministry started to plan implementing their cluster programme so as to enhance quality standard and up-grade local technological works.

With the cluster achieved, the operations of the Artisans are being regulated and they would soon be settled in cluster villages. The Ministry will continue to provide training to promote and exhibit their works. Soft loans for their development would be arranged. It is estimated that the sum of N52m will be required to settle the artisans.

8. INAUGURATION OF ABIA AUTOMOBILE TECHNICIANS AND ALLIED WORKERS ASSOCIATION, OSISIOMA LGA.

The Abia Automobile technicians and Allied Workers Association in Osisioma LGA has long been in existence and needed to be inaugurated to make the operations of the Association official. The Ministry planned and successfully executed the inauguration and presentation of certificate on the 14th October, 2008. Issuing them with membership ID cards to ease supervision and control would follow up the inauguration.

9. ALL SOLAR ENERGY PROMOTERS IN ABIA STATE.

The above activity is very current to the Ministry. The immediate efforts so far made are:

To organize seminar/workshop to enlighten the populace on the installation and application of Solar Energy in Abia State and

To harmonize the activities of all Solar Energy promoters/practitioners in the state.

In fact, the project is still at its primary stage and the Ministry is collaborating with Hill Town Beauty firm in the organization of the solar Energy Seminar.

The workshop was well attended and successful between the 8th and 10th September, 2008. The activity of the Solar Energy promoters and Solar PV in the state will be effectively monitored to ensure

the accuracy of information disseminated to Abians. The installation of Solar Energy in any establishment or residential houses will ensure constant and steady power supply. The pilot Solar Energy has been installed in the Ministry's headquarters for study.

10. CONSTRUCTIONS OF ULTRA MODERN OFFICE BLOCK AND ICT EMPOWERMENT CENTRE AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE MINISTRY.

The work on the Ultra modern office block at the Headquarters is on-gong and when completed will house majority of the department offices while the ICT Empowerment centre which is also on-gong, and when completed will ease the accommodation problems of the ICT department currently being starved of a befitting office space.

Chapter Seven

INFORMATION, CULTURE & TOURISM

Sector: Information

Sub-sector: Tourism

- i. **Name of project** Development of Azumini Blue River
- ii. **Location** Azumini Ukwu East LGA
- iii. **Status** On-Going
- iv. **Justification** To boost the tourism industry in Abia State
To generate employment
To generate revenue

Sub-Sector:

- i. **Name of Project** Abia Newspapers and Publishing Corporation
Supply & Installation of modern printing equipment
- ii. **Location:** Abia Newspaper & Publishing Corporation Umuahia
- iii. **Status:** On-Going
- iv. **Justification** To improve the operational base of Abia Newspaper and publishing corporation.

To generate employment

To expand the revenue base for Abia State.

Sub-Sector:

- Name of Project:** Broadcasting Corporation of Abia State.
Supply & Installation of Solid state digital television transmitter with (OB) VAN
- Location:** BCA – Umuahia
- Status:** On-Going

Justification: For the state to key into national mandate on broadcasting before 2012.

Sub-Sector: Broadcasting Corporation of Abia State

Name of Project: 500KVA generating set

Location: BCA

Status: Completed

Justification: Boosting and extension of transmission period on radio & T.V. Channels.

ABIA STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

1. Coordination of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Conditional Grants Scheme (CGS) and under 2007 CGS, ASPC Coordinated the construction of 30Nos Primary Health Centres, and 10Nos Solar Powered Boreholes in communities of Abia State.
2. Coordinating the reticulation of Okwuta-Ibeku Spring Water.
3. Facilitated the completion, and commissioning of Common Facility Centre (CFC) for Leather and Garments Clusters in Aba.
4. Packaged and submitted the Rural Access and Mobility Project (RAMP) to the Federal Project Management Unit office in Abuja for process and approval.
5. Packaged and submitted request for World Bank on State Capacity Building and Governance Project on Stage of Establishing PIU.
6. Activities on the 2008 CGS PHCs Projects are on-going.
7. Activities are on-going for a UNDP Assisted Bio-gas Plant at Ubakala
8. Preliminary activities on the replication of Songhai Integrated Farms at Benin Republic in Okwoyi and Olori Abia State.
9. Coordinates the Partnership Arrangement for the training of Staff of Abia Civil Service, in collaboration with UNITAR.
10. Coordinates the United Nation fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) activities on Maternal And Reproductive Health Issues in the State.
11. Prepared the 2007 and 2008 Annual and Supplementary Budgets of Abia State.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS ACHIEVEMENTS

In the past two years the Ministry had modestly achieved the following:

- Completed and commissioned the JAAC and Ndi-Eze Secretariat. The foundation ceremony of this project was laid on September 27, 2007 by His Excellency, Chief T.A. Orji the Executive Governor of Abia State and was commissioned on January 30, 2009 by His Excellency, Dr Goodluck E. Jonathan, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- The Ministry prepared the documents of 28 Ezes elect who were officially recognized by His Excellency, chief T.A. Orji, the Executive Governor of Abia State. The Governor issued staff of office to the Ezes elect, 15 out of this number are yet to receive Certificate of recognition.
- A plebiscite was successfully conducted for the people of Ndume Autonomous Community, to decide who succeeds the throne of their late Eze. This brought peace to the Community.
- The Ministry has successfully settled 88 Ezeship disputes within the period under review thus ending an era of instability in these communities.
- The principle officers of the state Council of Traditional Rulers in collaboration with the Ministry embarked on Sensitization/Enlightenment campaign to all the Local Government Areas to dialogue with the traditional rulers on the security situation in their various communities and this has in no small measure reduced the incidence of kidnapping in the State.
- The Ministry successfully conducted a one-day workshop for all traditional rulers in the State on August 31, 2007 at the Michael Okpara Auditorium, Umuahia.

Chapter Eight

JUSTICE

The Ministry of Justice is one of the statutory ministries in Abia State Public Service. It is service oriented Ministry whose functions include offering legal advice and opinion to both the government and the public. It has the following functional departments to achieve its objective:

- i. Administration department
- ii. Finance
- iii. Planning and Research Department
- iv. Estate and trust “
- v. Civil Litigation “
- vi. Legal Drafting “
- vii. Public Prosecution “
- viii. Citizens right “

Within these two years, this ministry has enjoyed the patronage of the present Administration of Dr. T.A. Orji from the following projects.

- (a) The old buildings in the ministry are properly renovated
- (b) Necessary amenities such as toiletries, water borehole and security are provided.
- (c) Equipments such as giant generating plants, computer machines and photocopier are adequately provided.
- (d) A gigantic one story building was erected and commissioned.

Ministry of justice has three out station offices at Aba, Isiala Ngwa and Ohafia. It also has one Parastatals, Abia Law Reforms at Aba Road, Umuahia.

DEPARTMENT OF ESTATE AND TRUST

This department is responsible for the administration of the estates of the deceased persons. The enabling Law is the Administrator General Law cap 4 Law of Eastern Nigeria 1963. It is also a revenue generating department through the following sub-heads.

- i. Estate Administrative fees
- ii. Oath fees
- iii. Court Award fees
- iv. Sales of Law Reports and Legal Publication
- v. Fiat fee
- vi. Income from Investment
- vii. Trust fee
- viii. Sales of customary court manual
- ix. Sales of revised Law of Abia state
- x. Income from Investment
- xi. Others (Justice of Peace)

As at today, only six (6) of the ten (10) sub-heads yield revenue. About N11,561,593.50 was generating within the two years. There are 3384 files representing the Estate under the management of the Administrator General, while 66 Estate cases are pending in the court.

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL LITIGATION

This department is charged with the responsibility of defending government in Civil Suits filed in court by aggrieved citizens of Abia state in particular and Nigeria in general. This department also files court actions on behalf of Abia State Government if the situation so warrants.

- I. Total number of cases pending in court = 1,350
- II. Total number of cases received from 29th May 2007 till date = 1,482
- III. Total number of cases heard and determined in Supreme Court, Appeal Court and High Courts = 275
- IV. Total number of cases pending in Supreme Court Abuja = 14.
- v. Total number of cases pending in Court of Appeal Abuja and Port-Harcourt = 39
- vi. Total number of cases in FCT high court Abuja = 2
- vii. Total number of cases in Federal High Court Umuahia and Lagos = 169
- viii. Total number of cases in State High Court in Nigeria = 1,258

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL DRAFTING

The primary functions of this department are to vet draft Agreements, draft bills and render legal advice to the government.

- i. Total number of draft contract agreements and memoranda of understanding from

Ministries/Extra Ministerial Departments for vetting and duly vetted = 275

- ii. Draft Bills and other statutory instruments from Ministries/Extra Ministerial Departments for vetting and dully vetted = 125
- iii. Matters which legal advice were rendered by this Department to other Ministries/Extra Ministerial Departments = 75.

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZEN'S RIGHT

This department caters for the cases involving the indigent litigants who may not be able to retain the services of paid legal practitioners. The department also renders legal advice on matters referred to it by the government. It mediates over matters between parties with a view to setting them out of court. The department also liaises with some non-governmental organizations such as International federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA), National Council of Women Societies (NCWS) etc to ensure that indigent female litigants are given adequate legal representation. About 76 cases are pending in various courts.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROSECUTION

The department is responsible for prosecuting criminal matters and offering advice from referred criminal matters from the police and magistrate courts.

- i. Total number of cases files received from the police = 329
- ii. Total number of legal opinions to the police = 248
- iii. Total number of information/proof of Evidence filed to the High Court = 114
- vi. Total number of motions received = 362
- v. Total number of cases disposed of = 350

PENDING CASES

- I. Total number of cases pending at the supreme court = 4
- ii. Total number of cases pending at the court of Appeal = 17
- iii. Total number of cases pending at the Federal High Court = 3
- iv. Total number of cases pending at the State High Court = 352
- v. Total number of cases pending at the Magistrate Court = 25

WHERE THERE IS A WILL



NEW ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AT THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Chapter Nine

WOMEN AFFAIRS

Prior to May 2007, this project was not visited, even though a constant effort were made each year to reflect it in the annual budget estimate. The conception of this project was made under the military Government of Abia State in 1997/98 with a miniature construction at the DPC level. In 2007, under the current administration a giant stride was made by Her Excellency, the wife of the Executive Governor of the State Chief Mrs. Mercy Odochi Orji by redesigning the project to suit the taste of time. She started the construction of the ultra modern hotel, conference hall and offices as a compact project.

STATUS: The construction is at the level of roofing stage at both frontal and angular (sides) stretch. The project when completed is expected to house, conference halls and offices with the essence of sustaining the increased women activities in the state. The sum of N100m was the approved estimate in 2009 appropriation.

SKILL ACQUISITION CENTRE:

In line with the broad objectives of Abia State Economic Empowerment and Development strategy (ABSEEDS) in sustaining the underlining and objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) the Ministry of Women Affairs under the leadership of Chief T.A. Orji has reemphasized the need for skill acquisition through integrated programme. Rehabilitation and maintenance of the centre is being sustained with monthly subvention of N200,000 this have created favourably efforts in enhancing the capacities in various skill areas such as;

- Food and Nutrition
- Fashion and Designing
- Computer Training
- Hair Dressing

Chemical and Allied

In 2006 = 136 trained

2007 = 145

2008 = 200

This has shown a steady rise reflecting positive action plan towards women empowerment.

DAYCARE/NURSERY CENTRE:

In collaboration with the True Vine, the Ministry have established a DayCare Centre at the children Amusement Centre. The essence of this project is to ease out the stress of Abia working mothers to find the comfort of keeping their child there during the official working hour and to sustain their job productivity. Meanwhile the centre has been giving a face lift in rehabilitation. Effort is still being made for improving the perimeter fencing, security and energy of the centre.

ACTIVITIES

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: Over 7,000 women across the three senatorial areas of the state have been sensitized and mobilized as against five thousand (5,000) women in 2006.

The key areas of note are;

- (a) World Breast Feeding Week: Lunching of 2007 world breast feeding week, the essence is to sensitize mothers on the importance of exclusive breast feeding for the first six months after child birth, 800 mothers participated across the three senatorial area in Abia Stat.
- (b) Child Rights Acts: Reproduction and distribution of the simplified version of child rights acts, with the essence of making it available and handy to many Abians. 1000 copies were distributed in all the local Government Areas of the state.
- © NRCRI Collaboration: The Ministry of Women Affairs in collaboration with NRCRI Umuahia organized LGA needs assessment tour in the state to assess the specific needs of Women Farmers in the 17 local Government Areas. The essence is to help them fight against poverty through introduction of agricultural facilities such as improved varieties, use of fertilizer, herbicides, and micro credit facilities.
- (d) Woffee Loan: The loan tend to address the issue of women empowerment and to enhance the quality of lives among them. This was a collaborative venture between Nigeria Agric bank and Ministry of Women Affairs. The sum of six million (N6m) was issued to beneficiaries by the wife of the Executive Governor, Chief Mrs. Mercy Odochi Orji at Children Amusement Centre old gariki.
- (e) International Women's Day Celebration: Over 6000 women participated at the occasion with Her Excellency delivery a key not address. The 17 LGA's participated. The occasion was use to further the course of womanhood and gender equality and socio-economic and political empowerment of women.

(f) **National Association of Women Entrepreneurs:** Efforts were made by the Ministry through collaboration with Aba Chambers of Commerce and co-ordinate the activities of women entrepreneur in the state. The Ministry held a formal workshop with the groups with the essence of fashioning out the best means to have profitable ventures as a way of reducing the rate of unemployment and poverty in the state. 110 women attended the programme from the 17 LGAs with resource persons drawn from both banks and Umuahia Chambers of Commerce.

(g) **Micro Credit Disbursement:** As a way of empowering and assisting some women groups and association to enhance their capacities, Her Excellency gave out the sum of N15m to various women groups as a way of empowering them and as a means of poverty reduction. Seminars and workshops were organized for these groups on the best way to invest in order to improve their livelihood.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING:

Recently, gender advocate group have been established in the state through UNICEL Assisted Programme to help in domestication of CEDAW in the state. Issue of women rights bill according to the 30 points document on CEDAW is before the State House of Assembly with emphasis on promotion of equal assets, opportunities to women to close the inequality gap. Various workshops has been held with participant drawn from various women groups and association including female civil servants. Recently, a 3day workshop was held for women leaders in each of the 3 senatorial zones of the state with altogether 210 women leaders that attended on issues of CEDAW. Most stakeholders attended including the chairpersons of LGA's, the chairman House Committee on Women Affairs and permanent secretaries.

HIV/AIDS/Family Planning and Teenage Pregnancy Awareness:

An intense effort were mounted by the Ministry to organized a tour of the seventeen (17) LGAs. These have been covered with 7000 people both women/youth/male benefiting from the programme. In the most recent time in collaboration with SACA, specific target groups were reached with workshops and seminars these includes (i) Staff and student of skill acquisition centre where 50 in number attended and (ii) police wives association where 80 of their members participated and were intensively sensitized on the above matter.

Child Trafficking and Abuse Women:

At the close of May 2007, an interception and intervention, were made to rescue 157 Abian children loaded in a truck to Lagos. Recently, other cases has been reported involving reparation homes involving 15 children and that of little Miss Faith Samuel who have been re-united with her family.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Women Affairs though a service ministry was primarily established to promote the welfare and activities of women and children. This mandate does not only include the development and advancement of women and children, but also the execution of programmes and projects on issues ensuring family cohesion through income generating skills, education and other social matters with the family unit and the larger society. Thus, this Ministry had since inception influenced so many women and children positively and its achievements are too numerous to be mentioned.

Chapter Ten

LANDS, SURVEY AND URBAN PLANNING

The State Ministry of Lands, Survey and urban Planning is statutorily charged with the responsibility of land resources management and administration with a view to creating human settlements that are orderly functional and economically efficient and aesthetically pleasant, recorded the underlisted achievements within the first two years of Chief Dr T.A. Orji's administration as the Executive Governor of Abia State.

1. This Ministry sourced site for the construction of Umuahia ultra modern market at Ubani Ibeku. The contractor has commenced construction work as he had been granted C of O and an eighteen (18) – man committee comprising indigenes of Ubani Ibeku, Agbo Emede Ibeku, Isiadu Afarata Ibeku, Emeke Afarata Ibeku and Amankwo Uzuakoli (owners of the land) has been formed. The aforementioned communities are benefiting from the casual works their communities are engaged in although compensation is being awaited.
2. The Ministry on behalf of the state government has embraced the present day land reform. This is evidenced by the complete automation of the land deeds registry (LDR). The State can now boast of the most modern, most authentic, most reliable and most up-to- date system of property registry/documentation. Revalidation and Recertification of property document took off in 2008 giving rise to new digitalized/security-proof certificate of occupancy (C of O) replacing the old/outdated one. Property owners/title holdings can now engage in confident market transactions in landed property with the help of the new C of O.

The ministry as at June 2008 started printing and issuing the new C of O and title holders from then till now have been receiving quick and prompt service delivery with the help of the improved search system. The overall target of the Ministry is to ensure that applicants obtain the new C of O within 21

days after they had made all necessary payments.

For quick and easy contact, the Ministry established a Customer Service centre through which customers/clients are contacted through phone numbers 080-70769210 and 080-69264542 respectively, while its website is www-abialands.com.

Based on the improved system the Ministry has from June 2008 till date recorded the following achievements:

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---|-----|
| (i) | No. of new C of O printed | = | 722 |
| (ii) | No. of new C of O collected | = | 232 |
| (iii) | No of new C of O awaiting collection | = | 490 |
| (iv) | Power of Attorney registered. | = | 951 |
| (v) | Certified True Copies registered | = | 76 |
| (vi) | Searches conducted | = | 755 |
| (vii) | Deed of Releases registered | = | 12 |
| (viii) | Caveats placed | = | 63 |

The ALIS like other dynamic and economic development blueprints is geared towards wealth creation, employment generation, poverty reduction and value re-orientation. Under capacity building, over 30 staff of the ministry have been trained.

3. Survey and design of Adelabu layout were completed in 2008 and a C of O issued to Money Line Investment Co. Ltd who commenced construction work immediately and work is in progress for the provision of housing to Abia residents.

4. In order to ensure order and compatibility in the distribution as well as growth of activities in our urban centres based on Land Use zoning laws and regulations, the ministry introduced Change of Purpose Clause (Change of Use). This project purports that each and every allocation must be developed based on the dictate of its C of O and not otherwise. In executing this laudable project, landed property owners in Aba (the commercial nerve centre of the state) and Umuahia (the state capital) have been duly informed by means of under the aegis of Oval Integrated Services Ltd had already distributed forms to defaulted landlords who would pay specified penalties commiserate with their default. The sole aim of the exercise being to prevent our urban areas from growing into slum. Any change of use that is not allowed will be demolished.

5. The Ministry has sourced land for the construction of a befitting and suitable ultra-modern market for the state capital, Umuahia with a view to vacate the present Umuahia main market which has made the centra business district (Isi Gate) to become an eye sore (a ramshackle part of the state capital).

WHERE THERE IS A WILL

6. The Ekeoba land acquisition gave rise to the provision of land for the under listed government Agencies:

- (a) The Nigerian Meteorological Agency
- (b) The Civil Service Academy
- (c) Nation Open University Study Centre
- (d) 342 Artillery regiments Officers' Quarters.

7. In order to pacify the indigenous land owners of the already acquired, Government State Layout, Umuahia; the under listed communities have been paid the sums of money attached to their names:

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|---|------|
| (a) | Umuakpu Ndume Ibeku | - | N5m |
| (b) | Umuohu Okpula Ndume Ibeku | - | N5m |
| (c) | Ihie Ndume Ibeku | - | N10m |

Other communities whose portions of land fall within the aforementioned layout will also be pacified as agreed.

8. Reparcellation survey was carried out at Evangel (Amuba) layout in order to provide 1000 plots for 1000 housing units for low income workers. Ministry of Housing has already commenced development of layout.

9. The following layouts were designed in readiness for implementation.

- (i) Signboard layout, Umuahia
- (ii) Ekeoba/Umuokwu Layout, Umuahia
- (iii) Mechanic Village layout, Umuahia
- (iv) Adelabu Pocket layout, Umuahia
- (v) Okpula Ukaegbu Pocket layout, Umuahia
- (vi) Isieke Extension layout, Umuahia
- (vii) Umuahia Ultra-modern Market layout
- (viii) Evangel (Amuba) layout, Umuahia (redesigned)
- (ix) Government State layout, Umuahia (Redesigned)

These layouts when developed would surely reduce accommodation problem in Umuahia to the barest minimum.

10. The Ministry opened access roads in Okpu Umuobo Bus Terminal/Residential layout, Osisioma LGA, Aba. Both the Bus Terminal and the Residential areas are now ready for allottees/developers to go in, access their plots and commence development.

11. In order to make housing available and affordable to Abians, the Ministry has sourced land at Okwoyi Ibeku, Umuahia for the construction of 1,000 (One thousand) housing units.

12. The acquisition processes for full realization of the Abia State Polytechnic permanent site, Umuarakpa/Umuogbaraegbe in Osisioma LGA will soon be completed.
13. In order to discharge physical planning responsibilities giving rise to integrated rural development of the state. 15 Town Planning Authorities were established in 15 local government Areas of Abia State.
14. The Ministry opened access roads leading to the new Secretariat complex area of the Government Station layout. The roads created a leeway for the laying of the foundation stone for the new Secretariat complex on the 10th day of August, 2007. In addition, a total area of 33,410 square metres out of 419,225 sq metres was opened for the erection of the secretariat complex.
15. In order to pave way for industrial agglomeration in Abia State, the Ministry sourced lands within the three Senatorial Districts – for Abia North, the site is at Ohafia, for Abia Central the site is at mngbarakuma Ubakala, Umuahia – the former Mazda plant site, while for Abia South the site is at Emelu umuagu Village in Isiala Ahiaba Autonomous Community in Obingwa LGA. The sole aim behind industrializing Abia is to create employment opportunities for the teaming unemployed youth and to expand the internal revenue generating base thereby reducing the state's overdependence on federal Revenue Allocation.
16. In its bid to control development within the capital territory Umuahia, the Umuahia Capital Development Authority embarked on demolition exercise along few roads in Umuahia. Examples of such roads were Aba Road and Lagos Street.
17. Arrangements are underway to produce Digital Base Map for Abia State and Master Plans for Umuahia and Aba. These would guide physical planning within the State in order to ensure order and regularity in the spatial distribution of activities in space.
18. The ministry acquired site at Akpaa Mbato in Obingwa LGA for the establishment of Organic Fertilizer Plant. Phoenix Company had started work on solid waste recycling to secure environmental friendliness and at the same time produce organic fertilizer for agricultural use.
19. At Ntigha, isiala ngwa North LGA, the Ministry acquired land for the construction of inland Container Deport (ICD) or Dry Port. The SOD TURNING EXERCISE took place at the site in the presence of the representatives of the Federal Ministry of Transport, the concessionaire (East Gate Company), the land owing communities of Avor Ntigha and the Ministry of lands, Survey and Urban Planning. The Concessionaire had made part payment of the agreed compensation in readiness to commence development.
20. The survey of plots/blocks of the old town layouts of Aba and Umuahia is in progress. The ministry entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Professional Surveyors Association

of Nigeria, Abia State Branch to carry out the survey. The aim behind this exercise is to enable the property owners to have the new C of O which has the survey plan of a given property on the reverse side of it. Moreso, the allocations were made before the Land Use Decree (Act) of 1978 came into force and property owners safeguarded their property by means of leases.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Our aspiration in Abia State is not only to provide meaningful development to our people but also to serve as a model to other states on how certain policies and programmes should be implemented.

When we assumed office in 2007, we were faced with a situation where most of the industries that hitherto provided employment for the citizens of Abia State were either moribund or were on the verge of being shut down for diverse reasons.

Added to this was the fact that most of these companies that had gone under had laid off their staff and those that were still operating at minimal capacity owed staff salaries for several months in arrears.

We then went about working on the best possible action to be taken as regards these companies bearing in mind that Abia State ranks rather low on the table of states with financial muscle and we do not have the funds to pump into these industries to guarantee their revitalisation.

It was a combination of these factors that led us to throw the doors of Abia State wide open for investors to come and take over all the industries that were rotting away some for as much as 20 years.

To the glory of God, several companies both local and foreign have heeded our call and in Abia state today, like the Bible would say, dry bones are rising again.

Today the Morden Ceramics Industries is alive and fully functional. The company, after 14 years of inactivity, was handed over to UCL Consortium, promoted by the Catholic Diocese of Umuahia and with our support, they have done a wonderful job to revitalize the place. We gave the management of the company massive support in the areas of infrastructural development of the factory complex and sundry assistance and today, modern equipments imported from Italy for use at the factory have been installed and full production has commenced. This was the major project Vice President Goodluck Jonathan commissioned during his working visit to Abia State on January 30, 2009.

The Modern Ceramics Industries at full capacity, employs about one thousand direct staff while about three thousand individuals benefit from supplies, distributions and contracts.

The Golden Guinea Breweries for which the people of Umuahia and indeed, Abia State have a rather sentimental attachment is on the verge of resuming full production after about seven years of inactivity.

The company at the height of its operations had in its direct employ, over two thousand employees on full time emolument. This is different from the about five thousand people in the employ of suppliers,

contractors, distributors and other related businesses dependent on the brewery for their daily sustenance.

We have been able to resolve the myriad of contentious issues that had held the company down and we have negotiated the hand over of the company to its new majority shareholders.

Part of the concessions that we obtained from the new shareholders of the brewery was that the bulk of the previous staff of the brewery will be retained while indigenes of Abia State will be given first priority in any employment exercise to be embarked upon by the brewery.

Work is currently on-going at the factory as engineers are installing the new equipments bought for the brewery. As soon as the internal works are completed, the plant will come back to life and full production will commence. In addition to the existing range of lager beer and malt to be produced by the brewery, they are also installing equipments for the production of bottled water. The equipments will be fully installed and full production is expected to resume before the end of the year.

The Abia Hotels Limited hitherto occupied a large expanse of land in a prime location in the city centre with little or no revenue accruing to government from the enterprise. In continuation of our Public Private Partnership policy, we called for bids from reputable organisations to take over the large expanse of land occupied by the non-functional hotel and erect a modern structure.

Today, the Abia State Government has signed a contract with Nech and World International Group, owners of the Protea Hotel at Obigbo, Port Harcourt, Rivers State to build a world class four-star hotel on that same location.

The existing structures will be demolished to pave way for the new 4-star hotel complete with an International Conference Centre, a Mall and a recreational park.

The certificate of occupancy for the property has been handed over to the company, the model of the new structure to be erected has been approved and the company is set to commence construction.

In Aba, the International Glass Industry, which was part-leased to Churchgate Group, recently commissioned a new production line, the first major activity in the industry for the past ten years.

With the commissioning of the new production line, the company is currently the largest manufacturer of pharmaceutical bottles in Nigeria. With the new life breathed into it by our administration, it is set to expand its operational base and diversify into general glass productions. It will soon commence the production of glass sheets used in manufacturing vehicle windshields, window panes and sundry glass products.

Also worthy of mention is the revitalised Common Facilities Centre at Aba, the International Market at

Osioma, the Metallurgical Complex in Aba, the Ovom Industrial Workshop Estate, the Umukalika Industrial Workshop Estate and the Ohiya Mechanical Workshop Estate which have all being leased out to private developers on Public private Partnership basis.

Two weeks ago, we were at Obingwa Local Government Area to commission the Aba Malting Plant built by Nigeria Breweries Plc. The total cost of the project is N10 billion and it is a resounding vote of confidence on Abia State that the company was cited here. Nigerian Breweries, which formerly closed their brewing plant at Aba a couple of years ago have now returned and they have resumed full production at their Aba Brewery.



GOV. T. A. ORJI HANDING OVER THE NEW CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY TO A LANDOWNER PROF. J. C. OGBONNAYA AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE ABIA LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM (ALIS)

Chapter Eleven

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Our aspiration in Abia State is not only to provide meaningful development to our people but also to serve as a model to other states on how certain policies and programmes should be implemented.

When we assumed office in 2007, we were faced with a situation where most of the industries that hitherto provided employment for the citizens of Abia State were either moribund or were on the verge of been shut down for diverse reasons.

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The Modern Ceramics Industries at full capacity, employs about one thousand direct staff while about three thousand individuals benefit from supplies, distributions and contracts.

The Golden Guinea Breweries for which the people of Umuahia and indeed, Abia State have a rather sentimental attachment is on the verge of resuming full production after about seven years of inactivity.

The company at the height of its operations had in its direct employ, over two thousand employees on full time emolument. This is different from the about five thousand people in the employ of suppliers, contractors, distributors and other related businesses dependent on the brewery for their daily sustenance.

We have been able to resolve the myriad of contentious issues that had held the company down and we have negotiated the hand over of the company to its new majority shareholders.

Part of the concessions that we obtained from the new shareholders of the brewery was that the bulk of the previous staff of the brewery will be retained while indigenes of Abia State will be given first priority in any employment exercise to be embarked upon by the brewery.

Work is currently on-going at the factory as engineers are installing the new equipments

bought for the brewery. As soon as the internal works are completed, the plant will come back to life and full production will commence. In addition to the existing range of lager, beer and malt to be produced by the brewery, they are also installing equipments for the production of bottled water.

The equipments will be fully installed and full production is expected to resume before the end of the year.

The Abia Hotels Limited hitherto occupied a large expanse of land in a prime location in the city centre with little or no revenue accruing to government from the enterprise. In continuation of our Public Private Partnership policy, we called for bids from reputable organisations to take over the large expanse of land occupied by the non-functional hotel and erect a modern structure.

Today, the Abia State Government has signed a contract with Nech and World International Group, owners of the Protea Hotel at Obigbo, Port Harcourt, Rivers State to build a world class four-star hotel on that same location.

The existing structures will be demolished to pave way for the new 4-star hotel complete with an International Conference Centre, a Mall and a recreational park.

The certificate of occupancy for the property has been handed over to the company, the model of the new structure to be erected has been approved and the company is set to commence construction.

In Aba, the International Glass Industry, which was part-leased to Churchgate Group, recently commissioned a new production line, the first major activity in the industry for the past ten years.

With the commissioning of the new production line, the company is currently the largest manufacturer of pharmaceutical bottles in Nigeria. With the new life breathed into it by our administration, it is set to expand its operational base and diversify into general glass productions. It will soon commence the production of glass sheets used in manufacturing vehicle windshields, window panes and sundry glass products.

Also worthy of mention is the revitalised Common Facilities Centre at Aba, the

International Market at Osisioma, the Metallurgical Complex in Aba, the Ovom Industrial Workshop Estate, the Umukalika Industrial Workshop Estate and the Ohiya Mechanical Workshop Estate which have all being leased out to private developers on Public private Partnership basis.

Two weeks ago, we were at Obingwa Local Government Area to commission the Aba Malting Plant built by Nigeria Breweries Plc. The total cost of the project is N10 billion and it is a resounding vote of confidence on Abia State that the company was cited here. Nigerian Breweries, which formerly closed their brewing plant at Aba a couple of years ago have now returned and they have resumed full production at their Aba Brewery.

METALLURGICAL COMPLEX LIMITED

Met complex Ltd. Was established by the then East Central State in 1975 to Manufacture Mechanic and Spare Parts.

ACHIEVEMENT:

- (a) Abia State Government in an attempt to realize the project has appointed Core investor Agrico Multi Service Ltd.
- (b) The contract agreement for restructuring of the shareholding construction and Management of Metallurgical Complex Ltd Aba and Umuahia was signed on 12th Day of May 20 08.
- (c) Activities have resumed at the Aba site.

MODERN CERAMICS INDUSTRIES LTD.

Modern Ceramics Industries Ltd. was established in 1963 by the then Eastern Nigeria Government and Commissioned in 1965 to produce various types of Ceramic products.

Unfortunately, the Company stopped operation in 1996 as a result of the breakdown of its operational facilities.

ACHIEVEMENT:

- (a) The Abia State Government appointed a core investor, UCL Resources and Investment Ltd to realize the project.
- (b) The contract agreement for shareholding reactivation and management agreement for the Modern Ceramics Industries Ltd Umuahia was signed on 9th Day of May, 2003.
- (c) However, the reactivated Company was commissioned by His Excellency, Chief (Dr) Goodluck Jonathan, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on 30th January.

OHIYA MECHANIC WORKSHOP ESTATE:

The Ohiya workshop Estate site which measures 32 hectares and located at Ohiya along Enugu – Port Harcourt Expressway is being established to cluster the mechanics and Allied Technicians scattered within and around Umuahia Metropolis.

ACHIEVEMENT:

- (a) Perimeter Survey of the site had been completed.
- (b) Abia State Government has appointed J.O. Onwuka & Company as a Development under a Public – Private Partnership arrangement.
- (c) A memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Development of mechanic/Motor Spare Parts Industries Workshop Cluster at Ohiya Umuahia was signed on the 26th Day of March, 2009.
- (d) Construction work has started at the site.

INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOP ESTATE, UMUKALIKA:

This Industrial Workshop Estate site measures 25 hectares and is located at umukalika, Obingwa Local Government Area. It is designed to provide operating facilities for the leather and Garment Artisans who are scattered within and around Aba metropolis.

ACHIEVEMENT:

- (a) The Abia State Government has appointed Futuristic Development Ltd as a Developer of the Project under P.P.P arrangement.
- (b) A contract Agreement for the Development and construction of a Modern market (to accommodate the garment and Leather works, Industrial market, etc) at Umukalika, Aba was signed on the 7th Day of July, 2008.

ROUTINE INSPECTION OF INDUSTRIES:

Many Industries operating within Abia State are being monitored by the Industrial Promotion Officers to ensure compliance to Industrial ethics and standards by the Industrialists period under reference.

PRODUCE:

The Department generated the sum of Thirty-six million, six hundred and twenty thousand and two hundred and seventy naira (N36,620,270) through produce inspection, registration of produce merchants fumigation etc within the period under review.

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT EKEOHA SHOPPING CENTRE LIMITED ABA.

The Company is up-to-date in payment of Annual rental to government.
The dividend of N2,220,000 (Two million, two hundred thousand naira) had been paid into government purse between 2007 and now.

ABIA HOTELS LIMITED

A total of N2,300,000 (Two million, three hundred thousand naira) has been realized as rental fees since 2007 – 2009.

TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

The 1st Aba International Trade Fair was held last year between September and October 2008.

The State is looking forward to a successful hosting of the 2nd Edition this year 2009.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND CONTROL IN ABIA STATE.

The Abia State Government since 2007 has experienced improvement in facilities in the market by providing more shops, for the teeming population of traders, provision of electricity transformers, water boreholes and access roads in and around the markets.

During the period 2007 -2009 four markets were approved for development by the state government.

These are:

- i. Umuahia Modern Market
- ii. International Region market for the South East
- iii. Aba International Industrial Market
- iv. Ukwu Wholesale International Market.

AGRICULTURE

The Agricultural sector is another area where we have set records and achieved feats that have made Abia State to be designated a model state to copy from in the area of agricultural growth in Nigeria.

Recently, Abia State hosted the 5th National Cocoa Day "Umuahia 2009" which had the Vice President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan in attendance. Also in attendance were the Deputy Governors of the 13 other Cocoa Producing States in Nigeria as well as stakeholders in the Cocoa Industry.

Abia State also graduated the first batch of students in our Youth-in-Agriculture Initiative making us the first state nationwide to graduate students from the National Scheme.

We have also made appreciable strides in the area of Cocoa Development, participating fully in all Cocoa events that have taken place nationwide to afford our Cocoa Farmers the opportunity to keep abreast of latest trends in growing the cash crop.

We have also increased the quantity of fertilizers distributed to our farmers annually while giving every necessary support to our farmers in the state.

In addition, the Abia Palm Estate in Ohambele, Ukwu-East Local Government Area, which has been comatose for twelve years, was handed over to Fric-El Consortium of Italy for revitalisation.

The company, which has already revitalised the Mbawsi Oil Mill as a show of its capabilities has transplanted twenty thousand palm seedlings from its nursery at Ekiti State to the Abia Palm Estate, Ohambele for immediate take-off of the estate.

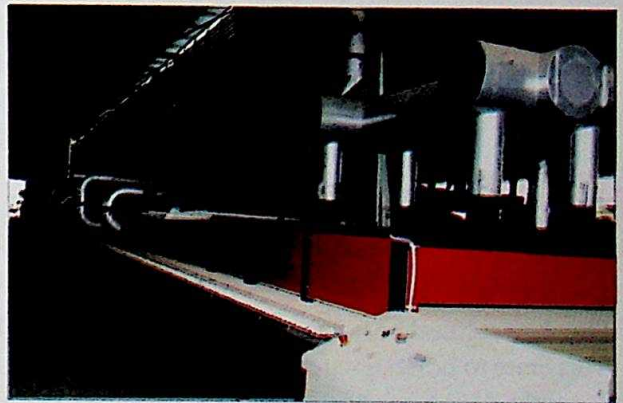
WHERE THERE IS A WILL

We have equally privatised the Abia Rubber Company while engaging a reputable firm to harness the vast Cashew plantations we have in Abia State.

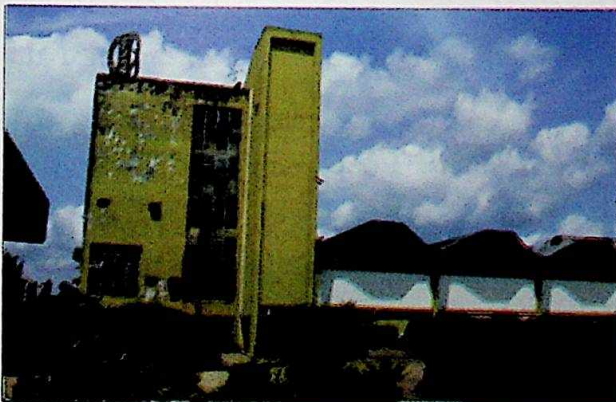
Abia State is also positioning itself to benefit from the N200 Billion recently earmarked by the Federal Government as grants to commercial and large-scale farmers.



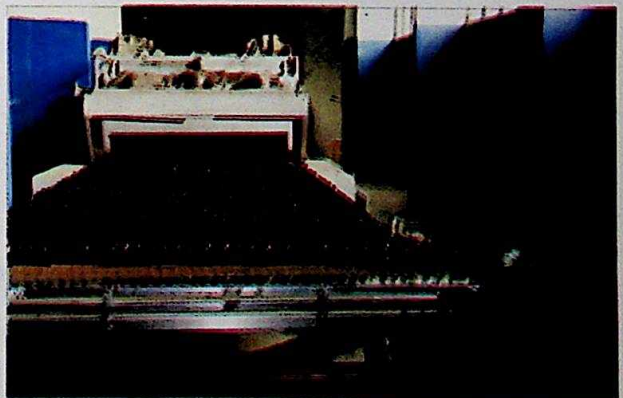
REVITALIZED AND FULLY OPERATIONAL MODERN CERAMICS INDUSTRIES



REVITALIZED AND FULLY OPERATIONAL MODERN CERAMICS INDUSTRIES



NEW EQUIPMENTS ARE BEING INSTALLED AT THE GOLDEN GUINEA BREWERIES PURSUANT TO RESUMPTION OF FULL PRODUCTION



A NEW PRODUCTION LINE HAS BEEN INSTALLED AT THE INTERNATIONAL GLASS INDUSTRY, ABA AND THEY ARE PRODUCING AT FULL CAPACITIES

Chapter Twelve

AGRICULTURE

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Government as grants to commercial and large-scale farmers.

PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL BLUE PRINT:

The Ministry has produced a developed plan for accelerated production of food in the state to ensure food security for the populace. It covers a ten year period.

AGRICULTURAL MAPPING:

The State engaged the services of a consultant to carry out agricultural mapping. This is designed to generate statistical data in all areas of agriculture especially to know the areas of comparative advantage of communities in rice, cassava, oil palm, vegetable and yam farming. This is expected to help the state in informed policy formulation and implementation. It is also expected to give the Federal Government and development partners insight into areas of collaboration with the state to improve on production and processing to ensure value added.

COUNTERPART FUNDING:

The State has paid counterpart fund for the following programmes that have foreign donors' component.

Community – Based Natural Resources Management Programme (CBNBMP) and FADAMA III.

COCOA PRODUCTION:

- State Wide Cocoa Development
- Provision of 1000 million cocoa seedlings distributed free to cocoa farmers
- Provision of capacity building programme, "called farmer field school in collaboration with STCP/IITA; with the establishment of 15 schools located in cocoa producing communities of the state. 337 cocoa farmers were trained in modern techniques of cocoa production at the cost of N2.5m.

The programme resulted in remarkable increase in revenue and economic activities of the rural communities involved in cocoa production.

Two Cocoa Farmers Cooperative Societies were incubated and hatched from the Farmer Field School (FFS) programme at Okwoyi Ibeku.

- Provision of approved EU chemicals to cocoa farmers at a subsidized rate.

Through the help of the Cocoa Development Committee, there was state-wide sensitization and public forum to educate cocoa farmers on the need to adopt and use the approved cocoa disease and pest chemical. Consequently the state procured and distributed chemicals worth N1.9m- Abia State successfully hosted the 2009 National Cocoa Event. The Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Deputy Governors of the 14 Cocoa producing states of the Nation were present at the event. Chief David Onyenweaku, of Abia State was announced the number one cocoa farmer in Nigeria.

PRIVATIZATION OF COMPANIES

The Abia palm (now Friel Abia palm) has been fully privatized and undergoing rehabilitation. The employment and economic potentials of this project are quite enormous, and by the time production commences we will be re-enacting the glorious oil palm era of the defunct Eastern Nigeria government.

Equally privatized is the Abia Rubber Company. Over 750Ha of this plantation was rehabilitated/planted up by government before being privatized. We have no doubt that in the very near future, Abia will be among the major Rubber producing states in the country.

ABIA STATE CASHEW COMPANY

- the 5 kilometer access road to the plantation was graded in 2008 by the Chief (Dr) T.A. Orji's let administration, thereby making the plantation accessible.
- The Executive Governor of Abia State Chief (Dr) T.A. Orji graciously approved the Development of a 130 Hectares for raising the phase II cashew plantation.
- The Company has successfully developed and packaged trials samples of the cashew apple juice and edible cashew kernels. Plans to commercialized products are being out together.

PEST CONTROL UNIT:

The unit has been providing professional Pest Control Services to Abia Farmers and the general public.

AGRO-INPUT SUPPLY COMPANY

Agro Input Unit is one of the service arms of the Ministry. It has the duty to procure and distribute agro inputs, as fertilizers, simple farm tools, and other improved varieties of seedlings.

Between 2007 to date the unit has received and distributed 13,800 metric tones of fertilizers, at subsidized rate to the farmer, 1000kg of hybrid maize 450 satchets of cucumber, water melon and okro seeds.

ABIA STATE HOLDER OIL PALM UNIT (SMU)

The Small Holder Oil Palm Unit is one of the projects of Abia State Ministry of Agriculture. Apart from actualizing its objectives over the years, among which are boosting of oil palm industry by raising improved/hybrid oil palm seedlings, provision of raw materials for agro allied industries etc, it has raised 100,000 oil palm seedlings between May 29th, 2007 till date in its 4 nurseries located in three Local governor Areas of the State.

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

The Ministry has created and updated the data base of poultry farmers, numbering over 514, carried out successfully surveillance and monitoring of poultry farms to ascertain a zoo-sanitary status expected for the prevention of Avian Influenza in the senatorial zones, fumigation and decontamination of 20 major poultry markets in the state. Embarked upon various public enlightenment campaigns and infrastructural development. The State augmented the contribution of the Federal Government to carry out the anti-rabies campaign in 2007.

WHERE THERE IS A WILL

TOURISM

Distinguished Abians, you will all agree with me that the emphasis for any forward thinking government at this point in time should be on how to create an economy that will not be dependent on the allocations from the federation account.

It is in line with this mindset that we have wholeheartedly provided the needed fillip for the revving up of our tourism industry in Abia State. As a show of our seriousness, we revived the Ugwu Abia Cultural Festival, the first time the festival will be held in eight years.

We intend for it to be an annual event and we are currently receiving proposals from tourism experts on how to host cultural carnivals in Abia State annually.

Like you all know, the Azumini Blue River is an International Tourist Centre recognised by the United Nations. The resort has however been allowed to run to seed due to years of mismanagement and neglect.

Today, a contract has been signed with CEM 2000 Consortium to take over the resort and build a world-class tourist centre there. Preliminary paperworks have been tidied up pursuant to the commencement of work on the site.

We have equally ceded the Arochukwu Long Juju to private Tourism Developers who will be required to develop the site into a world class tourism destination.

HEALTH

We have equally recorded considerable strides in the area of health care delivery in Abia State.

I did inform you that we were planning the equipping and standardisation of one hospital in every Senatorial Zone into a referral hospital for specialist treatments and diagnostics.

I am happy to announce to you that we have undertaken a massive re-equipping and modernisation of the Amachara General Hospital as the pilot hospital for Abia Central Senatorial Zone and the Abia State University teaching Hospital Aba to serve the people of Abis South Senatorial Zone.

We are now ready to fully re-equip the Umannato General Hospital to serve as the Specialist Hospital for the Abia North Senatorial Zone.

We have also acquired the defunct Alaoma Hospital on Aba Road from Ezeogo Dr. Anagha Ezeikpe. We are in the process of remodelling and re-equipping the place. When the project is completed, the Hospital will serve as one of the best referral diagnostic hospitals in the South East.

Permit me to announce to you that prior to the advent of our administration, only two Schools of Nursing had full accreditation in Abia State. As I speak to you now, all the Seven Schools of Nursing in

Abia State have been granted full accreditation by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria.

The Abia State University Teaching Hospital, which hitherto had provisional accreditation, has been granted full accreditation to train undergraduate Doctors.

We have equally distributed Ambulances to ten Local Government Areas in Abia State to aid in conveying pregnant rural women to the nearest hospital to guarantee safe delivery. This is part of our larger strategy to curb the alarming rate of maternal and infant mortality in the state.

In addition, we are undertaking massive refurbishing and expansion works at the School of Health Technology, Aba, the School of Nursing, Umuahia and the Uzuakoli Tuberculosis and Leprosy Centre.

We have also sustained and strengthened the Free Medical Scheme to reach a wider range of people at increased frequency.

In partnership with EU-Prime, we have procured 20 Vans to be distributed to each Local Government Area in Abia State for effective immunisation of Abia children against Polio and other diseases.

The office of the Wife of the Governor has also played a crucial role in arranging Medical Missions from several international medical organisations who frequently come to Abia State for specialised treatments like Cancer and several other ailments.

Her office has also secured the donation of several medical equipments to hospitals in Abia State from foreign medical and charity organisations. She has also vigorously pursued the prevention of maternal mortality through the organisation of several seminars and sensitisation workshops in collaboration with the United Nations and other agencies.

One of such acquisitions is a Mobile Mammography Van fully equipped with the latest technology for breast cancer detection and early treatment for Abia Women which her office has acquired.

WHERE THERE IS A WILL



ABIA IS MAKING WAVES AS A COCOA PRODUCING STATE



STAFF OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE INSPECTING WORK AT AN PALM NURSERY IN ABIA STATE



GOV. T.A. ORJI PLANTING A YAM TO FLAG OFF THE 2009 CROPPING SEASON



CONFERRING WITH PS. AGRICULTURE, SIR J. AGBAI KALU AT THE FLAGG-OFF OF THE 2009 CROPPING SEASON



MR. COCOA. DEPUTY GOVERNOR, COMRADE CHRIS AKOMAS INSPECTING COCOA PODS AT A COCOA PLANTATION IN ABIA STATE

Chapter Thirteen

HEALTH

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The administration of His Excellency, Chief Dr. T.A. Orji came on board on 29th May, 2009. Since his inception, a lot has been achieved in the Ministry to the admiration of both the staff of the Ministry and that of the general public whose health is being taken care of by the health conscious administration of Dr T.A. Orji. The achievements recorded are in the areas of Preventive/Primary Health Care as well as in curative medicine.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

General Hospital Amachara has been re-equipped with Modern Hospital equipments with a view to upgrading the hospital to Specialist Hospital, such equipments include:-

1. X-ray Machine, Ultrasound machine, various Laboratory equipments: Colorimeter Spectrophotometer, Flame Photometer, Electrophoresis machine. A new incubator for the newborn. A new block of storey building has been completed to house the X-ray and Laboratory equipments. A dialysis machine has been procured for the Hospital.
2. The theatre has been equipped with new theatre tables, mobile operating theatre light (male and female) and Autoclave.
3. The wards have been tiled, refurbished with modern beds, bedside lockers, drip stands, a brand new ambulance has been provided for the hospital.

The staffing of the hospital is being improved with Specialist Doctors, Nurses and other Paramedical.

Considering the state of the hospital two years ago, the Executive Governor of Abia State Chief Dr. T.A. Orji should be commended for achieving so much within such a short time.

A standard Bore Hole with a standard tank has been sunk with 100 KVA generator installed.

ABIA STATE UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

Within the past two years, the hospital has continuously been re-equipped to the status of a teaching hospital.

The following has been completed:

1. Furnishing, equipping the Accident and Emergency Unit of the hospital
2. The various out-patient Departments has been furnished

The Consulting Rooms and management offices equipped with Air-conditioners, fans etc to motivate staff with a conducive working environments.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The pathology has been provided with tissue analyzer. A modern x-ray machine has been provided for the hospital. A brand new life-supply ambulance has been provided for the hospital.

SPECIALIST AREAS

In view of the high incidence of renal failures presently, the hospital is being developed as a Renal Centre. The Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria accredited the hospital as fit for the training of Doctors.

SCHOOLS OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

In order to meet the accreditation need of the schools, the administration of His Excellency, Chief Dr. T.A. Orji has done so much for the schools.

SCHOOL OF MIDWIFERY ABIRIBA

- i. The Perimeter fencing of the school has been completed
- ii. A bore hole sunk with standard tank and 100kva generator installed
- iii. The classrooms, laboratory, offices, demonstration-rooms fully tiled
- iv. Fans have been procured, installed at classrooms, hostels etc
- v. A coaster bus procured for the students
- vi. A one story building housing classroom and library completed
- vii. Library books supplied.

SCHOOL OF NURSING AMACHARA

A 200 bedded hostel contract has been awarded and is now 50% completed. The school has been renovated with tiles, refurnished and A/C's installed appropriately.

Perimeter fencing of the school completed.

A car has been provided for the principal, library books supplied.

BASIC MIDWIFERY SCHOOL AMACHARA

- A story building housing offices, classroom and computer room completed.
- A 200 bedded hostel serving the 2 schools in Amachara at 50% completion.
- A standard borehole sunk with standard tanks and a 100 kva generator installed to power the pump.
- A car has been provided for the Principal of the school.
- A Library complex with classroom and computer room and internet facilities completed and will be commissioned on 14/5/09
- Library books also supplied.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

With the inception of the administration of Dr T.A. Orji the following achievements have been made.

- Repositioning of the Primary Health Care System with the introduction of a quarterly primary health care forum a wide stakeholders meeting.
- Increase of the coverage of Immunization up to the national target since the programme was introduced in the state. The state ended 2008 with 84% coverage well above the national average of 75%. Before this achievement the state coverage was 42%.
- Due to the impressive performance of the state in reproductive health, in partnership with UNFPA, Abia was the only state in the Southeast selected for participating in the UNFPA 6th Country Programme. In addition the Agency selected Abia as its South East Zonal headquarters.
- The State, in partnership with EU-Prime procured 18 vehicles for Primary health Care activities, one for each local government area and one for the state for monitoring and supportive supervision.
- The state acquired and distributed 9 ambulances to 9 LGAs to serve as live ambulances to ferry pregnant women in distress from the hinterland to next level of care.
- The state Executive Council has approve the introduction of free maternal services up to 6 weeks postnatal for all pregnant mothers with entry point as the Ward Health Centre in each political ward in the state (total of 291 ward)

MALARIA CONTROL

A lot of drugs worth millions of naira have been received from FMOH and distributed at no cost to various Health Institutions in the state.

HIV/AIDS

With the assistance of Shell, Nivar and FHI, Owaza Cottage hospital has been a promising site for investigation and management of HIV/AIDS patients.

Investigations including CD4 count are being done freely for patients and Retroviral Drugs dispensed to patient at no cost.

Other sites such as ABSUTH and General Hospital Ohafia are being developed and will commence services to patients at no cost.

They are being sponsored in partnership with GHAIN Project.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY, ABA.

Within the period under review, the following achievements were made:

- A coaster bus has been provided for students
- A 200 bedded hostel contract has been awarded and now 60% completed.
- A bore hole has been sunk with standard tank and a 100kva generator installed.
- A car has been provided for the Principal of the School.

TB/LEPROSY CENTRE

Government also constructed a 40 TB Bedded Wards at the General Hospital Uzuakoli.

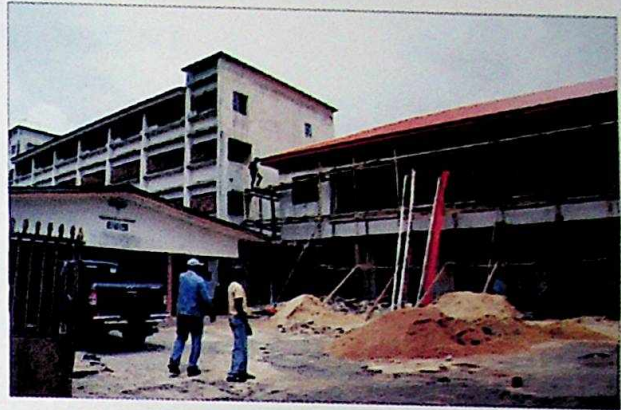
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRES

Government constructed/renovated 7 Primary Health Centres in Amaiyi, Igbere, Azumini Ukwa, Nkporo, Isiegbu Ozuitem, Imo River and Ahia Orie Iber.

WHERE THERE IS A WILL



COMPLETED HOSTEL BLOCK AT THE SCHOOL OF NURSING QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, UMUAHIA



ON-GOING RENOVATION WORK AT THE ABIA STATE SPECIALIST HOSPITAL (ALAOMA) TO MAKE IT A DIAGNOSTIC REFERRAL CENTRE



AMBULANCES PROCURE FOR THE FREE MEDICAL SCHEME



VANS FOR IMUNISATION DISTRIBUTED TO ALL L.G.A'S IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EU-PRIME



AMBULANCES DISTRIBUTED TO HEALTH CENTRES IN ABIA STATE



A HOSTEL BLOCK AT THE SCHOOL OF NURSING, AMACHARA

Chapter Fourteen

SPORTS

Within the year under review, our athletes and sportsmen made us proud in all competitions we participated in. At the just concluded Beijing Olympics, Chika Chukwumerije from Abia State won a Bronze Medal in Taekwando while our contingents to the Paralympic Games also in Beijing returned with several medals including a Gold Medal.

Similarly, all the contingents we sent to diverse sporting events nationwide returned with laurels for Abia State.

As you all are aware, Osita Ofor the Ultimate Commander is the current Heavyweight Wrestling Champion of Africa. He is currently gunning for the Commonwealth Championship which will be hosted by Abia State in August this year.

To that end, the Abia State Government have given him massive and complete support to prepare him for the championship and ensure he emerges the Commonwealth Champion which will serve as a stepping stone to the world championship.

The Abia State Government sponsored him on a training tour of the United States and we are fully responsible for the cost of his preparations for the forthcoming competition.

The aim here is to encourage Abia athletes and assure them that the Abia state Government is always willing and ready to assist them develop their full potentials.

We recently hosted a congratulatory and appreciative dinner for all our athletes who made the state proud in 2008.

MINISTRY OF SPORT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BRIEF:

The Ministry was established in 1999 and charged with the responsibility of developing all sporting activities and the welfare of the down trodden, destitute and physically challenged person in the society.

The Ministries trust of activities which includes indentifying, training, grooming and motivating the citizen to good health through sports and high level performance at local, national and international sporting activities, within the period under review, the ministry have supervised a number of sports competitions and in each occasion, performed very well.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

1. Abia State was declared the football state of the year 2007 by the sport champion.
2. Grand reception of Abia State medalist on 15th December, 2008, where His Excellency, Chief T.A Orji rewarded outstanding Abia state sports men and women with cash rewards.
3. Ongoing collaboration between the Government of Abia state VEJLE BOLD CLUB OF Denmark for establishment of a sports academy in Abia State.
4. A Non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Ohio in USA in collaboration with the ministry donated 50 wheel chairs to physically challenged persons in Abia State.
5. Chika Chukwumerije of Abia State won a bronze medal in Taekwando in the 2008 Beijing China Olympic, 2008 the first African to win a medal in combat Sport in the Olympic.
6. Her Excellency, Chief (Mrs) Mercy Odochi Orji, the first lady donated 12 wheel chairs, food items and cash gifts to physically challenged persons in the state.
7. The government assisted over 11 blind Abians to farm craft centre in Oshodi, Lagos.
8. The Governor, Chief T.A. Orji approved a sponsorship agreement with Osita Ofor Ultimate Commander, African Heavy weight wrestling champion for his planned world title fights.
9. Abia State came first at the South East U-18 talent hunt competitions in Owerri Jan 2009 with 37 Gold, 11 Silver and of Bronze Medals.

These competitions were done by the Parastatals which are under the supervision of the Ministry. They are:

- (a) ENYIMBA INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB OF ABA
- (b) OUK FOOTBALL CLUB OF UMUAHIA
- (c) YOUTHS SPORTS FEDERATION OF NIGERIA(YSFON) ABIA STATE CHAPTER.
- (d) ABIA STATE SPORTS COUNCIL.

ENYIMBA INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB OF ABA

1. General face-lift of the stadium and refixing of 17 thousand plastic seats at the stadium.
2. Construction of a new borehole and reticulation of water at the stadium
3. Won the 2007 champion of champions trophy(Super 4 Cup), thus qualifying 2007/2008 CAF champion league competition where they lost to Al Ahy of Egypt at the semi-final though placing third in the context.
4. Ongoing plan with Sky Bank Plc through Global Heritage Ventures for the re-branding of Enyimba football club, Aba.
5. Regressing of the entire football pitch of Enyimba stadium Aba and for the first time government put in place a stadium management committee to take care of the maintenance of Enyimba Stadium..

OUK FOOTBALL CLUB OF UMUAHIA

6. Got promoted to pro-league division 1 from Amateur division.
7. Re-grassing of OUK Stadium football pitch.
8. Completion of Tartan tracks of International standard at the two indoor sports hall of the OUK stadium which also has International courts for handball, volley ball, basket ball and other indoor games. Also for the first time government put in place stadium management committee to cater for the maintenance of the OUK Stadium Umuahia.

YOUTHS SPORTS FEDERATION OF NIGERIA(YSFON) ABIA STATE CHAPTER.

9. Won the Chief U.J. Esuene National under 15 boys gold trophy in Uyo 2007.
10. Won a bronze medal in the last Chief M.K.O. Abiola under 18 Boys national football competition in Lagos.
11. Placed third in the President Unity Cup in Imo state 2007.

12. Won Bronze Medal in the Godswill Akpabio on 17 Boys in Uyo 2008
13. Placed 2nd in the NFA U-18 Boys football competition held in Owerri 2008
14. The U-18 YSFON male soccer team qualified to represent Nigeria in Brazil in 2007.

ABIA STATE SPORTS COUNCIL.

The State recorded a very remarkable achievement within the period under review in Athletics, handball, boxing, volley ball and special sports etc.

15. Successfully headed the 6th Abia State Unity game – Abia State Sports festival in November 2008.

16. Won eight Gold, 18 Silver and 25 Bronze Medals at the just concluded 16th National sports festival held in Kaduna 2009.

17. The Valiants female handball club won gold in the national Open Handball championship in Kaduna in November 2007.

18. The Valiant also represented Nigeria in the African Handball championship held in Cotonou Benin Republic in October 2007 after eight years of absence from Continental competitions.

19. The Valiants represented Nigeria in the 2008 African Handball championship in Morocco.

20. The State produced a world champion in power lifting as Obioma Aligekwe won gold in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and set a new world record in 245Kg weight category.

21. Obioma Alikekwe also won a Silver Medal in the 2008 Beijing Paralympics in the 100kg plus.

22. The State placed first in power lifting in the National Open MPC game.

23. The Abia State Athletics won 20 gold's, 6 silver and 8 bronze medals in the all African games and national elimination 2007.

24. An Abia State Weight lifter, Felix Ekpo is adjudged the best weight lifter in African.

25. Abia State won 8 gold, 4 silver and 4 bronze medals in Emenite table tennis championship in December 2007.

26. Abia State won 7 Gold and 4 silver in the 2 1st Governor Ikedi Ohakim Boxing Tournaments in Owerri November 2007.

WHERE THERE IS A WILL

27. Commenced the construction of the permanent site of the sports council inside the OUK Stadium.
28. Completion of a Gym and a press Gallery at the OUK stadium, Umuahia.
29. Reticulation of pipe borne water at the OUK stadium Umuahia.

Abia Comets, who represented the state in the group state of last year's F.A. Cup, moved a stage further earlier this year by qualifying to play in the national division two after topping the Oshogbo group in the National Division three play-offs in Osun State.



IN OUR BID TO ENCOURAGE ATHLETES IN ABIA STATE, THE GOVERNOR HAS GIVEN PERSONAL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPORTSMEN LIKE THE ULTIMATE COMMANDER



GOVERNOR T.A. ORJI (M) FLANKED BY DEPUTY GOVERNOR CHRIS AKOMAS AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR SPORTS SIR P.C. MBA IN A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH WITH PLAYERS OF ENYIMBA INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB. NIGERIAN CHAMPIONS 2007



THE NATIONAL OPEN HANDBALL CUP WON BY ABIA STATE HANDBALLERS AT A NATIONAL COMPETITION

Chapter Fifteen

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS

ACHIEVEMENTS

In the past two years the Ministry had modestly achieved the following:

- Completed and commissioned the JAAC and Ndi-Eze Secretariat. The foundation ceremony of this project was laid on September 27, 2007 by His Excellency, Chief T.A. Orji the Executive Governor of Abia State and was commissioned on January 30, 2009 by His Excellency, Dr Goodluck E. Jonathan, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- The Ministry prepared the documents of 28 Ezes elect who were officially recognized by His Excellency, chief T.A. Orji, the Executive Governor of Abia State. The Governor issued staff of office to the Ezes elect, 15 out of this number are yet to receive Certificate of recognition.
- A plebiscite, was successfully conducted for the people of Ndume Autonomous Community, to decide who succeeds the throne of their late Eze. This brought peace to the Community.
- The Ministry has successfully settled 88 Ezeship disputes within the period under review thus ending an era of instability in these communities.
- The principle officers of the state Council of Traditional Rulers in collaboration with the Ministry embarked on Sensitization/Enlightenment campaign to all the Local Government Areas to dialogue with the traditional rulers on the security situation in their various communities and this has in no small measure reduced the incidence of kidnapping in the State.
- The Ministry successfully conducted a one-day workshop for all traditional rulers in the State on

WHERE THERE IS A WILL



STAFF OF OFFICE HANDED OVER TO
TRADITIONAL RULERS



COMPLETED SECRETARIAT OF THE ABIA STATE
COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL RULERS



COMPLETED SECRETARIAT OF THE ABIA STATE
COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL RULERS



GOVERNOR T.A. ORJI WITH THE CHAIRMAN, ABIA COUNCIL
OF TRADITIONAL RULERS, EZE DR. HOPE ONUIGBO, OFR

Chapter Sixteen

ABIA STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

1. Coordination of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Conditional Grants Scheme (CGS) and under 2007 CGS, ASPC Coordinated the construction of 30Nos Primary Health Centres, and 10Nos Solar Powered Boreholes in communities of Abia State.
2. Coordinating the reticulation of Okwuta-Ibeku Spring Water.
3. Facilitated the completion, and commissioning of Common Facility Centre (CFC) for Leather and Garments Clusters in Aba.
4. Packaged and submitted the Rural Access and Mobility Project (RAMP) to the Federal Project Management Unit office in Abuja for process and approval.
5. Packaged and submitted request for World Bank on State Capacity Building and Governance Project on Stage of Establishing PIU.
6. Activities on the 2008 CGS PHCs Projects are on-going.
7. Activities are on-going for a UNDP Assisted Bio-gas Plant at Ubakala
8. Preliminary activities on the replication of Songhai Integrated Farms at Benin Republic in Okwoyi and Olori Abia State.
9. Coordinates the Partnership Arrangement for the training of Staff of Abia Civil Service, in collaboration with UNITAR.
10. Coordinates the United Nation fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) activities on Maternal and Reproductive Health Issues in the State.
11. Prepared the 2007 and 2008 Annual and Supplementary Budgets of Abia State.

Chapter Seventeen

SECURITY

Security is one area that has posed a recurrent challenge to our government. We have not relented however and we are frontally confronting the menace with every arsenal at our disposal.

As I speak to you, we have given security formations in Abia State a total of Seventy (70) Security Patrol Vans to enhance detection and prevention of crime in the state. We have equally set up the Abia State Vigilante Services by an act of the House of Assembly to assist the Police in apprehending criminal elements in our state.

The dimension that we are concentrating fully on now is the aspect of kidnap-for-ransom, a strange development that has crept into the Abia polity. We have instituted far-reaching measures with the collaboration of security agencies, governments at all levels, traditional rulers, age grades and village groups to curtail this alien innovation.

The Abia State House of Assembly has passed a bill making kidnapping a capital offence in Abia State and I have signed the bill into law. What that entails is that apart from being prosecuted for kidnapping, those caught will be made to forfeit their entire worldly possession to government as such possessions will be deemed to be proceeds of crime.

We have also strengthened the State Vigilante Services working under the supervision of the Nigeria Police to apprehend criminals in our state.

Banks in Abia State have also responded fully to our call for concerted efforts to check crime in the state by donating several security vans to the state government to assist in curbing the menace.

I make bold to state that we have recorded huge successes at great human and material loss in the fight but we shall not relent until these hoodlums seek another location for their nefarious activities.

WHERE THERE IS A WILL



OVER 60 PATROL VANS DONATED TO THE NIGERIA POLICE

Chapter Eighteen

GENERAL

As you all know, we promoted every worker in Abia State to their next Grade-Level as soon as we assumed office in fulfilment of the promise we made during the electioneering campaign. We have equally sustained the liquidation of Pension Arrears which we commenced as soon as we came on board two years ago.

We are currently in discussion with several investors for the development of the Limestone deposit at Arochukwu. We have spoken with the Dangote Group about setting up a Cement Plant at the site of the Limestone Deposit while also seeking for ways of harnessing the Kaolin Deposits at the Expressway.

We have equally signed into law, the Board of Internal Revenue Bill which is geared towards removing factors hindering the optimal performance of the Board of Internal Revenue. When we came on board in 2007, Abia State was grossing a monthly Internally Generated Revenue of N120 Million. Today, we have raised it to N250 million and we are optimistic that we can realise N500 million monthly in Abia State with the right efforts.

My Good People of Abia State, it will take a very long time for me to fully enumerate all we have done within the period we have been in office. Everything I have listed above are summaries of work done and some of them do not fully capture the extent of work done in the various sectors.

Let me quickly point out that part of the constraints we have faced in the discharge of our duties is paucity of funds. As you all are aware, the world is currently going through a Global Financial Crisis which has drastically affected revenue accruing to Nigeria and her constituent states.

Abia State has seen her monthly allocation drop by about N1 billion in the last couple of months and it is

seriously affecting our plans for the state. That notwithstanding, we have not relented in qualitative service delivery to our people.

We are fully aware that part of the mandate we have is to source for funds wherever they are available to develop our state. It is in realisation of that fact that we have approached the Bond Market for a N30 Billion injection of fund into our state to enable us complete most of the far-reaching projects that we have embarked upon.

The processes are still on-going and Abians will be fully briefed as soon as we are through.

Great Abians, the enemies of our state are still very much in our midst. They seek every opportunity to destroy the works of government in the name of politics without pausing to weigh the implication on the development of the state. These people do not mean well for Abia State. They are selfish politicians who are only interested in the finances of this state. By the grace of God, we shall continually triumph over their evil machinations.

They will come to you with diverse stories and concoctions on the goings-on in government. Please do not pay them any heed. They are destroyers and they will not rest until the state is destroyed. Let us collectively say God Forbid.

Chapter Nineteen

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Unlike what is obtainable in some States of the Federation, where some Deputy Governors are redundant, the case in Abia State is different. In those States either that the Executive Governors of such States do not have trust in their Deputies to assign them duties or that those Deputies are not able and efficient to play proper complementary role to their Governors when roles/duties are assigned to them.

The confidence, trust and love our amiable Executive Governor of Abia State, Chief T. A. Orji has for his Deputy, Comrade Chris A. Akomas is evident in the quality of roles and duties he assigns to him and his office.

The support from Governor T. A. Orji and the importance he attaches to the office of the Deputy Governor's Office assist him in achieving monumental fits within the 2nd year of the PPA administration led by Chief T. A. Orji in the State.

Cocoa Production

Immediately after the first year anniversary of Ochendo's administration, precisely on the 31st of May 2008, the Deputy Governor, Comrade Chris Akomas inspected the Cocoa farm of a large scale Farmer and Number One Cocoa farmer in Abia State, Chief Ikeonyenweaku and his Cocoa beach in his house at Umuaroke Ibeku in Umuahia North L.G.A. The visit to that farm further convinced the Deputy Governor to list the farm as one of the farms that was to be visited during the 5th National Cocoa Day, Umuahia 2009.

The Deputy Governor represented the Governor during the commissioning of a cocoa Warehouse and Itunta Multi-purpose Co-operative Society at Ibere Ikwuano Local Government Area on the 23rd

September 2008. On the 1st December 2008 the Deputy Governor who is also the Chairman the Committee for Sustainable Cocoa Development attended a National Cocoa Meeting at Abuja during when Abia State secured the right to host the 5th National Cocoa Day, "Umuahia 2009". It is pertinent to state here that immediately His Excellency the Governor received the letter conveying the hosting right of Abia State of the Cocoa event from President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, he inaugurated the Local Organizing Committee. His support enabled the LOC swarmed into action which culminated in the successful 5th National Cocoa Day, Umuahia 2009 which was judged by the stakeholders as the best so far.

The two day event attracted the Vice President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, GCON to the State for the 3rd time in less than three months. Ministers of Agriculture, Deputy Governors from Fourteen (14) Cocoa Producing States, Chairman House Committee on Agriculture and Stakeholders in Cocoa and Agricultural Sector attended the event. The event which was held on 16th and 17th of April 2009 helped in sensitizing Abians on the health and economic benefits of Cocoa. It also provided a platform for Stakeholders to re-launch Cocoa as a veritable product for diversifying our economy particularly in the face of the present economic downturn.

It gave Abia State the opportunity to showcase her great potentials in Cocoa production, which will help in correcting her wrong positioning in the ranking of Cocoa Producing States. The Governor has also released funds for the commencement of the 2nd phase of Farmers Field School (FFS) and release of fund for the Itunta Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Limited Cocoa Beach. He has sponsored series of training for Cocoa Farmers and facilitators of (FFS) outside the the State.

The Deputy Chief of Staff, Chief Charles Ogbonnaya who represented the Deputy Governor at the First National Conference of Facilitators of Farmers Field School in Osogbo, Osun State, said that Government will continue to support Cocoa farmers in the State to increase their production and revitalize the nation's economy from over dependence on oil.

The Secretary of the (CSCD) and Director of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Deacon Sam Odoemelam emerged the Secretary of National Farmers Field School Facilitators during the conference as a result of the support from the Governor. The Cocoa Monitoring Committee in charge of checking the menace of Cocoa smugglers and under grading of the quality of Cocoa produced in the State.

Boundary Matters In furtherance of the Administration of Chief T. A. Orji resolved to maintain peaceful co-existence of Abia State with his neighbouring States, Abia State participated in a number of boundary meetings within the 2nd year of this administration.

The Deputy Governor, Comrade Chris Akomas who is also the Chairman, State Boundary Committee led the committee to a number of these meetings.

- First was the boundary meeting between Abia and Ebonyi State held in Abakiliki on the 3rd of July 2008.

- Then a boundary meeting between Abia and Cross River States which was held in Calabar, on 19th September 2008.
- Abia State hosted joint boundary meetings between Abia/Cross River and Abia/Akwa Ibom States in Umuahia, on 14th and 15th of October 2008.
- The Abia State Boundary Committee also attended a boundary meeting in Awka, Anambra State on the 26th of November 2008.
- The Deputy Governor is also expected to lead the State Boundary Committee to a boundary meeting in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State on the 25th of May 2009
- These series of meetings have helped the State to progress in boundary matters and peaceful co-existence with her neighbours.

This progress was made known in the address of the Executive Governor, Chief T. A. Orji during the AGM of Nigerian Institute of Surveyors in Umuahia. He lauded members of the Nigerian Institute of Surveyors and National Boundary Commission for working assiduously with Government to recover the 78 oil wells previously credited to other States back to Abia State and expressed satisfaction that the Abia/Anambra boundary has been totally traced and tripartite point with Enugu and Anambra agreed upon between National Boundary Commission, Abia, Anambra and Enugu States and awaiting placing of beacons.

- Besides, other internal boundary matters and misunderstanding were also handled, preventing them from escalating into more serious conflicts. Projects
- On-going construction of the New Deputy Governor's Lodge, Government House, Umuahia
- Procurement of a Brand New Toyota Hilux (Pilot Vehicle) for the Deputy Governor's Security Men The Office of the Deputy Governor did not relent in playing its complementary role to the Office of the Executive Governor.

The Deputy Governor, Comrade Chris Akomas represented the Governor in many assignments including the period the Executive Governor attended the 2008 World Igbo Congress in the United States and during the Governor's annual vacation in the United States and during the Governor's annual vacation in March/April 2009. Below is an address made in one of such representations during the period.

WHERE THERE IS A WILL



H.E, CHRIS AKOMAS, V.P. GOODLUCK JONATHAN AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, SAYYADI ABBA RUMA AT THE 5TH NATIONAL COCOA DAY 'UMUAHIA 2009'



DEPUTY GOVERNORS OF OSUN, ERELU OLUSOLA OBADA, ABIA, COMRADE CHRIS AKOMAS AND OYO, ALH. TAOFEK ARAPAJA AT THE 5TH NATIONAL COCOA DAY 'UMUAHIA 2009'



H.E, D-GOV, SURVEYOR ISA SANI OF THE NBC AND D-GOV AKWA IBOM STATE, PATRICK EKPOU AT A BOUNDARY MEETING



DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S LODGE NEARING COMPLETION

Chapter Twenty

SHOWCASING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER EXCELLENCY, CHIEF (MRS.) MERCY ODOCHI ORJI

The history of human society has been inundated with exploits of men & women who saw the inequality in the society, initiated programmes and actions that would better the lives of the people. In Abia State the situation is same, where a silent revolution is going on courtesy of a great woman of God who in appreciation of the responsibilities rate entrusted upon have initiated series of programmes to uplift the cause of women, children and the less privileged.

The great Amazon, Chief (Mrs.) Mercy Odochi Orji, wife of the Executive Governor of Abia State, initiator of Family Empowerment Programme (FEP) and Mercy Orji Micro Credit Scheme (MOMS) has within a short time in Office impacted positively on the lives of Abians especially women, youth and the less privileged.

Chief (Mrs.) Mercy Odochi Orji's programme encapsulated under FEP with its focal points on Health, Education, Agriculture, Empowerment and Political Awareness/Mobilization and enlightenment have left no one in doubt of her mission and vision to take women to greater heights.

In the health sector, Her Excellency, in collaboration with Ejay's Medical Mission and African Cancer Care Incorporated both from the United States of America, organized a free medicare for Abians especially women/youths with cancer related cases of diverse kinds and other related health problems.

From the finding of the medical experts during the period, it was discovered that there is a growing cancer epidemic in Abia State. A total of four hundred (400) cases were handled and 168 cases were referred to Teaching Hospitals across the country. The Hospital bills of those referred to Specialist Hospitals were paid by Her Excellency's Office.

This great Amazon's score card is excellent in the health sector, good and qualitative health care for all Abians is paramount to Chief (Mrs.) Mercy Odochi Orji, as part of the campaign to reduce maternal mortality in Abia State, the wife of the Governor, in collaboration with the United Nation's Population Fund organized a 3-day sensitization workshop on maternal mortality and the workshop was aimed at reducing the high rate of death during pregnancy and child birth.

Chief (Mrs.) Orji has also carried out sensitization campaigns against measles and polio in all the communities and wards in the 17 Local Government Areas of the State.

The Abia First Lady initiated a deworming programme for school children in the State; the exercise was aimed at enhancing the health of Abia school children. During the exercise the Governor's wife administered worm drugs to the children.

Indeed the saying give honour to whom honour is due is a clear manifestation of the health. Award given to Chief (Mrs.) Mercy Odochi Orji as "Champion for Maternal and Child Health Survival" by the Primary Health Care forum. She has also extended help and services to those living with HIV/AIDS in the state, through her regular visits interactions and donation of food items and cash to enable them procure retroviral drugs. She has successfully embarked on awareness campaign against HIV/AIDS in all the senatorial zones of the State.

The Governor's wife equally off set the medical bills of indigent Abians and non Abians who were admitted at Federal Medical Centre, Umuahia and those referred to Abia State University Teaching Hospitals for surgical and plastic operations costing millions of naira.

Currently the Health Amazon is still paying the Hospital bills of some cancer patients who are on admission at UNTH, Enugu and ABSUTH Aba especially those who are unable to foot their bills.

Chief (Mrs.) Orji on behalf of His Excellency Governor T.A. Orji donated Nine (9) Free Maternal emergency Ambulances to the 3 zones of the State to assist in conveying pregnant women in the rural areas, to help reduce infant mortality rate.

In the education sector, Chief (Mrs.) Odochi Orji has excelled, many indigent students of Abia whose educational career were a mirage now have the opportunity of pursuing the realization of their dreams courtesy of Chief (Mrs.) Orji's personal scholarship scheme, she has in many occasion distributed educational materials to school children to compliment the free education of His Excellency, Chief T.A. Orji in the State.

In the area of women empowerment, Chief (Mrs.) Orji, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs and the Central Bank of Nigeria, organized a Micro Credit Seminar for some women farmer and traders in August 2007. On effective utilization of the loan to be given to them to enhance their businesses, shortly after the workshop; she handed over cheques of the Micro Credit Scheme to the first beneficiaries of her Micro Credit Scheme (MOMS) Mercy Orji Miro Credit Scheme.

The wife of the Governor have also embarked on the construction of an ultra modern women development centre, work is at advanced stage, while plans are under way for the construction on an

ultra modern children amusement park/recreational centre in the two cities of Umuahia and Aba.

Chief (Mrs.) Mercy Odochi Orji's humanitarian strides is indeed worthy of emulation in the area of provision of aid to the less privileged, she has donated food items, cloths, beverages regularly to them to give them a sense of belonging.

She has also organized Independence and Christmas parties for them to enable them celebrate with other privileged ones and donated 18 seater bus to the Association of disabled persons in the State for easy movement. Today, over one thousand crippled have become proud owners of wheel chairs and clutches.

Chief (Mrs.) Orji is a regular visitor to inmates of Umuahia and Arochukwu Prisons; she donates food items and provides money for the re-roofing of the female hostels of Umuahia Prison. Paid fines of discharged prisoners who could not leave the prison yard for lack of money to pay their fines.

She successfully organized and held the maiden edition of Abia women integrated conference known as August Meeting which has become an annual event with the aim of refocusing women and challenging them in their divine responsibility as well as being key contributors to the development of their communities.

The Governor's wife recently built and donated a two bedroom bungalow to a 70 years old Mrs. Joy Onuoha, a blind indigent widow. The bungalow was furnished with modern family bed and other household utensils and accessories this is aimed at bringing succour to the widow.

Chief (Mrs.) Mercy Odochi Orji has not only distinguished herself through hard work and commitment to excellence in all her endeavours, she is also a devoted Christian. Her Excellency is a recipient of many local and international awards as a result of her contributions to the social economic development of her great State Abia.

Recently, the Office of Her Excellency, in collaboration with Ohanaeze Ndigbo hosted an International Women's Conference of the first festival on Igbo civilization, with the theme Nneka "Mother is Supreme", women as agents of ethical re-orientation in the Igbo world the wife of the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan was the Guest of Honour at the occasion.

During the conference, the wife of the Governor Chief Mrs. Orji pointed out that the conference will open doors for the brain storming on major issues affecting the Igbo people and the nation in general.

Aware of the ravaging global food crisis and its resultant effect, Chief (Mrs.) Orji has distributed improved cassava stems and bags of fertilizers to all the rural farmers in the State to help increase food production.

WHERE THERE IS A WILL



H.E. T.A. ORJI, WIFE OF THE V.P. DAME PATIENCE JONATHAN AND WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR, CHIEF MRS. MERCY ORJI AT THE 1ST FESTIVAL ON IGBO CIVILISATION AT ABA



WOMEN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, UMUAHIA NEARING COMPLETION



COMPLETED OFFICE BLOCK IN THE OFFICE OF THE WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR



HER EXCELLENCY PRESENTING THE MOMS MOU TO BRANCH MANAGER OF INTERCONTINENTAL BANK



HER EXCELLENCY HANDING OVER THE KEYS OF A THREE BEDROOM BUNGALOW TO A 70 YEAR OLD BLIND WIDOW



HER EXCELLENCY LEADING THE CAMPAIGN FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

WHERE THERE IS A WILL



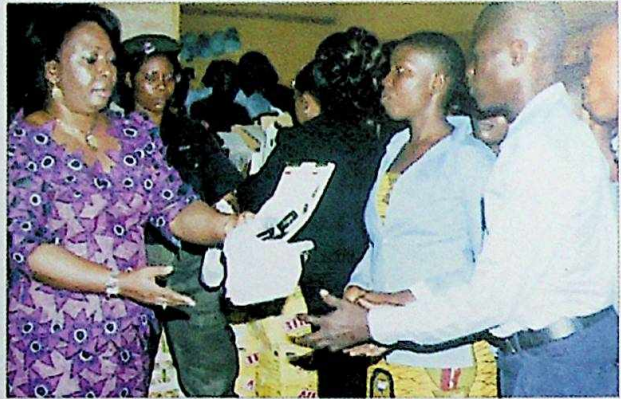
HER EXCELLENCY WITH MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN
CANCER GROUP FROM THE USA



HER EXCELLENCY DEWORMING SCHOOL
CHILDREN IN ABIA STATE



HER EXCELLENCY DEWORMING SCHOOL
CHILDREN IN ABIA STATE



HER EXCELLENCY DONATING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
TO STUDENTS OF IBEKU HIGH SCHOOL



ONE OF THE MANY BENEFICIARIES OF THE MOMS
INITIATIVE OF THE WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR



IMPROVED CASSAVA STEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION
TO FARMERS

WHERE THERE IS A WILL

A GOVERNOR'S ALBUM

Pictorial representation of the activities of
Governor T. A. Orji in Abia State



V.P. GOODLUCK JONATHAN COMMISSIONING
THE OSSAH ROAD



WE ARE FIRMLY ON COURSE



INSPECTION OF THE UMUOBASI-UKWU POWER PLANT



YOU WILL ALWAYS BE WELCOME IN ABIA STATE SIR



OKE-OSISI ABIA, V.P. GOODLUCK JONATHAN



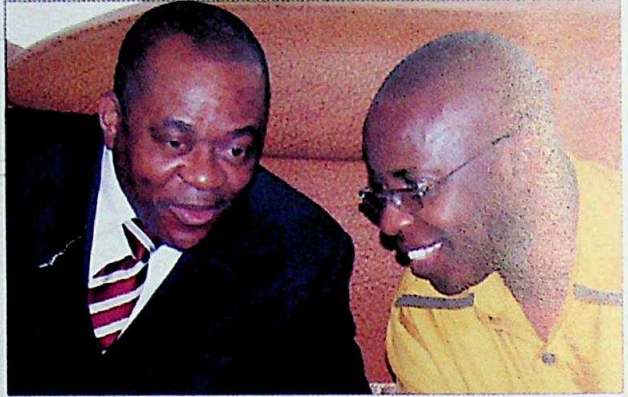
AND YOU TOO MADAM

A GOVERNOR'S ALBUM

Pictorial representation of the activities of
Governor T. A. Orji in Abia State



WE ARE SOLIDLY BUILDING ON YOUR LEGACY



WE CAME TO REJOICE WITH YOU ON YOUR
APPEAL VICTORY



BUILDING BRIDGES OF FRIENDSHIP AND
BROTHERHOOD



THE 5 WISE MEN OF THE EAST



BUILDING BRIDGES OF FRIENDSHIP AND BROTHERHOOD

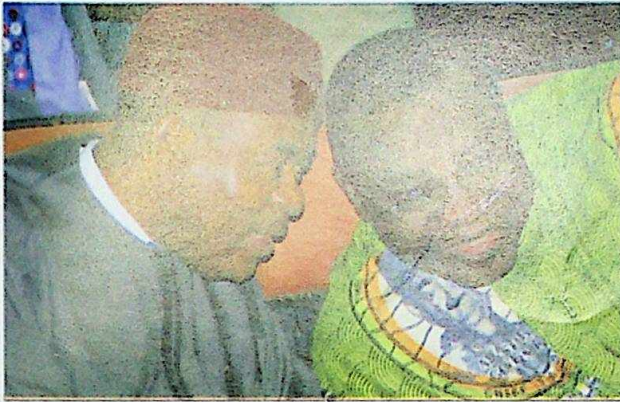


RECIPIENTS OF THE 2008 ZIK PRIZE IN LEADERSHIP
L-R, PROF. UMARU SHEHU, GOV. T.A. ORJI AND GOV.
MUAZU BABANGIDA ALIYU OF NIGER STATE

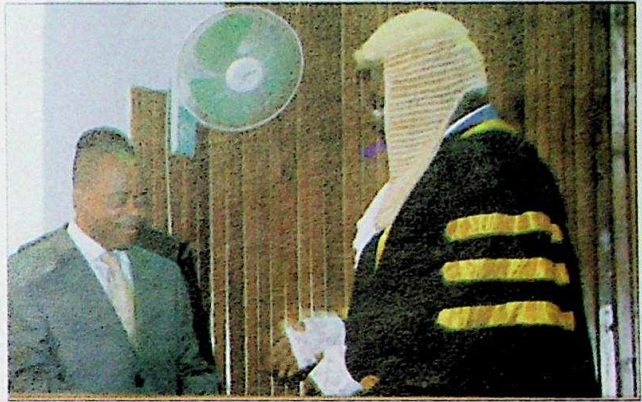
WHERE THERE IS A WILL

A GOVERNOR'S ALBUM

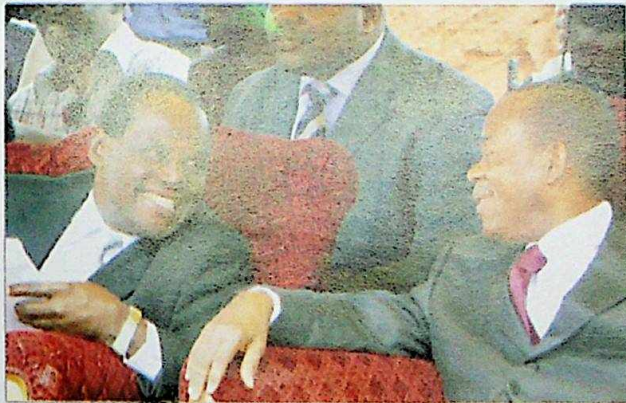
Pictorial representation of the activities of
Governor T. A. Orji in Abia State



A LOYAL AND DEPENDABLE DEPUTY



COMMENDABLE HARMONY BETWEEN
THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE



THE JUDICIARY HAVE HAD A LOT TO LAUGH ABOUT IN
THE PAST TWO YEARS



WITH THE ONLY PPA SENATOR, UCHE CHUKWUMERIJE



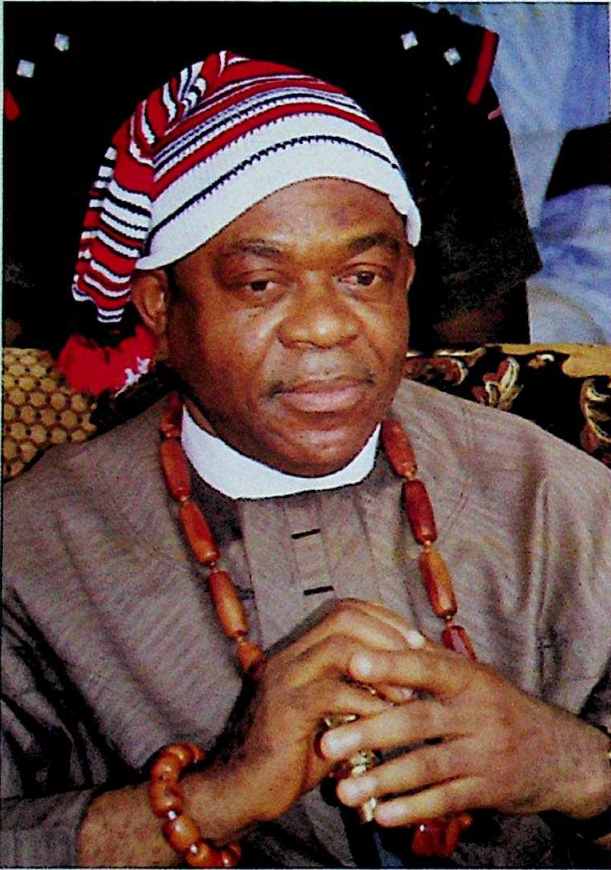
GOV. T.A. ORJI WITH OHANEZE NDIGBO PRESIDENT-
GENERAL AMB. RAPH UWECHUE



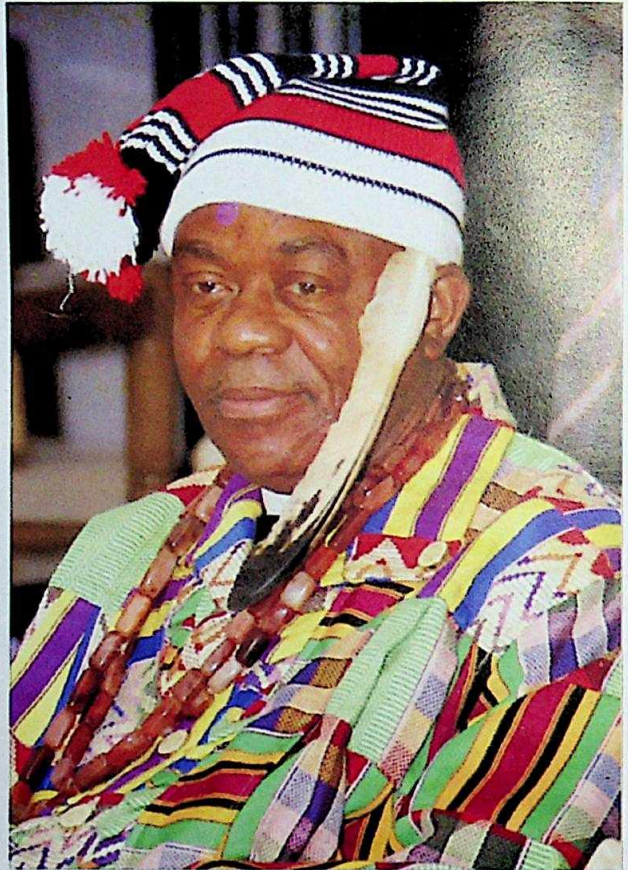
GOV. ORJI WITH HEAD OF SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION,
MS AMA PEPPLER

A GOVERNOR'S ALBUM

Pictorial representation of the activities of
Governor T. A. Orji in Abia State



EBUBEDIKE IKWUANO



AKARAKA CHI DERE OF OSSAH-IBEKU



RESPECT FOR THE TRADITIONAL INSTITUTION - WITH
IGWE GIBSON NWOSU OF AWKA



NWACHIMEREZE MBUTU UKWU

A GOVERNOR'S ALBUM

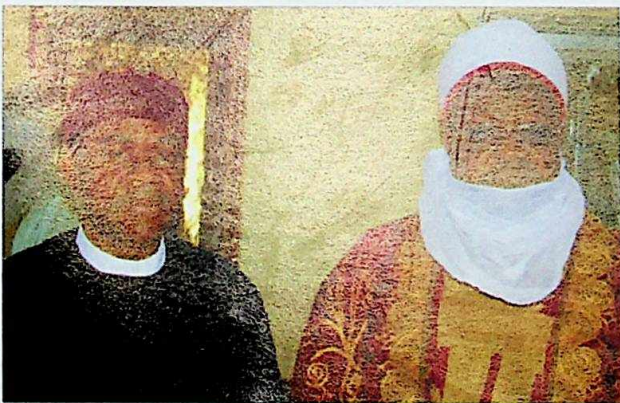
Pictorial representation of the activities of
Governor T. A. Orji in Abia State



WITH EMIR OF KANO AND OTHERS AT UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN



WITH EZE-UKWU NGWA-UKWU, HM, EZE DR. BERNARD ENWEREMADU



WITH EMIR OF KATSINA, HRH, ABDULMUMINI KABIR USMAN



WITH ARCHBISHOP ROGERS UWADI



WITH DEE BOB OGBUAGU



RECEIVING THE FARMER-FRIENDLY GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM CHAIRMAN, AFAN, ABIA STATE, AMANZE ISRAEL