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# MOFINEWS



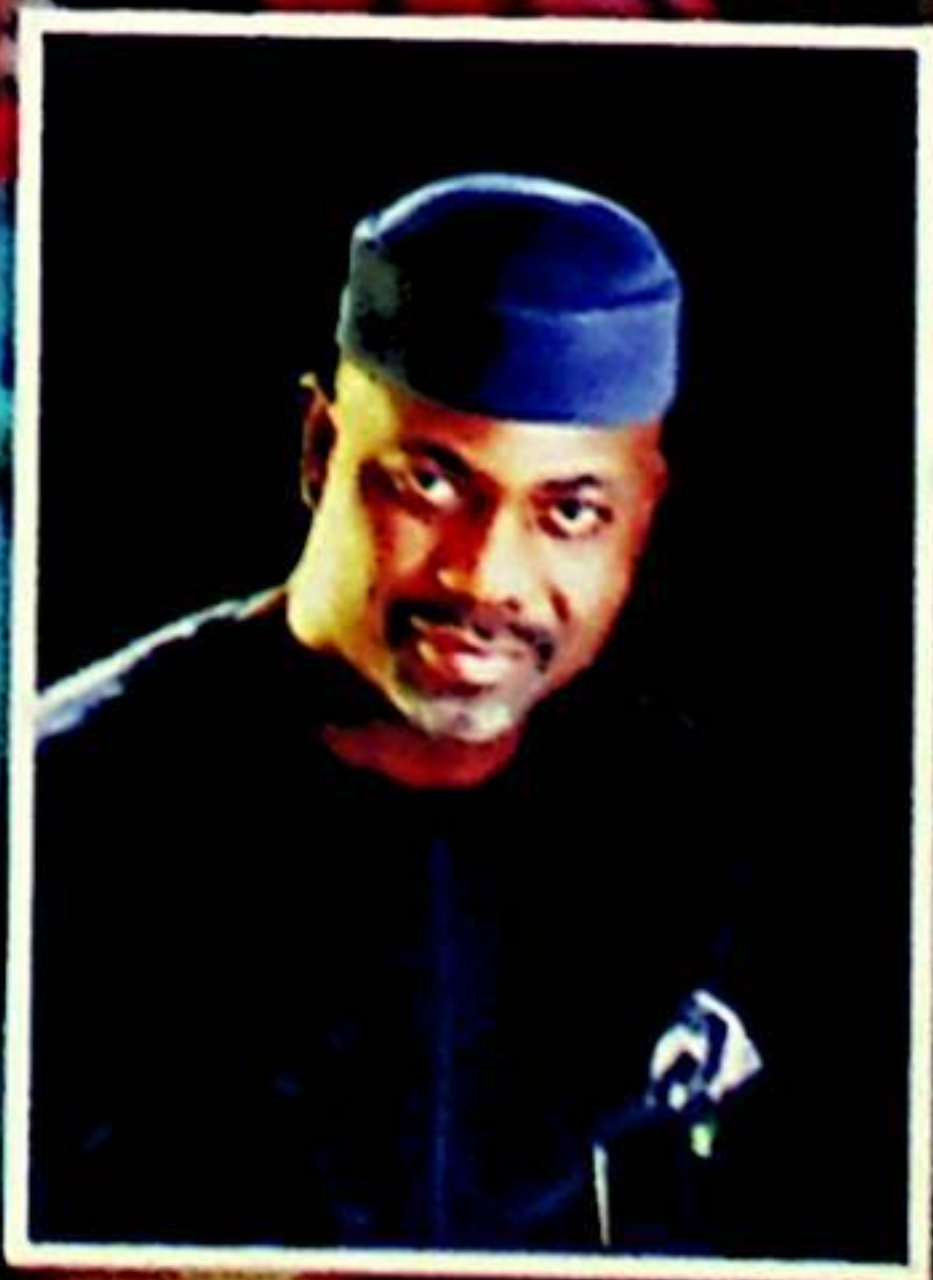
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*The people's right to know!*

MOFINEWS is a Bi-Monthly Journal of Ministry of Finance, Calabar, Cross River State Government, Nigeria.

## Redefining The Future

**Senator  
Liyel Imoke**  
Governor CRS  
on PLATFORM



**The Economic  
Blueprint 2007-2011**

**Children's Day  
Celebration in CRS (ASFAC)**





Wheel cover trader, Lagos - Ibadan Expressway - © Mudi Yahaya

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Before Senator Liyel Imoke took over the driving seat on May 29th, 2007 as the Governor of Cross River State, a commentator and scholar, Dr. Osam O. Edim in his write – up "What Cross Riverians expect from Imoke" noted that though the face of Cross River State has changed, nothing much has changed about the stomach quotient of the ordinary Cross Riverian. Poverty, he said, is still rife among the people and almost everybody believes that the silver bullet to shoot down hunger belongs to Imoke. Coupled with the campaign slogan of his party, PDP which says "monkey work, monkey chop", expectations were really high. These expectations after one year in office gave rise to several interpretations of the Governor's leadership style.

Governor Imoke's two hour interview on the electronic media revealed so much about his methodology and the future of Cross River State. For Governor Imoke, the expectations of life depend upon diligence. The mechanic that would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools. Our guest on this MOFINEWS Platform is Liyel Imoke, Governor of Cross River State. Read on.

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**Senator Liyel Imoke**



## **Imoke Accepts Appeal Court Verdict**

**I** Senator Liyel Imoke, hereby acknowledge the verdict of the Electoral Appeal Tribunal delivered in Calabar today Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2008, nullifying my election of 14<sup>th</sup> April 2007 as Governor of Cross River State.

I wish to state categorically that as a law abiding citizen, I will respect the rule of law and the Constitution I swore to uphold.

In the light of the judgement I am handing over to the Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly until fresh elections are held.

I appeal to all Cross Riverians to remain calm and go about their normal duties.

Let me use this opportunity to thank all Cross Riverians for the immense support given to my administration within the past year and pray you extend the same to His Excellency, the acting Governor, the Rt. Hon. Francis Adah.

Long live Cross River State!

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!

*Senator Liyel Imoke*





# Speaker, Cross River State House of Assembly Rt. Hon. Francis Adah Sworn In As Acting Governor On July 14, 2008



**Rt. Hon. Francis B. Adah**  
Cross River State Acting Governor

**T**he Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly Hon Francis Adah has been sworn in as the Acting Governor of the State by the Chief Judge of the State, His Lordship, Hon. Justice Dorothy Eyamba Idem following the nullification of the election of Senator Liyel Imoke as the Governor of the State. Hon. Adah in his acceptance speech said he will hold office for three months until the rightful owner assumes office because Cross Riverians are aware of the circumstance surrounding his being sworn in as the Acting Governor. He assured all Cross Riverians that everything is under control and that they should go about

their lawful duties. happy with the outcome of the judgement, he believes in the rule of law.

The Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Fidelis Ugbo in his introductory remarks, observed that the beauty of democracy is the observance of the rule of law as the Appeal Court had annulled the election of Senator Liyel Imoke as the state Governor and that Imoke had accepted the judgement. Ugbo noted that the judgement culminated in Adah being sworn in as the Acting Governor of the state.

Meanwhile, Senator Liyel Imoke had acknowledged the verdict of the electoral Appeal Tribunal delivered nullifying his election of April 27,

2007 as Governor of the State. In a Press Statement personally signed by him, Imoke stated categorically that as a law abiding citizen, he will respect the rule of law and the constitution which he swore to uphold, emphasizing that "In the light of the judgement, I am handing over to the Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly until fresh elections are held and an elected governor subsequently sworn in". Imoke appealed to all Cross Riverians to remain calm and go about their normal duties. He also used the opportunity to thank all Cross Riverians for the immense support given to his administration within the past one year and prayed they extend to same to His Excellency, the Acting governor, the Rt. Hon. Francis Adah.

The Chairman of the Appeal Court Calabar District, Justice Suleman Galadima in his ruling had faulted the election tribunal for not giving the applicants Mr. Mark Ukpo of ANPP, Emmanuel Ibeshi of AC, Pastor Iheke Awa Solomon of PPA and James Ebri of ARP fair hearing, as the conduct of the election did not comply with the provisions of section 191, Sub Section 2 of electoral Act, including non presentation of result sheets in the pooling booths. Galadima therefore annulled the election of April 14, 2007 which Imoke won and ordered the Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Hon Francis Adah be sworn in as the Acting Governor of the State while a fresh election is expected to be conducted within 90 days from the date of the judgement.



# Redefining The Future

Each time we start to collate materials for an edition, I ponder on what the header should be. For the May-June 2008 edition, I got the inspiration to tag it "Redefining the Future" of Cross River State. Indeed this is one edition I had to redefine manifold times.

May 27 is celebrated nationally as Children's Day. As President Yar' Adua puts it in his message, "Nigeria is our country and the children our future. It is therefore our obligation as leaders today to create an enabling environment for the children so that Nigeria can have great leaders tomorrow."

The celebration in the State was quiet unique and colourful. Thanks to the untiring efforts of Mrs Obioma Imoke and her passion for the children. With the theme 'A State Fit for A Child' (ASFAC) as adopted from the national theme of "Nigeria fit for children", a cross section of children had a memorable forum with Senator Imoke at the main bowl of the Cultural Centre Complex.

After the Children's Day came Nigeria's Democracy Day, May 29th. According to Norman Collie, in democracy, every man is entitled to express his opinion. So as Senator Liyel Imoke clocked one year in office, several comments and opinions have been expressed on the account of his stewardship.

Prior to the day, May 29, Governor Imoke fielded questions from a panel of seasoned Journalists made up of Fabian Awhen, Eme Affiah (Cross River Broadcasting Corporation), Mr. Omini Oden (Nigerian Television Authority Channel 9 Calabar) and Sam Egbala (Nigerian Chronicle). The full text of that interview is published in this edition "Redefining the Future" as our platform.

The public presentation of The Economic Blueprint 2007-2011 was the high point of democracy day celebration. This is another demonstration of the State's readiness to embrace the challenges of the future. Governor Imoke had promised when he took over the mantle of leadership to create a well thought out, realistic and robust development agenda for the State. The seven point economic blueprint is intended to ensure continuity in charting the course of development in Cross River State.

Commenting on the document at the ceremony, Chief Mathew T. Mbu, elder statesman said this is a practical definition of democracy, which is simply government of the people, by the people and for the people. Read more on the Economic Blueprint inside this edition.

May 30, Senator Imoke, who had earlier approved the reconstitution of the Editorial Board of MOFINEWS, inaugurated



Rt. Hon. Francis B. Adah  
Cross River State Acting Governor



Senator Liyel Imoke

the new board in the Exco-chambers of his office, retaining Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba as its Chairman. Governor Imoke noted with pride the progress recorded by the magazine and urged the new board to even improve on it.

Having gathered enough materials and processed them for the edition, we were ready for the press, when in a characteristic manner of a master strategist, Senator Imoke reshuffled his executive council. Levels changed.

Mr. Kelly K. Ayamba, who until recently managed the debt profile of the State as Special Adviser is now Commissioner for Finance, and also oversees the Debt Management Office.

We were eventually in the press, set to roll the tape for this edition when like thunder on a sunny day, Cross Riverians received with rude shock, the nullification of Senator Imoke's election of 14th April 2007 as Governor of the State. To many, this is still a nightmare.

In his acceptance speech,

Senator Imoke stated "as a law abiding citizen, I will respect the rule of law and the constitution I swore to uphold. The Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly Hon. Francis Adah has since been sworn in as the Acting Governor of the State by the Chief Judge of the State, His Lordship, Hon. Justice Dorothy Eyamba Idem.

The tempo of progress may have been slowed down but Washington Irving says 'little minds are tamed and subdued by misfortune, but great minds rise above them. Events of the recent past in the State are relevant and necessary for the redefinition of our future. To all Cross Riverians, the message is Fear not. It is well.

### Editors Note


The May-June 2008 edition "Redefining the Future" was already in the press before the annulment of Senator Imoke's election as Governor of Cross River State. The Acting Governor of Cross River State is His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Francis B. Adah, who has since taken over the mantle of leadership in the state.

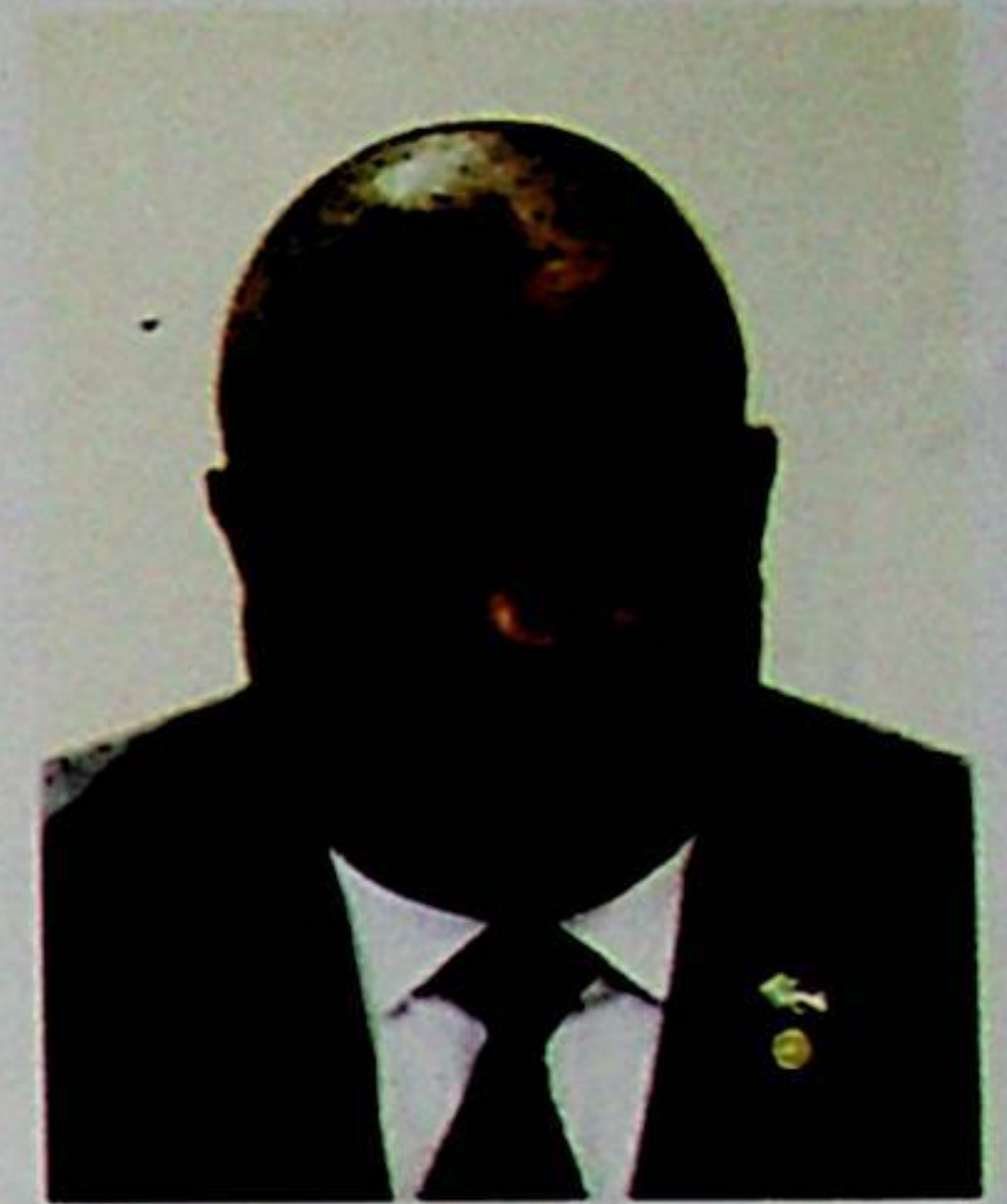


# Change

**A**ccording to Heraclitus, "there is nothing permanent except change". Put differently, change is a permanent feature of our ever dynamic world. The phenomenon of change ushers in its wake new developments and new challenges, which need to be understood by those affected directly or indirectly by the change. It is for this reason that I agree that effective communication is vital and indeed, central to the management of change. Effective communication is necessary to create awareness and raise stakeholders' consciousness of the demands and expectations of change as well as its merits and benefits. Having recently assumed the responsibility of managing the financial resources of the State as Finance Commissioner, and having taken the liberty to ponder and ruminate over the expectations and challenges of my new assignment, I pledge to offer the best of me at all times for the effective and efficient discharge of the responsibilities of my Office. In line with the open door policy and the transparency posture of this administration, I commit myself to, at all times, properly inform and educate all stakeholders in the CRS project, of the financial and fiscal policy direction/objectives of Government as well as seek to understand their concerns and aspirations as essential inputs for consideration during policy review. As we well know, the vision of Cross River State is to be

a leading Nigerian State with prosperous, healthy and well educated citizens; living in harmony with people and nature, and pursuing legitimate interests in freedom moderated by good governance. Governance here refers to "the use of political authority and exercise of control over society and the management of resources". Obadan (1998) defines governance from a development point of view, as the efficiency and effectiveness of a government in promoting the economic wellbeing of its people. Good Governance here simply means the existence of efficient and effective public administration, rational policies and sound management of available resources. During this year's Democracy Day celebrations, the State Governor, Senator Liyel Imoke, launched a unique document - The Economic Blueprint (2007 - 2011). The document captures the government's strategic economic direction as well as the sectoral priorities, goals, targets and the strategies for achieving them. Crucial to the attainment of these goals is the resource base. Without the needed resources, the Governor's 7-point agenda cannot be realized; salaries will not be paid, the 390 kilometers of rural roads envisaged for the 18 Local Government Areas across the State will not be constructed, neither will the 196 Health Centres, 60 Secondary Schools and 135 Primary schools slated for comprehensive rehabilitation and upgrade among other projects be realized.

Our State, like most States in the Federation, currently depends on funds from the Federation Account to survive. The slightest hic-cup in the chain therefore has ripple effect on government operations and thus on the wellbeing of our people. We therefore need resources, indeed a lot of funds to execute all the lofty programmes of government aimed at making Cross River State one of the most developed and prosperous States in Nigeria come 2015. It is for this reason that one of the major policy trusts of this administration is the utilization of all lawful avenues to shore up the State's internally generated revenue (IGR). I commit myself to the attainment of this major policy target within the provisions of the law. I wish to use this opportunity to sincerely commend my predecessor, Mrs. Rosemary Achonwa for her efforts in kicking off the automation and on-line collection of the State's internally generated revenue. Automation is imperative because it is not only an improvement over the usual IGR collection system but will also assist in checking leakages in the system, as well as create a robust data base for future tax planning. I will strive to build on this and other foundations that have been laid to develop a robust and vibrant financial and fiscal Management framework for the State. I therefore call on all stakeholders to join hands to make this a reality. 



Kelly Kejuo Ayamba

**"...Having taken the liberty to ponder and ruminate over the expectations and challenges of my new assignment, I pledge to offer the best of me at all times for the effective and efficient discharge of the responsibilities of my Office..."**





Photo: Dan Williams

...symbolises the old Efik traditional method of greeting with the fingers pinned to the ground saying (etia ke isong) meaning let there be peace.

Destination  
**Cross River**  
 The Nation's Paradise

**C**ross River State - our new brand identity is typified by the full shaped encircle, signifying a land full of promise, life, potentials and the joys that come with a new day. It's huge presence forms a backdrop for the fish which represents a bounty of harvest, fertility, progress; swimming against a warm tidal wave that derives from the

state's name- Cross River. At the base of our logo rests the National Flag and our state colours. This signifies a symbiotic partnership between a state, famous for its tourism potentials and its mother brand that shares a common goal: A destination for business or leisure. It is the place to be. It's CROSS RIVER STATE.





# IMOKE'S Style Of Development Administration

**"If I had six hours to chop down a tree,  
I'd spend the first four hours sharpening the axe"**  
- Abraham Lincoln - (The 16th President of the United States)

**G**overnor Livel Imoke's administration has clocked one year in office. Several opinions and comments have been expressed and made on the account of the administration's stewardship of its first year. Some commentators have expressed reservations that since the inauguration of the present administration a year ago, there have been no visible signs of good things appearing on the political horizon of the State. Some stakeholders have even gone as far as asserting that a seed that remains one year in the ground without any signs of germination could well be considered a dead seed; while others noted that by this same period in the tenure of the last administration, the

people had begun to know the direction of government programmes. It was then left for those who did not appreciate the programmes to criticize them.

These comments, as justifiable as they may be, need to be addressed, together with Imoke's style of development administration for the proper understanding of the non-initiates. With no intention of sounding sycophantic, we would not share in the opinions and feelings of these people, as such opinions and feelings betrayed the lack of scientific knowledge and understanding of the art of governance by a shrewd political leader in an economy undergoing structural transformations

Abraham Lincoln's statement cited at the



**By George Agbor**  
(08023569803)

*"...The debt burden is likely to put a stud on the early commencement of government development programmes..."*







Block of Rooms at the Ranch Resort

beginning of this article should serve as a guide to any political leader that would want to deliver with speed but with minimum cost, error or mistake. Surely, Senator Liyel Imoke appears to be a student of the Lincolnist school of political thought.

Politicians would, during the campaigns, promise the electorate all sort of things under the sun: four lane carriageway roads in all parts of the Country or State, a good medical service delivery system, well equipped schools, constant power and water supply, etc, and when the elections are won, the government would, unmindful of the state of the treasury and the prevailing conditions in the economy, proceed to fulfill its electioneering promises to the people by embarking on the executions of projects; but without, first of all, surveying the economy to determine existing conditions. The end result of this hasty approach to development

administration is always that projects are executed at very high cost to the government and the people.

An in-depth analysis of the style of development administration adopted by the last administration may reveal the points we are trying to make here. . . But it committed the error of not, first of all, surveying the economy to determine the prevailing conditions in it before the government proceeded to implement its programmes. It is now a common knowledge that, that administration, for not first of all, surveying the economy before packaging its programmes, had implemented them at very great cost to the citizenry and the government. As of truth, government properties were sold in droves, especially buildings; new taxes were introduced which created extra financial burden on the people, and civil servants were denied promotions for seven out of the eight years that

administration lasted, all for the sake of mobilizing resources to execute programmes.

Reaping from hindsight, the Imoke administration may, therefore, have decided to avoid such mistake and resolved to spend the first year of its tenure to survey the situation in the economy with a view to putting in place the enabling environment that should support efficient and effective implementation of its development programmes at minimum cost to government and the people.

and so, to prop up the civil service to play its roles effectively, the Imoke administration has initiated programmes intended to build up capacity in the civil service. A number of training courses and seminars have been mounted for capacity building in the service to enable civil servants keep abreast with the advent of modern technology in clerical and technical functions in the



civil service in the emerging world of ICT.

The administration has also given car and motorcycle loans to the State civil servants. The maturity periods for promotions in the State Service have been reviewed downwards to remove the frustration of stagnation, salaries and allowances of civil servants have also been reviewed upwards.

To be able to involve all the MDAs in project conceptualization, the Imoke administration had to introduce the popular management technique called Management By Objective (MBO) in the public service.

Anybody that is well schooled in management theory will agree with us that the recipe for implementing MBO calls for departmentalization or decentralization of functions in the organization for adequate professional input into project conceptualization, whereby each department is expected to draw up its development plans and set targets. Accordingly, new MDAs had, in the last one year, been created and their functions streamlined along government's development plan. Each MDA was, in addition, asked to come up with its vision, objectives and work plan.

The process does not stop here. The targets set by the MDAs are appraised with a view to matching them against the resources available to the government. This is to enable the government draw up its scale of preference for project execution. Government has accordingly introduced an expenditure pattern called MTEF (Medium Term Expenditure Framework) which matches expenditure on project against their stages of completion. Under this programme, MDAs are given envelopes – so called by the experts who invented the programme – i.e. financial allocations, quarterly for the different stages of the project

The MDAs are held accountable for the completion and delivery of their projects.

All these are measures intended to provide a level playing ground for all MDAs, so that the project of one department is not suspended for the project of another department to continue, when programmes implementations shall have gotten under way. This is a clear departure from what was obtainable during the tenure of the last administration, when Ministry of Works' projects (road constructions, etc) were suspended for the Ministry of Trade and Investment's project (Tinapa) to be completed and commissioned.

These were the ground work that were being carried out by the Imoke administration in the last one year to ensure a smooth take-off and continuity of its development programmes; such initiatives take sometimes to conceptualize.

The gestation period for these initiatives may even be longer in the case of Cross River State under Imoke administration because of the heavy debt burden that is now hanging over the State. The debt burden is likely to put a stud on the early commencement of government development programmes. For the past one year, government may be grappling with the problem of mobilizing resources to tide it over the implementation of its programmes, by exploring new sources of revenue that would not put much burden on the citizenry, such as investing in money market instruments.

We know that debt amortization is a continuous process in government business; but where the debt structure is high geared with such instruments as debenture stocks, it becomes difficult for government business to move on smoothly as programmed. In law, debt arising from debenture holdings cannot be re-scheduled.

Rumors making the rounds try

to establish the fact that the market capitalizations of the Obudu Ranch and Tinapa business resorts were so high geared with debenture stocks constituting about 90% of the capital structure of these two enterprises. This portends danger for the State as a going concern. Only few businesses can survive with high geared capital structure even in most sophisticated economies.

Debenture stock holders are not risk bearers of the company. They must be paid the interest on their investment, and promptly too, whether or not the business makes profit. So, whether the Tinapa and the Obudu Ranch resorts break even or not, investors in the debenture stock would have to be paid. As it stands, the burden of defraying these debts has shifted to other sources of government revenue such as our statutory allocation from the Federal Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC) and Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), since Tinapa and the Obudu Ranch resorts cannot adequately liquidate their liabilities.

Consequently, the amount of money that could be available to the government for use in executing its projects, after meeting amortization obligations, may not be much again. But the government must move on, and be seen to be moving on.

In summary, we therefore, hold the opinion that the Imoke administration did not spend one full year doing nothing. It took the wisest course by spending the first one year to survey the subsisting conditions in the economy before plunging into implementing its programmes, with a view to putting in place factors that should facilitate the smooth implementation of its programmes at minimal cost to the government and the citizenry.



*George Agbor is a Commentator on Public Issues*





Governor Liyel Imoke (right) at the unvailing ceremony of the state economic Blueprint. From left; Senator Ossey Ewa Henshaw, Senator Greg Ngaji, Senator Victor Ndoma Egba and extreme right is Hon. Frank Adah Speaker CRSHA



By Etowa Okoi

## Cross River State, The Economic BluePrint 2007 – 2011: Imoke Engineers A More Prosperous State

*“... it is an economic architecture for the opening of new frontiers of development and the consolidation of the progress made in the immediate years.*”

The World is living through an age of fundamental economic transformation. Technology has been leveraged on day by day living, and the conduct of business. Jobs and industries can move to any country with an internet access and available labour. The big picture is of a World where old boundaries are disappearing, a World where communication, connection, and competition can come from anywhere. The stakes could not be higher. Cross River State is ready to play these high stakes. On May 29, 2008, Cross River State demonstrated its readiness to embrace the challenges of the moment and seize the future. At a simple and dignified ceremony at Government House, His Excellency, Senator Liyel Imoke, presented to Cross Riverians and the World a bold agenda of development – The Economic Blueprint 2007 – 2011. This Blueprint, the first of its kind in the subsisting democratic dispensation, is designed to create

wealth and prosperity, and make the State the ultimate competitor in the regional and global matrix of economic runs. The drive towards this corporate objective rests on a Seven-point Development Agenda that is the template of the Imoke Government.

The agenda is:-

1. Make agriculture more productive and rewarding by encouraging the adoption of agricultural best practices and ensuring that investment in the sector is participatory and adaptable.
2. Grow the tourism industry by enhancing existing tourists sites, developing new sites, and initiating and strengthening tourism activity in the State, particularly through the provision of a well-regulated conducive environment.
3. Expand access to and affordability of qualitative education and social services to empower youths with relevant technological





- skills and knowledge.
4. Institutionalize basic health care by providing a primary health care delivery system that meets the needs of both urban and rural communities.
  5. Develop a strong private sector driven economy by growing the purchasing power of Cross Riverians and encouraging private enterprise and strengthening the real sector of the State economy.
  6. Build, upgrade and maintain infrastructure for transportation, electricity supply, communication, water supply and sanitation in urban as well as rural communities.
  7. Preserve the physical environment through conservation and promotion of environmentally – friendly practices in development and lifestyle. A fundamental agenda of development like this generates its own dynamics. To make these dynamics the default of the developmental challenges, His Excellency, Senator Liyel Imoke said there shall be an intensification in the implementation of a programme of reforms initiated earlier in the life of the administration. These reforms are:-
    - A. Public Service Reforms: To reorient, revitalize and re-engineer the service by providing capacity building with firm application of Public Service Rules and mainstreaming SERVICOM.
    - B. Local Government Reforms: To improve the quality of local governance and administration by bringing Government closer to the people with effective and efficient service delivery and accountability.
    - C. Social Welfare Reforms: To develop, implement, and sustain a social welfare scheme that equitably provide for our weaker and more vulnerable groups.
    - D. Tax System Reforms: To remove all forms of multiple and arbitrary taxation, improving tax collection and optimal utilization of tax and non-tax revenue in every locale and sector in the State.

E. Public Procurement Reforms: To institutionalize transparency and due process in public procurement and ensure regular assessment of actual performance against set targets for all MDAs in the State and the Local Government Areas.

Senator Imoke highlighted the elastic nature of the blueprint, emphasizing that it is a continuity in charting the course of development in the State, and stated the administration's commitment to implementing projects that contribute to the well-being of the people, in an open and transparent manner, and with the most judicious and careful use of the State's resources. This sentiment reflects the high premium placed by Senator Imoke on wealth creation through Economic Development, Transparency and Accountability. The blueprint assures Cross River State a more promising future where no aspiration is out of bounds. It is an economic architecture for the opening of new frontiers of development and the consolidation of the progress made in the immediate years. It is an inspiring and courageous development in building the New Cross River State.

In a contemporary context, rarely have investments in infrastructure, everything from roads, bridges, to schools, health, agriculture, tourism, environment, urban and rural development held the spotlight as they do now. It is a revolutionary drive to unlock the potentials of the State by connecting it with a millennial infrastructure. In cashing the possibilities of this moment, a momentum will be activated, opening up new opportunities to reposition the State as a strong hub for regional growth.

As we said earlier, there are high stakes to play for. Governments all over the World are hitching to dominate by making their economies stronger. Reference South Korea, China and Japan, once in the backwaters, but now the World's leading economies. Such countries once looked for possibilities in the present for the future. Several years down the line, that foresight is yielding incredible dividends for the economies in question.

So, in exercising a paradigm shift that creates the jobs and opportunities of the future, Senator Imoke is calling Cross River to a new frontier. A frontier built upon strategic investments. Investments in tourism, agriculture, education and social services, health, infrastructure, and reforms as purviewed in the Seven-point Development Agenda, are vital to long-term growth. Long term growth is critical to a regime of hope, wealth and prosperity.

12 months and counting, Senator Imoke has restored the confidence and hopes of Cross Riverians. Because he has effectively communicated that the delivery of Government services is not about meeting an appointment every year but of inspiring a generational focus shift, Cross Riverians have yielded readily to his governance vision, and the principles of transparency, integrity and responsibility that is now the image and face of his administration.

For Cross River State, the perspectives of the future are in sharp view. The blueprint envisages challenges, outlines the strategies to address them and sets targets to be attained within a defined period. More yardage will be added to areas narrowed by the administration as having great potential for sustaining growth and development.

In recognition of the fact that the private sector has enormous resources to leverage on the attainment of these goals, the Blueprint invites a Public-Private-Partnership, PPP synergy. This synergy, when forged must add significant value to the State and its people. Outside the enormous funds that could be drawn from the private sector, the Blueprint further outlines funding tracks for the Seven-Point Agenda. Basically, funding shall be from the State's share of the statutory Federation Allocation, Internally Generated Revenue, Value Added Tax and Capital Receipts including Grants, Aids, and Loans.

Even then, the Blueprint is envisaging a financial engineering that will brim the income stream of the State, especially Internally Generated Revenue. These include:-



- ❖ Reform of the tax system and administration. A series of strategic reorganization has been carried out in the State's Internal Revenue Service.
- ❖ Privatization of Government-owned enterprises through the State Council on privatization. This will free up financial resources for other uses.
- ❖ Adoption of cost reduction measures.
- ❖ Control of wastage and leakage through effective monitoring of project implementation and efficient controls over commitment and payment.
- ❖ Expanding the tax base by recognizing and capturing more tax payers and tax types.
- ❖ Enforcing existing tax laws and strengthening Revenue Courts.
- ❖ Expanding collaboration with International Donor Agencies for inflow of grant and development aid.
- ❖ Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and growth of viable industries to deepen and broaden the tax base of the State.

## THE HEART OF AFRICA

Deep in the heart of Africa  
Lies a nation, a people so unique  
A colourful-culture people  
A culture fused with pomp, grandeur and  
a warm hospitality  
A landscape strewn with varied  
vegetation and a tropical climate  
The most populous ebony land on  
earth  
Rich with human and material accolades.  
Blackness stands for the fertility of her  
land, her people, and her crude oil.  
Greenness stands for her vegetation and  
the prosperity of her people  
White stands for her unity and integrity.  
Tourists' delight, investors' relish.  
She pumps out haemoglobin so fresh  
A haemoglobin called hope and  
struggle,  
Her position is not an accident  
For nature made her so  
So that through her pulsations  
The other parts of the continent may  
thrive  
Oh Nigeria, I pray that  
You inhale more of the oxygen of unity  
So you can pulsate healthily  
Into a bright future.

**PAUL INGIONA ADIE**

We have consistently maintained that Cross River State is progressing rapidly under Governor Idris Imoke, as Governor. It is not just due to the excellence of his policies and programmes but also because of the sincerity, integrity, purpose, confidence, discipline, intelligence and charisma he communicates. The Cross River State Economic Blueprint (2007-2011), if anything, is a testimonial of his passion and commitment to the progress and development of the State as well as the prosperity and wealth of its people.

This Blueprint is a watershed in the annals of corporate governance in the State. It marks an iconic phase in the life of the administration – a transition from conceptualization to implementation of an agenda that is sublime in a spiritual and material sense.

In the future, generations will count this age lucky for having a leader who has the strength to take advantage of opportunities, wisdom to see down the road, and the courage to challenge conventional thinking and worn ideas so that he could reinvent Cross River State, and engineer a wealthy tomorrow for it.



*Etowa Okoi*

*PA to the Governor (Media Research)*



# Pensive Perspective

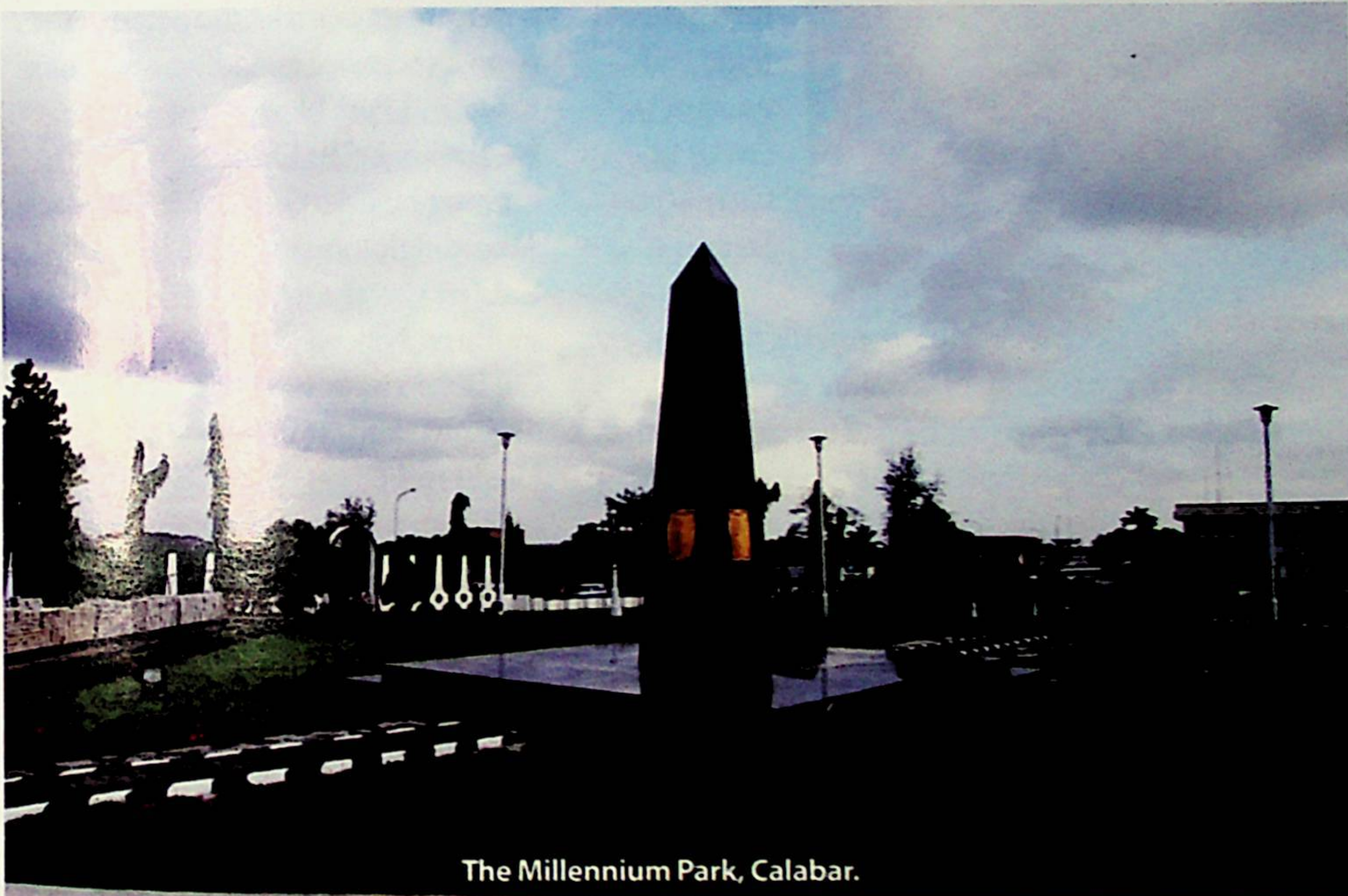
The imperative of Calabar to assume a megacity status in the nation's economy

**T**he Federal government in the twilight of Obasanjo administration approved three state capitals namely: Lagos, Kano and Port Harcourt to become megacities in Nigeria.

According to the Federal Government, the rationale for planning to upgrade the three cities to megacity status is borne out of their fast growth and strategic importance in the context of the nation's economy.



Dr. Okpo Ojar



The Millennium Park, Calabar.

Yet the federal government under the current administration of President Umaru Yar'Adua renewed its interest in the megacity status bid of the three cities, especially Lagos when he announced the federal government's plan to send the Lagos Mega City Bill to the National Assembly for approval.

That was in late July 2007 when the president met with both Governors of Lagos and Ogun States which are jointly going to harbour the Lagos Megacity project.

President Yar'Adua had said at that meeting that apart from the urban challenge of Lagos in the context of fast growth and strategic importance, the implementation of the Lagos mega city status is capable of galvanizing the social and economic life of the nation's commercial and industrial nerve centres. Such strategic and socio-economic indices may also be attributed to Kano and

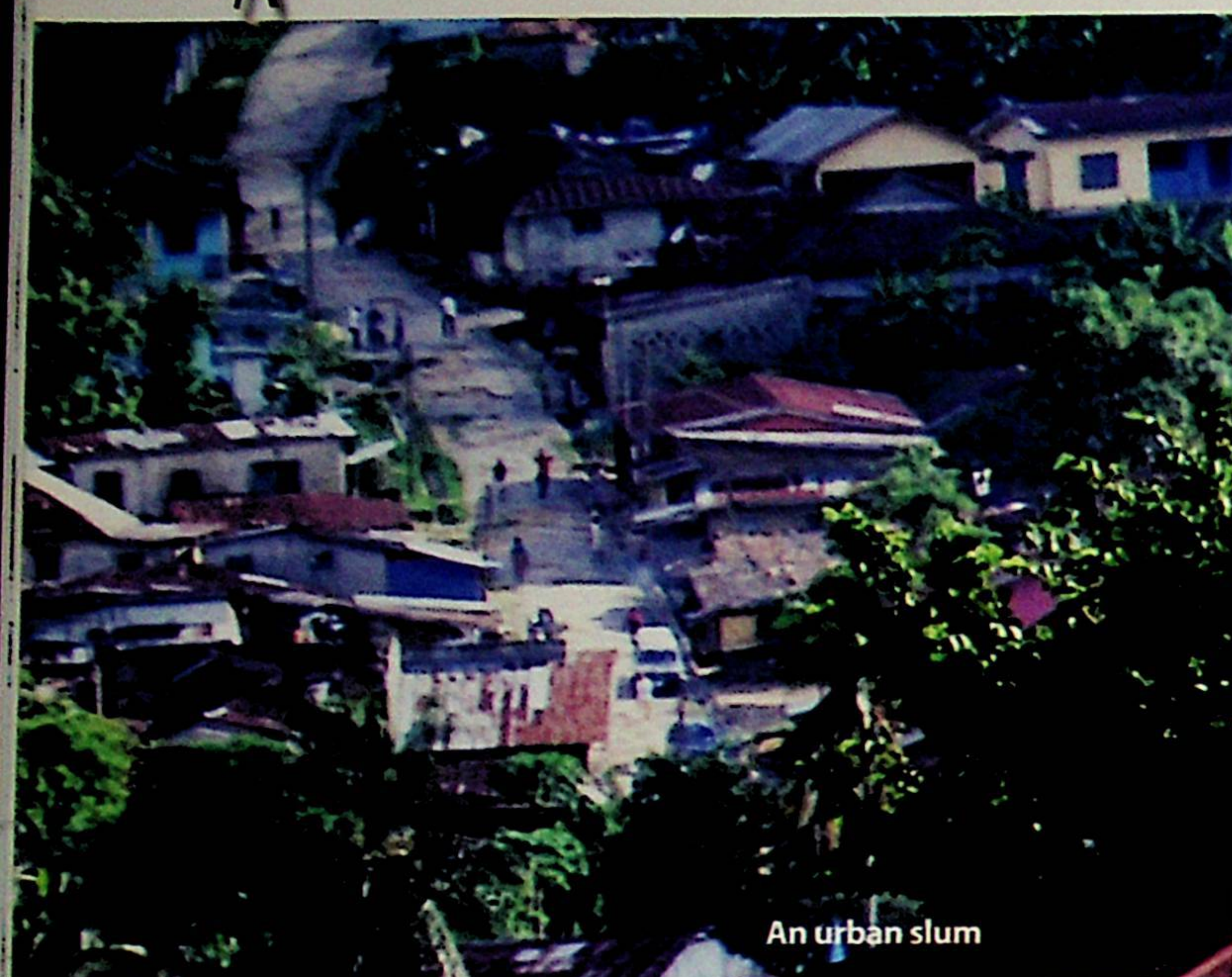
Port-Harcourt cities, hence, the federal government's proposal to upgrade them to megacity status.

But it is axiomatic to assert that if there is any urban town or city in Nigeria with the indices of current fast growth in socio-economic terms, strategic importance in international reckoning, and nucleus of numerous historical antecedents towards Nigeria's nationhood, it is Calabar, the Canaan city, indeed, the paradise city of Nigeria.

Accordingly, today in terms of fast socio-economic growth, Calabar is bequeathed with large economies of scale projects such as the ultra-modern airport and seaport, premier free trade zone, marina resort and the dream Tinapa Business and Leisure resort as well as the many small-scale manufacturing industries spanning the whole Calabar and beyond. Indeed, as a first socio-economic index which

*"...if there is any urban town or city in Nigeria with the indices of current fast growth in socio-economic terms, strategic importance in international reckoning, and nucleus of numerous historical antecedents towards Nigeria's nationhood, it is Calabar..."*





An urban slum

qualifies Calabar as a megacity status, Tinapa stands unarguable as the major flagship project of Cross River State and Nigeria, consistent with the National Tourism Development Policy and which today is regarded as a major platform for the translation of the Federal Government's Tourism Programme, and as a dynamic, productive, socio-economic and commercial vehicle of Cross River State in particular and Nigeria as well as West African sub region in general. Apart from that, Tinapa has been structured to meet the requirements of the goals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, (NEPAD) project in its true sense, and to serve as a momentous symbol of African Renaissance heralding an age of positive economic growth and development.

There are other vital projects in the pipeline like the Monorail, the new cluster market, the energy city, and the convention centre being envisaged for Calabar. Certainly, all these projects and more are bound to force urban expansion in Calabar to become a megacity under effective planning.

Strategically, Calabar is closely bound by both the republics of Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea which have remained as flash points in the

context of Nigeria's international politics. Yet on a positive side, the air, road and sea advantages from the two adjacent countries to Calabar can facilitate a quantum of international trade and tourism in favour of Cross River State and

beyond.

Such a development calls for upgrading of the state capital, Calabar, to a megacity status and that equally calls for the extension of the megacity to cover the entire Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State or even beyond.

Nobody should shudder at this proposal and potential possibility because pessimists about 30 years ago cannot believe as today that Calabar can expand to Akpabuyo and Odukpani Local Government Areas industrially and in terms of housing. Presently Akamkpa, Biase and even Yakurr Local Government Areas are feeling the influence of Calabar megacity expansion.

This is in view of the infrastructural constraints that such a development had have on the present state capital in terms of commercial activities, industrial expansion, transport congestion and urban slums, especially as one is witnessing in the Calabar South.

Apart from that, it is even becoming difficult to secure urban spaces as a suitable rearing environment for the teaming number of children in Calabar, where they can come in contact with nature like some megacities in the world.

Even at that, efficient and effective mobility is critical for sustainable development of megacities in terms of economic, esthetic, environmental and safety considerations.

Indeed, the present city of Calabar is beginning to feel in population pressure and economic activities, hence the need to upgrade it to a megacity status to avoid uncontrollable urban sprawl like Lagos.

In addition, the consideration of Calabar as the nucleus in terms of antecedents of Nigeria's nationhood cannot be ignored by the federal government to make the paradise town a megacity in addition to Lagos, Kano and Port Harcourt which are already being lifted from the drawing board to implementation. Accordingly, one would recall that Calabar was the first capital of southern Nigeria known then as the Oil River Protectorate from 1885 under Major Claude Macdonald. Under military defence, the first army barracks in Nigeria was built in Calabar in 1903.

In terms of sports in Nigeria, the game of foot ball was first introduced in Calabar in 1902 by Reverend James Luke of the Hope Waddell Training Institution, Calabar from where it spread to other parts of Nigeria, and the first organized foot ball league match was played in Calabar in 1906.

The game of Cricket was first introduced in Hope Waddell Training Institute, Calabar in 1903 by Mr. F. A. Foster, a Jamaican tutor who was also the Headmaster of the school. And from Hope Waddell, Calabar, the cricket game also spread to other parts of Nigeria.

The first national newspaper in English language came up in Eastern Nigeria and was called the Nigeria Eastern Mails. It was first published in Calabar.

Still on publication, the first indigenous newspaper in Eastern Nigeria was called "Unwana Efik". It was published in Calabar in the Efik Language in 1899 by the United



Free Church Press of the Church of Scotland Mission, Hope Waddell, Calabar.

And on theatre, the first cinema house known as Pastol Cinema in Eastern Nigeria (and the second in the entire country) was opened in Calabar in 1939 by late Chief Patrick Solomon. At the health level, the first General Hospital in Southern Nigeria was the St. Margaret Hospital established in 1897 and was reputed to be the cleanest in the young protectorate. On scientific education, the first botanical garden in Nigeria was established in Calabar in 1893 as a brand of the famous kew Gardens in London. That famous botanical site is today occupied by the state branch of the Central Bank of Nigeria and the former Mercantile Bank of Nigeria now named CBN Arikpo House. On security, the first maximum security prison was built in Calabar in 1854. It was called "Brick field prison" so-called because it was built with bricks, some of which were manufactured at bricks field in Itu. The historic building was destroyed during the Nigerian Civil War, 1967-1970, and in its place now stands the State Public Library.

At the international level, Queen Elizabeth the second was the first British Monarch to visit Calabar. That was in 1956 with the main reason to lay wreath on the tomb of Mma Mary Slessor. She was accompanied by her consort, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

And Prince Philip himself visited Calabar on the 10th of February 1989 in connection with the World Wild Life for Nature during which time he regretted the dwindling fortune of the Calabar Zoo.

At the technological level, the first seaplane to land in Nigeria landed on the Calabar River in 1931. And the first aeroplane to land in Calabar was from Cameroon. It landed in the former Golf course, in 1939. The area is now occupied by the Governor's office, Ministry of Lands and Survey Headquarters

and the Accountant-General's office.

On judicial matters, the first Supreme Court in the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria was built in Calabar. And in terms of personalities of international repute, it would be recalled that the first Nigerian World Boxing Champion was Hogan King Bassey of Calabar who won the British Commonwealth featherweight title in 1955. While the first indigenous Nigerian Inspector General of Police was Chief Louis Orok Edet, the first Nigerian Vice Admiral of the Nigerian Navy was Vice Admiral Joseph Edet Akinwale Way-both from Calabar.

Other personalities in terms of being first in various life endeavours in Nigeria include Dr. James Ene Richard Henshaw as the first Published dramatist in the English Language in Nigeria, Mr. Eyo E. Esua as the first National Secretary of the Nigerian Union of Teachers. Chief Beatrice Bassey Ita as the first female Journalist in Nigeria and Chief Afi Ekong as the first Nigeria artist to be trained abroad.

Given the quantum of these and

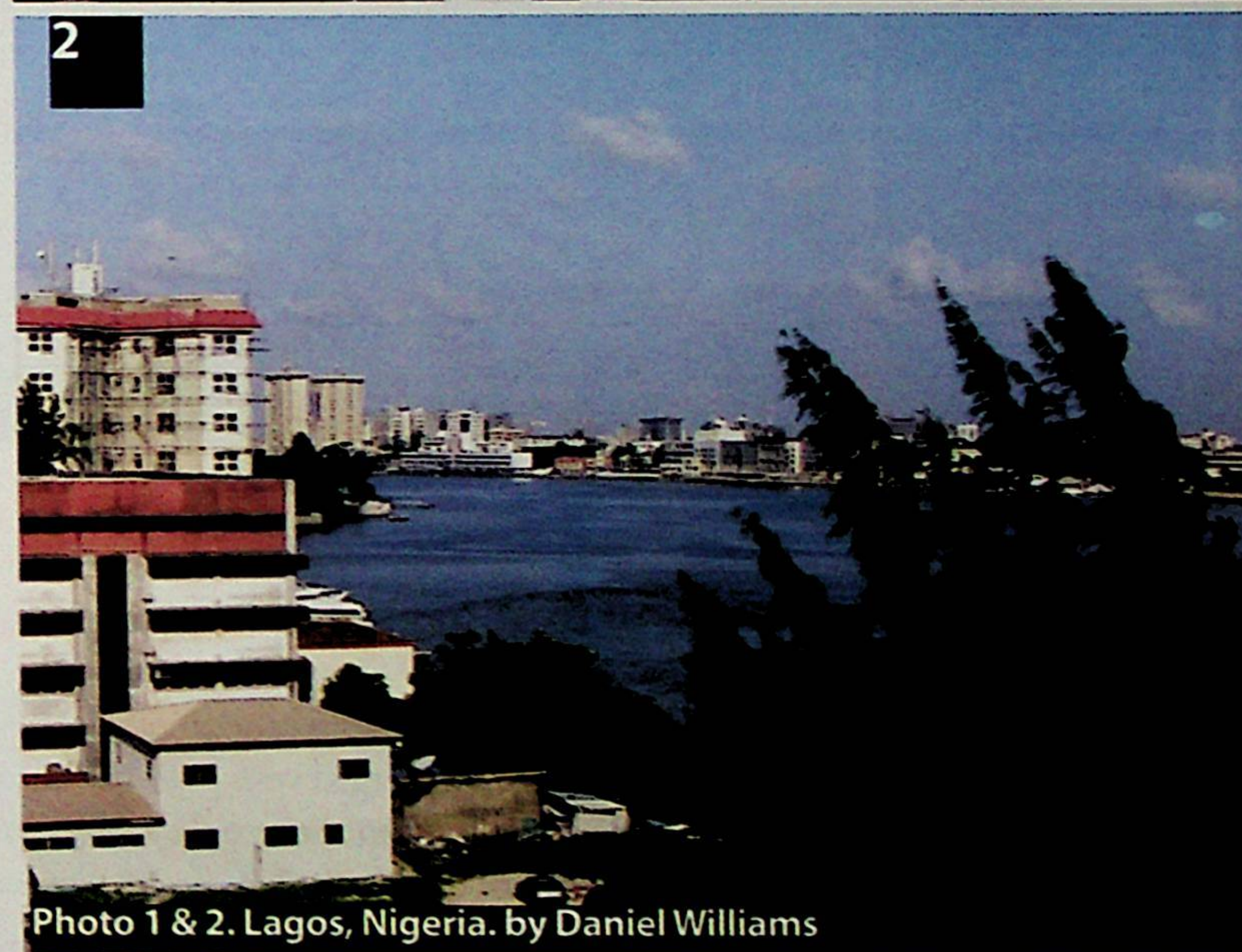


Photo 1 & 2. Lagos, Nigeria. by Daniel Williams

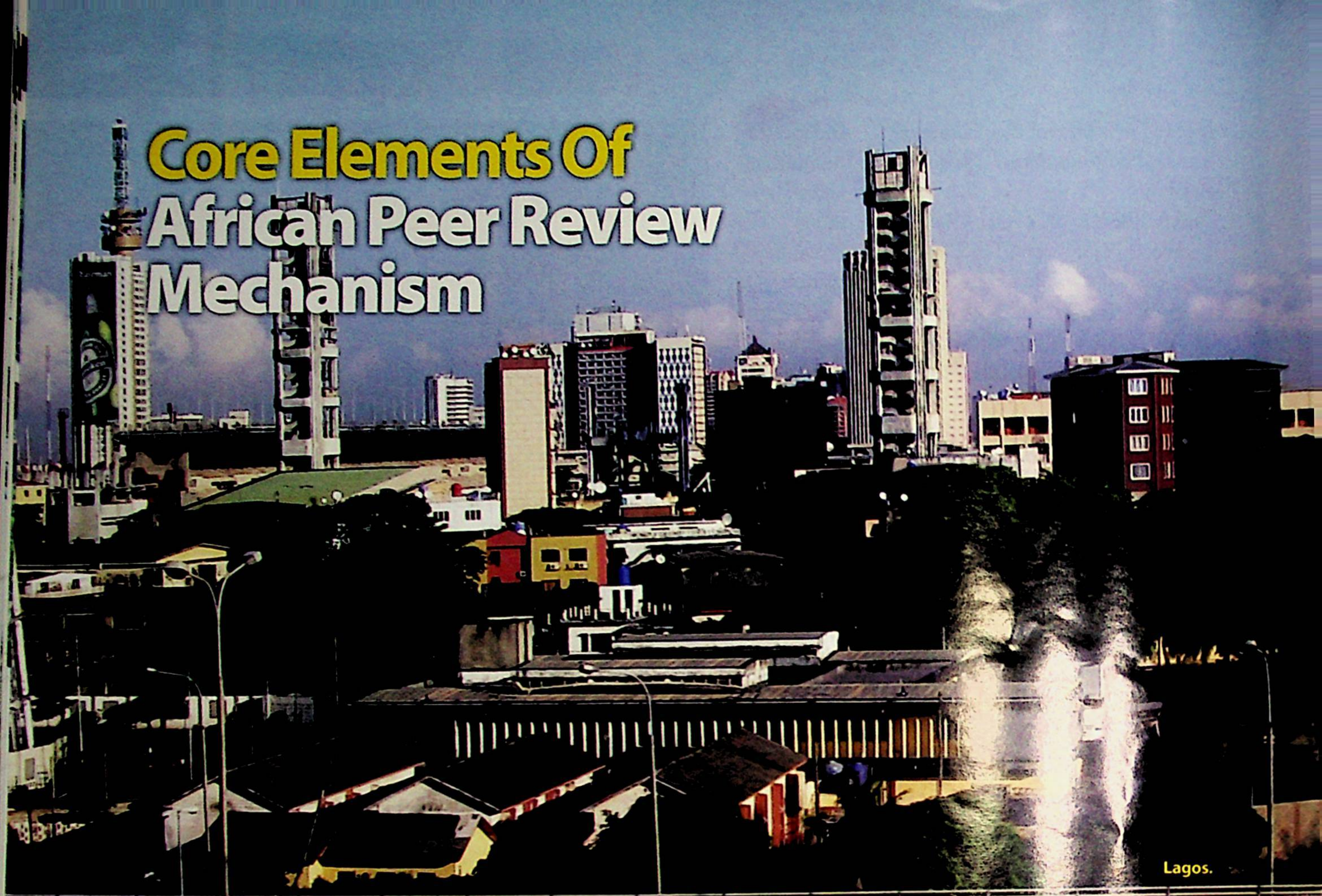
more historical facts of Calabar in the context of Nigerian political economy, there is no fundamental reason why Calabar could not retain the capital status of Eastern Nigeria or even the capital of Nigeria after the amalgamation of the country in 1914 by Lord Lugard.

This would have been so since all the necessary infrastructure for a national capital were present in Calabar. But one does emphasize that this time around, the move to upgrade some state capital to megacity status should not escape the Cross River State capital, Calabar.

Dr. Okpo Ojah is a Commentator on Public Issues



# Core Elements Of African Peer Review Mechanism



Vigilus Omini

*“...The primary purpose of the APRM is “to encourage African states to adopt policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration...”*

Inspired by the global consensus and concern over the profound development challenges in the sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries, a dynamic and development-oriented African leadership emerged with political will and commitment to major policy shifts and orientation on how to deal with the paradox of underdevelopment in the highly, endowed African continent. This is a positive response to the prognosis which emerged from the debates on the Africa development crisis, that Africa must develop a common core agenda of its own, based on her vision. To develop a viable policy framework for African integration, the largely conservative and politically parochial Organization for African Unity ((OAU) was transformed to a newly invigorated Africa Union (AU) which later gave birth to the new initiative and agenda for development enunciated under the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD). The new initiative is a policy fall-out of the millennium Africa Renaissance project spearheaded by Presidents Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, Obasanjo of Nigeria, Wade of Senegal and Kufuor of Ghana. The NEPAD which is a vision and

strategic framework for Africa's Renewal, is designed to address the current challenges facing the Africa continent with a well developed programme of Action for a holistic, comprehensive and integrated sustainable development. Some of the major principles of NEPAD include “good governance; African ownership and leadership, partnership between and among African peoples, Acceleration of regional and continental integration; building the competitiveness of African countries and ensuring that all partnerships with NEPAD are linked to the MDGs”.

Fundamentally, NEPAD initiators have realized that, if the continent is to take her rightful place in the international community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there is the need to rethink its development strategies and proper conceptualization of African development crisis. Conceptually, NEPAD initiative has radically changed the traditional paradigm, which contends that, Africa will only succeed if the developed world increases charitable donor assistance to “fill the Africa's begging bowl.” It is within the context of African initiative for development that, African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), as a core

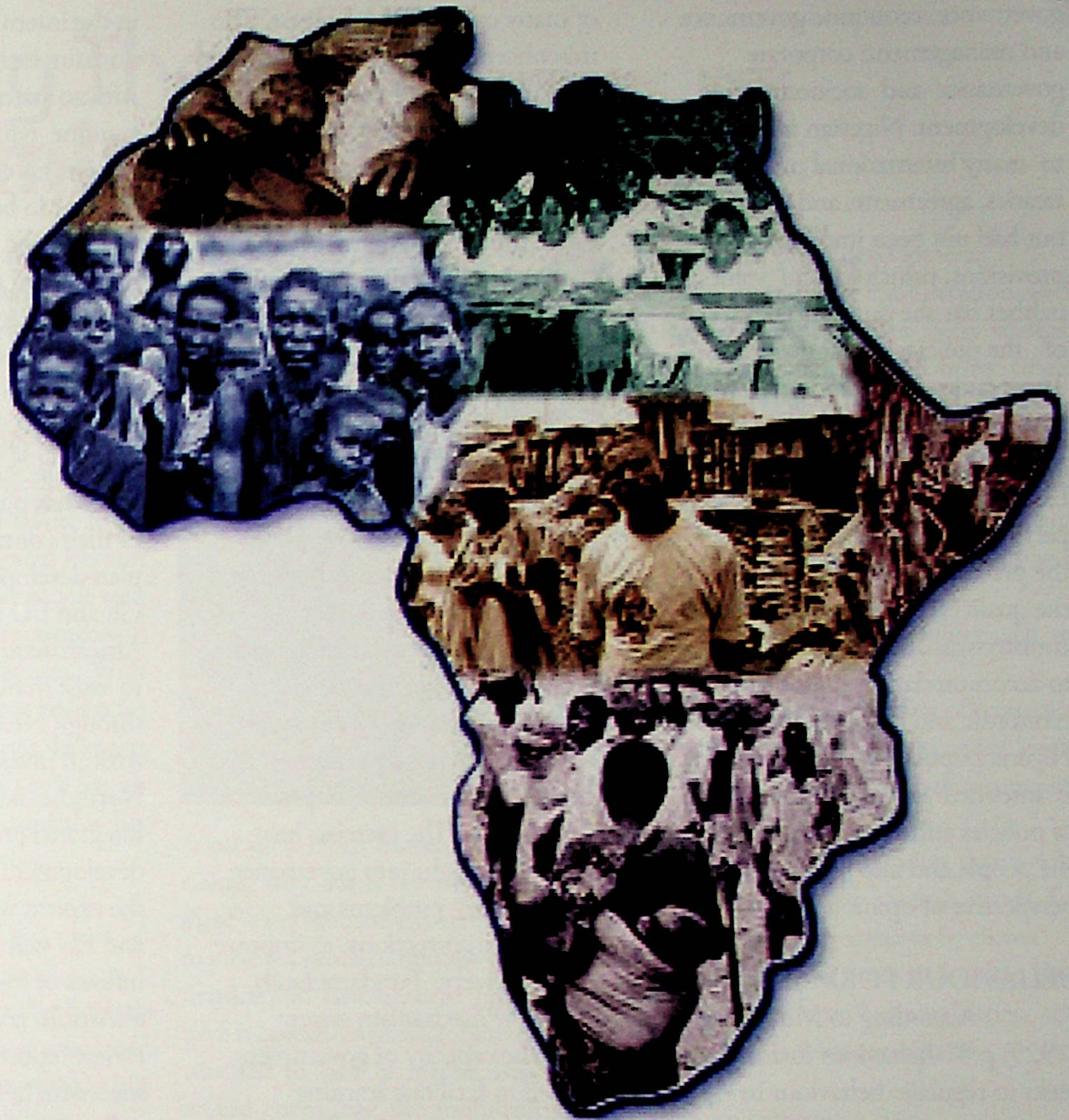




component of NEPAD was designed.

Presently, only four countries, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Rwanda have been reviewed, while Nigeria review process is on going. APRM is a new innovation whose dynamics and complexities are yet to be properly appreciated. More so, one of the main findings of Nigeria APRM country self-assessment report is that, there is very low level of awareness of the new partnership for Africa's development (PAD) and the APRM and its processes among Nigerians out of high level of awareness of the relevant governance issues assessed under the different thematic areas. It is against this backdrop that a brief

review of the core elements of APRM is imperative. APRM, which has been judged as the most innovative part of the NEPAD system is a voluntary process by which, participating countries submit themselves for examination and then undertake to remedy any identified governance problems. The review process is designed to enable non-state actors like the civil society, NGOs, private sector who are legitimate partners in governance to engage and dialogue on policy direction and governance issues. The primary purpose of the APRM is "to encourage African states to adopt policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration". This programme objective is to be achieved through



"identifying institutional weakness and capacity gaps and adopting appropriate programme of action to correct them as well as sharing experiences and reinforcing successful and best practices". All these policy shifts and behavioural changes are intended to foster the adoption of policies, standards, values, best practices in a given country that will enhance the achievement of MDGs by 2015. In order to make the peer review and assessment credible, the process is coordinated by eminent personalities with accomplished track record in African development issues. Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, who has left an indelible mark on the work of UN-ECA, and whose analytical prowess had broadened the debate about Africa development future is one of the eminent personalities selected to coordinate APRM. He was appointed the new Chairman of

the APR panel on July, 1<sup>st</sup> 2007.

In order to sensitize the people and generate understanding and elicit effective participation in the peer review process in Nigeria, a brief analysis of the core elements of APRM is imperative.

#### HOLISTIC THEMATIC AREAS FOR ASSESSMENT.

In order to make the peer review process holistic and all inclusive, inter-related thematic areas of governance are deliberately covered in the process of country self-assessment. This approach is designed to bring the issues for the public domain to elicit the Nigerian citizens feed back opinion on the findings of the self assessment and the recommendations contained therein. The areas covered include the evaluation of the implementation of the codes in democracy and political



governance; economic governance and management; corporate governance and socioeconomic development. Nigerian is a signatory to many international protocols, treaties, agreements and conventions, but had not been implementing the provisions, principles and values, neither has she domesticated most of the policies and conventions. These codes and standards constitute the benchmarks with which the peer review process is based. In addition, a broad-based participation in the assessment of the perceptions of Nigerians on the quality of governance in the country was also adopted with a view to accommodating all the socio-economic and political diversities of Nigeria population. This approach is intended to generate ownership of policies and programmes by the people and also arouse different perspective of opinions.

#### BEHAVIOUR FORMALISATION

According to Mintzberg (1929) p.81 Behaviour formalization seeks to regulate behaviour in organizations with a view to eliminating variability in operational patterns". Behaviour formalization within the APRM framework specifies how African countries who have accepted the philosophy of NEPAD should organize government with a view to attaining good governance. The concept and process of the peer review entails that rules, regulations, standards and codes provided in the international protocols and agreements that should have enhanced governance signed by Nigeria, should be observed. Essentially, the policy output of APRM is the adoption of best practices, which inturn enhances service delivery. However, the content of the review process is not auditing, but a promotional role aimed at standardizing government operations that imbued best practices in Africa. This clarification is important, in view of the seeming misconception

of many over APRM process. This misconception is aptly amplified by Bernard Kouassi, Executive Director of the APRM secretariat, who asserted that "the process has not been well understood even by African leaders, hence the need to demystify the notion that it is out to find fault".

#### GENERATION OF FEEDBACK/LEARNING PROCESS

The APRM process is so structured that, it produces feedback information on the parttern of governance of the country being assessed. It also enhances learning, which is a veritable tool for efficient and effective management. Conversely, the review process of Nigeria has provided substantial feedback that any dynamic government can use to improve performance. The exercise has generated insight into governance performance problems and appropriate corrections to improve service delivery. Fundamentally, the review mechanism system drives the capacity of government assessed to facilitate learning process and knowledge. This is particularly so because, learning should be part of the overall implementation of government policies and programmes through effective feedback mechanism. Given the intricacies involved in performance-based governance, institutionalizing learning is crucial in the organization of government. In line with this principle, a request for feedback opinion on the executive summary of the APRM Nigeria County Self- Assessment Report (CSAR), state validation workshops have been conducted in order to elicit contributions from all stakeholders towards the production of a genuinely self-assessed, authentic and broad-based report on governance in Nigeria.

#### BENEFITS OF THE PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

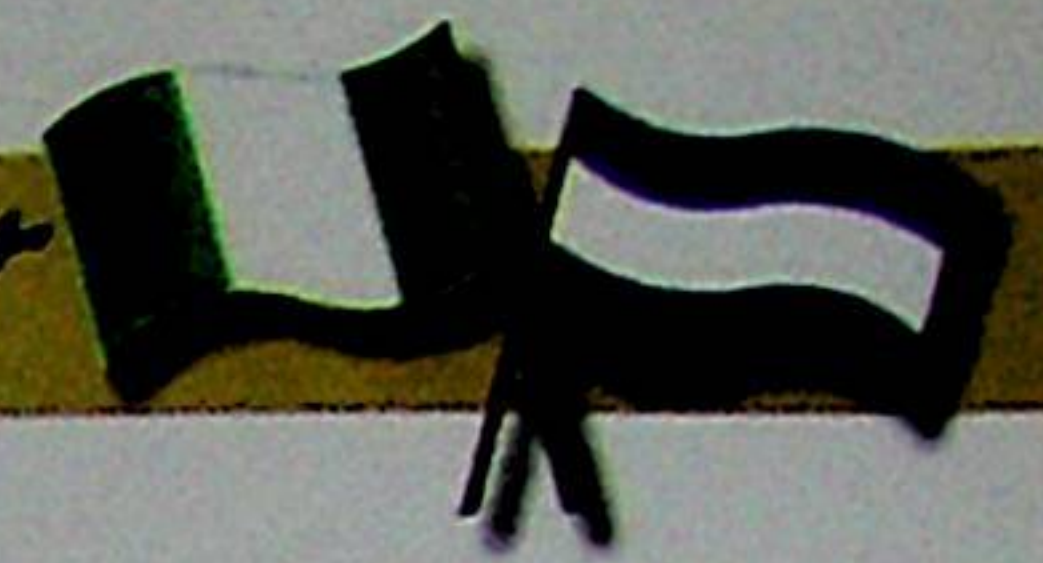
One of the paradigm shifts

in the international development domain is the new focus on the African states that are committed to genuine reforms in governance. It is within this context that, donors have pledged to boost aid to countries that receive good peer review reports and may cut aid to those that performed poorly. Ghana, that was the first country to be reviewed, has benefited from the US Millenium Challenge Account ( MCA) to the tune of 547 million (US Dollars). The United States has put up the account as part of their contribution to Africa's action plan developed by NEPAD. The G8 and EU have also adopted the African action plan and committed to assist in building capacity in Africa through NEPAD. To encourage African initiative, the developed North has adopted a comprehensive, integrated programme for African development, "based exclusively on the express wishes of Africa". The G8 and EU will also help generate larger inflows of foreign direct investment to African countries/states with good review reports. APRM has also been successful in fostering substantial policy debate in the country (like Nigeria) that have chosen to accept the review

As the analysis clearly show, the formation of NEPAD to drive Africa's development, has introduced a new orientation and paradigm to African development and economic integration. The African Peer Review Mechanism which is a core policy tool of NEPAD has exposed Nigeria's development challenges and opportunities to the international community. At the end of the review exercise, the country stands to benefit from the international development assistance and will generate Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). 

*By Vigilus Omini  
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# Bridging The Economic Gap In Ugep

In the face of global economic advancement, it becomes imperative to integrate all segments of the society, especially low income earners in the production process. Breaking the circle of poverty and attaining sustainable development has eluded some developing areas because of continued failure to do the above. The banking system has not provided the majority of poor people with secure access to credit for investments in economically productive ventures. With particular reference to Ugep it beats one's imagination to know that being the largest native town in West Africa, Ugep has no functional cooperative bank and this has been so for about 50 years now.

## ISOLATION OF THE BIG MARKET

Ugep has an unequivocal market strength as she produces highly marketable agricultural products like yams, chili pepper, palm products, rubber and cassava. These can assume a unique branded status and they stand the chance of generating multiple streams of income that can be injected into her economy. Besides this, the annual Leboku festival which is fast becoming a world class event, presents huge economic prospects.

It is mind-joggling that Ekori and Nko communities which surround Ugep and are less populated and less business-oriented than Ugep have First Bank and Afri Bank respectively situated in them. Abi indigenes have to go all the way to Nko, Ekori or further to Abakaliki in Ebonyi state for banking transactions. Also, towns and villages of Biase Local Government Area closer to Ugep have to travel to Akamkpa or Odukpani Local Government Areas for their banking transactions. Such situations present an amusingly ridiculous position for Ugep whose indigenes also have to do their banking transactions elsewhere. The question that may readily come to



mind is, if Ugep market is as big as it claims, why has it been isolated for all these years? Successive government efforts to solve the problem through several rural finance and development programmes have met with unsatisfactory results. This was due to lack of mechanism which would encourage the mobilization of savings among people at the grassroots level and at the same time, simplify the disbursement of funds through loans and advances.

For about 15 years, Mercantile Bank of Nigeria had its branch in Ugep before its liquidation. In spite of the negative impression the people of Ugep have as being fierce and highly dreaded, settlers in Ugep never seem to complain about any threat or assault on their lives. There really isn't any concrete reason why at least a bank should not be situated in Ugep to fill the gap within her financial system.

Sequel to her market strength, Ugep, however, present huge prospects to banks that are ready to render its services to her community. Other reasons for the situation of a bank in the area include;

- Awakening and utilizing idle funds that have been laying waste over the years.
- Generating more income for the community.
- Creating and maintaining client strength

that will ginger development.


- Through credit mobilization and provision mechanism, petty traders, hawkers, artisans and other small scale entrepreneurs will benefit greatly and several hitherto insignificant businesses will be turned around leading to improved living standard for individuals, families and the whole community.

The consequences of not filling such an economic gap include:

- Restraining a proportion of economic development which ultimately limits the entire economic development and advancement.
- Limiting capital creation that would have generated enough funds for subsequent investments by clients.
- Increasing idle funds that would have generated more business interest and increase investment capacity.

## CONCLUSION

Interestingly, the State government through the Ministry of Finance, recently directed the successful Micro-Finance Banks to shift emphasis and operation from the state capital into the Local government headquarters and other viable communities in the State.

Secondly, the issue of empowerment and wealth creation is central to the development agenda of the present administration. The banking sector has a crucial role to play in this direction. Therefore, prospective banks are here by implored to take advantage of the results it stands to achieve for itself and most importantly, for the people because those at the grassroots will be brought into the ambit of wealth creation directed at improving the quality of lives and ultimately creating the bedrock for the development of a more sustainable economy. Let us bridge the economic gap in Ugep and other such communities in the state. 

Emmanuel Eno Eko  
08059801557



# Yakurr International New Yam Festival *Leboku 2008*



**Date:** 7th July- 30th August 2008  
**Special Events Day:** August 28, 2008  
**Venue:** Ugep Yakurr L.G.A, CRS

*...Come and Experience the Culture  
and Hospitality of Yakurr...*

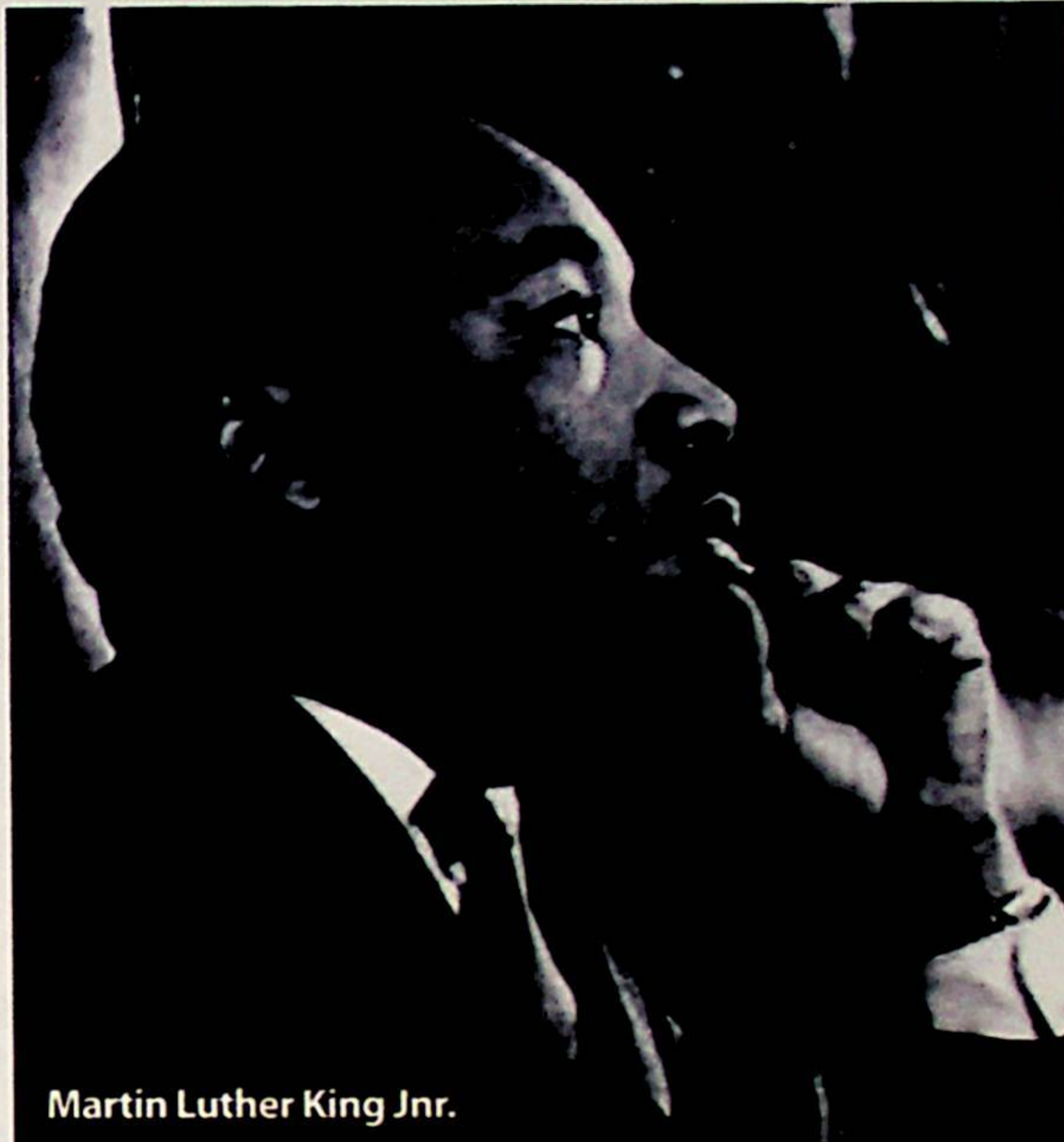




# Curbing XENOPHOBIC ATTACKS

**I**r a n i a n president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's statement on 26 October 2005 calling for Israel to be "wiped off the map" did not only result to a state of sustained red alert in the Jewish State, it stirred serious alarm across the world. Just before the dust could settle down, president Ahmadinejad fired another canon. On 14 December 2005, to be precise, he referred to the Holocaust, to wit: the mass massacre of Jews during the Second World War, as "a myth." While both statements echoed international angst on anti-Semitic violence, recent spates of killings, rape and mugging of foreigners in South Africa, and the wanton destruction of their property have once more brought old time universal trepidation about the hate crime of xenophobia to front burner of putrefying global social order.

Xenophobia, a word which many people are not familiar with, is derived from the Greek words *xenos* and *phobos*. *Xenos* means stranger. *Phobos* denotes fear. The term xenophobia describes the fear of others, other than oneself, kindred, nativity or aborigine. Acts of xenophobia are propelled by extremism. Xenophobia is often expressed through anger,



Martin Luther King Jr.

hostility, violence, and in worst cases genocide against people viewed either as strangers, settlers, of another race, and or ethnicity.

The hostilities in Kenya between supporters of opposition leader, Raila Odinga's Kikuyu tribesmen, and president Mwai Kibaki's, over election rigging culminating in the loss of 1000 lives typify one of the numerous cases of xenophobia in our world. But the last century witnessed some of the worst cases of xenophobic attacks. According to Allan Bullock, author of *Hitler and Stalin: Parallel Lives*, an estimated 5,672,000 Jews were annihilated between 1939 and 1945. The number was made up of Jewish men, women and children who were slaughtered within a span of about 72 months in different countries, from Poland to the Baltic States, and from

Germany to Italy. Even in Netherlands and Greece, Jews were murdered, for no cause other than being Jews. Stark evidence of these massacres can be found at the Museum of the Holocaust

in Jerusalem and elsewhere. Descendants of some of the Nazi henchmen who perpetrated those gruesome acts of genocide are still alive today, living and moving freely in countries like El-Salvador, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Guatemala, among others.

In Africa, 49 years after the Holocaust, between April and June 1994, an estimated 800,000 Rwandans were murdered. The Rwandan genocide in which most of the victims were Tutsis occurred within a space of about 100 days. That was not the first time Tutsis would be mercilessly killed by Hutus. In 1959, 35 years earlier, Hutus had murdered some 200,000 Tutsis. Thousands of others took flight to neighbouring countries like Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda. The later



Rekpen Bassey

*"...recent spates of killings, rape and mugging of foreigners in South Africa, and the wanton destruction of their property have once more brought old time universal trepidation about the hate crime of xenophobia to front burner of putrefying global social order..."*





day murders were a reprisal sparked by the explosion of president Juvenal Habyarimana's aircraft. With him in the aircraft on that melancholic day were the president of Burundi and many top government officials. Himself a Hutu, president Habyarimana's airliner was allegedly shot in the airspace of the country's capital, Kigali.

Ethnic acrimony among the majority Hutus and minority Tutsis can be traced to the colonial era, under Belgium black in 1916. Ironically, in this case, both Hutus and Tutsis share a lot in common. Both speak the same language, inhabit the same geographical area and have similar culture. Only that the Belgian colonial authorities created a big tribal gulf between both peoples.

The executors of the 1994 Rwandan genocide included presidential guards, military commanders, politicians and businessmen. Spurred on by media propaganda, a 300,000 strong force of militiamen called Interahamwe, meaning those who attack jointly, was formed to carry out the genocide. A similar situation had occurred in the new world a few years earlier, during Guatemala's 36-year old civil war. Security forces there killed an estimated 110,000 innocent citizens in indigenous communities in the country. About 600 Mayan villages were targeted and set ablaze. The genocide committed by Guatemala's security forces under the maximum rules of Fernando Romeo Lucas García (1978 – 1982) and Efraín Ríos Montt (1982 – 1983) was described by a UN Truth Commission as "state policy of genocide against indigenous communities."

The said state policy of genocide



referred to as "scorched earth" campaign also left many Mayans in abject conditions of homelessness. Many fled their homes to jungles, living without food, medicine and potable water. Consequently, many died of starvation, and disease in jungles. Many of those that perpetrated the genocide in Guatemala are still in the government of that country today.

The cases cited above involved large-scale xenophobic attacks. But there are several cases of smaller groups and or individuals that have been persecuted, attacked, killed and violated on account of their race or ethnicity. Examples include the murder of Steven Bantu Biko popularly known as Steve Biko (1946 – 1977). Steve Biko was a non-violent anti-apartheid campaigner in the days when apartheid held sway in South Africa. Having founded the South African Students' Organization (SASO) in 1968, he became SASO's first president. South African Students' organization comprising blacks, Indians and coloured, later translated into a very formidable black consciousness movement. Biko who was a medical student at the University of Natal Medical School at the time, was elected as the honorary president of the Black

Peoples Convention (BPC) in 1972. His campaigns apparently offended the apartheid regime, which banned his activities in March 1973.

Xenophobic incidents have occurred even in post-apartheid South Africa. There have been reported incidents of such attacks on nationals of other countries, refugees from Ethiopia and Sudan, in particular. One week after Haille Shamebo, an Ethiopian refugee was attacked in Pretoria, a Sudanese man was severely assaulted and thrown out of a speeding cab in September 2002. One of the most recent cases occurred around Durban, Johannesburg and other cities. The attack on foreigners living in South Africa -- Zimbabweans, Mozambicans, Pakistanis and other nationalities began 11 May 2008, was spontaneous, and well coordinated, leaving in its wake nearly 50 dead persons. Over 16,000 others who escaped death were either severely injured and or displaced from their residential quarters. Most of the victims, unfortunately, were Zimbabweans who had fled from the excruciating pangs of poverty occasioned by the political imbroglio in their once beautiful country.

Sundry motives were responsible





for the attacks under reference; ranging from soaring crimes, to high rates of unemployment among the local folks. South African young males, it would appear, are either too lazy or educationally less or more qualified for certain jobs, which foreigners are only too glad to take. Thus, young unemployed male South Africans see such foreigners as interloping usurpers. The attacks on foreigners in South Africa, as one analyst put it, is a "cruel twist of faith," considering the support, love and camaraderie they enjoyed during the apartheid days. During that period, South Africans in their herds sought refuge under the benevolence of other brotherly nations in Africa to escape murder, humiliation and dehumanisation in the hands of minority white rulers.

There are classical examples of xenophobic attacks in the United States predating the times of Martin Luther King Jr. (1929 – 1968). King himself suffered many such attacks. His house was bombed; he got arrested and suffered a stint in the Birmingham jail. Even J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) at the time almost pathologically hated King more for his colour than his cause. Indeed, some analysts inferred FBI complicity in King's murder on 4 April 1968 at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

Other more recent US examples of xenophobic attacks are those of James Byrd, Rodney King and Latasha Harlins. In Jasper, Texas, one Saturday night in June 1998, James Byrd, an American of African extraction ran into three white folks during a hitchhike. The threesome who turned out to be members of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), had Byrd chained to a truck and toed on tarmac for over two miles. After that, they cut off his head and dumped-off his quivering body. Byrd's killers, William King and two others were consequently sentenced to death in March of the following year.

Rodney King's case had occurred five years earlier. King, a motorist and

also an American of African extraction had been badly battered by the police in south central Los Angeles. The video evidence to that effect was uncontroversial. But the decision of the predominantly white jury on 11 May 1992 was in favour of the white officers that battered King. As a result, bands of mostly Africa American protesters attacked white motorists. But as it turned out, the riots were also an indirect reaction from pent up anger resulting from the earlier shooting of 15 year old Latasha Harlins, a girl, and another African American, by Sun Ja Du, a Korean grocer, for stealing a bottle of orange juice valued at \$1.79. The murderer was only sentenced to a five-year probation term.

Xenophobic attacks increased sharply in Western Europe in the wave of the Middle East crises, and after the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States. In Western Europe, Jews, Arabs, Moslems and ethnic minorities are the targets. The Police in France recorded 395 cases of anti-Semitic attacks in less than one month in 2002, few months after 9/11. Attacks on persons of Jewish extraction and Arabs included schools, synagogues, mosques and cemeteries in places like Paris, Montpellier, Strasbourg and Marseille. In fact there were celebrations in France by neofacists and neo-Nazi groups in Germany, after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the US during which about 3000 persons perished.

Immigrants from the Maghreb, that is, Algerians, Moroccans and Tunisians have severally been attacked in Spain. On 14 July 1999 about 1,300 Spaniards, mostly skinheads carried out violent demonstrations on the streets of Terrassa in Barcelona. In the course of the demonstration, a 23-year-old man of African extraction was stabbed at least three times on the chest, while seven other blacks were assaulted under the watch of uniformed and plain-clothes police officers.

Similar attacks have been recorded in the Netherlands, Belgium, UK and Canada. Of all these, Russia has one

of the worst records of xenophobic attacks in recent times. Racial attacks on foreigners in cities like Moscow and St. Petersburg are recorded almost on a daily basis. The attacks are usually planned and executed by neo-Nazi groups targeting persons of African and Asian origin. The murder of Kamhem Leon, a Cameroonian student late December 2005, brought to ten those that were murdered within a short space of time in St. Petersburg, formerly Leningrad, where about 23% of the population consists of migrants. In fact, the situation in Russia is so bad that Aleksandr Brod, Moscow's Human Rights Bureau Chief exclaimed, "more than half of Russians are xenophobic!"

Besides the Rwandan and South-African examples cited earlier, a number of xenophobic incidents have been recorded in other African nations. However, a peroration of a few other cases in the West Coast will suffice here. In several instances, xenophobic attacks have occurred in Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. Of the lot, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire can be cited as classical examples in recent times. Xenophobia accounted for the intractable crises between the Americo-Liberians and other tribes like the Gios, Manos and the dominant Kran ethnic groups. In Cote d'Ivoire, French, and other West African citizens and Moslems have been targets of xenophobic attacks, sadly, under the watch of the nation's political authorities.

A few local examples of cases of xenophobic conflicts include Ebom/Ebijakara (2005/06) in Abi Local Government Area and Ugep-Mkpani in Yakurr LGA in Cross River State. Noted elsewhere were the ethnic clashes between the people of Itu in Akwa Ibom State and those of Odukpani in Cross River State; the Jukun/Kutebs and Tiv/Jukun in Taraba State in the 90s, and 2000s. Then there were the Aguleri and Umeleri crisis in Anambra, and Ife/Modakeke in the late 90s and recently The Okrikas and Eleme's in Rivers State are neighbours, but virtually abide in mutual suspicion.



Xenophobic activities have existed in the Middle East since the Bronze Age. The region still remains one of the hot beds of hate-crimes. In less than 24 hours after its establishment on 15 May 1948, the young state of Israel suffered combined military attacks by five of her neighbouring Arab countries. More hate attacks continue to occur in the region.

Shortly after the assassination of the former Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafiq al-Hariri on 14 February 2005, hundreds of Syrians working and doing business in Lebanon were attacked, shot and robbed. In one of the cases which occurred in the later part of the same month, two Syrians got bundled up to the last floor of a four-story building, from where they were thrown off. About three weeks later, two other Syrians were stabbed by a mob in Ghobeiri, Beirut. In other attacks, Syrian women, according to Amnesty International, were raped, while stones, sticks and grenades were used to attack others.

Xenophobia here, xenophobia there. For how long will this evil continue? How long? Considering causal variables, it appears as if the perfidious phenomenon will continue, and perhaps exacerbate in the emerging universal economic, social and political atmosphere in the years ahead if not curbed today.

Apart from crime, the decline in the economic fortune of many third world and some countries in Western Europe, which has necessitated restructuring and privatization, has been identified as one of the underlying factors responsible for the increase in the general escalation in cases of xenophobia.

Obviously, in times of economic and invariably social decline, immigrants become the first and easiest targets for resentments, as was the case in Nigeria. Between 1978 and 1981, Nigeria witnessed a huge influx of migrants from neighbouring and other third world countries like Ghana and India. The influx of aliens into Nigeria began in the early days of the oil boom, and

progressed as the political, social and economic problems of her neighbours became increasingly acute. Especially caught in the nightmare at the time were Cameroon, Chad, Ghana and Niger Republics.

Chad was at the time, after the overthrow of presidents Tambalbaye and Felix Malloum respectively, a country torn apart by civil strife. With eleven armed factions warring against themselves, Chadian nationals increasingly fled to other countries mainly Nigeria. The drought stricken Niger Republic was not very accommodating either to its citizens. Thus, with surplus petronaira then, Nigeria received her neighbours, both legal and illegal immigrants, with open hands. Unfortunately as the economic fortune of the nation began to nose dive, social decay also rapidly set in. As an immediate reaction to the situation, the then Minister of Internal Affairs Alhaji Ali Baba ordered the comprehensive expulsion of two million so-called illegal immigrants out of Nigeria.


The situation noted with regards to Nigeria is similar to the pattern elsewhere. Weak immigration procedures combine well with weak border control to attract aliens to countries with vibrant economies. When things begin to go awry: political uncertainty, social decay, economic down turn, geometrical progression in crime rates, employment crises and capital flight, aliens become targets of attack. This combination of factors blend with the pathological, psychological and cultural nature of certain elements that target perceived enemies of the indigenous social order. But racial bigotry, chauvinism, and extremism propelled by inherent traits of superiority assumption and unwillingness to endure the religious expressions of others are among the major factors responsible for xenophobic attacks.

It is not totally an unfounded fear for citizens to express their concern about the erosion of their socio-cultural and other core values upon infiltration by aliens. Nonetheless, xenophobic attacks

must be condemned in no uncertain terms. The development is dangerous and could spread. No one can imagine the international dimension it could assume if left unchecked. Standing up against hate crime should therefore, be an imperative. The situation calls for renewed national and international checks, control and prevention; utilizing appropriate legal instruments. At any rate, what is by far more important is the creation of awareness to conscientise people against hate crimes.

In rising up against xenophobia, one point that must be uppermost in our minds is the moral question associated therewith. The truth is that all human kinds are related somewhat. Our pigmentation is immaterial. It does not matter if we are Jews, Christians, Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Druse, Persian or Jews. It does not matter if we are Africans, Indians, English or Dutch; black, white, a mixture of both or yellow. Professions and creed do not make any difference before God. How does being a Bantu, Bahumono or Fulani eradicate poverty, disease, illiteracy and crime?

In every community, there are the poor and the rich, the godly and godless. If bad people tend towards xenophobic attacks, should the good merely stand and watch from the side? Did the same God not create us? Shall we all not pass away someday? If an omniscient, omnipotent God wanted us to be of the same ethnicity, language, religion, culture and all, it was well within His ability to make us so.

Tolerance for one another is a major key to curbing xenophobic attacks. We must learn to co-habit our environments in forbearance and love. Our lives are gifts from God! Let us put them to positive use by adding value to others. The seed of true peace and joy is the love we offer others!! 

*Rekpen E. Bassey,*


*(Author of General Principles of Security)*

*President, African Council on Narcotics,*

*Jos, Plateau State.*

*Tel: 08034530504.*





# Project TINAPA: One Year After! Not Yet A Celebration

Tinapa Entertainment City (Nollywood)

*There is one thing that is stronger than all the armies in the world, and that is an idea whose time has come.*

*-Victor Hugo*

**E**very great and commanding movement in the annals of the world is the triumph of enthusiasm. Nothing great was ever achieved without it.

When Donald Duke, the former Governor of Cross River State, came with the idea of turning his state into a haven for tourism and commerce, he gave a nation that had little inspired leadership something to celebrate – The Tinapa Business Resort – in Calabar, Cross River State.

Indeed, Tinapa is the greatest development of its kind in Africa. It is destined to become one of the world's top trading and tourism destinations, rivaling Dubai Singapore, Bangkok, and Hong kong, with over 100,000m<sup>2</sup> of wholesale and retail trading emporia and shops. In 2007, it was projected that Nigeria's 145 million brand-hungry consumers will generate a GDP in excess of 90 billion US dollars, the largest untapped consumer market in Africa.

Tinapa Business Resort will eventually unleash this pent-up demand with an extensive range of trade and entertainment experiences. Visitors to Tinapa are expected to be spoilt for choice when it comes to hotels, restaurants cinemas, as well as

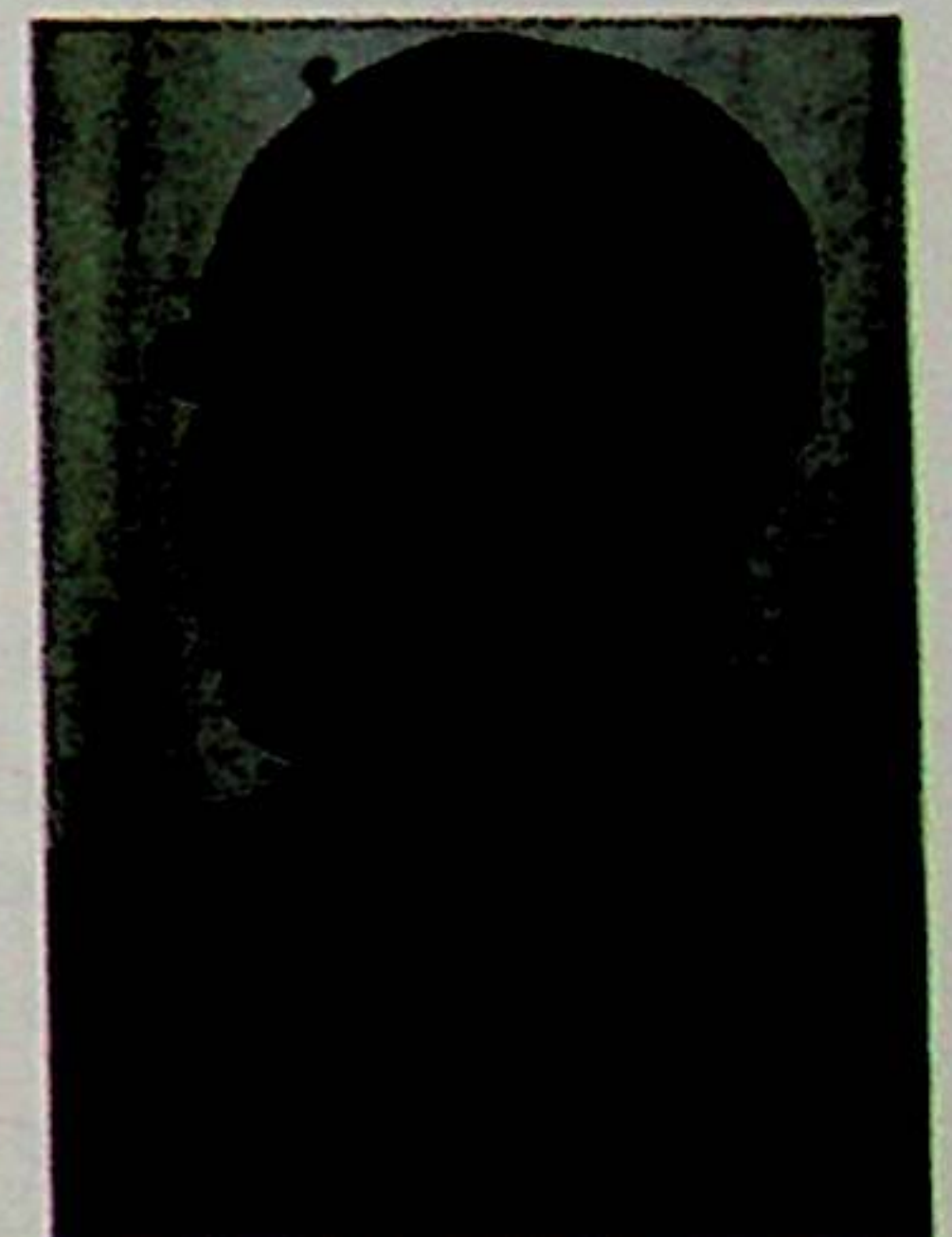
a casino, water games and leisure parks.

Sadly, the sun may begin to set on this super-oasis which is just seven hours drive from Lagos and nestled on a luxurious, tropical river frontage on the borders of Calabar barely one year after its commissioning. A worrisome development indeed.

When on Sunday April 2, 2007 history was made with the formal launch of Tinapa Business Resort in Adiabo Calabar, the occasion was turbo charged. There was excitement and celebration in the air over the fact that a dream project conceived around 2002 by Cross River State government has come alive. This wonderful project was designed "to play a catalytic role in establishing Calabar as a trade and distribution centre in Africa.

Today, one year after its official commissioning and after many investors had demonstrated manifest confidence in the venture by taking spaces in the pristine shopping malls, business is yet to roll into gear. And the reason?

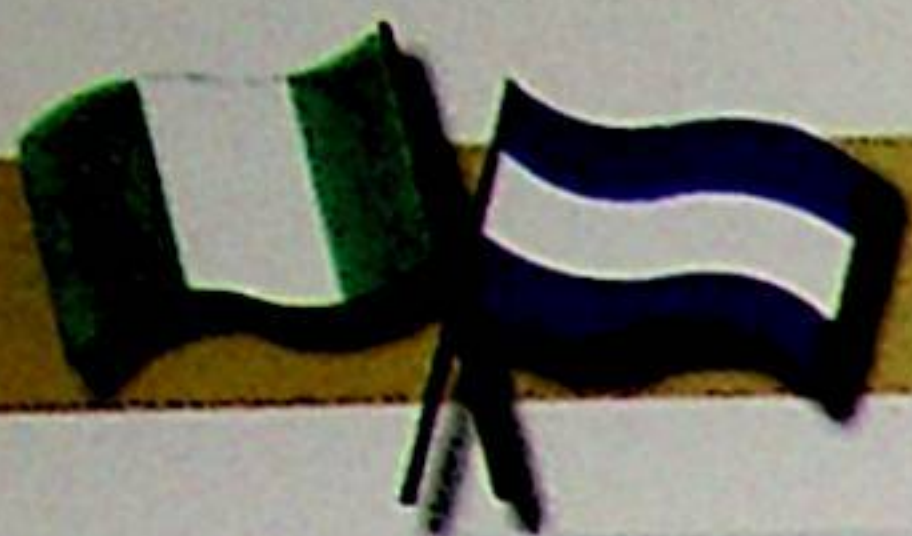
Federal Government has failed to approve the enabling legal and operational framework that would kick start Tinapa as a free-trade zone. It was reported that the final document on



Paul Eko

*"...while we play our Nigerian geopolitical engineering games and allow personal interest becloud the vision of Tinapa, the Dubai government is moving forcefully..."*





Tinapa, Line Shops

the procedures and guidelines for the take off of Tinapa was only packaged last October after a series of meetings with NEPZA, Federal Ministry of Finance, Commerce, FIRS, Customs and Immigration and Ports Authority and sent to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) for approval and gazetting. This development took place 6 months after the complex ought to have come on stream. It will seem up till the time of writing this piece, no word has been heard on the guidelines 6 months after the harmonized document was sent to the Federal Executive Council enroute the National Assembly for Ratification, where necessary, before official gazetting. It beats one's imagination to even contemplate this ugly development. This is because the single most important factor which was to ensure that Tinapa became a reality was the former President's enthusiastic and unambiguous endorsement, which he followed through with concrete action in unleashing the Federal government's might in support of the project. Because of President Obasanjo's conviction, he

authorized the granting of sovereign guarantees to support the project to the turn of N20 Billion – an initiative that motivated the private sector to commit support for Tinapa.

The involvement of the private sector in Tinapa was championed by Mr. Tony Elumelu the GMD of UBA Plc. His bank provided the seed capital of N5 Billion which jump – started the construction process. About 13 other Nigerian banks are partners in Tinapa. This singular, bold action, opened the doors for what is today one of the most visible public private partnerships on the African continent. Now what went wrong?

Enquires revealed that no sooner than the shop owners moved into the resort that Customs operatives moved in not necessarily to protect the place but to prevent business from flourishing. The Nigerian Customs Service forced them to close shop because the tax breaks promised investors cannot be implemented. In other words, the guidelines for the effective operation of the Resort as a Free Trade Zone alongside the Calabar Free

Trade Zone have not been finalized by the Federal Government.

Indeed, this is a classical example of the agonizing level of lethargy among policy makers that such a viable investment can be allowed to rot simply because of the high degree of insensitivity within government circles. Unfortunately the attitude within these circles is not geared towards meeting the challenges of improving the economic environment and by extension the citizenry but essentially anti-investment and anti-people.

Infact, the situation is even more pathetic when viewed against the backdrop of statistics from the management of the resort that Nigeria may be losing more than N219 billion annually to Dubai due to the failure of the Federal Government to approve the procedure and guidelines for the take off of the Tinapa project. The question to really ask is, who is the greatest benefactor of this project. The answer is already found within the question itself, namely, the Federal government. Secondly, what kind of prudent economic wisdom is at play here in "shooting





yourself in the foot? Where is the Higher Economic principle that requires a little science of discretion on the part of the Customs' Service?

Yes, the law says "this" and "that" item is legally importable and the other prohibited. Then the law says certain goods are not prohibited from entering Tinapa but are prohibited from entering into the Nigerian market. The law says Documentation for the process of

importation must take 2 weeks from proforma invoicing stage, through Form M, Risk assessment clearing etc. The reaction from certain quarters of the Custom Service claim that "Tinapa is only a trading complex and therefore the operators do not merit a "Tax Holiday" because the traders are already Big names in their chosen areas of expertise. How cute!

Customs also raised the issue of law

regarding the "Free trade" status of Tinapa and claim that NEPZA laws especially Article 14 of the NEPZA act is at conflict with their laws. Of course, the

point here is that the grey areas and minor irritants within certain clauses of the law are responsible for the delay in fine-tuning the "Operational guidelines" before it is presented to the Federal Executive Council. Ironically, while the two elephants are fighting themselves for very selfish reasons, it is the ground (Tinapa) that is suffering. Customs are hiding under some regulations to frustrate the process while the Federal Government is losing billions of Naira daily. A new definition of frugality in fiscal administration to whose detriment?

Perhaps, the flip-side of this whole drama is the fear in certain quarters that the sophisticated electronic payment system installed within Tinapa may expose the high level

of corruption within the Custom Service. The Biometric payment equipment is linked to finger prints of individual traders. The fixing of duty, variations and payment of duty will no longer be arbitrary. Consequently the Customs unit in Tinapa will be forced to raise more revenue for the Federal Government than any other Port in the Country. The Federal Government guaranteed a N20 Billion bond to Tinapa and gave it a Free Trade Zone status. Today the Federal Government is changing its mind and has intentions of withdrawing these concessions it granted. Where is the Federal Government expecting Tinapa/ Cross River State Government to get the money from?

This is a very puzzling development. Of course the only explanation is that there are certain forces within the government circles that are trying to kill the brand called Tinapa at all cost not minding the implications.

Nigerians are the biggest consumer of imported goods. These goods are mostly conveyed by air through cargo – plans after an average Dubai shopping spree. Most of these goods are prohibited from entering Nigeria by the laws on importation. Surprisingly the same Customs exhibit a high level of the science of discretion and "good understanding" and the said goods find their way into our markets and it is okay as long as the traders or shoppers play by the unwritten rules of the Custom service.

This explains the high traffic of Nigerians going to Dubai daily for shopping and trading. According to statistics made available by the M.D of Tinapa, Mr. Bassey Ndem, Dubai government receives 500 Nigerians daily who spend up to \$5 million daily translating to \$1.825 million yearly.

He reasoned that "were Tinapa sited in other climes where the government understands the urgency, the right thing to do would have been to give a tacit approval for the commencement of Business activities first and then tidying up the guidelines later. But closing down the business under the guise of guidelines is tantamount to lack of appreciation of the economic and social influences of the project. Naturally the loss of Tinapa is the gain of Dubai.

Instructively, we are all Nigerians and

## Are You In Distress? Involved In An Accident? Or Have A Critically Ill Patient At Home?



### Please Call The Following Emergency Service Numbers For Improved Health Services In Cross River State

RANCH CLINIC	08068627182
OGOJA	08022347270 08059112866
OBANLIKU	08060769778
OBUBRA	08051694418
YAHE	08056120080
UGEP	08068627183
ITIGIDI	08056131522 08068538075
AKPET	08068627181
AKAMKPA	08068627199
CALABAR MUN.	08051694393
CALABAR SOUTH	08030945859
AKPABUYO	08034504220
BAKASSI	08030945859





genuine stakeholders in the Tinapa project. If the Bureaucratic apparatus of government is the vehicle used for killing this dream then who will wipe this blood off us. What Festival of atonement? Cross River State stands the risk of losing N300 billion annually which is the projected revenue from the resort.

Laws are made for man and not man for the law. The Federal Ministry of Finance which is an integral part of the Federal Government must wake up to its responsibility.

A wise man! George Santayana once said "The Difficult is that which can be done immediately; the impossible that which takes a little longer". Recently in February, 2008 a one time Controller General of Customs Mr. Jacob Gyang Buba was in Calabar and spoke to a few Journalists. According to him. Customs do not formulate fiscal policies but only implement. There are laws guiding the operations of Customs and it is the position of Customs to ensure that Tinapa and other economic developments survive because it is the desire of government to create level playing ground for all to survive. If you allow these things to come in freely, local production is killed", he said. Quite understandable! The Saudi - Arabian government supervises Dubai and provided an enabling environment for trading and today Dubai is set to conquer Africa and yet the local production is not yet killed.

While our policy makers are still Pickering over guidelines, 1 year after, the Dubai government, realizing that a sizeable portion of their revenue would be affected by the successful take-off of Tinapa has decided to invest \$800 million (short term) and \$30 billion (long term) on developing a tax and duty free leisure and business resort in Dakar and Ghana respectively. Indeed Dubai has concluded arrangements to take over and rebuild the Ghanaian Free Trade Zone. "What is the implication of this development? In plain terms the two projects are a direct economic threat to Tinapa, Cross River State and the Federal Government which is the single greatest beneficiary of Tinapa. It would lose Custom duties, taxes, fees and tariffs for shipping lines, airlines, licences and other sources of Revenue.

Indeed, according to Mr. Ndem, "while we play our Nigerian geopolitical

engineering games and allow personal interest becloud the vision of Tinapa, the Dubai government is moving forcefully to provide good roads, education, health, housing amongst others to its citizens, directly or indirectly Senegalese and Ghanaian governments using Nigerian resources in addition to its own. Yet the Federal Government keeps claiming that it has provided enabling environment for the private sector to thrive. A paradox!

The federal government had long granted Calabar a "Free Port" status. NPA has continued to collect port charges but with a rebate of 30% and yet it is called a "Free Port". Recently the port has been concessioned to private operators who must maximize profit. The bills, even if they offer a rebate of equal percentage to the then NPA, puts user total terminal cost higher than NPA without a free port status and facility.

At this critical stage of Tinapa, perhaps the question, we the stakeholders must address is what do we exactly want in terms of statistical display. The issue of a level playing ground for Tinapa and other ports is out of question here. What therefore do we require to specifically ask for which others are not likely to ask and which can be sustained as a vehicle to effectively reduce the cost of doing business in Calabar port and Tinapa Resort when compared with other ports in the country. Candidly our unique request tailored towards our needs should likely include the following:

- a) Port terminal charges should be negligible when compared to the cost of importation
- b) Custom duties must be rebated
- c) Federal Government should remove unfavourable investment climate
- d) Custom official posted to zones/ Resort must be specially trained and molded to appreciate the ideals of Free Trade Zones
- e) A "tax holiday" of about 24 months be granted to enable Tinapa take off.
- f) The approving authority of the Customs should be decentralized
- g) Freight charges should be rebated
- h) Request like Federal government to relax certain fiscal policies like pre-release facility restricted to Calabar alone.

Our amiable Governor, Senator Liyel

Imoke has also made appeals to the Federal Government to remove regulatory bottle necks affecting the project.

Speaking at the launch of the DFID/ World Bank investment climate programme in Calabar, Imoke said "the regulatory framework of the federal government was stalling the take off of Tinapa and called on state investment partners to assist Tinapa accordingly.

The evidence of this article suggest that rapid and politically sustainable progress at Tinapa must be achieved by pursuing a strategy that has equally important elements. Yes! There is no short cut to change the law but the process can be expedited.

Secondly the state government should show more commitment towards this project by organizing a monthly review of efforts and strategies toward realizing the take-off of Tinapa.

Thirdly, perhaps the state government and the management of Tinapa should explore the possibility of providing a moratorium facility within Tinapa to attract people and create a beehive of activities that will draw the needed mass of audience to the place.

In line with this thinking, the 1<sup>st</sup> Tinapa Trade Expo that took place from May 29<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 provided the required platform to network and reach out to investors. The international soccer event being organized by Tinapa is another point in this regard.

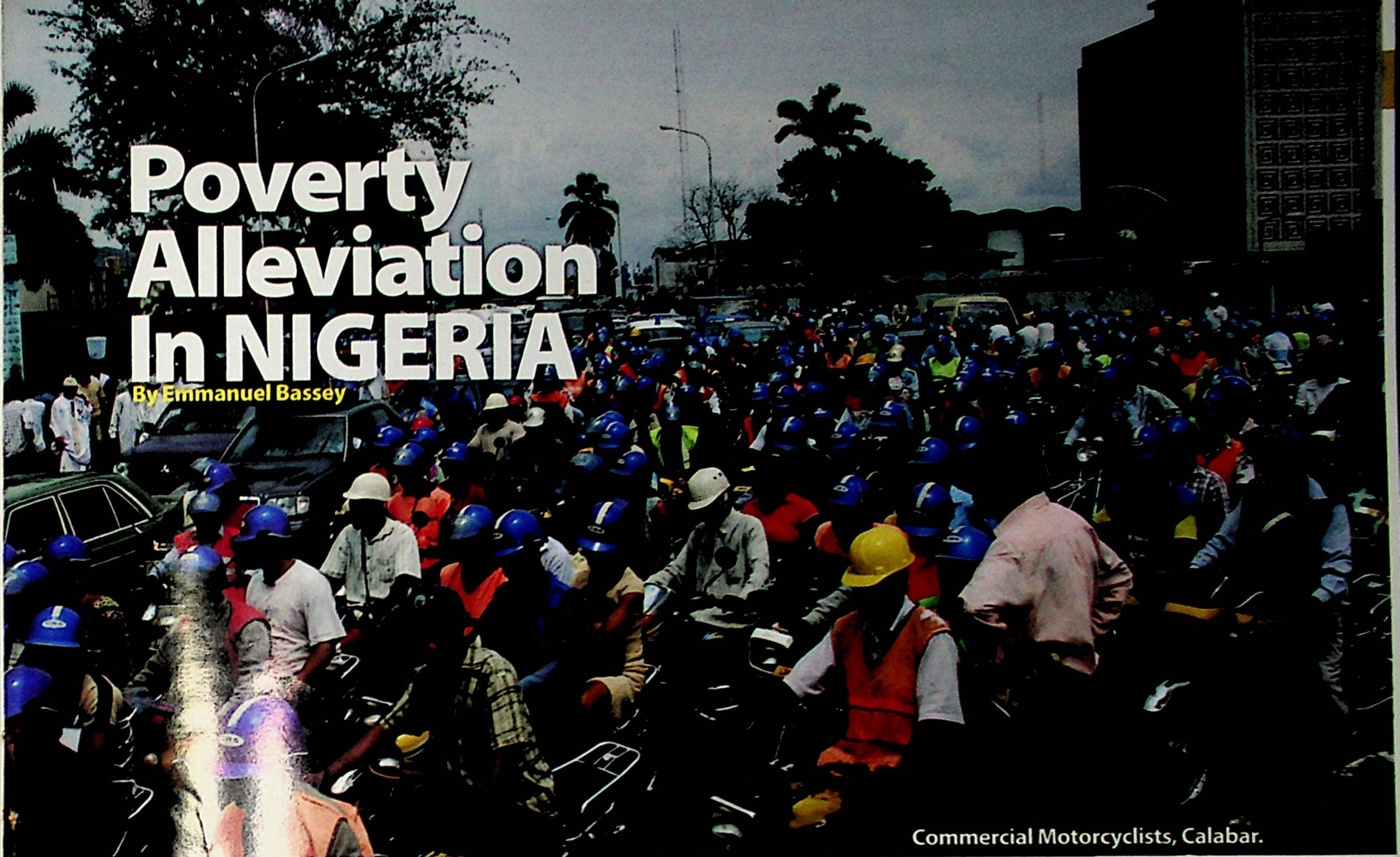
Methinks, it is envisaged that as a requisite demand of the urgency which is the take-off of Tinapa Business Resort, Senators of Cross River State extraction, and specifically Senator Bassey Ewa Henshaw which Tinapa falls under his primary constituency should mobilize his distinguished colleagues and move a motion of urgent economic and public importance, concerning Tinapa of which the federal government should address the immediate relaxation of the laws staving its take-off and move for the approval of the necessary guidelines and procedures that will enable Tinapa to become effective because the armies of the world cannot stop an idea whose time has come and interestingly too, the time for the operation of the Tinapa Resort is now!

Paul Eko is a Commentator on Public Affairs



# Poverty Alleviation In NIGERIA

By Emmanuel Bassey



Commercial Motorcyclists, Calabar.

## WHAT IS POVERTY?

**P**overty is about the greatest problem faced by countries all over the world particularly the developing ones. Poverty can be defined as the inability to attain a minimum standard of living. According to the guidelines of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for economic Cooperation and Development on poverty reduction, poverty is defined as “the lack of economic, (income, livelihood, decent work); human, (health, education); political, (empowerment, rights, voice); socio-cultural, (status, dignity); and protection (insecurity, risk, vulnerability capabilities). This means that poverty is not viewed from the economic perspective alone and any nation that wishes to alleviate it should do so by tackling the different in-capabilities mentioned.

Indeed, poverty eradication is regarded as the most important goal of human development. It is now widely believed that at its core, development must be about improvement of human well being, removal of hunger, disease and productive employment for all. A nation's first goal must be to end poverty and satisfy the priority needs of all its citizens in a way that will not compromise the ability of future generations to attain the same objectives.

## THE POVERTY SITUATION IN NIGERIA

Scholars have described the poverty situation in Nigeria as dismal and incredible. Professor Siyanbola Tomori and his team, in their 2005 study titled, “Protecting the poor from macroeconomic shocks in

Nigeria”, said, “The Nigerian situation is a paradox. It is a rich country inhabited by poor people in the midst of plenty. The country is richly endowed with a diversity of human and natural resources from which the bulk of its wealth derives. The immense waste of human resources in Nigeria due to poverty can be partly attributed to the unhealthy state of the Nigerian economy. This unhealthy poverty situation in Nigeria is also due to the low rate of growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), in the face of an annual population growth rate of 2.8 percent. According to the Central Bank of Nigeria annual report for 2005, the growth rate of the real GDP dropped from 4 percent in 2001 to 4.6 percent in 2002, but it rose to 9.6 percent in 2003; dropped to 6.6 percent in 2004 and further dipped to 6.2 percent in 2005. This growth rate pattern definitely cannot cater for a constantly growing population.

## POVERTY HISTORY OF NIGERIA

A look at the poverty history of Nigeria reveals that the poverty situation grew worse gradually from independence. Former President Olusegun Obasanjo, in a speech, delivered by then Minister of Works, Chief Cornelius Adebayo, at an occasion to mark the International Day of Poverty, said, “statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics indicate that in 1960, poverty affected 15 percent of our population. By 1980, it had grown to 28.1 percent, by 1985 it was 46.3 percent and by 1996 it was 65.6 percent. However, there was decrease in poverty level between 1985 and 1992”. This translated to

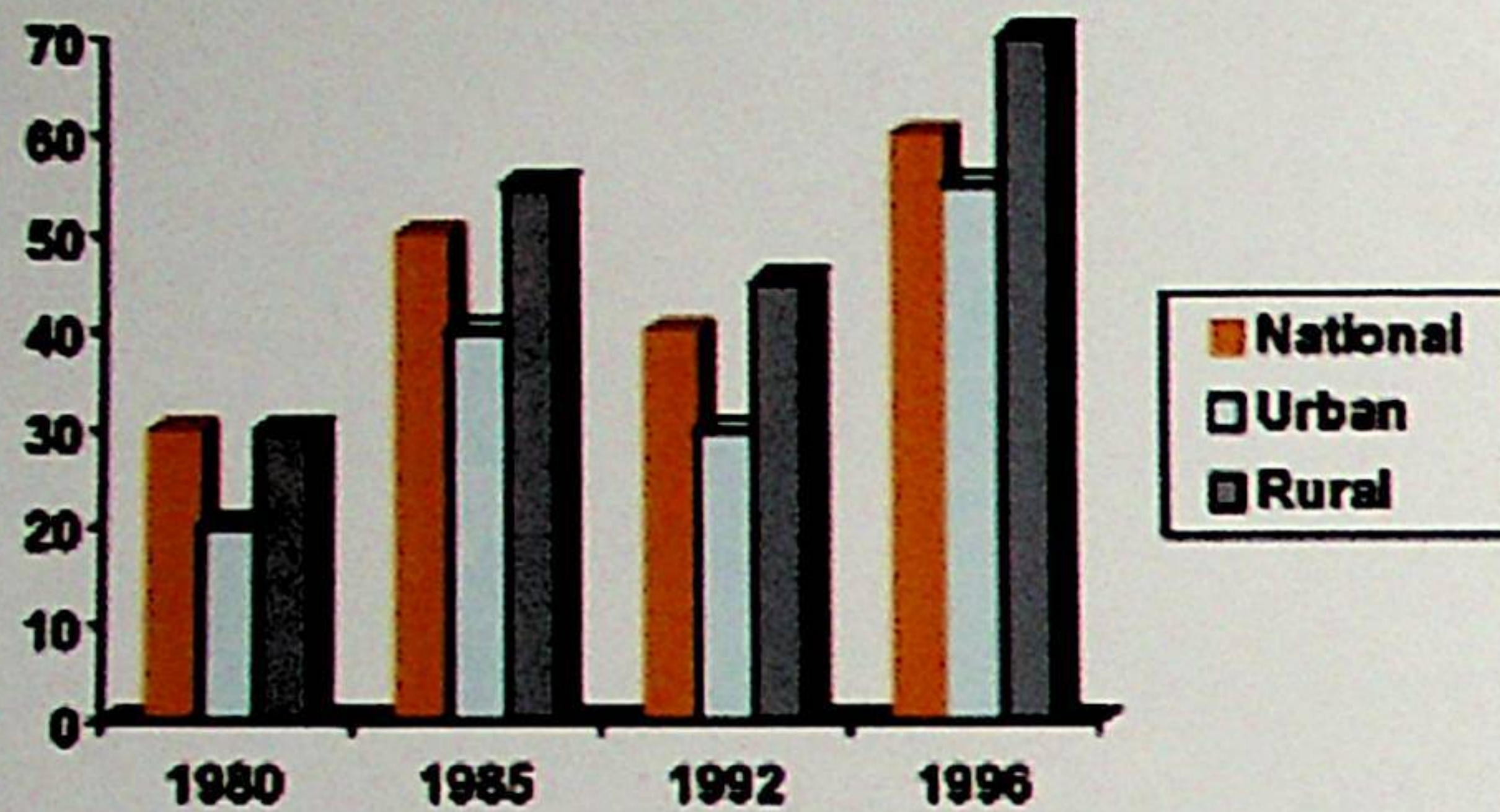


17.7 million poor people in 1980 and 34.7 million poor people in 1985. Despite the drop in poverty level in 1992, the population in poverty was about 5 million higher than the 1985 figure. By 1996, the population in poverty had increased sharply to 67.1 million.

**RURAL POVERTY**

Poverty is more pronounced in rural areas compared to urban areas as illustrated in figure 1 below

Figure 1. Poverty trends National, Rural & Urban (1980-1996)



Source: Poverty Profile for Nigeria 1980 – 1996 Federal Office of statistics (FOS)

Rural Poverty, which increased by 22 percentage points over the period 1980-1985 decreased slightly during the period 1985 – 1992 but soared in the following four year period 1992 – 1996. In 1980, the proportion of poor people in rural areas was 29.3 percent, it rose to 51.4 percent in 1985 and fell to 46.1 in 1992. However, by 1996, the rural population in poverty had increased to 69.8 percent. In urban areas, poverty rose between 1980 and 1985, remained at about the same level between 1985 and 1992 and rose again between 1992 and 1996. The proportion of poor people rose from 17.6 percent in 1980 to 37.8 percent in 1985, 37.5 percent in 1992 and 55.2 percent in 1996. These figures indicate that the gains of the economic measures of 1980 to 1992 went more to the rural people than to the urban populace. A survey carried out by the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER) and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), confirms that rural areas gained more during the early period of the Structural Adjustment Programme, (SAP) although there was an increase in poverty after this period. On the whole, between 1980 – 1996, rural poverty was higher than urban poverty.

**PERVASIVE POVERTY IN NIGERIA**

Poverty in Nigeria is also known to be deep and pervasive. Depth of poverty can be interpreted to mean how much below the poverty line is the average poor person. Severity on the other hand can be seen as the spread of the poor around that level of the average poor? The period 1980-1985 witnessed a sharp increase in both the depth and severity of poverty. In the subsequent period, 1985-1992, the two poverty indicators remained at those high levels.

Further, urban figures were below the rural figures, indicating the more serious position of rural dwellers. But by 1996, the gap in the figure had almost disappeared, pointing to an emerging urban crisis.

Figure 2: Population and Poverty Incidence Trends in Nigeria

Year	Estimated Total	Poverty Incident (%)	Population In Poverty
1980	65	28.1	17.7
1985	75	46.3	34.7
1992	91.5	42.7	39.2
1996	102.3	65.6	67.1
2001	125	70.0	87.5
2003	132	70.0	92.4

Source: Draft National Policy on Poverty (2000) FOS Poverty Profile for Nigeria (1980-1996) and Federal Government of Nigeria Needs document of the National Planning Commission.

**INCOME INEQUALITY**

Another dimension of the poverty situation is the worsening state of income inequality in the country. For instance, in 1992/93 the expenditure share of the poorest 20 percent of the population was 4 percent compared to 49 percent expenditure share of the richest 20 percent. By 1996/1997 the share of the poorest 20 percent of the population was only 4.4 percent while that of the richest 20 percent climbed to about 56 percent indicating increasing inequality in the country.

**FOOD POVERTY IN NIGERIA**

The poverty situation in Nigeria is precarious not only in terms of income but also in terms of food poverty. In 1990, the proportion of underweight children (under five years of age) stood at 35.7 percent but declined to 28.3 percent in 1993. In 1999, however, it rose to 30.7 percent. The problem appears to be more serious in the rural than urban areas.

The proportion declined from 26.3 percent in 1990 to 21.7 percent in 1999 in the case of urban residents, whereas for the rural residents it declined from 38.5 percent to 34.1 percent.

The overall as well as the urban and rural figures are still far from the 2015 target figures which are estimated at 17.8 percent, 13.2 percent and 19.3 percent respectively. With regard to the proportion of population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption, data is available for three sub-periods between 1990 and 2000. About 13 percent of the population was under nourished between 1990-1992. The percentage dropped to 8 and 7 percent 1996-1998 and 1998 -2000 respectively. If the target to halve the percentage in 2015 is to be met, approximately 6.5 percent of the estimated population of 178.5 million will be undernourished in 2015.

The Central Bank of Nigeria, in its 2005 annual report,





quoting available data on the Nigerian living standard survey conducted in 2003/2004, said the incidence of poverty declined from 70 percent in 2000 to 54.4 percent. It was the same for 2005. However, there are arguments over the credibility of these figures as some scholars have said the incidence is still 70 percent.

#### MAJOR CHALLENGES OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN NIGERIA

The challenges confronting the pursuit of poverty alleviation in the country are manifold in view of the multidimensional causes of poverty. Poverty in Nigeria is caused by social, economic, political, cultural and environmental factors including:

- poor access to employment opportunities
- inadequate physical assets, such as land and capital, and mineral access by the poor (especially women to credit even on a small scale);
- poor access to markets where the poor can sell goods and services.
- Low endowment of human capital;
- Destruction of natural resources leading to environmental degradation and reduced productivity.
- Poor access to assistance for those living at their margin and those victimized by disasters; and
- Lack of participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of development Programmes.

#### POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA: A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

The federal Government of Nigeria under the Obasanjo led administration made concerted efforts at alleviating the kankaworm, called Poverty through its National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP). A number of skills acquisition programmes and employment generating activities have been carried out under this initiative. For instance, about 200,000 people were employed under the programmes in the year 2000. The various schemes under NAPEP including the Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES) are aimed at empowering the youths economically. This was done through the Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP), Mandatory Attachment (MAP), and Credit Delivery Programme (CDP). NAPEP also includes the Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RIDS) which carries out rural electrification, rural water development and supply, rural transportation development programmes and rural communications development. The Social Welfare Services Scheme (SOWESS) includes programmes on qualitative education, primary health care, farmer's empowerment and provision of social services. Finally, the Natural Resources Development and Conservation Scheme contains programmes for environmental protection as well as development of agriculture, solid minerals and water resources. With

regards to institutions, the Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB) provided both micro and macro credit facilities for agriculture and micro credit for non-agricultural projects in the ratio of 70 percent micro credit and 30 percent macro credit of all loanable funds.

It should be noted that there are a lot of NGOs working to alleviate poverty in the country. However, most of the activities of such NGOs and CBOs are tailored towards provision of micro-credit schemes.

The National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) pioneered in 2003, has poverty reduction at its core. The four key strategies under NEEDS include reorienting values, reducing poverty, creating wealth and generating employment. This would be done through creating an environment where business can thrive, government redirected to providing basic services, and people are empowered to take advantage of new livelihood opportunities. Interventions and policies directed at poverty reduction will benefit all segments of the Nigerian society especially women and other value groups. The promotion of rural development has been given utmost priority with the emphasis being agricultural and agro-industrial development. The main strategies include technology generation and natural resources management, infrastructure (physical and social) development, rural non-farm activities development and human capital development. On the issue of agroindustrial development to reduce rural poverty, partnership between the public and private sectors is being pursued. According to the CBN, the National Poverty Eradication Programme disbursed a total of N500 million to some states under the revolving credit fund. The report said "A total of 120,000 people benefited from the disbursement to enable them set up small scale enterprises. About N240 million was disbursed to 7,200 farm families under NAPEP's farmer's empowerment programme. Under the second phase of the programme, 2000 units of three wheeled vehicles called 'Keke NAPEP', were distributed to youths and they were sold at 50 percent discount on an owner-operated basis". This, together with the Small and Medium Enterprises Equity Investment Scheme, which led to appropriation of N41.4 billion being set aside by banks, by the end of 2005, for real sector development, are some of the commendable efforts of the last administration at alleviating poverty.

#### THE FALLACY OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN NIGERIA

Despite all the programmes embarked upon by the Federal Government and the record disbursement of funds, Nigeria is still neck-deep in poverty. Many people have attributed the poor state of the Nigerian economy in the midst of plenty to poor governance, executive corruption, poor coordination and implementation of policies among





others, that would have been beneficial to the populace. Others have agreed that there are important issues that need to be addressed.

Robert Stephens of Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, in his study on economic growth, taxation and poverty, said that "in the process of economic development within developed countries, economic growth is not sufficient to reduce poverty for groups marginalized from society, as rural people in Nigeria are. What is required is an institutional framework and social structure, which will redistribute the benefits of growth to all in the society". He gave the example of Germany, which had altered its welfare state in the post war period to incorporate the categories of people who did not benefit from economic growth. The result of this, he said, was that "wage rates became high and labour market inflexible, such that unemployment was around 10 percent, but redistributive policies have reduced the poverty rate to 4 percent.

Therefore, for government to achieve considerable poverty reduction in Nigeria, it should address the challenges confronting poverty alleviation measures earlier identified and then focus on ways of redistributing growth benefits to every citizen and place more emphasis on effective implementation of policies. There should also be an improvement in agricultural productivity through various means that could link agriculture to other sectors of the economy as contained in the NEEDS/SEEDS and LEEDS documents to ensure real growth capable of effectively reducing poverty.

## CONCLUSION

Apart from the Military, the other serious threat to Nigeria's fragile democracy is poverty. Several societal ills are traceable to this scourge which is a strong evidence of neglect and testimony of the inability of the governments of Nigeria to address the developmental needs of the people of this well endowed country.

Despite all the programmes put in place by several government to reduce poverty, it is still visible in the lives of more than half of the population of Nigeria. Until the government of Nigeria fully appreciate poverty as a serious social and national security problem which is second to none, of all the factors that work to sustain our continued existence, lasting peace and national security would continue to elude us. If fully developed nations with more wealth and resources still find it crucial to implement expensive social security programmes covering housing, transportation, health, basic living costs, employment generation, etc, then Nigeria, a less developed country with higher poverty level has no excuse for paying lip

service to the war against poverty.

So far, none of the poverty alleviation programmes of the government has made any appreciable impact on the lives of Nigerians. If people can be transferred from poverty to productivity at a rate faster than the rate of generation of a new below poverty population, then we shall have reduced poverty, and would have advanced the stage of poverty control and management.

The benefits of implementing sound poverty alleviation programmes are enormous – higher employment and broadened tax base, higher average standard of living; longer life expectancy; higher motivation to eschew fraud and crimes; higher spirit of nationalism and citizen loyalty to nationhood, return of social and cultural values that have been wiped out by poverty. All these benefits, unfortunately, are still a far cry away.

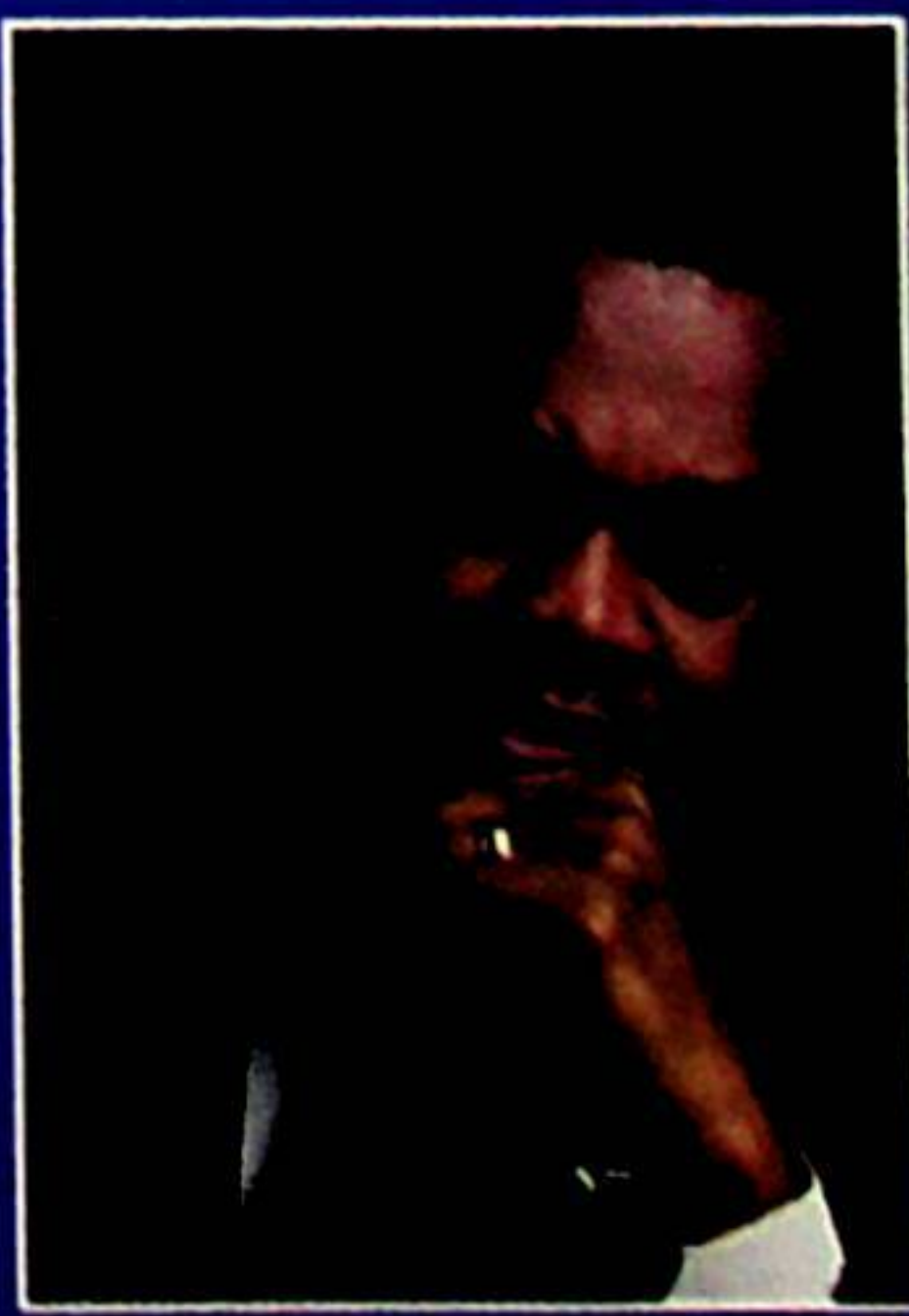
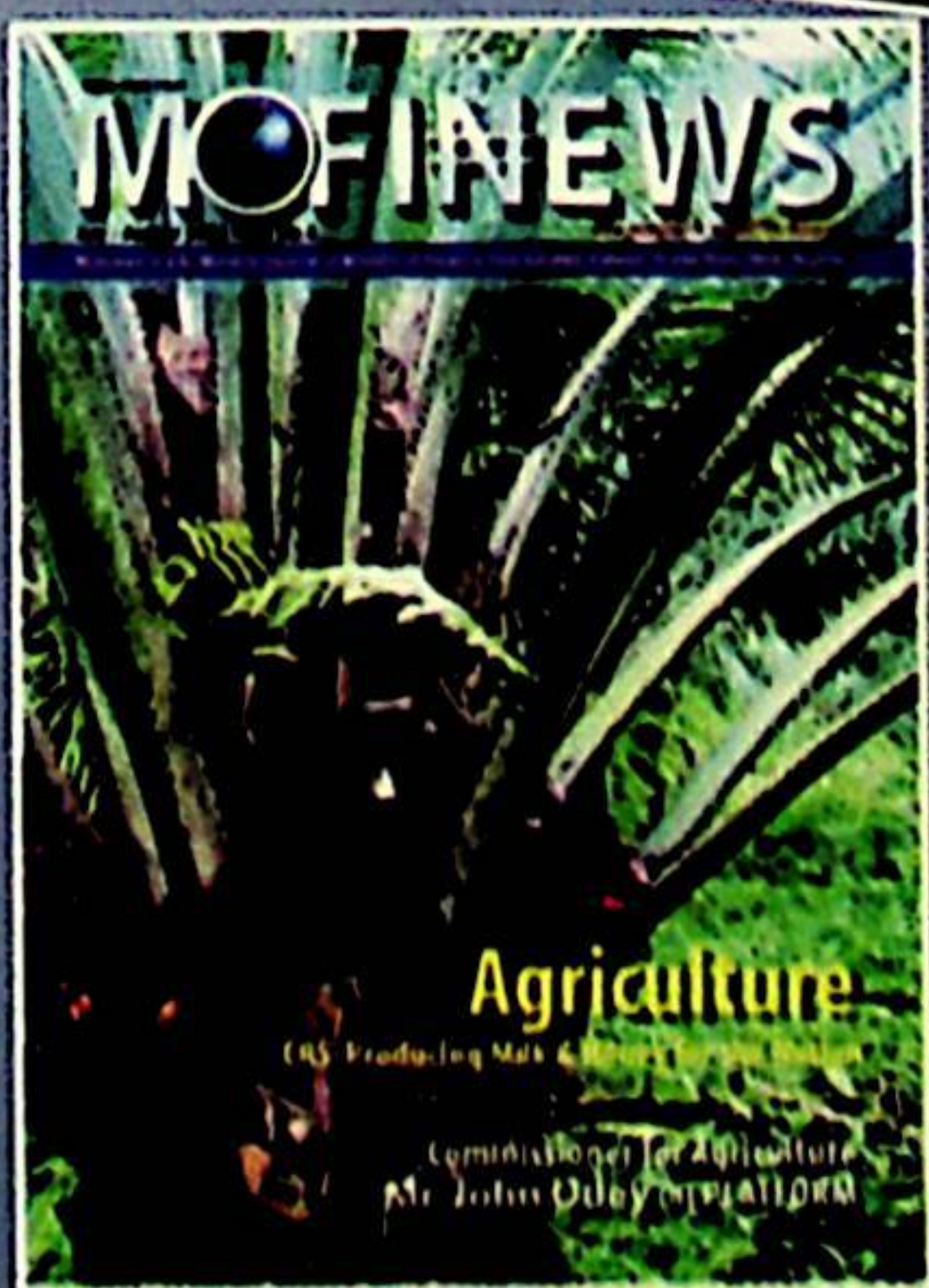
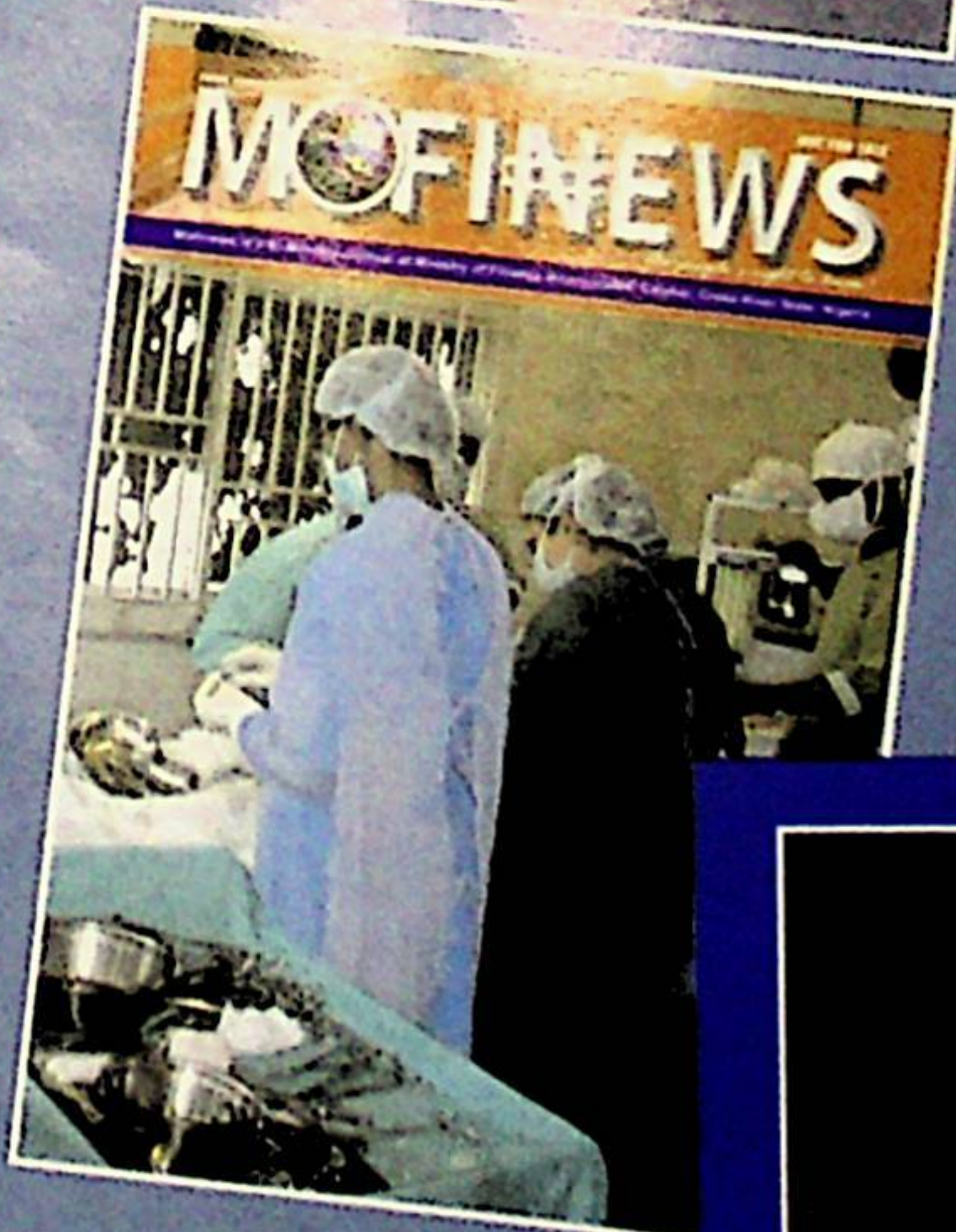
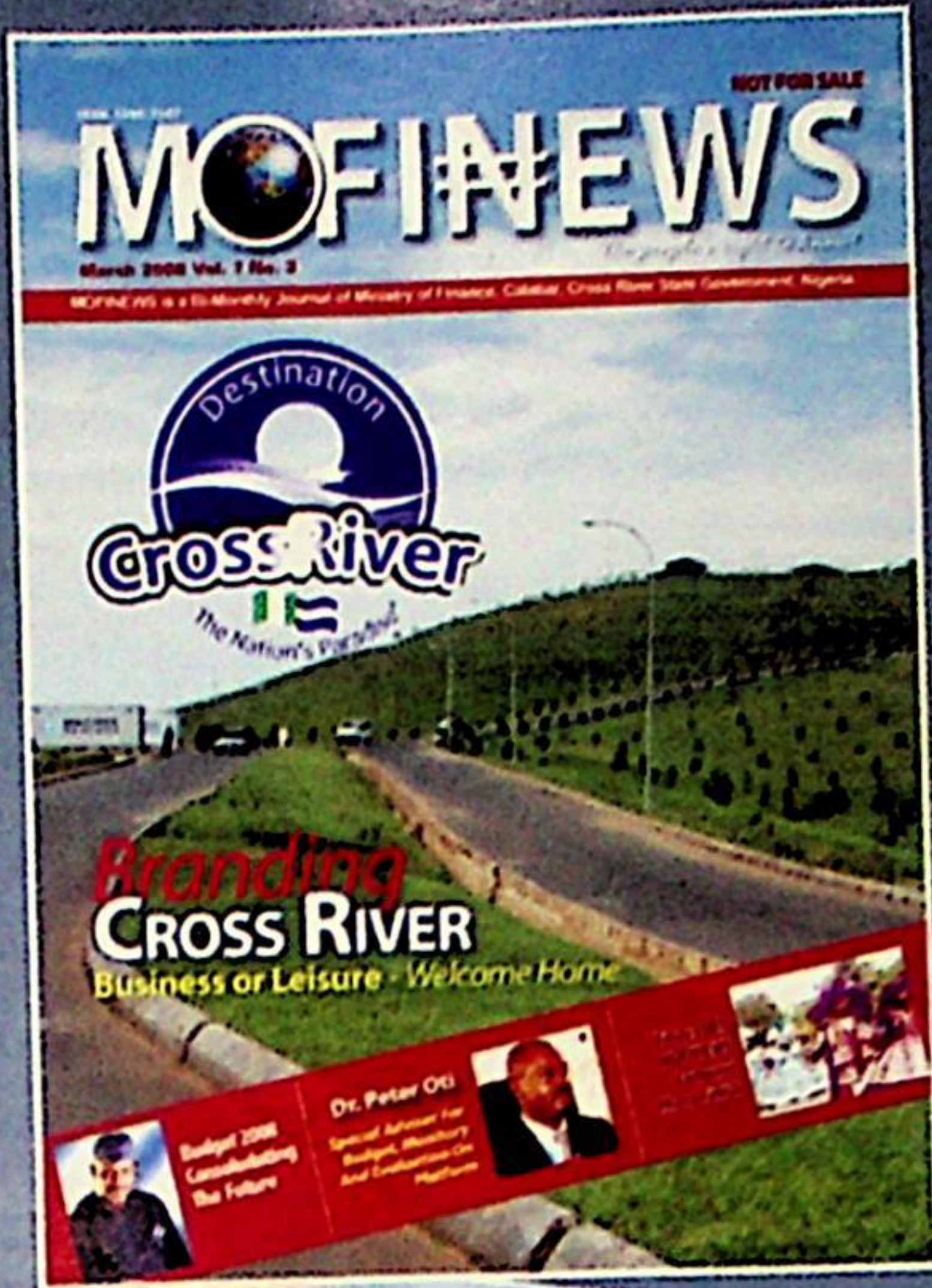
Sincerity on the part of policy makers in the area of effective implementation of poverty alleviation policies and programmes is another major problem in Nigeria.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets and indicators relating to poverty reduction are quite relevant in the case of Nigeria. While poverty is ravaging the economy at a terrific speed, programmes aimed at curbing the menace are moving rather slowly. Unless poverty reduction efforts are intensified with greater commitment, transparency and determination both at the national, state and local levels, it is unlikely that this MDG target will be met.

For now the poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria are implemented like a child's play, only creating avenues through which corrupt government officials loot the Nation's treasury. And to that extent, poverty alleviation in Nigeria remains a fallacy. 🙄

*Emmanuel E. Bassey*  
Development Consultant  
0803-762-5910





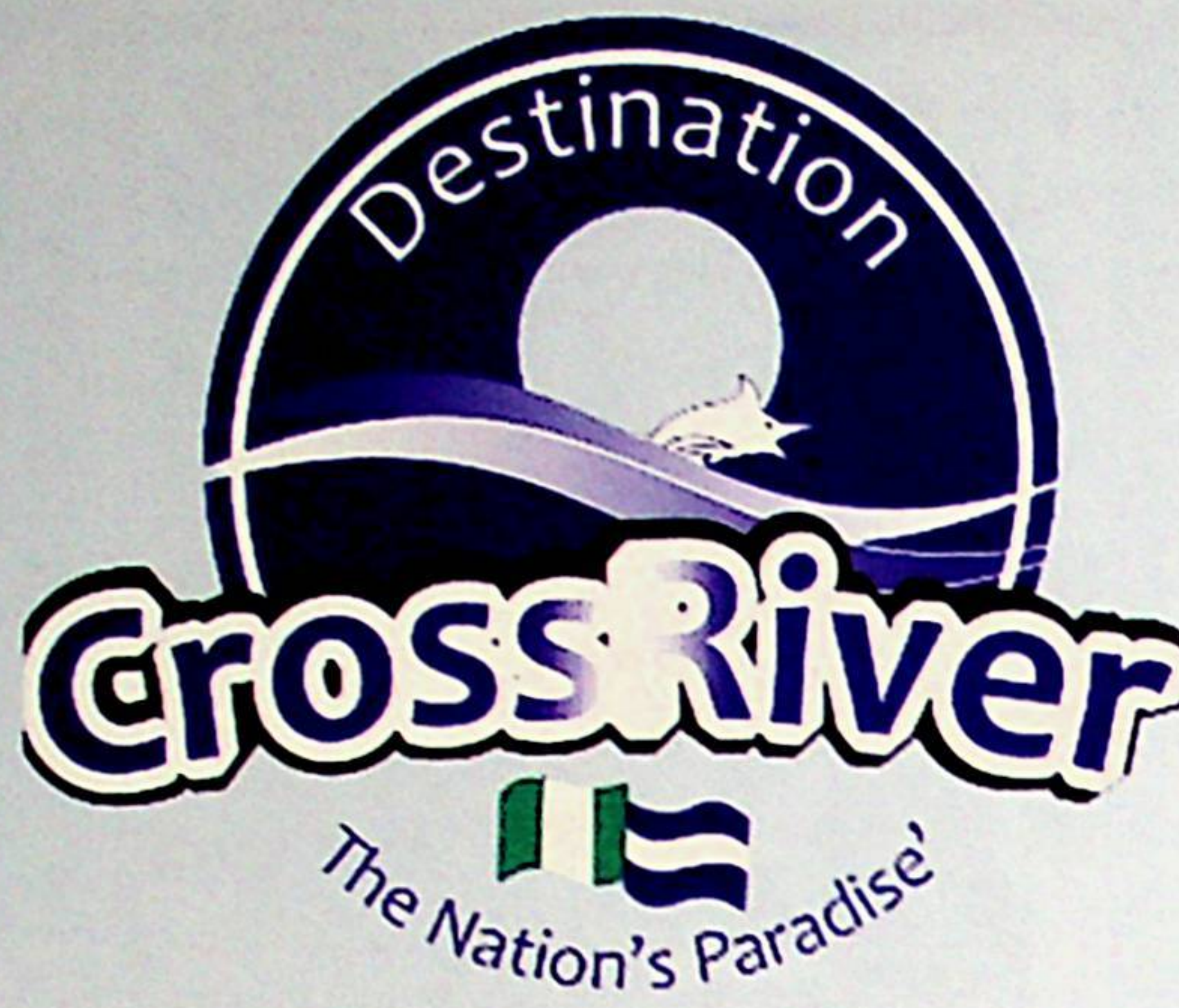
*"...MOFINEWS is really the most authentic publication coming out of Cross River State and I am proud of it, very very proud of it..."* Donald Duro

**MOFINEWS** You

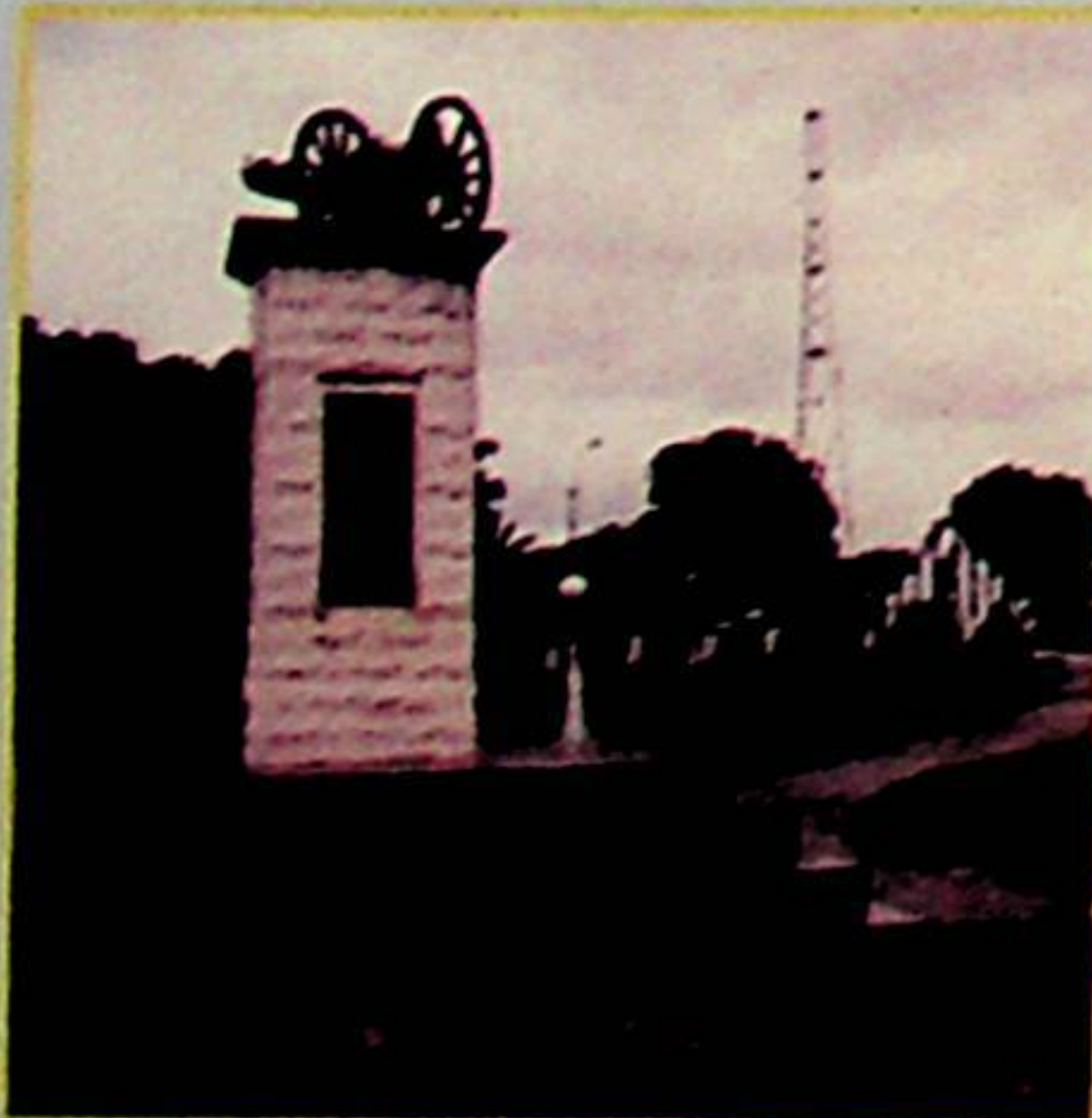
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# IMOKE: 12 Months Of A Dynamic Brand



**C**ross River State, the jewel of the oil rich Niger Delta region of Nigeria, is a State awash with exciting opportunities for business and leisure. For corporate and recreational tourists all over the World,

the State offers countless events and locations worth experiencing. Thanks in large part to the stellar leadership provided by the State Governor, His Excellency, Senator Liyel Imoke, who, in 12 months, has crystallized the multi-faceted image of the State into

a dynamic brand.

Cross River State is endowed with natural resources that lend support to strategic economic initiatives. The administration has leveraged on these opportunities in charting a new vision for governance while shaping





development Agoi-Ekpo Bridge

the destiny of the State through articulated sustainable development.

Creativity and the sense of awakening; the spirit of renewal in the running of affairs of the State are communicated in the branding of the State by the administration. The campaign theme, images and symbols of the new Cross River State are a by-word for excellence in corporate governance, service delivery, the actualization of dreams, and the realization of potentials. In an attention-competitive world, "Destination Cross River", is timeless cliché, which evokes an image that drives through the moment and into the future.

The leadership in the State since May 29, 2007 has, therefore, been a leadership with a sense of mission. This found expression in the raising of the bar of tourism architecture of the State, aptly envisioned by the Government as the strategic road map for taking the State and her people into the future; together with Agriculture, Health, Education, Works and Rural Development.

### TOURISM

In the past 12 months, this map featured the operation of the breathtaking Tinapa Resort, a prime facility for business and leisure in the Sub-region. Tinapa is said by experts to be a choice hub for high value business and entertainment beyond the African Continent.

Towards the end of last year, the administration sealed the deal for the hosting-right of the KORA Awards, the globally acclaimed Africa Music Awards, at Tinapa for the next five years. "Kora at Tinapa" is a testimonial to the first class dimension of the event, the venue, and the tourism profile of Cross River State.

The administration introduced an innovation to the Obudu International Mountain Race, with the introduction of a children's race, making it more exciting. The culture of Carnivals the State gave to Nigeria, the Cross River State Christmas Festival and Carnival celebration, was last year, made more relevant to the African experience through a substantial

injection of local content and Public Private Partnership.

To this end, the State Tourism Bureau is in the process of developing an all encompassing Tourism Master Plan for the State which will ensure that all tourism sites are developed to World Class Standards and marketed in like manner. Indeed, as Mr. Nzan Ogbe, the Managing Director of the Cross River State Tourism Bureau puts it, "a lot has been achieved in tourism within the past 12 months of this administration especially in re-strengthening the legislative and institutional capacity of the tourism initiatives".

### AGRICULTURE

In the drive to create multiple earning opportunities for the people and the State, Agriculture has been repositioned. The instrument for this is the Cross River Agricultural and Rural Empowerment Scheme CARES. Under this regime, pineapple, cassava, rice, cocoa, oil palm and rubber are to be cultivated in export volumes. In earnest pursuit of this scheme,



Government has acquired large tracts of land, parcelled to farmers for the cultivation of key high value crops across the State. Farmers are being trained to use modern and best agricultural practices in order to increase crop yield while helping to advance the quest for global food security in the country. The governing class and a spectrum of the elites are mandated to cultivate about 10 Hectares each. Access to credit totalling ₦75 million has been placed in various banks for lending to farmers. Improved seedlings, fertilizer, pesticides, extension services and mechanized infrastructure are being provided. The abundant Cassava in the state is being used to produce alternative energy from ethanol in collaboration with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. Under this administration, Cross River State is poised to take the lead again in agricultural production.

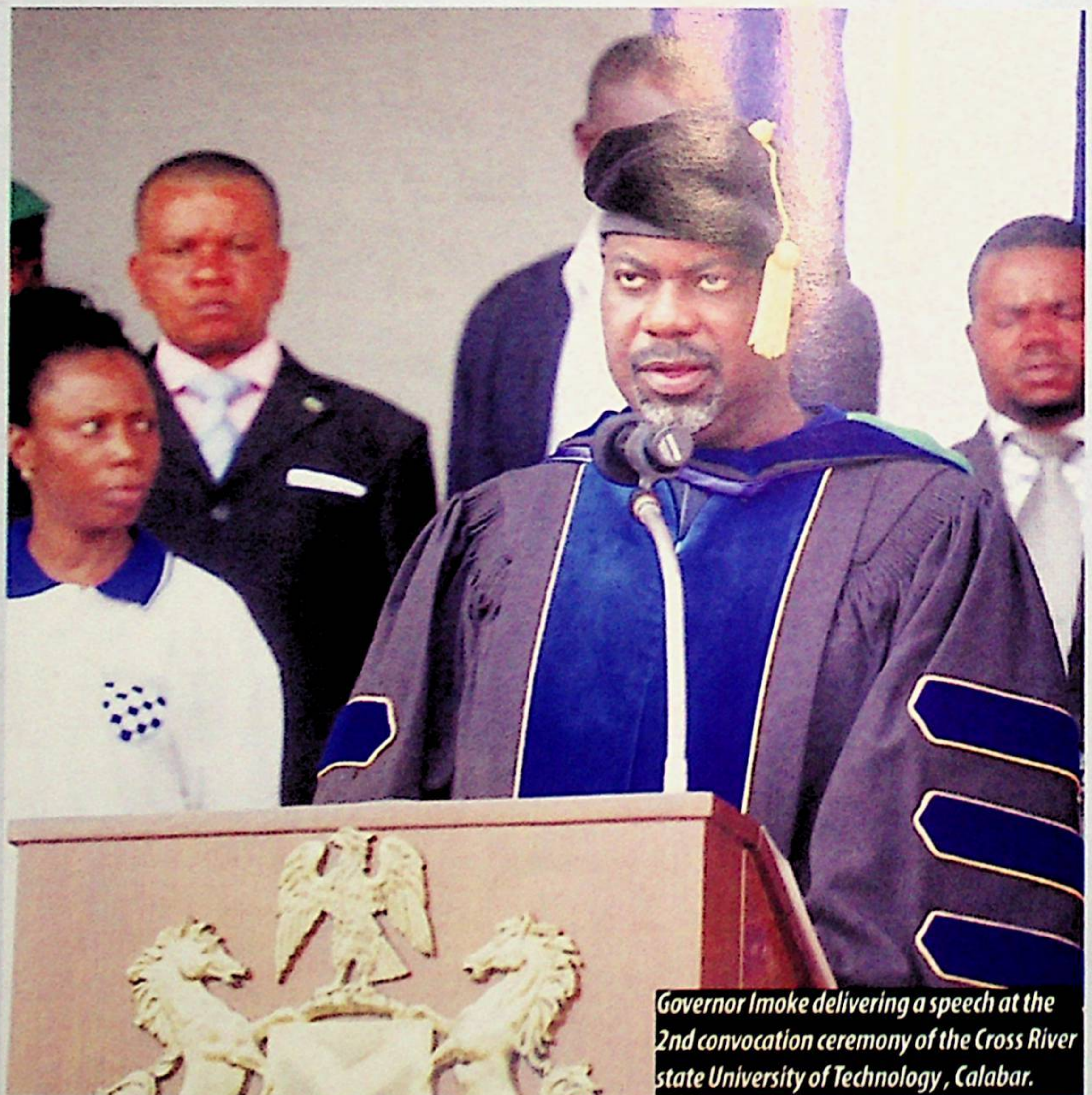
#### HEALTH

A state with a high collateral value like Cross River State cannot compromise the provision of first class health services. The administration's health service is underpinned by the comprehensive standardization of health infrastructure across the State, with each ward, that constitutes a political unit, provided with state-of-the-art medical facility. The most illuminating dimension of the health policy is the waiving of medical bills for pregnant women and children under five years of age.

In eager anticipation, recruitment and training of medical workers to handle the expected surge for medical services is on stream. As a further incentive, practicing medical professionals will earn the equivalent of what their counterparts at the Federal level receive. The malaria scourge, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic are being decisively tackled. The engineering of a reliable drug supply chain critical to the health-care agenda has commenced. With all these in place, Cross River State's journey towards the attainment of Millennium



Inspection of Ndon-Wong-Obom Itiat Road Project



Governor Imoke delivering a speech at the 2nd convocation ceremony of the Cross River state University of Technology, Calabar.

Development Goals, MDGs, in health is well on course.

#### EDUCATION

The administration harbours strong sentiments that the future of the State is assured to the extent to which access to quality education is created. Infrastructure is being provided in public schools including a pilot programme providing free meals for

Primary School pupils. This strategic intervention shall address systemic problems in 500 primary schools and 250 secondary schools (starting with 135 primary schools and 60 secondary schools this year) through substantial investments amounting to ₦25 billion. Fees for qualifying examinations for secondary school students are borne by the Government in an effort to level entry barriers for





indigent students.

Quality human infrastructure, key components of the quality assurance measures in this sector, include training of teachers, building of laboratories, procurement of textbooks, establishment of IT centres, provision of desks and other teaching tools. To this extent, the framework is ready for the establishment of a College of Education as a distinct

a critical support infrastructure for tourism. That is the driving force of a vigorous road construction exercise that is the most intensive of its kind in the history of the State.

This thinking has informed the administration's intervention in some sections of the Federal Highways, the main gateways to the State. The inspiration of all these investments, according to the Commissioner

realistic, and attainable: even more significant, under the instrumentation of the Rural Access Mobility Programme, RAMP, 475 km of roads would have been constructed by 2011. The Rural Development Agency shall deepen RAMP by constructing 390 km of Feeder roads in all the Local Government Areas at a cost of ₦12 billion. 196 standard health facilities and 196 primary schools shall be developed ensuring that each of the 196 Wards in the State has, at minimum, one standard education and health facility by 2011. In the same spirit, every community shall be provided with electricity to speed up the momentum of development.

The "ground zero" character of the administration's dynamic rural development policy is

more than a testament to the readiness of the Government to get the work done and give high value to the lives and businesses of Cross Riverians in a manner and dimension never experienced.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

There is no gainsaying the importance of the Public Service in the implementation of key Government decisions, programs and policies. It is in light of this that this administration in the bid to enhance the capacity of its workforce has embarked on the training of its Public servants in areas deemed necessary for the effective dispatch of their duties. These training programs which are also in line with the SERVICOM mandate include but not limited to enhancement of ICT skills, capacity and human resource development. Therefore SERVICOM was moved to the Governor's Office accentuating its importance and placing it under severe scrutiny.

The administration also



Nkporo Road Under Construction

complement to the manpower trained by the Cross River State University of Technology,

### CRUTECH.

₦3 billion is to be invested in pursuit of accreditation for academic programmes in CRUTECH while Senior lecturers will be paid allowances comparable to that earned in Federal Universities. These measures, at maturity, would not only enable Cross Riverians have good education at first point of call but also build their capacity to compete for jobs and careers anywhere in the world.

### WORKS.

The Government is injecting more vitality into the effective urban renewal programme inherited from the previous Government. Already an investment of over ₦24 billion in the rehabilitation of roads is underway in Calabar South, Calabar Municipality, Ogoja, Obudu and Yakurr local government areas.

The administration views roads as

for Works, Honourable Edward Ogon, is "to establish economically desirable linkages for towns, villages and hamlets from the swamps and creeks of Bakassi to the hills and mountains of Obanliku". To make these investments sustainable, a road maintenance agency, soon to be established, shall ensure the care and repair of the roads.

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Comprehensive development of rural communities is another key area in the administration's drive for sustainable development. The vision here is to bring vestiges of Government to the door steps of those who need it most but have often been denied.

The establishment of a Rural Development Agency, State Electricity Agency, and Border Communities Development Commission to drive this revolutionary initiative is proof beyond reproach of the administration's commitment to the rural folk.

The targets identified are bold,





Ground Breaking of Obudu Urban Roads by Governor Imoke.

institutionalized Due Process in order to ensure greater transparency in the conduct of Government business and inspire the confidence of the public. Performance targets have been set via the Medium Term Sector Strategy - MTSS, and benchmark service delivery for all Ministries, Department, and Agencies- MDAs. Furthermore, this administration in the bid to motivate its workforce has approved promotions across board up to December 2007 and introduced a vehicle ownership scheme which was launched earlier in the year. In the very near future the administration will do ground-breaking for a staff housing scheme.

#### **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Cross River State is experiencing growth in so many areas. Suburbs and cities, especially the capital, Calabar, is having a population surge because of the prevailing peace and security of its serene environment. To contain the attendant pressure on utilities, a number of measures have been adopted, amongst which is the establishment of a Department of Public Transportation.

The Department has procured and taken delivery of 15 Metro-Blue buses, with 30 more being awaited, to boost the level already attained.

A modern taxi service system is to be implemented in collaboration with private operators. An initial 50 taxi cabs will be procured in the first phase.

#### **ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION**

The Cross River State rainforest is one of the 25 biodiversity hotspots in the world. Eco-tourism potentials, therefore, abound in the State. Most of these potentials have been harnessed with Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary becoming a choice spot for tourists who revel in the richness in wildlife while straddling Canopy Walkway. There is also the Drill Ranch, Nkarasi Monoliths, listed in the 2008 World Monuments Fund, 100 Most Endangered Sites, and Cercopan.

These assets are being guarded jealously. While the Cross River State Forestry Commission is overseeing the conservation of the State's rainforest, a cleaner and greener environment is being consolidated through Waste Management initiatives in Calabar and other Urban towns. This exercise will acquire more depth with the establishment of a Waste Management Agency, whose bill is undergoing passage in the State Assembly. The administration is also developing a

biological landfill outside Calabar for environmentally friendly waste disposal.

#### **THE FUTURE**

In spite of the substantial ground covered in 12 months, there is still much to be done. Fresh ideas present in continual flow, new opportunities, new frontiers to overcome...

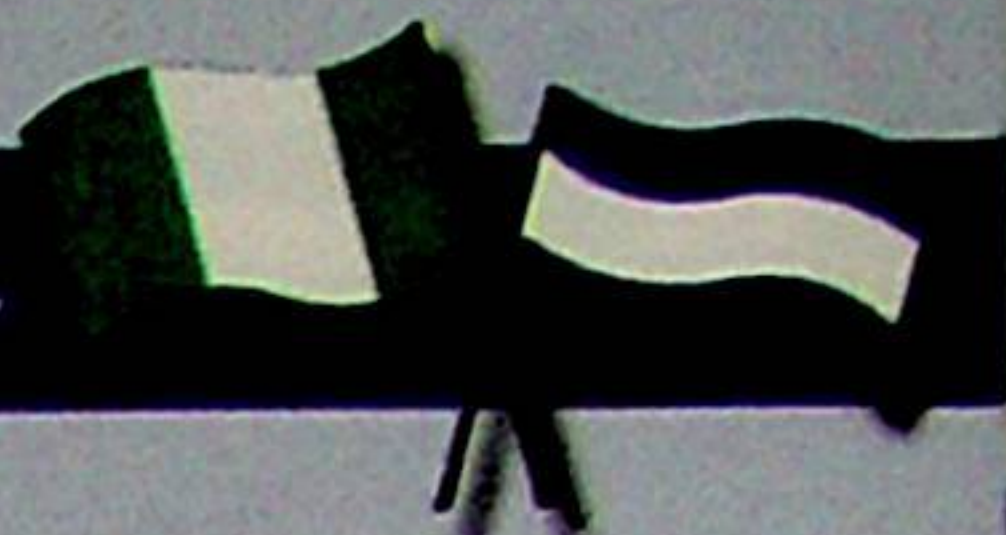
#### ***Calabar Energy City***

Governor Imoke has conceptualized an Energy City comprising industrial and residential cluster, complete with all attendant facilities. Key processes in the design and planning stages of the project have been completed. The city shall not only create jobs but serve as a strategic feed, in all ramifications, for Tinapa and the contiguous Calabar Free Trade Zone. Cross River, building on its comparative advantage over other Niger-Delta States intends for this city to provide an opportunity for the Oil and Gas Industry to thrive in a peaceful atmosphere.

#### ***Theme Park***

Planned as an annexus to Tinapa, but basically intended to meet the desire of holiday makers in Nigeria and the West African sub-region for a leisure haven that is secured and natural, is a World class Theme (amusement) Park, another pioneering facility in the sub-region.





**New Bakassi Road under Construction**



**International Convention Centre**

On the scale also, is an International Convention Centre – complete with a 5-Star Hotel – intended to maximize the gains being made from the investments in tourism by creating an aesthetic marvel designed to meet the standards of the high net market for International conferences, seminars, workshops, retreats, etc and introduce this much sought after segment of the tourism industry to the destination: Cross River.

**Expansion of Margaret Ekpo International Airport**

Plans are underway to expand Margaret Ekpo International Airport to handle bigger aircrafts and the imminent increase in traffic that would occur along with the buzz of developments in the State. The face lifted edifice will serve as fitting

gateway to the “Destination” that is ‘Cross River’.

**Monorail**

Construction of our Monorail has commenced! The multi-billion Naira project, the first of its kind in Africa will enhance Calabar Metropolitan urban development while easing the expected traffic congestion between the metropolis and Tinapa. The project will be completed in 2010.


**Ultra-Modern Market**

In line with the Status of Cross River State as a destination, a new befitting modern market is being planned. The multi-billion Naira market to be constructed in Akpabuyo is also meant to enhance Calabar Metropolitan Urban Development and ease congestion in main markets of Calabar South and Municipality, which means that the current Watt

Market, in the Central Business District is to be relocated, in line with the new Calabar Master plan.

**CONCLUSION**

In 12 months, His Excellency, Senator Liyel Imoke, has evolved a State that is increasingly celebrated for its dynamism and strategic investments in areas critical to the creation of wealth for its citizens; unarguably, a destination of choice for tourists and investors. There is no greater claim to this than in the peace and warmth of Cross Riverians, the security and attractiveness of the environment, the pull of Tinapa for business and leisure, and the hope in its future.

As His Excellency, Senator Liyel Imoke said recently, the State’s economy has grown in leaps and bounds with new investments, in part due to policy initiatives, in part due to the rich natural resources that abound in the State, and mostly due to the hospitable nature of the peace-loving people and inhabitants of Cross River State. Senator Imoke is making Cross River State the last frontier of the African Dream. A frontier of hope, dreams and possibilities. In all these, indeed, the value the administration gives at home and abroad is captured in the brand theme: 

**DESTINATION CROSS RIVER,  
THE NATION’S PARADISE.**

*Welcome Home!*

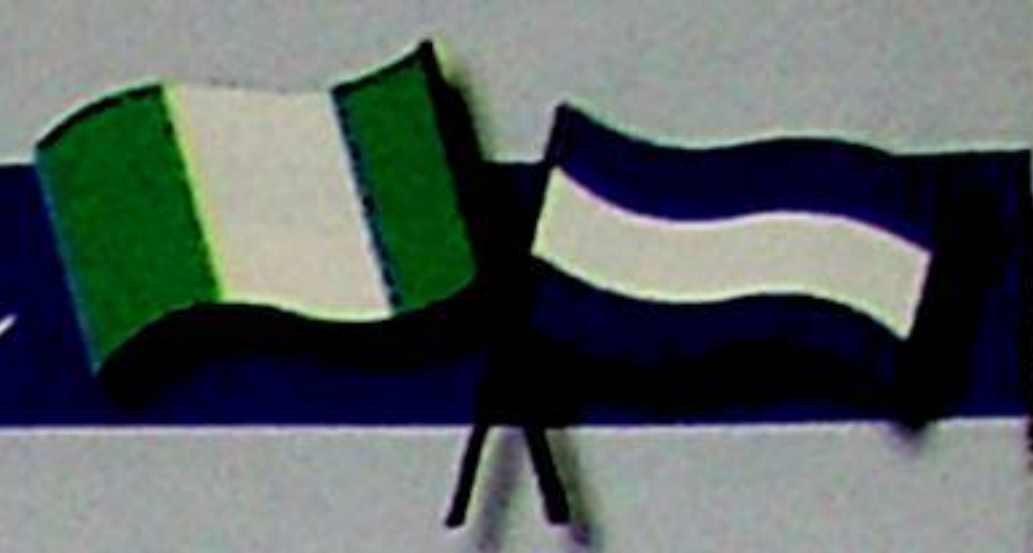


# Mile Stones of Governor Imoke's Administration

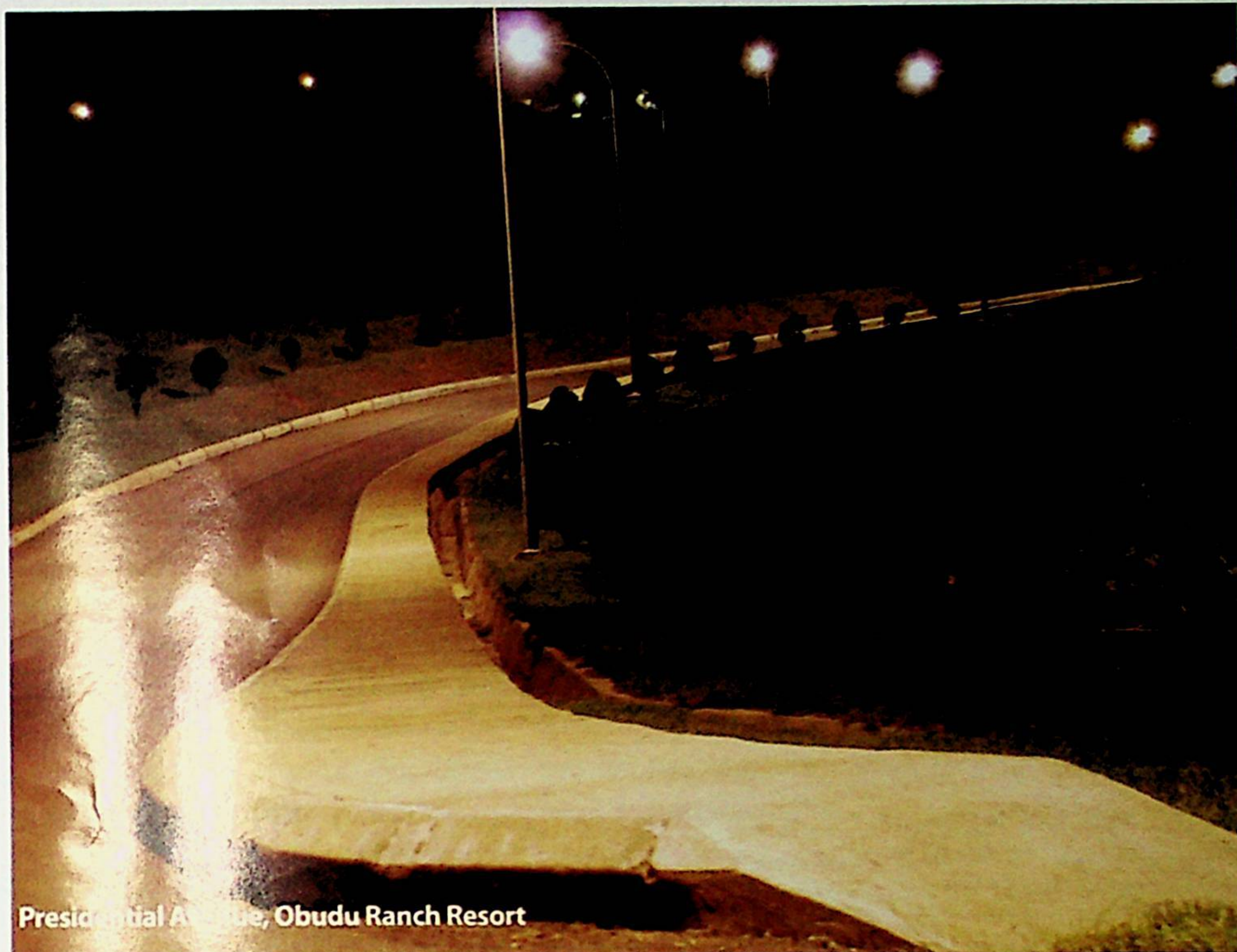
- MAY 29** - Senator Liyel Imoke takes oath of Office as the Governor of Cross River State.
- JUNE 20** - Undertakes a working visit to the refuse dump site at Ikot Effanga Mkpá and the Waste Management Agency yard at Murtala Mohammed Highway, Calabar.
- JUNE 22** - Swears in a 25 member State Executive Council made up of 13 Commissioners and 12 Special Advisers with a charge that they should contribute to Government's desire of improving the lot of the people.
- JULY 03** - Attends the inauguration of a Committee on Peace and Conflict Resolution to look into the problems affecting the Niger Delta region by the Vice President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan at Government House, Port Harcourt.
- JULY 05** - Unveils the 2007 Obudu Ranch International Mountain Race slated for November 24 at Eko Hotel and Suites, Lagos.
- JULY 06** - Charges political office holders to be prudent in managing public funds while declaring a two-day orientation workshop for newly appointed political office holders at the State Library Complex, Calabar.
- JULY 19** - Flags off a sudden impact clean-up campaign programme to restore the cleanliness of Calabar Metropolis at the Cultural Centre grounds.
- JULY 24** - Hosts the British High Commissioner to Nigeria, His Excellency, Mr. Richard Gozney, the Country Director of World Bank, Mr. Hafez Ghanem, the Mission Director of USAID Nigeria Ms Latanya Mapp and the Head of DFID Nigeria Mr. Eamonn Cassidy at a banquet at Government Lodge, Calabar.
- AUGUST 03** - Interacts with staff of ORASCOM Construction, the builders of UNICEM Plant at Mfamosing in Akamkpa Local Government Area and urges them to apply dialogue in negotiating issues related to their working environment rather than resort to violence.
- AUGUST 06** - Imoke, on behalf of the Niger Delta Governors while on courtesy visit to President Umar Yar'Adua pledges their unalloyed loyalty to his administration.
- AUGUST 18** - Declares open the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) International Foundation for election Systems (IFES) retreat at the International Convention Centre, Obudu Ranch Resort.
- AUGUST 21** - Attends the Leboku New Yam Festival of Yakurr LGA.
- AUGUST 27** - Undertakes aerial inspection of erosion sites in Calabar metropolis to have a clear view of the impact.
- SEPTEMBER 10** - Members of the State Executive Council commence a Computer Skills Acquisition Programme at the IT Village, Calabar.
- SEPTEMBER 10** - Governor Imoke Inaugurates the State Economic Management Team.
- OCTOBER 23** - Presents the State Christmas Festival and Calabar Carnival events and their logos to media men at Planet One Entertainment Centre, Lagos.
- OCTOBER 25** - President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua commissions and takes over Presidential Retreat, Obudu Ranch Resort, commissions International Convention Centre.
- NOVEMBER 01** - Holds first media parley since assumption of office.
- NOVEMBER 07** - Calls for a Review of the Legislation on the Operation of Calabar Free Trade Zone, Calabar Free Port and Tinapa Business Resort for the realization of their economic benefits to Nigerians when he receives the Presidential Committee on Waivers, Concessions and Incentives led by Senator Udoma Udo-Udoma.
- NOVEMBER 07** - Hosts Nigeria's First Lady and the wife of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, Hajia Turai Umar Yar'Adua who was conferred the Grand Patron of Partnership Opportunities for Women Empowerment Realization (POWER) by Mrs. Obioma Imoke.
- NOVEMBER 24** - Attends the Obudu Ranch International Mountain Race and unfolds the creation of a competition for the children category in subsequent editions.
- DECEMBER 14** - Swears in Chairmen of 17 Local Government Areas and reminds them of their status as one of the important links in the State's development chain. Enjoins them to work hard for the overall development of the State.
- DECEMBER 19** - Receives KORA President, Mr. Ernest Adjovi and says Cross River is determined to promote tourism and its components for the development and empowerment of its citizenry.
- DECEMBER 24** - Unveils the new State Brand Identity at Tinapa Business Resort.
- JANUARY 15, 2008** - Lays a Wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier, cenotaph section of the Millennium Park, Calabar, in the evening activities marking the 2007 Armed Forces Remembrance Day Celebration.
- FEBRUARY 10, 2008** - Describes Nigeria's tourism as a heritable channel to mark the State's tourism potential during their foreign service while addressing Ambassadors at a Dinner to mark their one week orientation at the International Convention Centre, Obudu Ranch Resort.
- FEBRUARY 29, 2008** - Attends the Cross River State 2008 PDP Congress at the U. J. Esuene Stadium, Calabar.
- MARCH 10, 2008** - Declares open a six day enlarged 2008 State Executive Council Retreat the International Convention Centre Obudu Ranch Resort.
- MARCH 21, 2008** - Commends the United States of America Ambassador to Nigeria Ms Robin Sanders on removing the state as a no-go-area within the Niger Delta region during a State dinner in her honour.
- MARCH 28, 2008** - Commences construction of roads in Calabar South under the first phase of the Urban Renewal Programme.

Compiled by: FRANK INYANG  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE PRESS





# Imoke's Silent Revolution



Presidential Avenue, Obudu Ranch Resort



Patrick Ugbe

Upon assumption of office on May 29<sup>th</sup> 2007, Senator Liyel Imoke, Governor of Cross River State clearly stated the direction his administration would follow. At his inaugural address to the people, he outlined a vision that touched on all sectors, saying that “Our vision is to sustain the transformation of Cross River State into a peaceful, industrialized, secure, economically viable, politically stable, culturally diverse society, where social harmony and the rule of law are strongly established”.

He then went ahead to outline his plans for each sector, aimed at enforcing his believe that Government must serve those who need Government most; the critical mass who are hardly ever heard rather than the vocal elite.

A lot of skeptics then had thought the plan was too ambitious and would never be realized. Some had thought it was all rhetorics and no action. Glad to say that they are all being proven wrong.

One year down the line, Imoke has left no one in doubt as to his intention of actualizing that promise of taking Government to those who need it the most. Imoke has not only consolidated on the past administration's efforts, but has carefully followed a development agenda that has touched on all sectors, as enunciated in

that inaugural address.

On May 29<sup>th</sup> 2008, he publicly presented his 4-year Economic Blueprint for the State for the period 2007 – 2011, in which he spelt out a seven point programme of development, aimed at achieving the core goal of the administration, which is Wealth Creation, through economic empowerment. He gave that 7-point Agenda as follows:

- i.) Make agriculture more productive and rewarding by encouraging the adoption of agricultural best practices and ensuring that investment in the sector is participatory and adaptable.
- ii.) Grow the tourism industry by enhancing existing tourist sites, developing new sites, and initiating and strengthening tourism activity in the State, particularly through the provision of a well regulated conducive environment.
- iii.) Expand access to and affordability of qualitative education and social services to empower youths with relevant technological skills and knowledge.
- iv.) Institutionalize basic healthcare by providing a primary health care delivery system that meets the needs of both urban and rural communities.

*“as it is with every beginning, only few are able to grasp the concept embedded in the intricacies of the planning stages. Only when the structure begins to take shape will ...”*



- v.) Develop a strong Private sector driven economy by growing the purchasing power of Cross Riverians and encouraging private enterprise and strengthening the real sector of the State economy.
- vi.) Build, upgrade and maintain infrastructure for transportation, electricity supply, communication, water supply and sanitation in urban as well as rural communities.
- vii.) Preserve the physical environment through conservation and promotion of environmentally-friendly practices in development and lifestyle.

Though presented on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, this year, implementation began in earnest last year, and is well on course. A critical look at the development agenda shows that it covers all sectors from, Agriculture, to Tourism, Education, Health & Social Welfare, Investment Promotion, Works & Rural Development and Environment.

In order to provide enabling legislative backing and endorsement for the agenda, the Cross River State House of Assembly passed into law 9 Executive bills touching on all these areas viz:-

- The Border Communities Development Commission Act;
- The Rural Development Agency Act
- The State Electricity Agency Act;
- The Investment Promotion Bureau Act;
- The Tourism Development Levy Act;
- The State Planning Commission Amendment Act;
- The Road Maintenance Agency Act;
- The Local Government Law Amendment Act; and,
- The 2008 Appropriation Bill Act.

The passage into law of these bills gave the administration the impetus to embark on a silent revolution, to change

the fortunes of the State.

Taking a sectoral look, the Cross River State Government under the visionary leadership of Senator Liyel Imoke views Agriculture as the sector with the greatest potential for poverty reduction among its citizens. The administration is revolutionizing Agriculture through the Cross River Agricultural and Rural Empowerment Scheme (CARES). Under the CARES Scheme, Government is raising Cocoa and Palm seedlings for distribution to farmers for cultivation alongside pineapple, cassava, rice, plantain/banana and rubber in export volumes, while fertilizers and assorted pesticides have been imported to be distributed at subsidized rates. With CARES, Government hopes to create a new generation of young farmers by making farming fashionable and making our youths understand that they can "farm to wealth".

The administration has also expanded the Agric credit scheme with an additional placement of ₦75 million in various banks for lending to farmers. The commitment of the administration to the success of this programme is further underscored by the "back to farming" scheme for all members of EXCO and all elected officials of Government under which they are expected to cultivate 10 hectares of any chosen crop starting this farming season. His Excellency is personally driving this Scheme with the cultivation of rice. The administration of Senator Liyel Imoke is investing over ₦75 billion on roads and bridges, over a period of 4-years and covering over 800 kilometres of both urban and rural roads. The administration believes that good roads and bridges are an indispensable requirement in view of their importance to the State's tourism and development efforts. To this end, the administration has not only completed road projects of the previous administration, but has embarked on massive new development. Every Local Government Area of the State is touched in roads development, be it urban or rural roads.

Some of these roads and bridges include the 9 kilometres Ekori Junction to Ekori Beach road, complete with a beach landing for Pontoons, the 65 Kilometres Boki roads project, the Okuni/Okoroba/Nsofang/Nkpot road, the Idundu Bridge and the Lokpoi Bridge and the Nko/Agoi road. Others are the construction of the new Akpabuyo Housing Estate roads, New Bakassi Local Government roads and Adim/Agwagune roads. Under the urban renewal programme, construction is on-going in over 50 Kilometres of urban roads in Ogoja, Obudu, Calabar Municipality and Calabar South, with a plan for another 100 Kilometres over the next 3-years. Calabar is a beauty to behold at night with the excellent street lighting project, which is being extended to cover all the major streets within the metropolis.

Having said that, the intention is to bring Government services to those who need it most, Senator Liyel Imoke set up three agencies to intervene at the rural and semi-urban level. These include the Rural Development Agency, The State Electricity Agency and The Border Communities Development Commission.

The Rural Development Agency is embarking on further roads development but with emphasis on the rural areas, particularly roads that have economic benefits, that lead to high agriculture and produce output areas, thus deepening the roads development agenda. 390 Kilometres of rural feeder roads are being constructed across all 18 Local Government Areas (LGAs). And to further complement this effort, the State is partnering with the African Development Bank (ADB) to construct 475 Kilometres of rural roads under the Rural Access and Mobility Programme (RAMP).

The administration's investment in roads is perhaps the most ambitious in the country when put side by side its available resources.

During his inauguration, Senator Liyel Imoke stated that "Healthcare delivery shall be a priority .... Particular attention shall be given to Primary





Healthcare, Prenatal and Maternal Healthcare, in collaboration with the Local Government Councils”.

Senator Imoke has not only lived up to that promise but has placed a high premium on Healthcare Delivery. His administration has embarked on the provision of a standard health facility in every ward (196) in the State, through construction or rehabilitation of existing facilities. The administration is also focused on completing, equipping and furnishing all 6 General Hospitals currently under construction by December this year, added to the ongoing renovation and equipping of 14 General Hospitals across the State.

All these will provide the platform for the good take-off of the free Healthcare Scheme for pregnant women and children under the age of 5, whose implementation has already commenced with the data collection. With a doctor father and a nurse mother, it is not surprising to see Imoke's emphasis on Healthcare, aimed at making Cross River State a reference point in Healthcare delivery in Nigeria. The Imoke administration sees education as the bedrock of development. To this end, the administration is investing about ₦25 billion in an intervention programme covering infrastructure and manpower development, aimed at attaining a minimum standard, which His Excellency, Senator Imoke refers to as the “Cross River Standard”. This standard requires that among other things, each Secondary School must have at least 3 functional laboratories, 1 functional library, 1 Computer laboratory (for ICT development) and recreational facilities including a standard football pitch and Basketball court, etc.

The intervention programme which will cover 500 Primary Schools and 250 Secondary Schools over a period of 4-years has already commenced in 135 Primary and 60 Secondary Schools this year.

This is apart from the investments

in the State University of Technology, CRUTECH, and the setting up of the Cross River State College of Education, which will admit its first batch of students in September this year, aimed at addressing the critical middle manpower needs in the sector. Cross River State maintains a Clean and Green Environment. The Imoke administration has invested hugely in modern concepts of waste management and is developing a biological landfill outside Calabar, for more environmentally friendly waste disposal, to be completed over the next couple of years.

The administration is also putting in place a sustainable programme for environmental sanitation in partnership with the private sector and has sent a bill to the State House of Assembly to establish the Cross River State Waste Management Agency to institutionalize the waste management initiative.

In the area of Tourism, the Imoke administration did not only continue from where the previous administration stopped, but has taken investments in Tourism to the next level, as it views tourism as one of the major planks on which the development efforts of the State rests. Apart from further investments in Tinapa, in the development of a Theme (Amusement) Park, the administration is investing in the development of an Energy City, to provide an opportunity for the Oil and Gas industry to thrive in a peaceful atmosphere.

The Imoke administration has also conceptualized a World Class International Convention Centre, complete with a 5-Star Hotel, to provide the auspices for global conventions and seminars in a secured and serene environment, and is investing in the expansion of the Margaret Ekpo International Airport, to handle bigger aircrafts and the imminent increase in traffic that would occur along with the buzz of developments in the State.

The 2007 Calabar Carnival and Christmas Festival was acknowledged

as the largest and most colourful ever and the 2008 edition is planned to be even bigger with lots of innovations. To further deepen the State's tourism profile, the administration late last year secured the hosting rights for KORA, the foremost African Musical Awards for the next five years which is expected to attract about 10,000 tourists and create jobs for an estimated 3,000 artisans, while generating about \$4 million in expected revenue.

The administration has also secured a new management for the State's flagship tourism resort, the Obudu Ranch Resort, which is now under the management of African Sun Ltd of Zimbabwe and is offering best value to visitors, tourists, holiday-makers and business travellers.

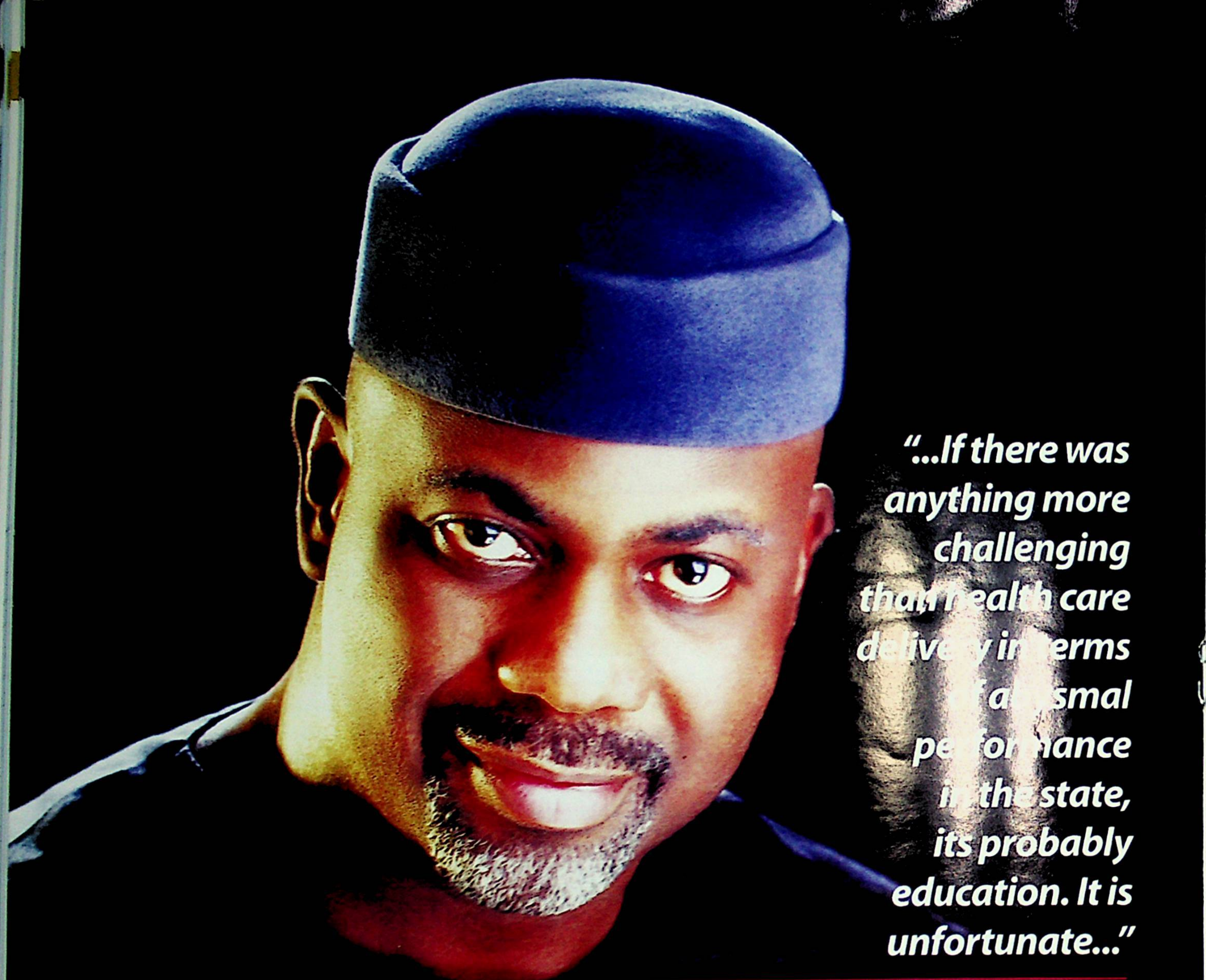
More than anything else the administration has developed a Tourism Master Plan for the State, in line with making the State a “Destination” for business or leisure.

With the giant strides achieved in just over a year, Senator Liyel Imoke is resolute on carrying out a silent revolution to change the fortunes of his people positively. He is unwavering in his dream to transform Cross River State and create wealth for the people. He has consolidated the past and is currently building a vibrant future.

As he said recently in his anniversary broadcast, “as it is with every beginning, only few are able to grasp the concept embedded in the intricacies of the planning stages. Only when the structure begins to take shape will others join in the chorus to signify the recognition of the emerging edifice with which all would want to identify”. Another year down the line, a lot will join in the chorus for the new Cross River State under the visionary leadership of Senator Liyel Imoke.

*Patrick Ugbe is the SA Media/Chief Press Secretary to the state government.*





***"...If there was anything more challenging than health care delivery in terms of a dismal performance in the state, its probably education. It is unfortunate..."***

## **Senator Liyel Imoke** **Governor, Cross River State**

**B**efore Senator Liyel Imoke took over the driving seat on May 29th, 2007 as the Governor of Cross River State, a commentator and scholar, Dr. Osam O. Edim in his write – up “What Cross Riverians expect from Imoke” noted that though the face of Cross River State has changed, nothing much has changed about the stomach quotient of the ordinary Cross Riverian.

Poverty, he said, is still rife among the people and almost everybody believes that the silver bullet to shoot down hunger belongs to Imoke. Coupled with the campaign slogan of his party, PDP which says “monkey work, monkey chop”, expectations were really high. These expectations after one year in office gave rise to several interpretations of the Gvneror’s leadership style.

Governor Imoke’s two hour interview on the electronic media revealed so much about his methodology and the future of Cross River State. For Governor Imoke, the expectations of life depend upon diligence. The mechanic that would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools.

Our guest on this MOFINEWS Platform is Senator Liyel Imoke, Governor of Cross River State.

Read on.

This interview was conducted before May 29 2008



*By May 29th, 2008 you would have been one year in office. To what extent would you say you have realized your dreams and visions? How would you quantify it?*

Thank you very much. You are right, on 29th, I'll celebrate one year in office. For those who work with me, some of them think I am a slave driver. I don't think we have done enough but I think we can do more. We've taken the right steps and put in place the right programmes that will ensure that we deliver on our mandate, which was a critical thing that I wanted us to achieve in the 1st year. Appropriate legislative backing for some of our programmes has been achieved. Making sure that we put in place policies that ensure that things like due process, procurement, value for money is realized and understood and getting the constitution and the reforms that are necessary for us to deliver on the mandate put in place. So, we did achieve that significantly but not at the cost of some of our projects and programmes. I think that the 1st one year, all in all, has been one of challenges but certainly one that has put us on the sound footing to guarantee a complete transformation in the next few years in Cross River State.

*Your Excellency, you mentioned challenges. What were the challenges in the last one year?*

The first is financial which is having enough resources to implement your programmes and that has been the biggest challenge in the circumstance in which we are in here. We have significant debt burden. Irrespective of the debt burden, we also have to deliver our promises to the people. The second challenge is human capacity to actually deliver on this mandate. You find out that for some strange reasons, there has not been training and retraining in the system, so the quality of people you have to work with sometimes, fall short of one's expectations. Those are the two key challenges, though there are other smaller, routine day-to-day challenges.

*Even with these challenges, you are making progress, so what is the magic?*

We had to sit back and do some planning in terms of finances, looking at our debt burden. We dedicated a certain portion of our budget to debts and anything aside that would really cripple our ability to execute our programmes. This allows us some room to implement some of our programmes for our people. The human capacity challenge is a bit more difficult to deal with because what you end up doing is micro-management, so the Governor has to manage every sector; he is spending more time with educational sector, he also has to take a look at the health sector, then move on to agriculture and information and all that. That shouldn't be the case. It should not be this level of micro-management at this stage in our development.

*The Executive arm of government sponsored several bills and also established several commissions and agencies. How relevant are these to your development agenda?*

Well, the bills and the acts have been passed and they were put in place because of the administration's emphasis on a number of areas, particularly, rural development. We thought we could have an integrated rural development programme, so that while we are having the urban renewal programme which is on-going, we could also have something that can also provide for some economic development of our rural areas. We had to put in place a number of bills, send them to the Assembly and they were assented to. They've enabled us to set up the relevant agencies that will implement these rural development

initiatives. We are very pleased with the programme and I think we are right on track with that one. The rural development agency will focus on infrastructure, ensuring that we can bring water supply to our communities, provide access routes and ensure that our schools in the rural communities are provided with necessary infrastructure. The same goes for health facilities, while the Rural Electrification Agency will ensure that we identify those communities that have not yet enjoyed the benefits of having access to electricity. We also have the Border Community Commission which we put in place to ensure that those communities which are border communities and are usually neglected by government at the state and local government levels are also attended to so that they can have a sense of belonging by providing them with the basic infrastructure. There are a number of other bills that are also being considered and when put in place, will certainly help us to implement some of our programmes.

*Your administration has really blazed the trail in regards to paying adequate attention to the rural areas. How do you intend to continue this and also check overlaps in terms of functioning?*

It is very clear that's why we took our time with the legislation so there is no real overlap. The responsibilities are clearly defined by the law. For us, the importance of rural integrated development basically goes to the heart of our own economic agenda. 70% of our people live in rural communities and if they are provided with what it takes for them to move their products to the market, if they are provided with an opportunity to also expand their productive capacity, then you are growing the economy and that's what it's all about. So we must pay attention to that fact. I am a stickler for making sure that things are done right and an agency cannot come and say to me "please, give me 100 million to go and spend", we must understand where the 100 million is going to be spent and of what benefit or value is it going to be to the people? So we must go through

*"...The 1<sup>st</sup> one year, all in all, has been one of challenges but certainly one that has put us on the sound footing to guarantee a complete transformation in the next few years in Cross River State..."*



a procurement process that ensures that we are getting value for money. These agencies have gone through the learning process and have now started to put out their procurement notices and that is also indicative of the take-off of these agencies. Contracts would be awarded in August for 30 road projects in 18 Local Government Areas. This year alone, we are putting 3.5 billion naira into roads and that's outside what we are going to spend on health, and educational facilities and so on.

*As the communities are various so are their needs, from roads, water, electricity to Improved Planting Materials (IPMs). How streamlined are your plans?*

Yeah, that's a good question. One thing we did was that, we got every agency to go out to each of the local government areas, sit down with the local government leadership, as well as, the community leadership in deciding what projects should be executed in these communities and what we tried to achieve for instance with the road projects is to first address issues that will provide access to high agricultural output areas. So, the main roads that we are addressing in this first phase are routes that when we complete them, will have economic value for the people and we have done that with all our projects. Of course, if you're looking at the health projects, what we get is pick one centre from each ward and make sure we have a standard health centre. We started the first 100 and we're going to do 196 this year, and its costing us about 2 billion naira to do that. We are working with the Ministry of Health and the Rural Development Agency. I think we're on course.

*Thank you very much Sir. You said that you are doing 30 road projects in August and we also know that you are also intervening in the federal roads. With the state's meager resources, are you not creating undue pressure on the finances of the state?*

What we've tried to do in the last few months is to try and plan and that's why I had to change budgeting processes and also introduce due

process so that we can get guaranteed value. We want Cross Riverians to know what we are doing, we want them to participate but we also don't like a situation where we're executing projects at twice the cost of the projects especially in the state that has such tight financial challenges. We introduced what we call the Medium Term Sector Strategy where Ministries, Departments and Agencies must have a plan for the next four years. I said, well, you've been here, and seen the challenges, so, over the next four years, what target have you set for yourself? Until you understand that, you cannot do your budgeting. We have been able to achieve that for a number of our programmes and project and we're not concerned about funding them for the time being. We believe that we can achieve 800km of roads by the end of 2011, that is on rural roads. We are also going to continue with the urban renewal programme, add at least, another 100km of roads in the urban areas and maintain the federal roads in the state until such a time when the federal government will intervene.

*As tourism remains the flagship of your administration, how do you plan to tackle areas of tourism that are yet to be explored?*

Tourism, like you said is one of the main planks of our seven-point agenda in Cross River State and for us, we think that we are at the very infantile stage in the exploration of our tourism potential. The development and completion of the tourism master plan will help to guide us in ensuring that in

*"...Challenge is human capacity to actually deliver on this mandate. You find out that for some strange reasons, there has not been training and retraining in the system, so the quality of people you have to work with sometimes, fall short of one's expectations..."*

executing our tourism programme, we do it with a clear understanding of the demands of those we call tourists. There is no need to invest in programmes and projects that will not attract tourists. We have concluded the tourism master plan and it is about to be presented to the Exco for implementation. We are looking at breaking the distance for instance, from Calabar and say, the Ranch. We think we will develop the Agbokim Water Falls during the life of this administration. We also have so much that we haven't taken due advantage of in Calabar. We have heritage sites and others which we haven't really put on the tourism map. We think that Tinapa as a trading ground is good but we also want to put in a Theme Park that will attract holiday makers, children and everyone, making Tinapa a tourist destination. We will bring more tourists into Tinapa by introducing more facilities. We would take our own government's tourism initiative to the next level.

*Still on tourism Sir, Cross River State has achieved a very high mark in terms of tourism development to the extent that we are aware that the state government is hosting Kora Awards. What are the benefits of this initiative?*

The Kora Awards is the African equivalent of the Academy Awards which is an industry that recognizes excellence in the music industry. It's about Africa. The beauty of the Kora Awards is that it is sponsored by very big names who want to be identified with it. By hosting it in Cross River and in Tinapa, we are marketing the state's number one brand as a destination and Tinapa. At the end of the day, it is expected that Cross River State will make a minimum of absolutely 4 million dollars from the event. There are a number of benefits to that, moreover, it appears that Cross River State has the infrastructure on ground aside Lagos to host such an event and that's a credit to us and the efforts put in place by the previous administration.

*Still in that direction, Your Excellency, recently, the Rivers State government had a retreat in Cross River State and*



*the Governor of Rivers State said he has not just come to Cross River State to brain storm on the way forward for Rivers State but to also copy the landmarks recorded in Cross River State. Here you are, presiding over a very lean purse, yet a couple of weeks ago, you talked about some new tourism initiatives like, a monorail, international markets, expanding Margaret Ekpo International airport and others. How do you intend to achieve this?*

For the new initiatives, we do not believe that the state should go into business. We should allow those who have the competence to actually do it. From our own past experience and a few lessons we've learnt, we think that we have the most conducive environment to attract private sector and guarantee a return on their investment in an environment that is secure and has the necessary infrastructure for their business to thrive. Having identified that, we believe that what we become is facilitator. When we talk about energy city for instance, we don't expect that Cross River State is going to put in 100 billion naira for the development of energy city, we believe that we can work with the right group of people from the private sector to create the energy city and with investments coming from external sources but first, they have to be convinced that this is a viable project to invest on.

*Your Excellency, the federal roads in the state have been a source of embarrassment. How is your administration handling this aspect?*

Federal roads have indeed, been a sort of challenge for us because we have limited control over the contractors. In the past, we have said that it may be a good idea if the state is involved in the execution of federal road projects in the state, but in the interim, you have a situation where roads are contracted out and the contractors are unknown, the quality of service delivery is poor, and of course, you have contracts that lasts for undue periods of time. We have that challenge on all our federal road projects so, its becoming

*"...Contracts would be awarded in August for 30 road projects in 18 Local Government Areas. This year alone, we are putting 3.5 billion naira into roads and that's outside what we are going to spend on health, and educational facilities and so on..."*

necessary for the state to work out some intervention programmes, but at the same time, we also have quite a number of projects that the state government must execute and complete. While we are patching up the federal roads, we are embarking on quite a number of road projects too. We are taking it up to Okpoma, which is some 28km. We've completed the Ekori junction to Ekori beach, and that is phase I. In phase 2, we're going to build some internal roads in Ekori, we are now working on Obudu, Boki and Calabar south roads. We have a very clear programme on roads.

*Sir, you disclosed that one hundred and ninety – six health centres are under rehabilitation. How do you intend to handle staff posting?*

It is ironic and a lot of people do not know this but constitutionally, primary health care is the responsibility of the local government and if you leave primary health care to them, there will be consequences as we have seen in the past, so we have decided to intervene. Again, we've asked the RDA to allocate part of its infrastructure funding to health care facilities and we believe that by working with the local government, we can achieve just the completion of 196 health care centres and like you said, we have the challenge of being able to keep people working in these health facilities. In the rural areas, I know that the Local Government Service Commission received an approval to pay an incentive to the health workers, over and above the amount they are entitled to, so health workers in the rural areas now get an

incentive. That's one. Two, at the state level, I have given an approval effective from July 1, that all health workers who are practicing in the state will be rated with federal workers, so, there is no excuse not to work where you are asked to work. It does not make sense for us to renovate and equip health centres without training the staff and providing necessary facilities. We've funded the renovation of all the Schools of Nursing and their upgrading, and also ensured that the College of Health Technology receives accreditation so that they can produce competent graduates who are certified and nurses and health workers to man these institutions because this is extremely critical for our programme. I don't want to offer free health care and people don't have access to it. Before we implement the new health care scheme, let's do something for our people. Let's make sure their health facilities are equipped and that the staff are trained and re-trained and given incentives as well, that will encourage them to stay at their duty post and work. Under the new health programme, we want the facilities we are renovating and constructing to be available 24 hours to our people.

*Sir, it is a known fact that HIV/AIDS is one dreaded disease that has threatened humanity and following this is malaria. What are your interventions in this area?*

We have not done enough yet to curtail it, once we do enough, it will be eradicated. There is still much to do to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS. We met a programme that was aggressive and we want to sustain it but we are particularly pleased that there is a legislation now that backs these efforts that is the creation of SACA which I chair. The major challenge for us in HIV/AIDS is ensuring that these people living with the disease are not stigmatized. The donor support we've received is substantial, but we think, there is a lot more out there to be done. About malaria, we have been working very hard distributing drugs and nets and we want to take it to a point where we can actually, if possible, grow the medication for treating malaria. Recent



studies indicate that we have the right soil and environment to grow some of these drugs and we're going to continue to press on in that regard. Our health care delivery is below expectation, that is a fact, because there is no General hospital that is up to standard, and that is why we are putting so much resources into health care. This year, we are going to put in Calabar, a dialysis centre, construct an entire new building that will have a trauma unit (emergency ward), a C.I Scan and the basics that you require in a general hospital to be addressed as a referral centre. We are putting in about 1.5 billion naira to get it up to standard. I'm very passionate about health care for obvious reasons. There are 6 general hospitals that have been under construction for about 7 years now, we will complete them and furnish them between now and the end of next year.

*A couple of months ago, the State Executive Council converged at the Ranch Resort. What was the reason? We went to the Ranch to do a few things, indeed for the Exco to re-focus. I challenged them to start to think of their programmes and plan i.e come up with a strategy for achieving those targets that they have set for themselves. I wanted them to say that in six month's time, this is where I will be and after the said six months, I should be able to measure the performance of that Exco member, whether he has been able to achieve the mandate he set for himself or if he has fallen short. Secondly, I needed to get everybody to appreciate the need for budgeting. It appeared like Greek to some of them but that's the only way we can achieve our target, given the constraints that we have.*

*Cross River State has an agro-based economy and at your inaugural last year, you did state clearly that your government was going to pursue agriculture to bring it back to one of the major sources of boosting the economy of the state with you serving as the Chief farmer and others. I don't know how far you're pursuing this programme now that we are in the planting season, are*

*"... Yeah, that's a good question. One thing that we did was that, we got every agency to go out to each of the local government areas, sit down with the local government leadership, as well as, the community leadership in deciding what projects should be executed in these communities..."*

*they back to the field?*

I don't think there is any of us that don't have the capacity to farm. It's in our culture and system. So there's no basis or reason not to farm. I am not competent enough to be called chief farmer, I'm just an apprentice but I will lead and we will launch the initiative. Myself and other Exco members are going back to our farms. More importantly is the CARES initiative. We must understand that there's money to be made from farming. For the first time, we're subsidizing fertilizer in the State. We are also going to introduce the latest technology so that we can improve the yield of our farmers to encourage them to appreciate that they can actually earn a good living from farming.

*It has come to public view that your administration is ready to establish an ethanol project in conjunction with NNPC. How relevant is this project and what do we stand to benefit from it?*

There's a demand for alternative source of energy and the most common is ethanol. NNPC is determined to set up a facility for ethanol production and they came to Cross River State because we have an advantaged land, the right climate for that and we think that if NNPC would work closely with us (we believe they will), we would not only be producing ethanol in Cross River State but we should be producing it in commercial quantities and that is a veritable source of income for us.

*Recently, you have been quoted to have said you are establishing a College of Education and also embarking on the renovation of infrastructure in 400 primary and 60 secondary schools. Is this true?*

If there was anything more challenging than health care delivery in terms of abysmal performance in the state, its probably education. It is unfortunate that a state that is described as the cradle of Nigerian civilization, the first state the white man came to, Calabar, the 1st capital of Nigeria, and we are, in 2008 classified as educationally disadvantaged. There is something fundamentally wrong that 25% of the students who take WAEC in Cross River State pass, so we all want to take NECO to have higher pass marks instead of addressing the fundamental problems. For us, it is a big challenge. We have looked at the educational sector and come up with initiatives which will be able to make a difference. We cannot identify 50 standards for primary schools out of the 1,019 primary schools we have in the State. The same goes for the teachers, because out of 19,000 plus teachers in the primary schools, 9,000 teachers do not have the NCE certification for them. Also, we don't have the College of Education that will produce these certificate holders and equip them. In all circumstances, we must intervene and our intervention has to deal with man-power issues, infrastructure and so on. The College of Education which we intend to restart will focus on training teachers at all levels, particularly primary and secondary. It is imperative that Cross River State should get off the educationally disadvantaged list by ensuring that our children have the ability to compete in a global economy. We set our target on rehabilitating 400 out of 1000 primary schools and getting them up to what we call "the Cross River standard" and each intervention will be comprehensive. At the secondary school level, we are taking 60 schools out of 250 secondary schools in the State and we are putting 50 million naira for comprehensive intervention of 3 laboratories in



each school, new desks, retraining of teachers, introduce a reading culture, a library and I.T. centre in each school.

**Recently Sir, the Academic staff of Crutech suspended their strike, has the government gone to sleep because the strike has been called off?**

No, not at all, when we came in as an administration, I think one of the key areas we paid attention to was the University. We immediately increased the imprest allocation to the university by 50%. We also provided a substantial capital budget for the university and for this year, it's N600 million. We released also, substantial funding for accreditation because that is very important.

One of the obvious challenges with Crutech was that they were not getting full accreditation for their programmes and they were not doing the right complement of staff. They insisted that we pay more attention and that was not possible. I made it clear from the beginning, it did not make any sense for us to implement any programme that will create an additional burden on the state without adding value to what we are doing. We are ready to pay top dollar for academic staffs at CRUTECH who are qualified and we will also ensure that we are not disengaging anybody, but go to where you are qualified. Those without the minimum qualification should leave because we cannot mortgage the future of our children, it is not acceptable. The unions have seen reason and suspended the strike. The bottom-line is the students, we'll ensure that not only are they trained, they have a qualitative education that allow them to compete in the global economy.

**Your administration has shown that they have the welfare of workers at the back of their minds, what more do we expect?**

The public service should give me something back. When the permanent secretaries got their new wage bills and cars, I said to them, the only thing I ask is please pay me back by rededicating yourself to your duties,

let me see a difference. Let me see that this pay package has translated to an improvement in performance. In January next year, based on the cost of living, there's going to be a wage increase. Dedication to duty sensitizes me, once I'm sensitized, I can also add more incentives.

**Your government's insistence on principles of accountability, transparency and due process has inspired public confidence in the government. How does it flow in the government business? And does it have an exception to anyone?**

The essence of due process to my mind is to guarantee that we are getting value for the products and services that we procure as government. In the past,

*"... We have concluded the tourism master plan and it is about to be presented to the Exco for implementation. We are looking at breaking the distance for instance, from Calabar and say, the Ranch. We think we will develop the Agbokim Water Falls during the life of this administration..."*

what you have is procurements that you may or may not get value for. With the due process and openness, then, we believe that we are getting better value and providing more opportunities for people to participate.

**On the third tier of government, can we look at the Local government Reform Committee, the local government bills and the allowances and payment of political appointees?**

The Local government Reforms is one of the platforms of our seven-point agenda. When we talk about integrated rural development without a strong local government administration, we

will not realize our objectives. The Reform Bill strengthens our oversight on the local government. It also mandates the local government to comply with due process procurement and budget. We have a new crop of chairmen who understand the challenges and our own vision. We have partnered with them and soon, we'll see a difference because they are well funded. They must apply those resources judiciously. In terms of their allowance, we inherited a bill that scaled up everybody's wages quite significantly and it was said to be derived from the Revenue Mobilization and Fiscal Commission. When we did our calculation given the total number of local government appointees, it meant we were going to be paying so much as wages to political appointees every month in each local government and that was unreasonable. We agreed that we would go back to the Assembly and review the law and when this is done, we will now be able to ensure that councilors and elected officials at the Local Government get a reasonable pay package.

**From all you have said, it is very clear that your administration has invested in the well being of Cross Riverians. What are the expectations in the years ahead? It is also obvious that everyone wants to come into Cross River State. How are you going to handle the influx?**

We have in Cross River State, a God-given advantage and we can see that the state is growing faster. We believe that in one year, we've had enough time to plan, strategies and have started implementing our key projects and programmes. We believe that this coming year 2008/2009 is very critical for us in terms of programme implementation and we believe that we will continue to transform the face of Cross River State but we have to think ahead and we've come up with a new master to enable us forge ahead.

*Interview by: Eme Affiab,  
Febian Andem, Omini Oden  
and Sam Egbala*



# What Is The INTERNET

This article is an introductory piece about the Internet targeted to provide general information to those who would like to have some understanding about it. In succeeding articles we would go into additional depth on how the Internet works, its history, and how it is transforming societies.

The Internet has well over a billion users. There are several different ways to look at what the Internet actually is. At the highest level, the Internet is the people that use it - the global community of users. At another level, the Internet is a set of protocols that define the rules of how the computers will transfer information with one another. At the lowest level, it is the hardware behind the computer networks - the computers, modems, (devices that convert the data from one form to another for communication) phone lines and cables that link together to form a huge network.

**Who Controls the Internet?** No one! The Internet is a kind of anarchy. Everyone looks after their own little Internet 'patch', but no one is responsible for looking after it as a whole. It would be nearly impossible to control the Internet now - and many believe that trying to would destroy it. However the Internet still requires some coordination, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is the authority that coordinates the assignment of unique identifiers on the Internet, including domain names, (a name given to a group of devices managed within a common administrative boundary) and Internet Protocol (IP) addresses. A globally unified namespace (i.e., a system of names in which there is at most one holder for each possible name) is essential for the Internet to function. ICANN is headquartered in Marina del Rey, California,

but is overseen by an international board of directors drawn from across the Internet technical, business, academic, and non-commercial communities. Because the Internet is a distributed network comprising many voluntarily interconnected networks, the Internet, as such, has no governing body. ICANN's role in coordinating the assignment of unique identifiers distinguishes it as perhaps the only central coordinating body on the global Internet, but the scope of its authority extends only to the

Internet's systems of domain names, IP addresses and a few other technical details.

**Which languages are used on the Internet?** The prevalent language for communication on the Internet is English. This may be a result of the Internet's origins, as well as English's role as a lingua franca. It may also be related to the poor capability of early computers, largely originating in the United States, to handle characters other than those in the English variant of the Latin alphabet. After English (30% of Web visitors) the most requested languages on the World Wide Web are Chinese (17%), Spanish (9%), Japanese (7%), French (5%) and German (5%).

**Common uses of the Internet**

**The World Wide Web** The official definition of the WWW is "wide-area hypermedia information retrieval initiative aiming to give universal access to a large universe of documents." The World Wide Web spans the whole globe hence the wide-area reference. The term hypermedia is apt because the Internet contains various types of media. These include text, pictures, sound, movies ... and hyperlinks that connect pages to one another.

Information retrieval using the world wide web is done by viewing a WWW document (or a web page). This is easily done with the help of web browsers, which allow anyone to retrieve pages just by clicking links, or entering addresses. The www offers universal access because: It doesn't matter what type of computer you have, or what type of computer the page you want is stored on - your Web browser allows you to connect seamlessly to many different systems. Finally the web is indeed a large universe of documents. Anyone can



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publish a Web page. Web pages exist for virtually everything under the sun. No matter what obscure information you want to find, there is bound to be someone out there who has written a Web page about it.

**WWW vs the Internet?** The World Wide Web is just one of the many services that the Internet provides. Some other services provided by

the Internet are email, FTP, instant messaging, VoIP, video conferencing, VPNs, collaboration, webcasting, podcasting etc. Some like UseNet, ether and telnet are no longer in general usage.

**Email?** Email is the transmission of messages (text, graphics etc) by the Internet Protocol. Along with the WWW, email is the most popular service that the Internet provides. It works just like normal mail (called snail mail), except that a letter takes a few minutes (or a fraction of it) instead of a few days to be delivered. Because of the fast turnaround of email messages, email tends to have a more conversational style than conventional mail, meaning the formalities of letter writing are lost, and spelling and grammar become less important.

**FTP?** FTP (File Transfer Protocol) is just a way to transfer files from computer to computer on the Internet. You might typically use it to transfer (upload) a Web page from your computer (where you are writing it) to another computer (a Web server) so it can be accessed by the world, or you may use it to download a file from a public archive. There are many FTP clients (programs) available to use for this purpose, eg. WS\_FTP for Windows. To allow only authorized people to upload files it is usually necessary to have an account (a login name and password) on that computer. For instance you may have an account on your ISP's computer so you can put Web pages on it.

**What are Plugins?** A plugin is a program that is an extension to your Web browser that will let you view different kinds of files than can normally be viewed inside a browser. Some plugins let you see types of files created specifically for the Web - they can bring a high level of multimedia and interactivity to a Web page. For example the Shockwave plugin lets you see animated, interactive games, demos and ads. Another



**The Internet?**

The Internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible series of interconnected computer networks that transmit data by packet switching (a system of movement of data in small discrete blocks between nodes over data links shared with other traffic) using the standard Internet Protocol (protocols are the rules governing the communication of data on a switched network). It is a "network of networks" that consists of millions of smaller domestic, academic, business, and government networks, which together carry various information and services, such as electronic mail, online chat, file transfer, and the interlinked web pages and other resources of the World Wide Web (WWW).





very popular plugin is Real Player which lets you listen to live radio stations from around the world and view video clips. Most plugins are completely free for you to download and use. Installing a plugin is as easy as installing any type of software. You just download it from a Web site, then run it, and it will automatically install itself.

**Remote access?** The Internet allows computer users to connect to other computers and information stores easily, wherever they may be across the world. They may do this with or without the use of security, authentication and encryption technologies, depending on the requirements.

This is encouraging new ways of working from home, collaboration and information sharing in many industries. An accountant sitting at home can audit the books of a company based in another country, on a server (a computer dedicated to running a computer program that accepts network connections in order to service requests by sending back responses) situated in a third country that is remotely maintained by IT specialists in a fourth. These accounts could have been handled by home-working bookkeepers, in other remote locations, based on information e-mailed to them from offices all over the world. Some of these things were possible before the widespread use of the Internet, but the cost of private leased lines would have made many of them infeasible in practice.

An office worker away from his desk, perhaps on the other side of the world on a business trip or a holiday, can open a remote desktop session into his normal office PC using a secure Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection via the Internet. This gives the worker complete access to all of his or her normal files and data, including e-mail and other applications, while away from the office.

**Collaboration?** The low cost and nearly instantaneous sharing of ideas, knowledge, and skills has made collaborative work dramatically easier. Not only can a group cheaply communicate and test, but the wide reach of the Internet allows such groups to easily form in the first place, even among niche interests. An example of this is the free software movement in software development, which produced Linux from scratch.

Internet "chat", whether in the form of IRC "chat rooms" or via instant messaging systems, (this is a form of real-time communication between two or more people based on typed text) allow colleagues to stay in touch in a very convenient way when working at their computers during the day. Messages can be sent and viewed even more quickly and conveniently than via e-mail. Extension to these systems may allow files to be exchanged, "whiteboard" drawings to be shared as well as voice and video contact between team members.

Version control systems allow collaborating teams

to work on shared sets of documents without either accidentally overwriting each other's work or having members wait until they get "sent" documents to be able to add their thoughts and changes.

**File sharing?** A computer file can be e-mailed to customers, colleagues and friends as an attachment. It can be uploaded to a website or FTP server for easy download by others. It can be put into a "shared location" or onto a file server for instant use by colleagues.

In any of these cases, access to the file may be controlled by user authentication; the transit of the file over the Internet may be obscured by encryption, and money may change hands before or after access to the file is given. The price can be paid by the remote charging of funds from, for example, a credit card whose details are also passed—hopefully fully encrypted—across the Internet. The origin and authenticity of the file received may be checked by digital signatures or other message digests.

These simple features of the Internet, over a worldwide basis, are changing the basis for the production, sale, and distribution of anything that can be reduced to a computer file for transmission. This includes all manner of print publications, software products, news, music, film, video, photography, graphics and the other arts. This in turn has caused seismic shifts in each of the existing industries that previously controlled the production and distribution of these products.

Internet collaboration technology enables business and project teams to share documents, calendars and other information. Such collaboration occurs in a wide variety of areas including scientific research, software development, conference planning, political activism and creative writing.

**Streaming media?** Many existing radio and television broadcasters provide Internet "feeds" of their live audio and video streams. They may also allow time-shift viewing or listening such as Preview, Classic Clips and Listen Again features. These providers have been joined by a range of pure Internet "broadcasters" who never had on-air licenses. This means that an Internet-connected device, such as a computer or mobile phone, can be used to access on-line media in much the same way as was previously possible only with a television or radio receiver. The range of material is much wider, including highly specialized, technical webcasts (webcasting is "broadcasting" over the Internet and may be live or recorded). Podcasting is a variation on this theme, where—usually audio—material is first downloaded in full and then may be played back on a computer or shifted to a digital audio player to be listened to on the move. These techniques using simple equipment allow anybody, with little

copyright or licensing control, to broadcast audio-visual material on a worldwide basis.

Webcams (web cameras are small cameras usually video cameras whose images can be accessed using the Web, instant messaging, or a PC video conferencing application) are an even lower-budget extension of this phenomenon. While some webcams can give full-frame-rate video, the picture is usually either small or updates slowly. Internet users can watch animals around an African waterhole, ships in the Panama Canal, the traffic at a local roundabout or their own premises, live and in real time. Video chat rooms, video conferencing, (also known as a videoteleconference is a set of interactive telecommunication technologies which allow two or more locations to interact via two-way video and audio transmissions simultaneously) and remote controllable webcams are also popular. Many uses can be found for personal webcams in and around the home, with and without two-way sound.

Today probably the most popular video site on the Web is YouTube, sometimes described as an Internet phenomenon because of the vast amount of users and how rapidly the site's popularity has grown, was founded in 2005. It is now the leading website for free streaming video. It uses a flash-based web player which streams video files. Users are able to watch videos without signing up; however, if users do sign up they are able to upload an unlimited amount of videos and they are given their own personal profile. It is currently estimated that there are 64,000,000 videos on YouTube, and it is also currently estimated that 825,000 new videos are uploaded every day.

### Voice telephony (VoIP)

VoIP stands for Voice over IP, where IP refers to the Internet Protocol that underlies all Internet communication. This phenomenon began as an optional two-way voice extension to some of the instant messaging systems that took off around the year 2000. In recent years many VoIP systems have become as easy to use and as convenient as a normal telephone. The benefit is that, as the Internet carries the actual voice traffic, VoIP can be free or cost much less than a normal telephone call, especially over long distances and especially for those with always-on Internet connections.

Thus, VoIP is maturing into a viable alternative to traditional telephones. Interoperability between different providers has improved and the ability to call or receive a call from a traditional telephone is available. Simple, inexpensive VoIP modems are now available that eliminate the need for a PC. Voice quality can still vary from call to call but is often equal to and can even exceed that of traditional calls.

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of Governor's Office





By **Victor Bassey Asuquo**  
MCP MCSA MCDBA

## DEPLOYING A ROBUST I.T SOLUTION FOR THE ORGANIZATION; Exploring the Role of E.R.P Applications

**E**RP, the acronym for Enterprise Resource Planning, utilizes ERP software applications to improve the performance of organizations' resource planning, management control, and operations. ERP systems attempt to integrate several data sources and

processes of an establishment into a unified system using multiple components of software and hardware. All of these systems depend on an integrated database to store data for the various modules. This common database allows department of a corporation to store and retrieve information in real time,

ensuring that information is more accurate, reliable and easily shared.

Simplistically, for a system to be considered an ERP, the software package must provide the function of at least two (2) systems. For example, if a software package provides both payroll and accounting functions,





technically, it is considered an ERP application. In reality, an ERP software is a multi-module application software that integrates activities across functional departments from product planning, inventory control, sales, finance, accounting and human resources. Examples of modules in ERP which could have been 'stand alone' applications include: Manufacturing, supply chain, financials, customer relations management, human resources and decision support systems.

Prior to the development of the ERP concept, each functional department within an organization had its customized computer system. For instance, if we consider government, different Ministries, Departments and Agencies had to have different systems catering to different functions. These pose lots of difficulties in gathering on data integration from potentially different computer systems and manufacturers. The human resource computer system (may be in establishment) would manage employee information, while the payroll department (accounts) would calculate and store salary information while the finance department would store financial transactions. For integration, each system would have to use a predefined set of common data which would be transformed between each computer system. A deviation from the data format or schedule of integration often was problematic. Some of the software modules of an ERP include: Financials, Project, Human resources, Customer Relations Management and Data Warehousing.

Examples of ERP applications include; SAP, Oracle e-Business Suite and Microsoft Dynamics in the proprietary category. In the free and open source category we have GNU Enterprise, SQL Ledger and Tiny ERP etc. Any of these ERP applications includes several modules. Microsoft Dynamics for instance has

the following: Microsoft Dynamics AX (formerly Axapta), Microsoft Dynamics NAV (formerly Navision), Microsoft GP (formerly Great Plains) and Microsoft Dynamics SL (formerly Solomon). Each of the following members of the Microsoft Dynamics family can be adopted as the ERP application of choice and each focuses more in some aspects of the enterprise computing needs, Microsoft Dynamics SL for instance, provides businesses functionality in finance, project accounting, manufacturing, field service, supply chains, analytics, and electronic commerce and is primarily targeted for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

Microsoft Dynamics SL is a line of integrated adaptable business management solution, enabling personnel to make informed decisions with greater confidence. Organizations face the challenges of maintaining profitability for client services, projects and the use of people. Profitability for the enterprise and credibility and responsibility for government mean that ideas should be flawlessly transformed to end products, hence projects should be correctly estimated and executed so that they are completed on time to the right specifications. Microsoft Dynamics SL when integrated with existing Microsoft products and technologies such as Microsoft Office Project, Microsoft SQL Server and Active Directory, provide Enterprise Project Management EPM functionalities. The benefits for such an integration are numerous and include; Collect time and project expenses easily, Generate customer invoices efficiently, Forecast costs and budgets accurately, Manage contracts effectively, Measure results precisely to mention but a few. With these advantages, organizations can increase profits, efficiency, effectiveness and customer services, while adapting more rapidly to more changing business conditions.

Broadly speaking any ERP deployment aims at achieving some or all of the following aims; Reducing operation cost by attempting to integrate business processes across departments onto a single enterprise-wide information system, facilitate better day-to-day management by offering better accessibility to data so that management can have up-to-the-minute access to information for decision making and managerial control and to support strategic planning which is a deliberate set of steps that assess needs and resources; define a target audience and a set of goals and objectives; plan and design coordinated strategies with evidence of success; logically connect these strategies to needs, assets, and desired outcomes; and measure and evaluate the process and outcomes. The list of benefits is endless.

ERP software systems are typically complex and usually impose significant changes on staff work practices, so implementation can be quite challenging and usually is not done 'in-house'. The length of time to implement an ERP system depends on the size of the business, the scope of the change and willingness of the customer to take ownership for the project, this could span any time between a few months to years. Organizations often seek the help of an ERP vendor or of third-party consulting companies. These firms typically provide three areas of professional services: consulting, customization and support. All in all, the benefits of deploying this robust I.T solution for the enterprise are numerous and the benefits far outweigh the cost, making the Return On Investment ROI quite high. I therefore recommend its implementation in every organization.

*Victor Bassey Asuquo  
An IT professional is the Head  
Of Academics at Aptech Computer  
Education Calabar Centre*





## Children's Day Celebration 2008: A Turning Point For a Better Future

***"...Nigeria is our country and the children, our future. It is therefore our obligation as leaders today, to create an enabling environment for the children so that Nigeria can have great leaders tomorrow..."***

***President Umaru Yar'Adua***

The President of the nation, President Musa Yar' Adua made this declaration during this year's Children's Day Celebration held simultaneously in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), alongside other States in the country. With the theme as "Nigeria fit for children", the President assured the Nigerian child that issues bordering on the child's rights, welfare and wellbeing would be given prompt and adequate attention.

The number one citizen urged all Nigerians to wake up to the clarion call of giving the Nigerian child the needed upbringing to meet the realities of the years ahead. The President also called

on the children to imbibe the virtues of honesty, humility and hardwork which will bring out the potentials in them as great men and women. President Yar' Adua assured of his administration's commitment to develop Nigeria into a strong and virile nation.

In Cross River State, the Children's Day Celebration was colourful and show-cased a generation that is eager to be part of the development agenda of the nation. With the State's theme as "A State Fit for A Child" (ASFAC), His Excellency the State Governor, Senator Liyel Imoke in his address reiterated his administration's commitment towards addressing the various challenges encountered by the children in order

to create the enabling environment for their growth and development.

Describing his administration as 'Children Oriented' with interventions such as the planned renovation of infrastructure in 500 public schools, provision of free meals for primary school pupils and total renovation of 250 secondary schools, the state is about to witness great improvement in education.

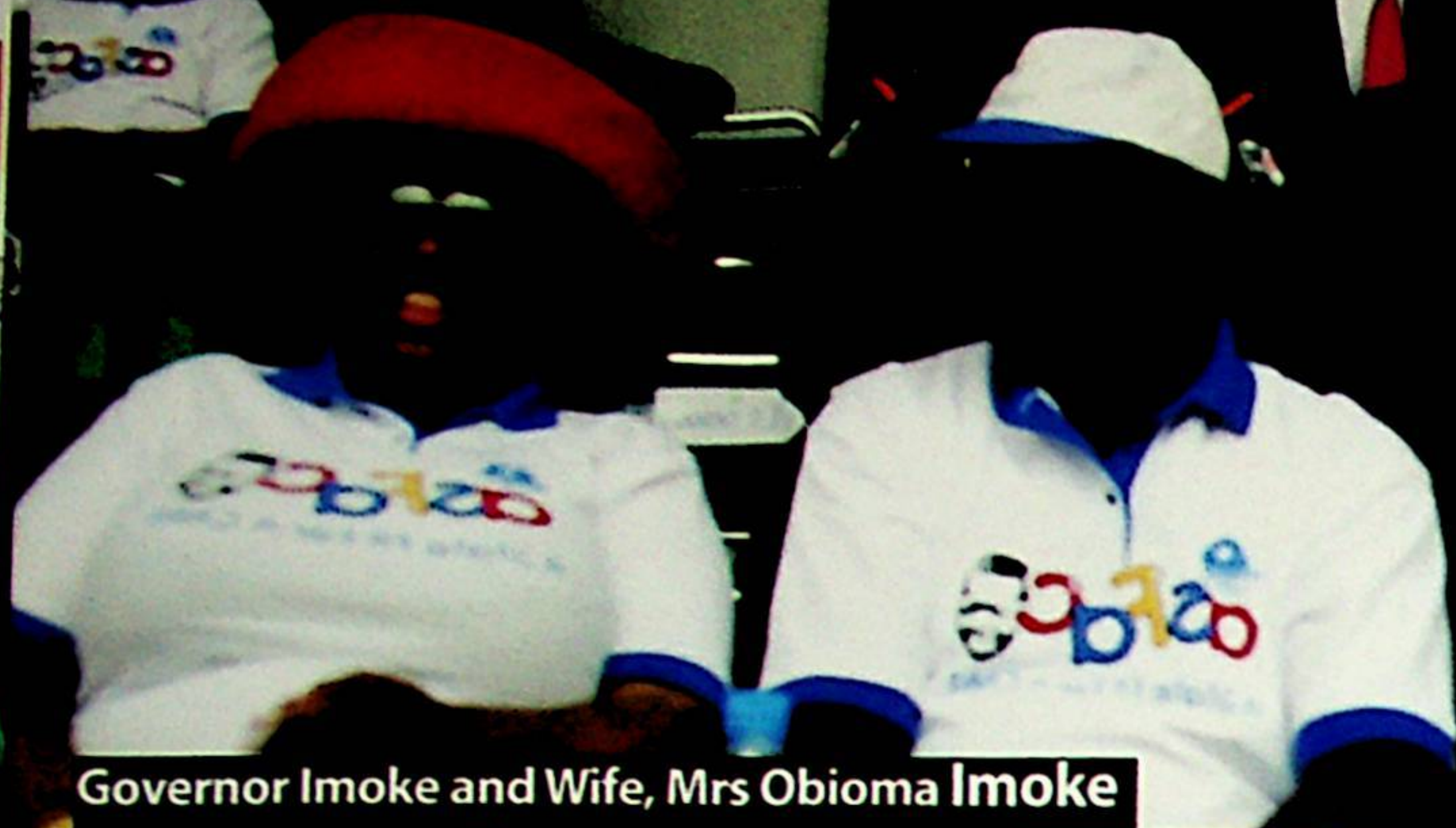
According to his Excellency, education is his ultimate priority for the Cross River child as the end-product will be good future leaders. He therefore urged the children to shun negative tendencies as future leaders.

In her address, the wife of the









Governor Imoke and Wife, Mrs Obioma Imoke



Mr. Nzan Ogbe, SA Governor's office with Mrs. Rosemary E. Achonwa, SA Mortgage Fin. & Estate Development.



Wives of CRS Exco. Members

Governor who is already an advocate for the children, cashed on the children's day to draw attention to the abused, abandoned and the children in the orphanages. Mrs Obioma stated that the situation and challenges of these children must be given paramount attention.

The celebration had earlier started with a "A State For A Child" advocacy road-show around major streets in the state capital Calabar, in a bid to create awareness on the issues concerning the children.

The Commissioner for Women Affairs, Mrs Ekama Awara in an address expressed profound gratitude to the Governor for providing the enablement for peace and development in the state and his wife for being proactive to children related issues.

In a related development, the Executive Secretary of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP) Mrs Carol M. Oduro in a courtesy call on the Governor commended NAPTIP,

In her address, Mrs Mdaguba expressed NAPTIP's desire to collaborate with the State Government in combating the menace of human trafficking in the State and the country at large. She described human trafficking as the highest form of degradation, deprivation and violation of human rights. Various researches, according to Mrs. Carol indicate that among the causes of human trafficking include poverty, strife, child rejection etc. These practices violate the rights of children and must be shunned, she stressed.

Responding, the Governor, Senator Imoke lamented the incidence of child trafficking and other related vices which have recently been on the increase. The Governor disclosed that sustainable programmes have been initiated to reduce the manace besides the activities of the Ministry of Sports, Youth Development and Orientation and the Ministry of Women Affairs, all working round the clock to ensure that these vices are almost eliminated. Governor Imoke commended NAPTIP,

its awareness campaign and total efforts in the fight against human trafficking.

As part of the activities marking the Children's Day Celebration, the Children Parliament in the state paid the Governor a courtesy call. The Speaker of the Parliament, Miss Lovet Njar thanked the Governor for the various developmental programmes initiated to improve living standard in the State. She called on the State Government to enact the Child's Rights Act into law and also appealed for scholarships and grants to enable more children go to school.

Miss Njar pleaded that the children should be given more opportunities to participate in the affairs and governance of the state.

This year's celebration of the Children's Day indeed gave the children better fora to interact with government. Highlights of the entire celebration included parades, traditional dances, essays, quiz, debate competitions and presentation of Awards to winners.

By Glory Ofem Mathew



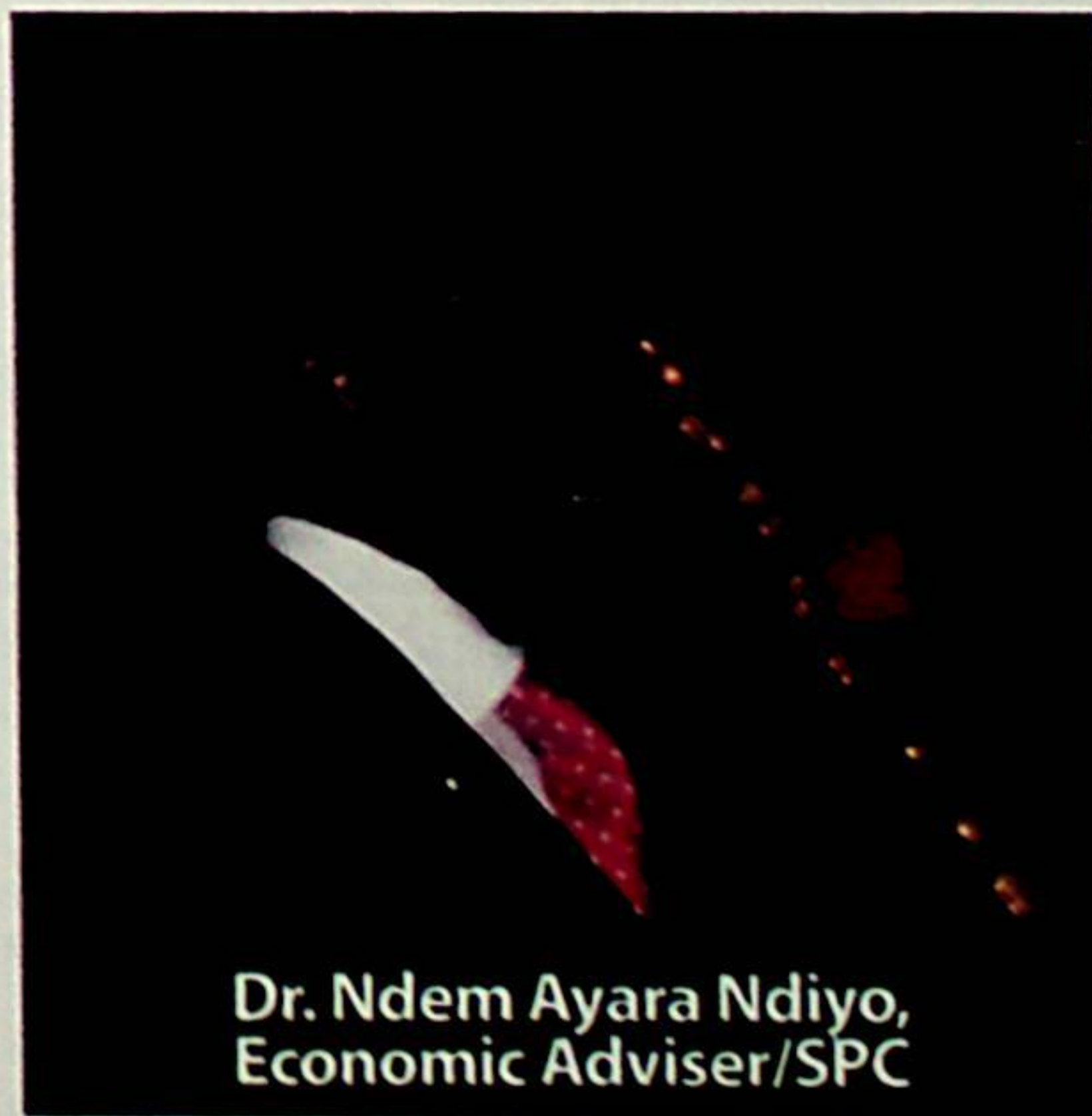


Governor Liyel Imoke

## Governor Imoke Present State Economic Blue-Print

A seven-point economic blue print to create a realistic and robust development agenda in Cross River State has been put in motion as part of activities to mark the first one year of Governor Liyel Imoke led administration in the State.

Disclosing this recently in Calabar, Governor Imoke said the seven-point agenda would cover agriculture, education, tourism, healthcare delivery, transportation, communication and electricity supply. He also revealed that a strong private sector driven economy would be developed by growing the purchasing power of Cross Riverians and encouraging private enterprises as well as strengthen the real sector of the State's economy. According to him, implementing this agenda calls for urgent reforms that would make government more proactive and better positioned to meet the challenges of development of the State. Senator Imoke emphasized




Dr. Ndem Ayara Ndiyo, Economic Adviser/SPC

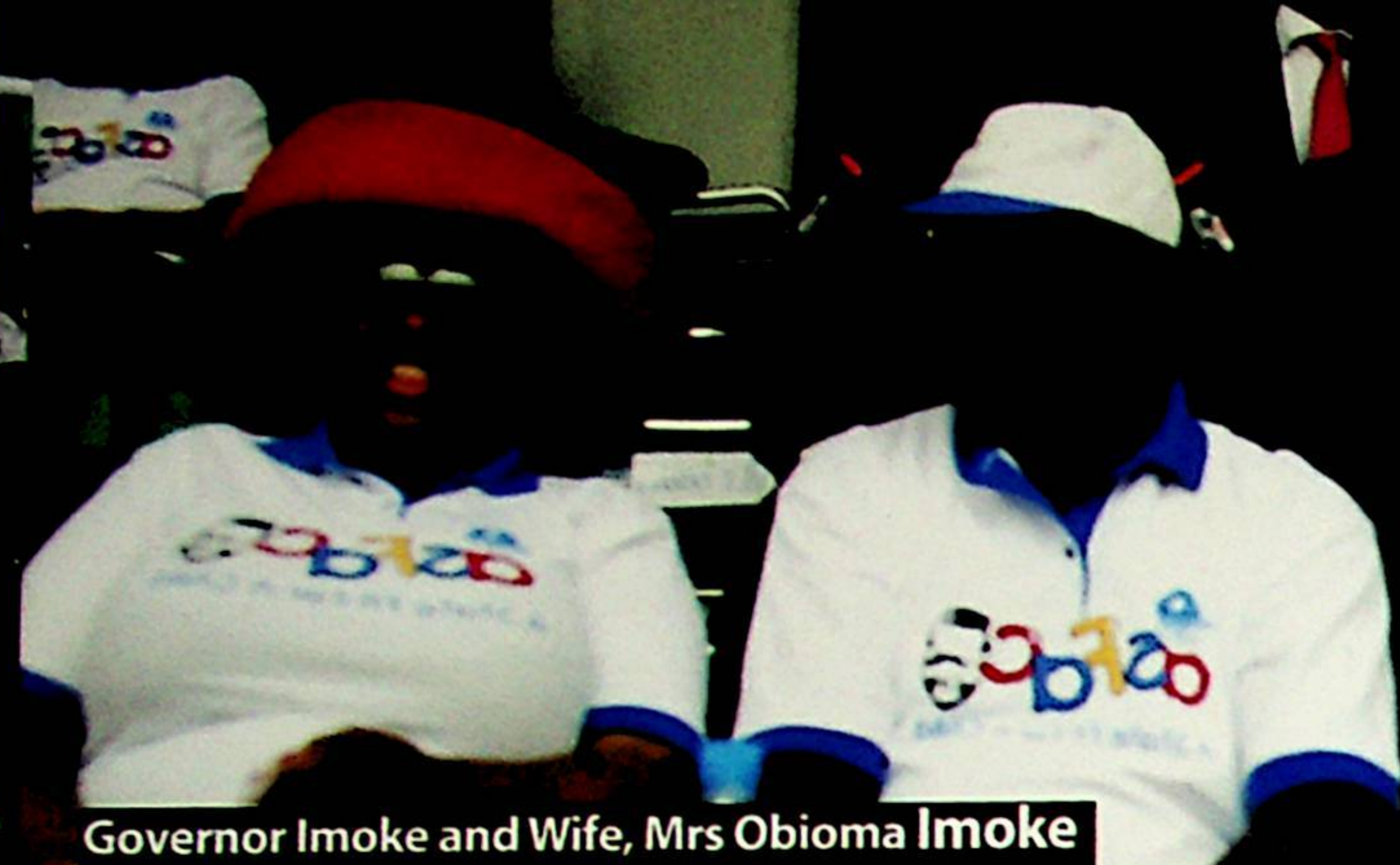
that the agenda would intensify the implementation of the public service reforms, reorientate and revitalize as well as re-engineer the public service by providing capacity building with firm application of Public Service Rules and Main Streaming of SERVICOM.

At the local level, he said that the reforms to improve the quality of local governance and administration would be encouraged so as to bring

government closer to the people through effective and efficient service delivery. The Social Welfare reforms sector would be to implement and develop a sustainable Social Welfare Scheme that would provide for the weaker and more vulnerable groups equitably with particular attention on the disabled, the aged, women and the unemployed.

The Tax System in the State, he said, would remove all forms of multiple and arbitrary taxation, improve tax collection and ensure optimal utilization of tax revenue in the State. Speaking, the Economic Adviser to the Governor, Dr. Ndem Ayara Ndiyo noted that previously it was "Hidden Agenda" which turned out to be the bane of Nigeria's economic policy adding that the blue print is a complete document of Cross River State. He enjoined Civil Societies and other development partners to key into the vision of the State and contribute its quota for the success of the blue-print. 





Governor Imoke and Wife, Mrs Obioma Imoke



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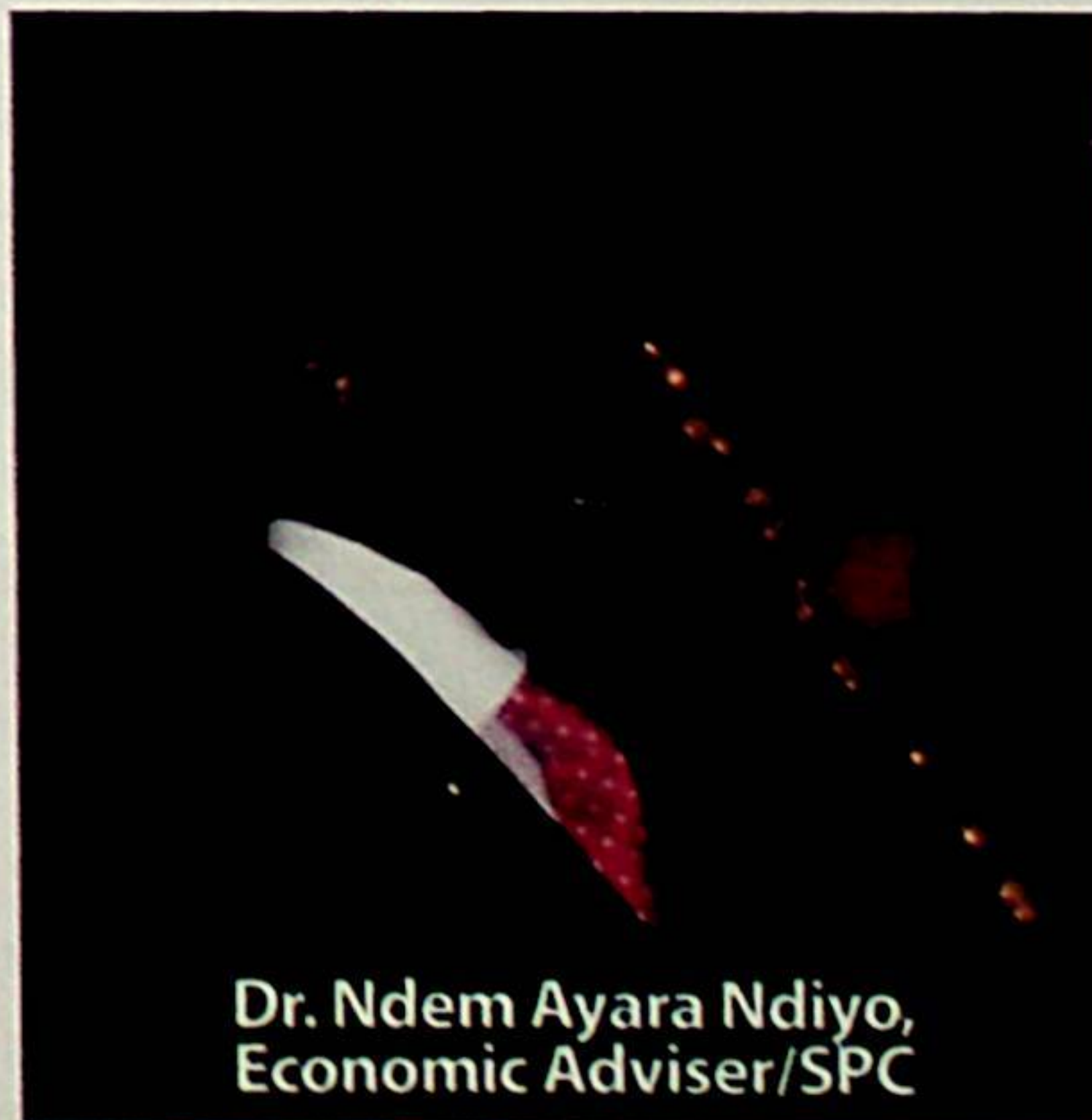


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that the agenda would intensify the implementation of the public service reforms, reorientate and revitalize as well as re-engineer the public service by providing capacity building with firm application of Public Service Rules and Main Streaming of SERVICOM.

At the local level, he said that the reforms to improve the quality of local governance and administration would be encouraged so as to bring

government closer to the people through effective and efficient service delivery. The Social Welfare reforms sector would be to implement and develop a sustainable Social Welfare Scheme that would provide for the weaker and more vulnerable groups equitably with particular attention on the disabled, the aged, women and the unemployed.

The Tax System in the State, he said, would remove all forms of multiple and arbitrary taxation, improve tax collection and ensure optimal utilization of tax revenue in the State. Speaking, the Economic Adviser to the Governor, Dr. Ndem Ayara Ndiyo noted that previously it was "Hidden Agenda" which turned out to be the bane of Nigeria's economic policy adding that the blue print is a complete document of Cross River State. He enjoined Civil Societies and other development partners to key into the vision of the State and contribute its quota for the success of the blue-print.





Governor Imoke, Congratulates Senator Victor Ndoma Egba, Chairman MOFINEWS Editorial Board, shortly after the boards Inauguration in Calabar.

## Imoke Inaugurates MOFINEWS Board

A seven-member Editorial Board has been inaugurated with a charge to sustain the focus of the state's publication, MOFINEWS and ensure its timely and effective coverage of the programmes and policies of the State for the enlightenment of the reading public.

The State Governor, Senator Liyel Imoke gave the charge in Calabar recently during the inauguration of the MOFINEWS Editorial Board.

Governor Imoke noted with pride the progress recorded by the magazine which he said has assumed world class standard and urged the new board to even improve on it. "MOFINEWS is doing a great job for the State with its strong message to

the world about Cross River State" the governor said. He reaffirmed tourism and agriculture as the main focus of his administration and urged the new board members to sacrifice their time to ensure that the quality of its editorial content is not compromised.

Governor Imoke specially commended Senator Ndoma-Egba (SAN) who despite his numerous engagements within the Senate and beyond, still finds time to lead as well as contribute to the growth of several interventions in the State. This the Governor said makes Senator Ndoma-Egba a true Cross Riverian. The Governor thanked the pioneer board of the magazine for nurturing the publication's vision to its present state.

The Governor also commended the Editor of the publication, Mr.

Freedom Ejom and urged him to keep up the good work and promised to support MOFINEWS to achieve its goals.

In her introductory remarks, the former Commissioner for Finance, Mrs. Rosemary Achonwa said MOFINEWS is created to highlight the potentials of the State to the outside world.

She said from the 32 page maiden edition published in August 2000, the Journal has grown to an 88 page magazine with a wide readership.

Mrs Achonwa disclosed that in line with the rider of the magazine which is "the peoples' right to know" and as a bi-monthly publication of the Finance Ministry, the magazine would be publishing revenue collection from the Federation Allocation





Members of MOFINEWS Editorial Board (From Left) Dr Okpo Oja, Mr. George Agbor, Mrs Ann Oden and Mr. Odo Effiong

Account Committee (FAAC) for the enlightenment of the public on the State revenue position.

The Chairman of the MoNews Editorial Board, Senator Victor Ndoma Egba (SAN) in his response, lauded Governor Imoke for achieving much in the areas of physical development, harmony and peace in the past one year.

The concept of the magazine, he said, was not to be a political medium but to highlight the economic activities and potentials of the State. Ndoma-Egba said even as the magazine has become a nationally and internationally read publication, they would not rest on their oars to move it higher. He said the magazine will not only highlight activities of the State Government but will also publicize the private and federal agencies, where they excel or fail to perform.

Senator Ndoma-Egba also pointed that as an investment magazine, the magazine will give full attention to the performance of the State budget as well as the economic blueprint.

He pledged the Board's commitment to sustaining MOFINEWS as the voice of Cross River State and a brand for the State. The Board Chairman requested for staff and facility upgrade in MOFINEWS Secretariat.

Members of the Editorial Board



Governor Imoke, former Commissioner for finance, Mrs. Rosemary Ekora Achonwa and Senator Victor Ndoma Egba inspecting MOFINEWS Secretariat shortly after the board's Inauguration.

include Dr. Okpo Ojar of the University of Calabar and Mr. George Agbor a retired Civil Servant and the most regular columnist of the magazine. Others are a representative of the State Planning Commission, a representative of the Information, Communication and Technology Unit of the Governor's Office, Chief Press Secretary and the Editor of the magazine.

The Governor, in company of some exco members and MOFINEWS



SA, Media/Chief press Secretary, Mr Patrick Ugbe with the Editor MOFINEWS, Mr. Freedom Ejom.

Board later inspected the premises of the Ministry of Finance and the MOFINEWS office where he directed that an alternate channel be constructed for proper drainage of the volume of water into the premises to curb the incessant flooding in the area. 📍





## Information Officers Urged To Perform Their Duties Dilligently

**A** three day training workshop for information officers with the theme “The Role of Information Officers in Enhancing Good Governance in Democracy” was organized in the state recently.

While declaring open the workshop, the State Governor, Senator Liyel Imoke who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Barrister Fidelis Ugbo charged information officers to set the agenda for the society to follow and also actively participate in government policies and programmes. Senator Imoke stated that this will not be achieved if information officers are not adequately trained. He therefore charged them to


take the workshop seriously in order to apply the knowledge gained in the discharge of their duties.

Besides the fact that knowledge is power, government owes its staff the duty to equip them, particularly the information officers who are charged with the responsibility of educating, informing and enlightening Cross Riverians and other citizens about government policies, programmes and expectations.

In addition to training and retraining, government is ready to reposition the information unit with modern tools such as information gathering equipment, a conducive environment and other incentives. In his welcome address, the Information Commissioner who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr. Efenji Odey said information dissemination transcends all culture. Therefore the is need for government to employ competent hands to do the work of creating awareness, mobilization, enlightenment and sensitization most especially in the rural areas. He said government has allocated enough funds to enable the Ministry of Information reposition its information machinery

in the Broadcasting Corporation and the Newspaper Corporation.

The three days workshop covered presentations from different resource persons like Dr. Etim Anim who considered “The Role of Information Officers in Enhancing Good Governance in a Democracy”. Dr. Okpo Ojah spoke on “The Role of an Information Officer in an MDA”; “Freedom of Information and the Public Right to Know the Working of Government was treated by Dr. Edde Maurice Iji. Michael Nzan handled the aspect of “Writing for a Government Medium on Government Events. “Restricted and Unrestricted Information in a Government Establishment” was handled by Barr. Fabian Awhen while other topics like “Improving the relationship between the Chief Executive and the information officer for effective coverage of government business” and “The Improvement of timely publicity of government policy, programmes and events were equally taken by Chief Victor Effiong and Dr. Ashong C. Ashong respectively.

At the end of the workshop, certificates of participation were issued to participants. 

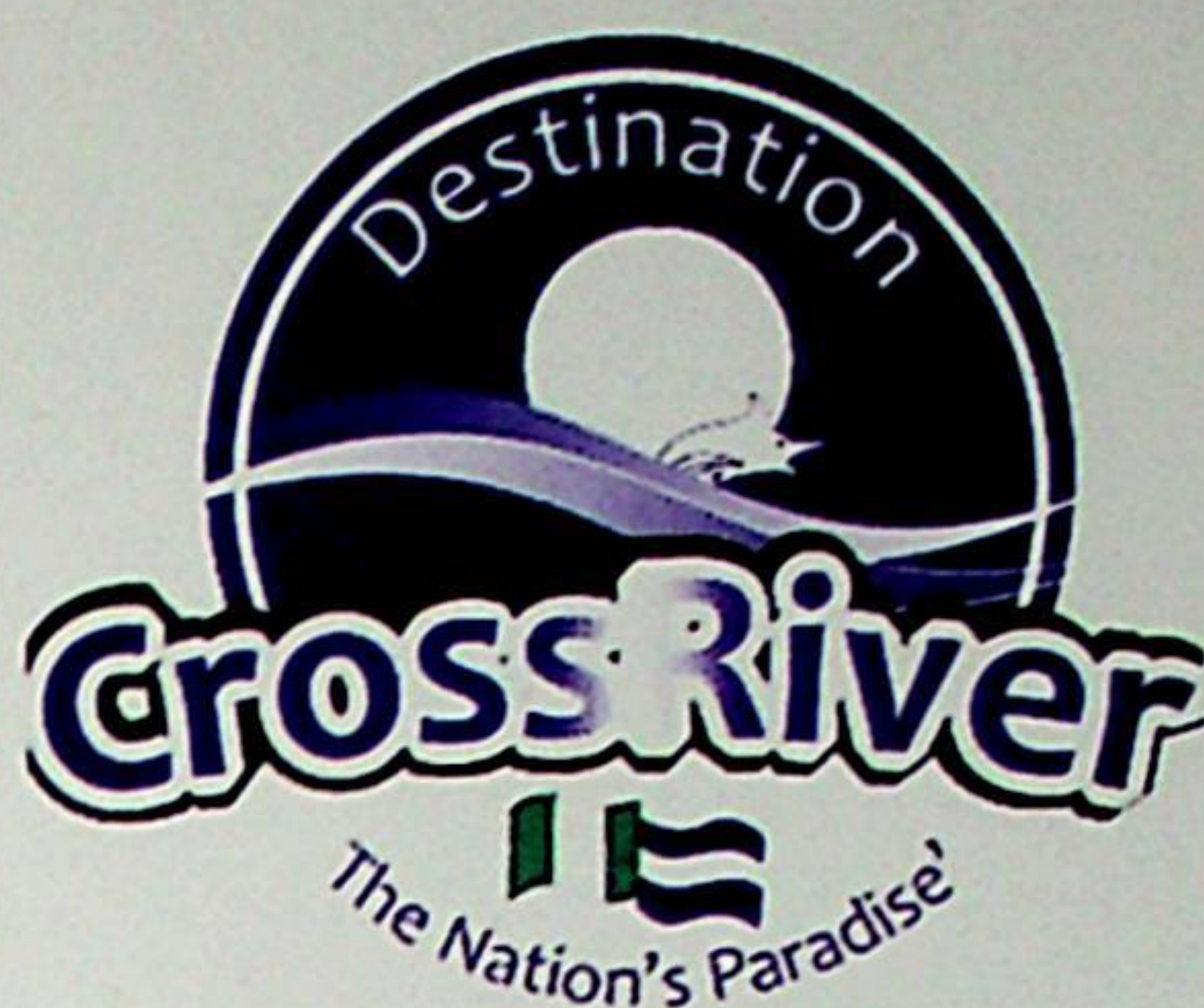
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Response Centre

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## Manchester United, Portsmouth To Lock Horns In Calabar July

Come July 23 to 28, 2008 the premier business and leisure resort in Calabar, the Tinapa will host soccer fans in Nigeria and the world in the first ever Tinapa football fiesta.

The summer fiesta which will feature the English Premier League and European Champions, the Manchester United and the English FA winners Portsmouth FC will hold in Calabar, the home of Tinapa Resort.

Briefing the Governor, Senator Liyel Imoke on the level of preparation, the Managing Director of Tinapa Business and Leisure Resort, Mr. Bassey Eyo-Ndem said "there is no going back on the date" adding that all arrangements have been finalized.

Mr. Eyo-Ndem who led the company of the Chairman English BARCLAY-CARD Premier league, Sir David Richards, the Executive Secretary MANCHESTER UNITED FC, Mr. Ken Ramsden and the Chief Operating Officer, PORTSMOUTH FC, Mr. Bruise on a courtesy visit to the Governor, said the facilities at the State Sports Stadium have been confirmed as world standard.

Other areas inspected, according to Mr. Eyo-Ndem were some designated hotels which were



also given pass marks as being ready to accommodate the expected crowd for the one week soccer fiesta. Explaining further, Mr. Eyo-Ndem disclosed that the super Eagles and one club side to be selected by fans from the 20 Nigeria Premier league clubs would make up the third and the fourth teams for the fiesta.

He said that all the matches would be broadcast live to global audience covering over 200 countries and enjoined government agencies and corporate organizations to take advantage of the fiesta to market their products.

According to Mr. Eyo-Ndem sales of tickets for the matches would be through designated banks on certain days and fans would have the opportunity to choose their teams through SMS text.

The team to play with super Eagles would also be announced on SMS text while the venue of all matches would be available on

Globacom SMS. Speaking, the Governor, Senator Liyel Imoke commended the vision of the Tinapa management and expressed the hope that the soccer fiesta would enhance the international credibility of Nigeria and strengthen the unity of the country. Chairman, English Barclay-Card Premier league, Sir David Richards said it was a privilege to be in Calabar and expressed

satisfaction with facilities at the U.J. Esuene Stadium and some hotels.

The Executive Secretary Manchester United FC, Mr. Ken Ramsden described their time in Calabar as "great" and looked forward to being in Calabar in July.

Chief Operating Officer Portsmouth FC, Mr. Bruise Vandenberg explained that the club has two Nigerian players in its team Utaka and Kanu and some other Africans in its team and that the fiesta would help to improve the standard of football not only in Nigeria but across the continent.

Meanwhile the Nigerian Football Association (NFA) and its counterpart, the English FA have endorsed the hosting of the fiesta.

Also given approval for their clubs to participate in the fiesta are the Nigerian Football league (NFL) and the English Premier League (EPL).





## Mrs. Imoke Donates Items To Bakassi Refugees



**W**ife of the Governor of Cross River, Mrs. Obioma Liyel Imoke has donated items to the displaced people of Bakassi to alleviate their suffering. The Governor's wife was received on her arrival at the refugee camp at Ilang Primary School by the former Special Adviser to the President on National Assembly Matters Senator Florence Ita Giwa who is also an indigene of Bakassi. Mrs. Imoke who was conducted round the camp said that the situation was very depressing and that she decided to go with the State Executive Council members' Wives, State Assembly members' wives, S.S.G's Wife, State PDP Women Leader and some other notable women of the state so as to see things for themselves. She promised to do everything within her limit to assist the Bakassi refugees who were mostly women and children. She commended Senator Florence Ita Giwa and the Chairman of Bakassi local government council, Hon Saviour Nyong for their quick intervention and therefore donated on behalf of POWER, ASFAC and women of Cross River items such as mattresses, blankets, clothing both for adults and children, beverages, shoes cartons of fish balls, food, etc.





earlier, Senator Florence Ita Giwa expressed delight at Her Excellency's kind gesture which she said will go a long way in alleviating the plight of the displaced people, she used

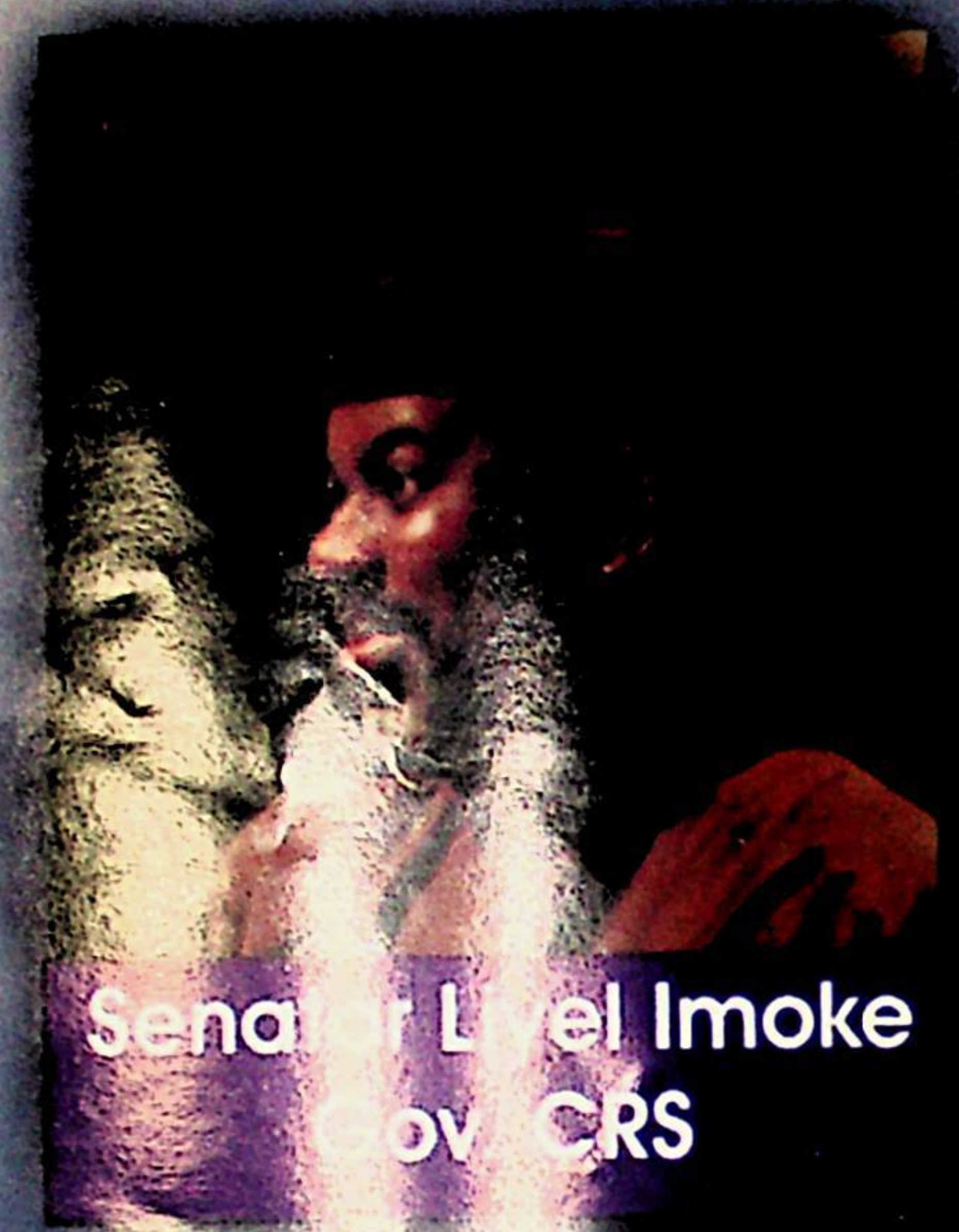
are moved to a more conducive environment. She called on the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to come to the aid of the displaced people whom she said



# **B**EKWARRA **L**OCAL **G**OVERNMENT **A**REA **Cross River State**

## **Celebration of An Achiever @ 47**

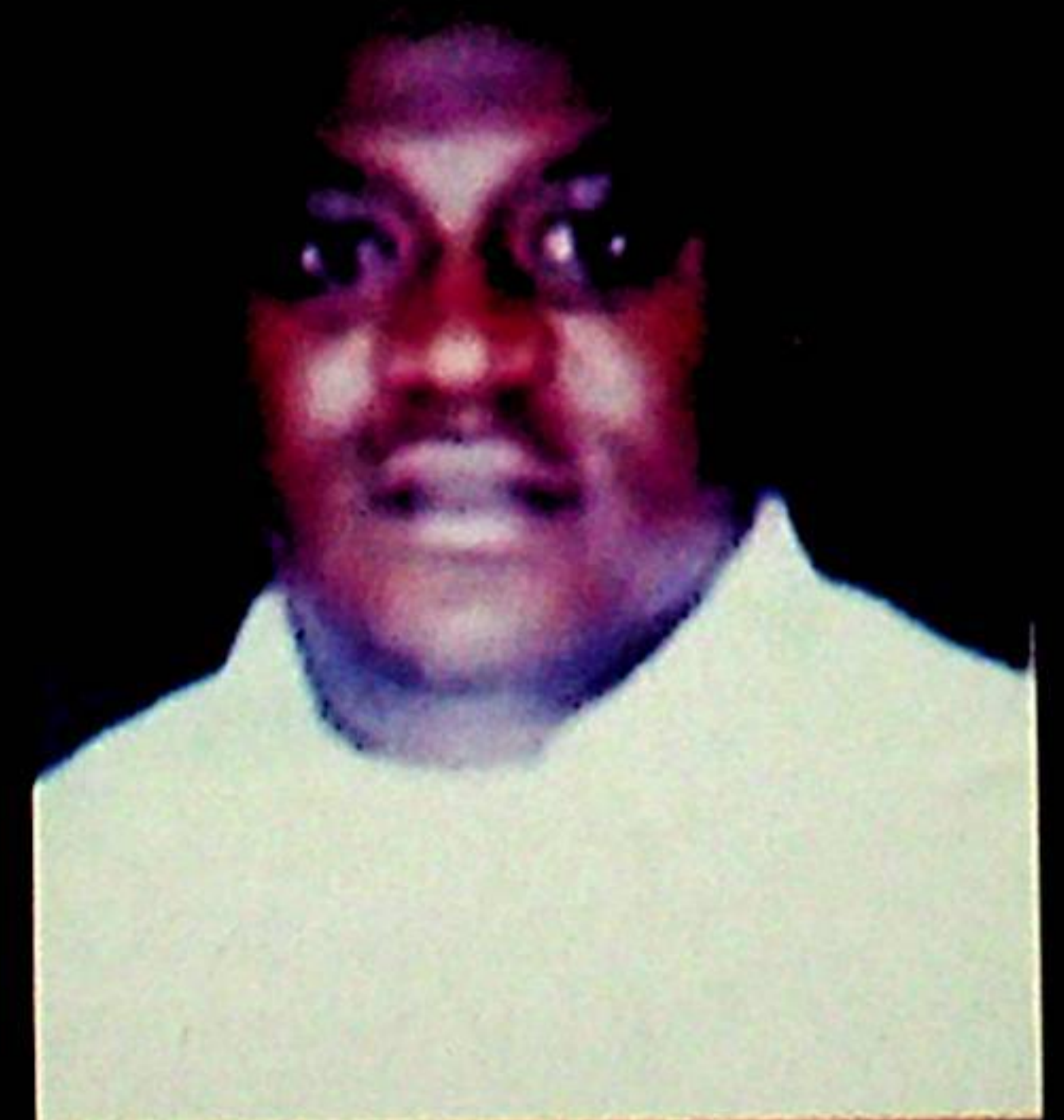
**O**n behalf of the executive committee, Legislature, the paramount ruler, the entire staff and all the people of Bekwarra Local Government Area, I wish to felicitate with His Excellency, Executive Governor of Cross River State, Senator Liyel Imoke, on the occasion of his 47<sup>th</sup> Birthday anniversary



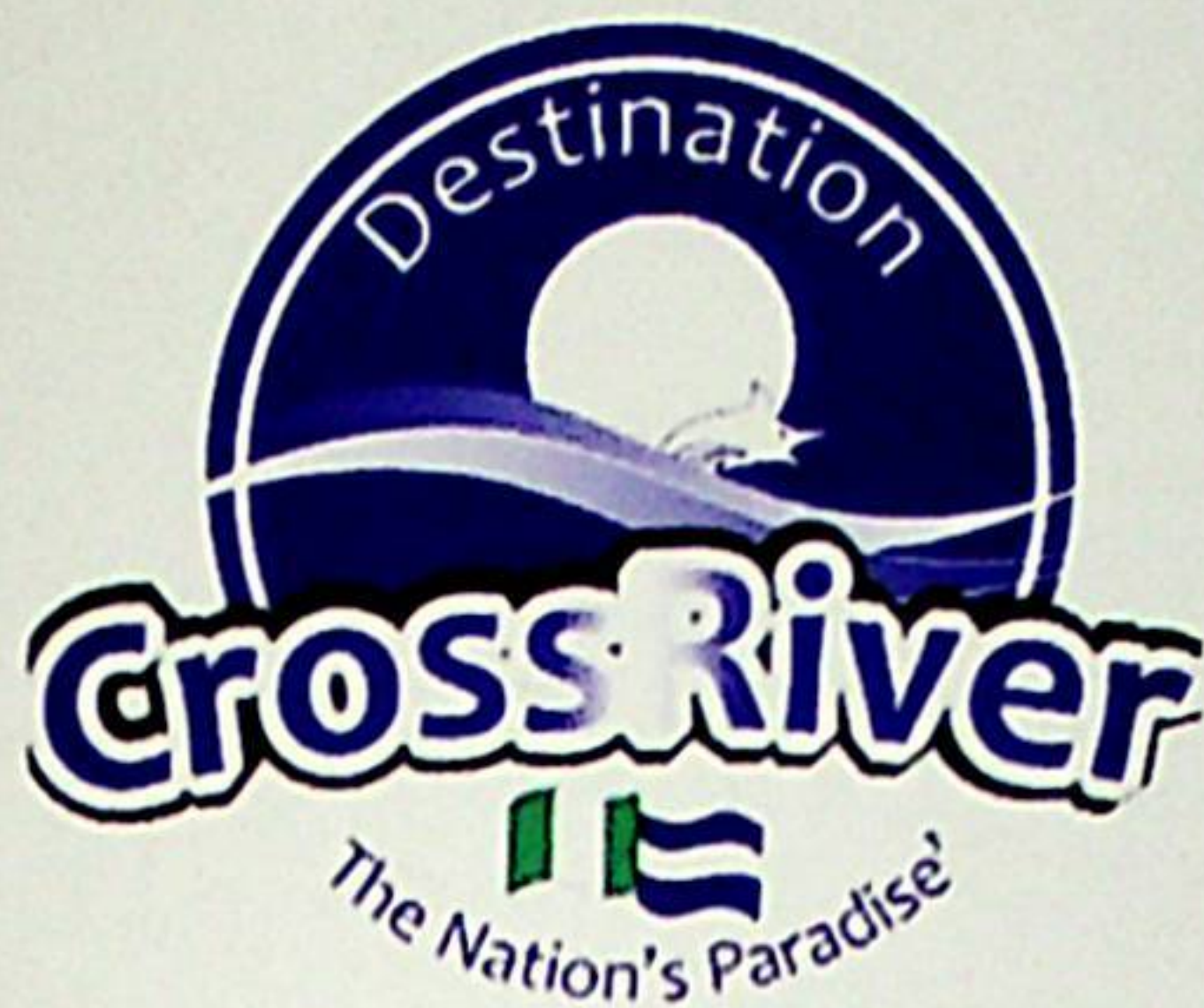
Your Excellency, we are proud to associate with your giant strides towards making life more meaningful for Cross Riverians. We assure you of our continued support and loyalty as we key into your vision for a better Cross River State.

We pray that the Almighty God continue to grant you wisdom as you steer the affairs of the state to loftier heights and achieve our collective dreams.

**Happy Birthday**  
Hon. (Barr) Legor Idagbo  
Executive Chairman  
Bekwarra Local Government Area








## Cross River To Partner With UNFPA For Development



The government of Cross River State has indicated interest to partner with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to enable it implement its programmes of multi-lateral assistance to the teeming population in the State. Making this known in Calabar recently while declaring open a three-day meeting for UNFPA stakeholders, the Governor, Senator Liyel Imoke noted that for the 35 years of its operation in Nigeria, UNFPA has never implemented any programme in the State. He said the state has a multi-sector development agenda that is clearly articulated in its Economic Blueprint that spans from 2007-2011 and would be ready to take advantage

of development aid and assistance from UNFPA to enhance its implementation. Senator Imoke lauded the choice of the State for the week long Stakeholder's consultative forum to articulate the strategic direction of UNFPA's 6<sup>th</sup> country programme of assistance to the government of Nigeria. According to Governor Imoke, the State is committed to putting in place mechanism, including making budgetary provisions to foster effective collaboration between the State government and UNFPA. The country Representative of UNFPA in Nigeria Dr. Sidiki Coulibaly pointed out that assistance to States is based on prioritized needs in line with its 6<sup>th</sup> country programmes of reproductive health, gender and population

development, data collection, analysis and utilization for planning and management. Other areas of assistance Dr. Coulibaly explained, include the local government councils, youths and the traditional rulers. Special Adviser International Development support (SAIDS) and vice Chairman State Planning Commission, Dr. (Mrs) Anne Oden described the Stakeholder's meeting in Calabar as a major milestone to ensure that the programmes of UNFPA are adequately implemented. She said, though the State Federal Allocation is low, it has the will to partner with donor agencies to achieve its developmental programmes. 

## BOYS' BRIGADE Honour Engr. Andem Bassey and others

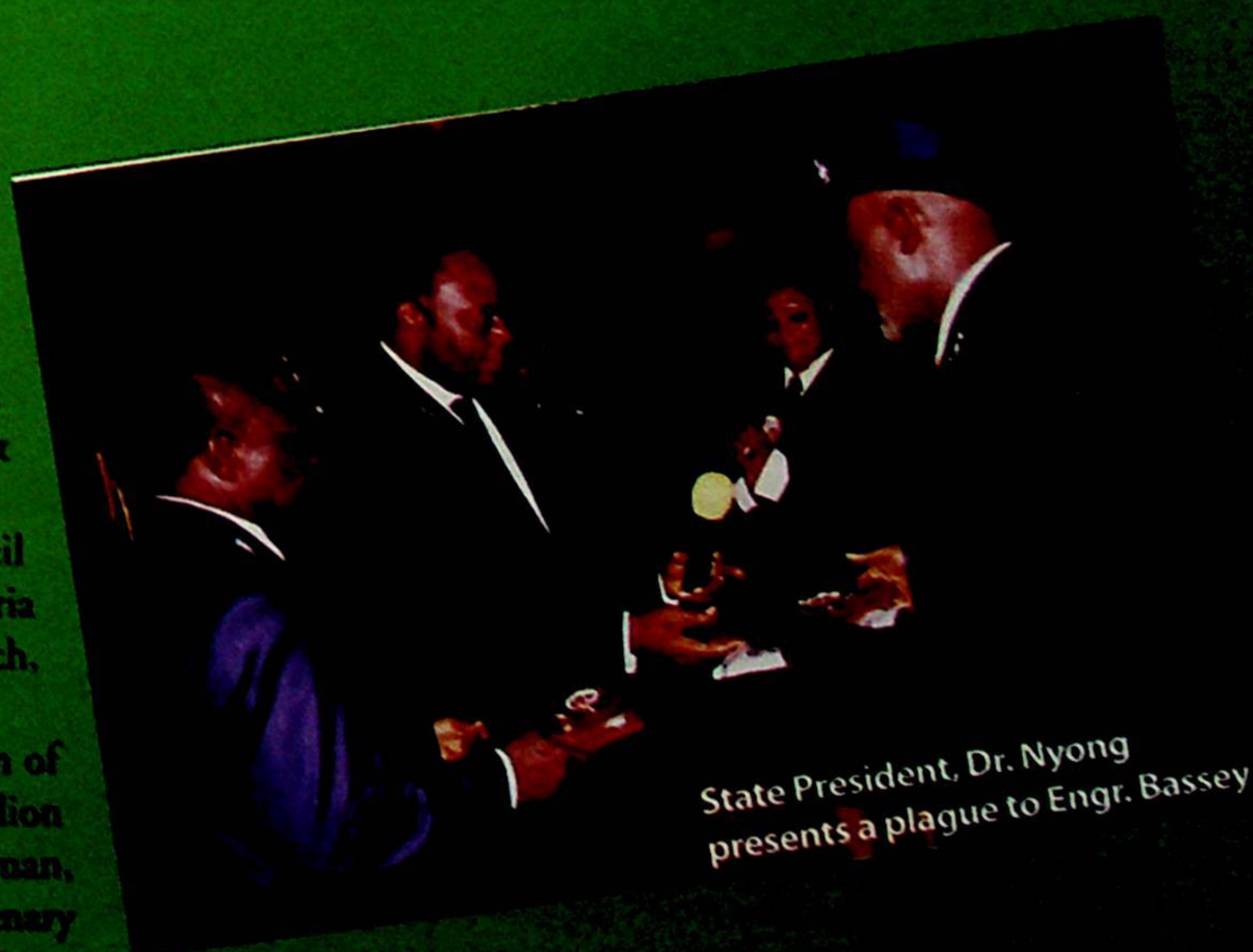
By Inyang Idiongisit

Engr. Andem Ekpo-Bassey has vowed to uphold the virtues of honesty, sincerity and the fear of God at all times and to uphold to objectives of the Boys' Brigade being the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian man.

He made this declaration at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Council Meeting and Investiture Service of the Boys' Brigade, Nigeria of Calabar South Battalion held at the Methodist Church, Wesley Cathedral in Calabar.

Engr. Andem Ekpo-Bassey who is the Council Chairman of Calabar South Local Government was honoured as Battalion Grand Patron while Honourable Bassey Akiba, Chairman, Odukpani Local Government Area got the Battalion Centenary Grand Patron. Others who were honoured at the investiture Service include Honourable Maurice Orok Edem, member representing Calabar South II in the State House of Assembly and Mrs Marjorie Asuquo, Vice Chairman of Calabar South Council, as centenary patrons. About 24 other dignitaries were honoured as Battalion patrons.

The well-attended thanksgiving service was chaired by Pastor Essien Ayi with Senator Bassey Ewa as the Special Guest of Honour. Those honoured were decorated with the Boys' Brigade apparatus



State President, Dr. Nyong presents a plaque to Engr. Bassey

of the University of Calabar, Vice-Chancellor, High Chief Dr. Eyo Eyo. The occasion was also used to hand over of office equipment and supplies. The Boys' Brigade is an international voluntary youth organization. Alexander S. Bassey is the National Secretary of the organization.





## PDP Pledges To Ensure TINAPA Becomes Operational Soon

**T**inapa, the Premier Business and holiday resort in Calabar may soon commence full operation following the resolve of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) chieftains to pursue the speedy release of the operational guidelines to kick-start activities at the resort.

The National Chairman of PDP, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor dropped the hint recently in Calabar during a two-day retreat for members of the National Working Committee of the party. Prince Ogbulafor lamented that it was appalling to allow a project of such magnitude to lie fallow when it is capable of transforming the socio-economic fortunes of the country and the West African sub-region. He said PDP would use its might to enter into negotiations with the appropriate authorities to ensure that the operational guidelines and protocol are released for the Resort to commence full operation.

The PDP boss commended the wisdom of the state government in conceptualizing the project and advised


on maintenance culture to guarantee the life span of the project when it becomes fully operational.

On the two-day retreat, Prince Ogbulafor was optimistic that issues discussed would increase the capacity of the national officers of the party to meet up expectations for the interest of the country.

Speaking, the governor of Cross River State, Senator Liyel Imoke pointed out that the programmes of the state government are reflective of the party's ideals and manifesto and expressed determination to make PDP proud through the seven-point agenda of his administration. He said the party which was greeted with skepticism in 1998 has grown to capture all electoral posts in the state and promised to vigorously pursue the development agenda of his administration in order to justify the confidence of the electorate in the party. In a related development,



the Senate President, Senator David Mark has singled out Cross River as the cleanest and the most peaceful state in the Federation. Senator Mark made the observation during a courtesy visit to the state governor, Senator Liyel Imoke in his office in Calabar recently.

The Senate President who was in the state for the two day retreat for the members of the National Working Committee of PDP enjoined other states to emulate the example of Cross River State and lay foundation for a clean and peaceful atmosphere in the environment. He said that no meaningful development can take place in a chaotic and unsafe environment and urged Nigerians to embrace peace in order to create room for government to perform. 



# Calabar Flood, Thing Of The Past Soon

Flooded MOFINEWS/Ministry of Finance Complex.

**T**he Cross River State Government has instituted a mechanism to check the perennial flooding experienced in certain areas of Calabar Metropolis when ever it rains.

The newly sworn-in Commissioner for Works, Mr. Bassey Ekeffre stated this while fielding questions from news men at the end of the weekly state executive council meeting. He disclosed that the Ministry is expecting the design of a proposed channel to be constructed to decongest the flow of rain water in the area.

According to Ekeffre, the Ministry intends to construct a channel from the State Housing Estate across Muratala Mohammed Highway terminating at Ekorinim, depositing into Calabar River, which is a diversion from the Calabar channel one, stretching from the Housing Estate through certain parts of Calabar Municipality and Calabar South Local Government Area terminating at the swampy area of CRUTECH which carries heavy flow of run-off water.




Governor Imoke on Inspection

Ekeffre noted that government is sensitive to the plight of those whose property have been destroyed by flood and it is determined to ensure that lives and property are safe when it rains.

On the current construction of roads in Calabar South under the Urban Renewal Programme, the Commissioner explained that the contractors handling the projects have been directed to construct drains so as to minimize the menace of flooding on such roads while calling on communities where such roads are constructed to cooperate with the contractors to make

their work easier.

He further disclosed that work on the reconstruction of drains within the Ministry of Finance would soon commence as the ground floor of the office is always flooded when it rains due to poor drainage system there, adding that such reconstruction will be extended to the Governor's Office, which also experiences flood when it rains.

The Commissioner assured residents of Calabar metropolis that the perennial flooding problems experienced when it rains will soon be a thing of the past. 



# Workers Urged To Embrace **SERVICOM** Principles And Tenets In Service Delivery

**F**rontline staff of Ministry of Finance have been charged to inculcate in themselves the spirit of dedication, hardwork and commitment to duty as a way to improve the quality of service delivery to the public.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Rev. (Dr) Essien

Anko gave the charge recently in Calabar while flagging-off a one-day SERVICOM workshop for the training of Frontline staff in customer care and complaint handling. Rev. Anko noted that as Frontline staff, their duties are very strategic to the image of the Ministry since they are the first contact with visitors and guest coming to do business with the Ministry. According to him, the impression given to a customer at first contact could either make or mar the progress of the Ministry and enjoined the staff to be courteous and honest in handling customer care.

Rev. Anko who commended the SERVICOM Unit of the Ministry for putting together the one-day workshop urged the staff to take the various paper presentations seriously and endeavour to put to practice what has been learnt. He said the Ministry has put in place measures that would improve the welfare of staff which include promotion and other incentives and appealed to staff to take their work seriously.

Speaking on the background of SERVICOM, the State Director of




SERVICOM,

Mr. Emmanuel Ename said that the Cross River State SERVICOM came into effect in June 2006 as a commitment of the State to improve on quality of service delivery to the public. He explained that SERVICOM is an acronym for service compact with citizens and is a reform agenda outlined to address issues such as low productivity, poor provision of resources, poor service delivery and weak systems for managing State Finances and human resources.

Mr. Ename emphasized that the people of Cross River State have the right to equal and equitable access to government services and challenged the public to stand up for their right whenever they feel cheated or poorly served. In her paper titled, "importance of Charters to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)", the State

SERVICOM Charter Officer, Mrs Agnes Abetianbe advised the staff to take careful study of the Ministry's Charter and endeavour to key into its content in order to

improve on service delivery. She explained that a Charter helps the establishment to achieve its goals as well as outline the needs of its customers stressing that as frontline staff they have a duty to make the Ministry's goals realizable. Speaking on the topic "complaint handling", the State complaint Officer, Mr. Kawu Agaba pointed out that complaint should not be viewed as an attack or confrontation with the staff rather it should give avenue for improved services.

He said a good complaints mechanism in the Ministry would provide essential feedback from the public and would benefit the MDA by promoting a good relationship and provide accurate information on the quality of services provided. The workshop drew participants from the different departments in the Ministry including, the reception area, Commissioner's office, Permanent Secretary's office, the Accounts Department, MOFINEWS Unit and General Administration. 



# Obong Of Calabar, Receives Staff Of Office



Governor Imoke Presenting staff of office to the Obong of Calabar, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V.



**T**he conflicting claims of ascension to the highest Efik throne has been put to rest with the swearing in of His Majesty, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V as Obong of Calabar and Paramount Ruler of the Efiks by

Governor Liyel Imoke of Cross River State at the State Cultural Centre, Calabar.

Imoke urged the Obong to justify the confidence and trust which informed his choice by serving his people well and bringing glory to the entire land, while

charging him to be magnanimous as every great leader would do while managing both his success as well as his travails, Senator Imoke urged the Obong to do all he can to integrate his Etuboms in order to forge a united front that will always ensure progress and development of the entire Efik nation.

“As you ascend the throne of your fore fathers, I equally urge Your Majesty to cast your mind back to the pre-colonial era when the traditional institution held forte and ensured harmonious coexistence amongst our people. We believe you can make less burdensome the work of our law enforcement agencies who daily strive to ensure that our society is free from the activities of miscreants and other law breakers” he advised.

Imoke noted that it is also expedient to draw His Majesty’s attention to the extant law (the Traditional Rulers Law of 1978) which set up the traditional institute in the state, for his guidance as it clearly spells out the responsibilities of his office.

The Governor averred that, the legacies which the traditional institution has bequeathed to the modern day society cover such areas as Commerce, Trade and

Industry, Administration, Enforcement of Law and Order, besides the noble roles which traditional rulers play as custodians and guidance of customs, norms and traditions. He added, that this is why governments across the





nation still revere traditional institutions in recognition of the important roles they play in guaranteeing peace, order and good governance in the polity.

He summed that "it is with this in mind that we are today investing His Majesty, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V with authority as the Grand patriarch of the Efiks, both at home and in the diasporas. Let me therefore formally congratulate Your Majesty on successfully emerging as the Obong of Calabar and Paramount Ruler of the Efiks".

The Special Adviser Department of Chieftaincy Affairs, Surveyor Emmanuel Arop in his introductory remarks, disclosed that the need for his investiture as Obong of Calabar rose

with the demise of the erstwhile Obong, Prof Nta Elijah Henshaw, adding that the Etuboms in Council performed a crucial assignment to pave the way.

Arop revealed that the council met between April 28 and May 2, 2008 and emerged and coronated Otu as Obong elect at Efe Asabo, saying that the council later presented him to government in a colourful ceremony after meeting all requirements as a clan head, and village head, before presenting him for coronation as Obong of Calabar.

The Obong of Calabar and Paramount ruler of the Efiks His Majesty, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V in his acceptance speech, said his investiture would strengthen his resolve as a natural

ruler as he will not betray the confidence repose on him.

His majesty, who is the 51<sup>st</sup> Obong of Calabar, described his Staff of Office as symbolic of the reunion of the Efik kingdom.

The Obong who was born on November 20, 1949, is a Catholic and a Knight of Saint Mulumba.

As a mark of identification, support and solidarity, Efik law makers in the National and State Assemblies, paramount rulers, Council Chairmen and Councilors of Efik speaking Local Government Areas in their traditional regalia were in attendance, and with this, what remains is the church Coronation and thanksgiving.





*The Citation Of*  
**His Eminence, Edidem**  
**Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V**  
**Obong Of Calabar,**  
 Natural Ruler, Treaty King And Grand  
 Patriarch Of The Efik Eburutu Kingdom



**O**ur amiable and humble Monarch, His Eminence, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V was born on November 20, 1949 to a noble family of late Etubom Okon Abasi Otu of Ikot Ukpong Mbo Otu, Adiabo and late Madam Iquo Okokor Abasi of Ikot Okon Archibong, all of Otu Local Government, Cross River State. He was enrolled into Saint Patrick's Convent School, Adiabo and

later into Saint Mary Primary School, Adiabo Esin Ufot. In 1963, he obtained his First School Leaving Certificate and by 1968, he had completed his Secondary School Education at the West African People's Institute, Calabar and obtained the West African School Certificate. His tertiary education pursuit was temporarily put on hold, as a result of some constraint experienced by his family.

He was employed as an Assistant Technical Officer in training by the

Post Office Telecommunications (P & T) Department of the then Federal Ministry of Communications. His proficiency on the job made him one of the outstanding trainee officers of that establishment at that time. In acknowledgement of his credible performance, the Department sent him to the Telecommunications School, Oshodi, Lagos, where he excelled and obtained a Diploma Certificate in Telecommunications Engineering in 1973. While at the Training School,





His Eminence, the Obong of Calabar and Wife

Oshodi as a Trainee, he won the Best International Telecommunication Union (I. T. U) Award which late General Murtala Mohammed who then was the Honourable Minister for Communication presented to him at a grand ceremony in Lagos. As a result of his exceptional performance in the Training School, he was deployed to work in the School after his graduation. A feat most of his colleagues found extremely difficult to achieve. His quest for academic excellence propelled him to enroll with City and Guilds where he successfully obtained the City and Guilds Certificate in Telecommunications Engineering and the Full Technological Certificate of that Institute in 1973 and 1976 respectively. His virtues made him a source of inspiration to others. As the Operations and Maintenance Manager, Domestic Satellite Division in the Department of Post and Telecommunications (P & T), he discharged his responsibilities with diligence, dedication and dexterity.

His determination to acquire higher educational qualifications was not doused by the juicy earnings he received. In consequence, he later gained admission into the University of Benin, where he obtained Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) Hon. Certificate in Electrical/Electronic Engineering in

1998. He had in addition, attended various professional and administrative courses overseas.

The deregulation of the Telecommunication sector of the Nigerian economy by the Federal Government made His Eminence to take his exit from the Public Sector. He was employed by a Private Sector firm called TELNET (Nig.) Limited, whose main client was Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria.


His distinguished attributes as a dedicated worker in the Public Sector became his leverage into the Private Sector. He left the employment of TELNET (Nig.) Limited to join McNair (Nig.) Limited, which gave him an enhanced offer as its Divisional Manager (West). Eventually, Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria employed him. As a Supervisor in that employment, he supervised the Telecommunications Network in the Western Division of the Company – a position he held until he heeded to the clarion call by his community that beckoned on him to come and be their Chief Servant. It is pertinent to indicate that Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V is a man of intrepid capabilities, whose character is laced with a very significant dose of compassion, honesty, warmth and sincerity. His concern

for the plight of the less privileged, which he spared no effort in assisting, has endeared him to many people. He is a transparently pleasant personality and a personification of courage, even under extremely threatening circumstances.

From his childhood days he is a devout Christian of the Catholic faith. In recognition of his immense contributions to the Catholic church in general and the development/sustenance of Saint Mary's Parish in his

community in particular, he was made a Knight of Saint Michael (KSM). He is happily married to Princess (Lady) Veronica Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu and the marriage is blessed with children.

His royal progression began when he was made a Chief by his family and community in 1976. He became a Family Head of Ukpo Mbo Otu and subsequently the Village Head of Adiabo Ikot Mbo Otu in 1999. In the year 2003, he was made the Clan Head-elect of Adiabo Ikot Mbo Otu and capped Etubom Obio by his predecessor, His Eminence, Late Edidem (Prof.) Nta Elijah Henshaw VI in year 2004. He has traversed various Ekpe titles from Murua Nkanda to Obong Okuakama and finally he was made the Iyamba Ekpe of Efe Ekpe Otu Mesembe, Adiabo. When he was an Etubom, he was an organizer par excellence and his predecessor had to saddle him with several responsibilities which he shouldered and or executed without blemish.

Today, he is to the glory of the Almighty, the grace of all Efik people and to the benefit of mankind, the fifty-first Obong of Calabar, Natural Ruler, Treaty King and the Grand Patriarch of the Efik Eburutu Kingdom. 



# New Controller Of Prisons Assumes Duty In The State

The Comptroller Inspects Abandoned Cell Block In Calabar

**T**he new Comptroller of Prisons for the Cross River State Command, Engr. Tom Bassey Odohi has appealed to the society to accept ex-convicts wholly if the on-going reforms of the prisons administration must achieve the needed results. The controller made this appeal during the state wide familiarization and inspection tour of prisons formation in his command namely Calabar, Adim, Obubra, Ikom, Ogoja and Obudu. The Controller stated that the main thrust of prisons administration in the present dispensation focuses on reformation, rehabilitation and eventual integration into the society. This he emphasized is a complete departure from the punitive philosophy of imprisonment in the past. The Controller of Prisons further explained that this ideology of total/complete reformation programme in the prisons, informed the re-activation of the after-care service where reformation transcends the period of a jail term of any prisoner. "The prisoner is part of the society and on discharge, will return to the society" he said.

At the various formations, the

Controller was greeted with similar problems ranging from electricity supply, water, office equipment, prisoners welfare to staff matters. Addressing officers and men of these formations, the Controller urged all to put in their best to get the best.

While addressing the prisons inmates, Engr. Odohi asked them to keep the peace and remain calm. He promised them assistance in the area of quick dispensation of justice for the awaiting trial persons and the convicts who still have their cases pending in courts. At the Calabar prisons, Engr. Odohi was full of praises for "Hope for all Initiative", a non-governmental organization (NGO) that single handedly executed the setting up of a 'psycho-social centre' for the reformation of the characters of inmates. The president for 'Hope for all initiative', Mr. Bassey Inyang informed the controller that the structure with two counseling



Engineer, Tom Bassey Odohi  
CRS Comptroller of Prisons.

offices, a library and a multipurpose hall was their contribution of repositioning inmates for total and complete integration after jail terms. The new Controller of Prisons used the occasion to call on other NGOs, CBOs, and the well to do in the society to assist the prisons services. He opined

that if the abandoned cell block in the Calabar prison is completed, it will alleviate the problem of congestion. The Controller appealed to the local/state governments to assist the State Prisons Command in setting up her After-care centre through the provision of equipment for vocations such as barbing, tailoring, carpentry, shoe mending, mason etc towards the reformation and integration of discharged inmates. Until his new posting, Engr. Tom Bassey Odohi was the Controller of Prisons in charge of Works Department at the Prisons Headquarters Office, Abuja. 🇳🇮



# Forest Management And Food Security

By Dr. Ibor



Recently, the National Assembly adopted a resolution urging the Federal government of Nigeria to urgently address the present food crisis facing the country. In other words, it is imperative for genuine efforts to be made to ensure availability of foods on the tables of all Nigerians.

Food security has been defined by the Committee on World Food Security as the economic and physical access to food, of all people at all times. Unfortunately, most Nigerians, especially the poor do not have access to food at all times. Food and Agricultural Organization, FAO (2006) observed that more than 850 million people in the world face

acute food insecurity. This development should be of great concern to policy makers, agriculturists and government as hunger is the most extreme expression of poverty. Food security is crucially dependent on the reliability of production and people's access to supplies. Thus, it encompasses issues of sustainability and equity. Food security basically implies sustainable food production. The quantity and quality of food available to citizens is important in food security. Sadly, about 2 billion people suffer from what is commonly referred to as 'hidden hunger', characterized by insufficient intake of vitamins and minerals. Lack of adequate food could lead to various health and socio-economic problems for a Nation.

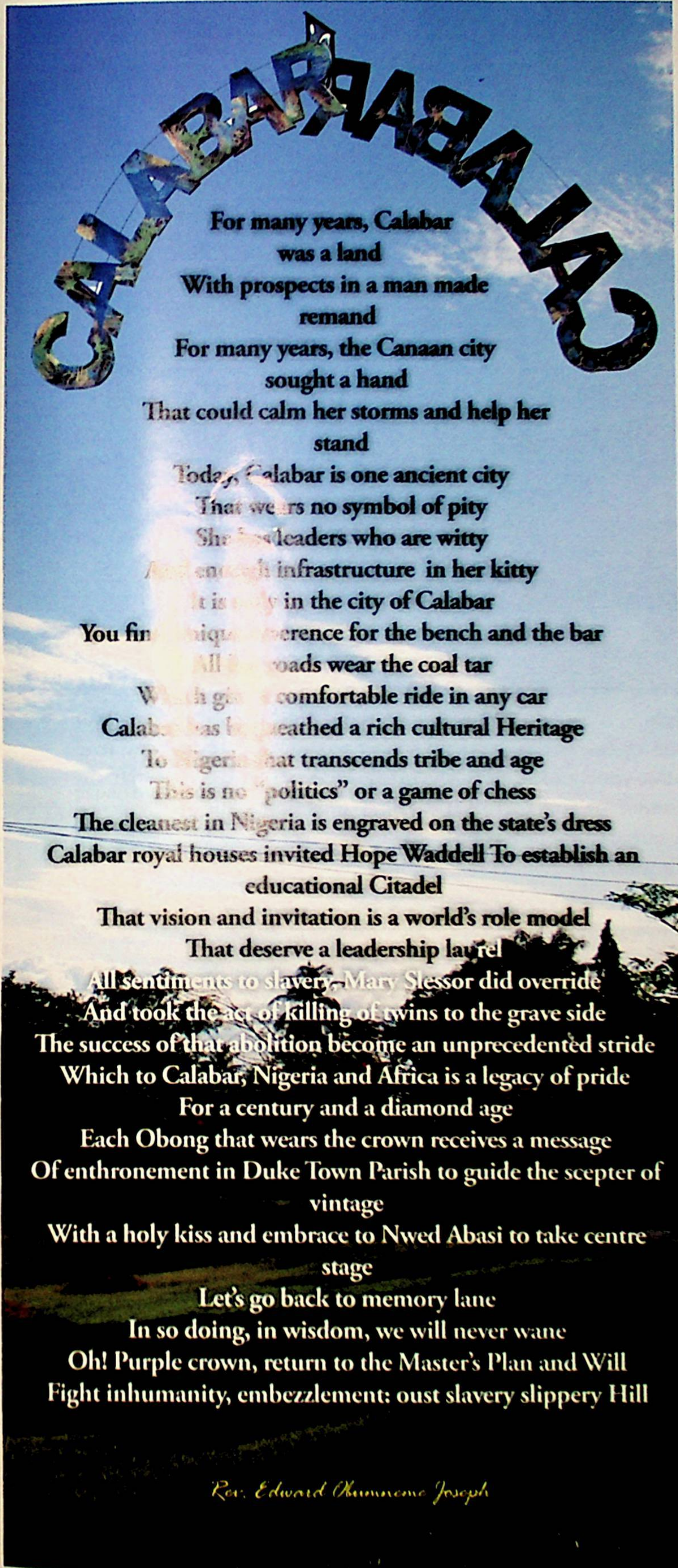
Forest and trees do have an important role to play in food security. This role has been ignored in the past and presently being eroded as forest in many parts of the world are cleared and the remaining trees on farmland constantly coming under increasing pressure. FAO (2006) observed that Nigeria has the highest deforestation rate in Africa. Between 1990-2005, deforestation/degradation of the forestry in Nigeria was 3.3 percent per annum or 410,000 hectares per year. These trends are greatly undermining existing farming systems and jeopardizing their long-term productivity. This situation could partly be responsible for the present food crisis.

At local and global levels, trees and forest have a profound influence

on the environment. By protecting the soil from erosion and stabilizing hillsides, exposed coastlines and other fragile areas, trees help to preserve the integrity of agricultural land. They also affect climate and water regimes both of which are crucial to food production. Forests at both the micro and macro levels help provide the stable environmental conditions on which sustainable food production (food security) depends. In Cross River State, for example, the forests through the bush fallow system, provide the major means for restoring soil productivity.

Fruits, nuts, leaves, roots and gums are some of the huge array of edible foods that are obtained from trees and shrubs either growing naturally in





For many years, Calabar was a land  
 With prospects in a man made remand  
 For many years, the Canaan city sought a hand  
 That could calm her storms and help her stand  
 Today, Calabar is one ancient city  
 That wears no symbol of pity  
 She has leaders who are witty  
 And enough infrastructure in her kitty  
 It is only in the city of Calabar  
 You find unique reference for the bench and the bar  
 All the roads wear the coal tar  
 Which gives a comfortable ride in any car  
 Calabar has breathed a rich cultural Heritage  
 To Nigeria that transcends tribe and age  
 This is no "politics" or a game of chess  
 The cleanest in Nigeria is engraved on the state's dress  
 Calabar royal houses invited Hope Waddell To establish an  
 educational Citadel  
 That vision and invitation is a world's role model  
 That deserve a leadership laurel  
 All sentiments to slavery, Mary Slessor did override  
 And took the act of killing of twins to the grave side  
 The success of that abolition become an unprecedented stride  
 Which to Calabar, Nigeria and Africa is a legacy of pride  
 For a century and a diamond age  
 Each Obong that wears the crown receives a message  
 Of enthronement in Duke Town Parish to guide the scepter of  
 vintage  
 With a holy kiss and embrace to Nwed Abasi to take centre  
 stage  
 Let's go back to memory lane  
 In so doing, in wisdom, we will never wane  
 Oh! Purple crown, return to the Master's Plan and Will  
 Fight inhumanity, embezzlement; oust slavery slippery Hill

*Rev. Edward Obumneme Joseph*

that parts of the Baobab tree are nutritiously valuable. The vitamin C content of the fruit is ten times that of oranges. The seed kernels contains 12-15 percent edible oils, more protein than groundnuts and rich in lysine, thiamine, calcium and iron. The leaves are rich in vitamin A. Also Leakey et al (1999) stated that seeds of *Parkia biglobosa* (Dawadawa) are rich in protein (40%), Lipids (35%), linoleic acid and vitamin B2. The yellow floury pulp around the seed in the pod is a high energy food with up to 60 percent sugar and rich in vitamin C. Dawadawa seeds as a soup condiment is very valuable in the northern senatorial district of Cross River State. Forests also provide habitat for many animals, birds, insects and other forms of wildlife that are hunted and consumed as delicacies.

Food security is fundamentally a social issue. Forests affect the food sufficiency of individual households in different ways. Foods obtained from the forest make an important direct contribution to family diets providing a tasty and nutritious supplement to otherwise bland staple foods.

Although the quantities involve may be small, their nutritional contribution is often critical especially during droughts or other emergency periods when most cultivated foods are unavailable. Forests provide a major source of household income and employment to many rural population/families. Rural people largely depend on money earned from gathering, processing and selling of forest products to buy food and other basic necessities of life.

Conclusion: It is evident from our discourse that sustainable forest management and forestry initiatives could significantly tackle the present food crisis confronting our country. Efforts should be made to adopt intervening initiatives like agro forestry and other farming practices which incorporate trees as vital strategies of enhancing our national food supplies. Allocation of huge sums of money for food importation, granting of waivers on food tariffs and credit facilities to political farmers have never succeeded in promoting food sufficiency. Importation of food apart from its negative implications on the economy is not sustainable. Furthermore, no responsible government should expose the stomachs of her citizens to other countries to feed. Finally, it is pertinent to always remember that satisfying one's hunger is a fundamental right for every human being. Sustainable forest management could effectively contribute to making Nigeria to feed her citizens adequately.

the wild or cultivated on farms and home gardens.

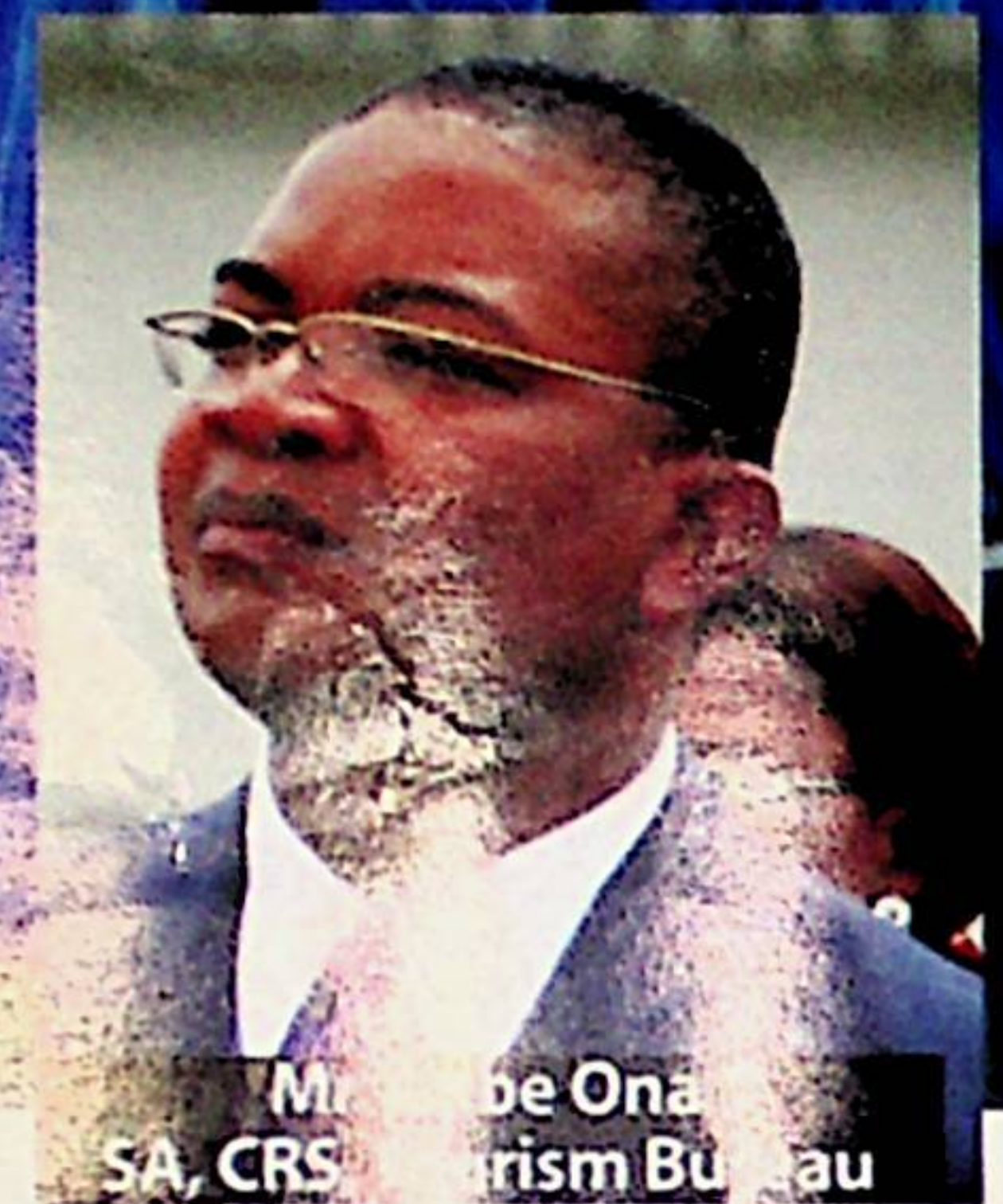
For example, Booth and Wickens (1988) observed

supplement to otherwise bland staple foods.

**Dr. Ibor is of the State Forestry Commission, Calabar**



## CRS Carnival Commission The Journey So Far



Mr. Oluwole Ona  
SA, CRS Carnival Commission Bureau

**A**s Cross River State adopts tourism as an important Socio-cultural and economic development strategy for the state, the need to establish a Cross River State Carnival Commission became essentially imperative. The Commission has a mandate to promote the Calabar Carnival locally, nationally and Internationally as both a cultural and commercial tool through which tourism potentials of the state could be harnessed. Since its establishment, the commission has made three successful outings with yearly innovations that have spanned its activities to include children participation from within and other states in the federation and abroad.

In 2007, the Calabar Carnival switched from a one-day affair to a two-day activity filled with lasting memories for participants most of which came from outside the state and the country.

The introduction of the beauty Peagent added colour as the first Calabar carnival Beauty Queen, Miss Chineye Nwaneka went home with a prized brand new KIA pleasure car. These landmark achievements could not be accomplished without some strategies.

### STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:


Some of the key strategies adopted to fine-tune and fast-track the achievement of the Carnival Commission include aggressive public Awareness Campaign in both electronic and print media to promote the Calabar carnival activities.

Others include internal registration of the trademark for prospective international sponsorship drive, capacity building through workshops to ensure the attainment of the set goals and, merchandising and rendering of carnival souvenirs. Today, it could be proudly said that Calabar carnival has been listed in the International Carnival Calendar. But a lot still needs to be done especially in developing international marketing strategy for the purpose of attracting international sponsorship. In this regard, talks are ongoing with a reputable foreign-based public relations/marketing agency, MC Cluskey Int'l for marketing rights for branding and licensing opportunities.

Also adopted as a strategy is the use of web portal to showcase the Calabar carnival and the Tourism potentials of the state and; the establishment of

a central control station with full compliment of communication budgets and the city's carnival route map for proper co-ordination of carnival road march. It is also envisaged that the gallery museum at the state cultural centre complex would be opened and put to use while the Calabar airport lounges would be acquired to showcase artifacts and post carnival costumes for Tourists.

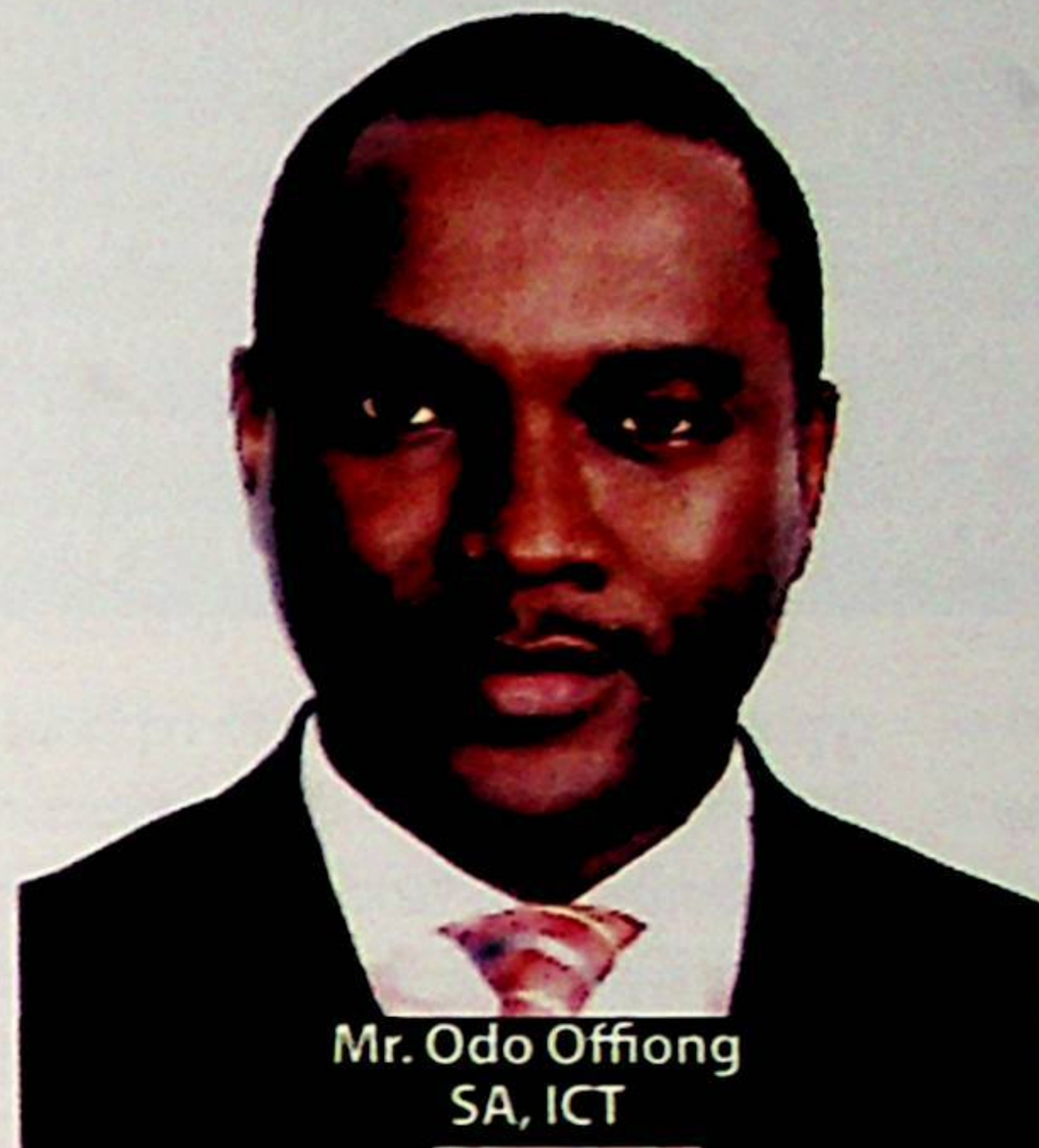
To drive carnival awareness into the consciousness of the upcoming generation of Cross Riverians, approval has been sort to include carnival Art in the school curriculum throughout the state as well as introduce inter-school steel band competition. At the local level, indigenous musical talents would be harnessed through musical competition for the carnival road march which is expected to improve the signature tune and rhythm during carnival procession.

It is however hoped that the action plans when properly harnessed and executed would improve the carnival culture in the state and would function as a viable catalyst for change, job creation and the overall economic growth for the state. 



# Action Plan/Achievement Of ICT Department In The Past One Year

The Information, Communications and Technology Department of the governor's office has the mandate to enhance the attainment of the State Government's development objectives through the use of a business driven IT strategy and environment to improve public and private sector productivity and access to Government Services. It is also established to empower the State vision of becoming the "Destination State" as a choice for investors, tourists, holiday makers, academia, conferences and above all, residents of West Africa.



Mr. Odo Offiong  
SA, ICT

train 10,000 Youth in professional ICT skills per annum.

- The extension of capacity building and skill acquisition for government workers and Youths at the grassroots.

- Partner with Education Ministry and CRUTECH to update the ICT degree programme, strengthen research and create opportunities that would establish ICT graduates with appropriate skills as well as automate the learning and

## Goals/Strategies:

To achieve the mandate and vision of creating an ICT department in Cross River State, the following strategies have been adopted:

- State-wide needs assessment exercise involving all sectors, Stakeholders and tiers of government. The objective of which is to bring out documentation of a comprehensive ICT policy for the State as well as implement an ICT legal and regulatory framework.
- Extension of Enterprise Network Infrastructure with the objective of improving Public and Private Sector productivity and access to Government services.
- Create high availability messaging/collaboration and documentation of management systems that will serve as the basic information system within government and increase productivity based on information sharing across teams. This would be available to mobile plane users.
- Enterprise Intranet and Extranet Portals providing management information within Government and information to the public on the Internet. Already Redesigned websites reflecting new brand colours with content from all MDA's is operational.
- Annual Government worker user ICT training for over 2000 Civil Servants. The objective is to have a continuous training and re-orientation of all civil servants in the use of ICT.
- Upgrade of South-South Community Resource centre to train 5000 ICT professionals per annum with centres at Ikom and Ogoja. The objective is to

administrative environment.

- Partner with Ministry of Education, Federal government and other International development organizations to help in creating computer Labs for 90 Secondary Schools in the State.

- Create a wireless IP Network following the major road networks to all the major settlements in the State. This is expected to bring high speed access and various services including the Internet, Voice, Data, Video and conferencing. The objective of it is to spur the investment climate and open market for investors.

## Achievements:

- So far over 2000 civil Servants have benefited from the ICT training and the training is still on-going. This has increase computer appreciation and ability of the Civil Servants to use IT with resultant increase in productivity and efficiency in government.
- 180 computer desks, chairs, air conditioners, scanners and multi-media projectors have been procured for training of 5000 ICT professionals in south-South Community Resource Centre.
- ICT is now included in secondary school curriculum across the State and a definite programme for mainstreaming it into the State School Calendar has been achieved.
- There is widespread ownership and use of computer among Civil Servants and beneficiaries are happy, and are assured of after sales support.

Odo Offiong is SA ICT  
of Governor's Office



# One-on-One with Miss South South Miss Isabella Agbor Ayuk

**A**ccording to a popular Biblical phrase which says 'in all things give thanks to God', sometimes when you weigh this instruction, with certain painful situations in life, you just realize it's difficult to comprehend. But for this pretty six feet tall daughter of the soil, Miss Isabella Agbor Ayuk, who's dazzling smile glues you to her company; for her, she never knew she could be a motivational speaker, a public figure, a health advocate.... Not until she lost a jewel (her sister). This was the push that eventually crowned her as "Miss South-South" She recently paid a courtesy call on the MD Tourism Bureau Mr. Gabe Onah in Calabar to discuss ways of partnering with the bureau in tourism development matters. Daniel Williams of MOFINews as usual, was right on time and engaged the beauty queen on 'One-on-One' talk; on the crown, what motivated her; why she's embarking on a health project & her views about the Niger-Delta. Also, why parents should allow their daughters participate in pageant, a peep into her personal life and her cry about teenage pregnancies.... Please read on!

## **Winning the Crown?**

I must say I feel very good and happy because at the end of the whole contest I emerged as the Queen of South-South Nigeria; I thank God for everything and I am happy.

## **The motivation;**

In 2004, I went in for Miss Nigeria and I came out top Ten (10). I was happy though not really excited about that outcome because my target was for the crown. Then in 2006 a sad event happened; I lost my sister to Typhoid fever! It was her death that got me more interested in going into the competition because I knew that a win for me will be an avenue of campaigning against that "monster" that snatched my sister's breath. And thank God I got the crown and I have a pet project I am working on.

## **The pet Project**

My pet project is a campaign against Typhoid fever. Typhoid fever as we all know is a deadly disease caused by *hermoler* typhoid bacteria. In most villages where the symptoms are high, it's been identified that up to adulthood, people still die of

typhoid. I lost my sister to typhoid in 2006 and what I am doing presently; distributing free vaccines that protect against typhoid fever to women/children who can't afford it and the poor, is as a result of the preventable death of my sister. I am educating the masses on the dangers and implication of typhoid fever. The vaccine I am currently

distributing to woman and children is to help prevent the disease. It is free. To God

be the glory, I am at the moment partnering with the Rochas Okorocho's Foundation and I intend to come up with my own foundation (NGO) in

August this year.

## **Contribution towards Cross River State Tourism Development**

It's a big plus for us in Cross River as our tourism initiative has gone international. Using my office as a Cross Riverian, the Queen of South-South and in collaboration with my pet project which is on health, I intend to come up with health tourism. Cross River state is known for her tourism initiative. We need something on health tourism that will stand us out. If you are in Lagos for instance; and someone is ill, there are quality medical facilities like Eko Hospital, St. Nicolas Hospital etc. We don't have that "name" in Cross River, not even in the Urban Centers. Just as we have Tinapa 'Business & Leisure', we could also have health tourism 'Health & Leisure'. This will go a long way to further strengthen this sector of our economy. With this, people will come to Calabar also for health and leisure. I believe health tourism holds so many prospects for us.

## **Her perception of the Niger-Delta**

Peace in the Niger delta is long overdue and as we all know, nine states make up the Niger Delta. Let's not sit down and act on 'hear say' because that's what the past government has been doing and it's wrong.





What we ought to do is to go down to the root, meet with these aggrieved youths and have an interactive session with them. We should listen to them and know exactly what they want. The government could help out through open employment and provision of facilities like health, education, power.... For me, I may suggest tourism employment for a start because it has a wider scope and opportunities. If government could create parks and other tourism related activities, the youths will come in and this will reduce the violence and hostage taking. Issues like arms/fraternity battles will also be reduced. We could create opportunities to train them in 'water sports like swimming, diving, boat racing etc and the physically strong amongst them could be enlisted into the military or the Police force.

### *Parents and Pageants*

From a personal experience, when I showed interest for Miss Nigeria 2004, my mother wasn't in support of it at all. She saw the whole thing as going out there to expose oneself. But when I actually got talking with her, I brought my pastor into it with other family members, it made sense to her. If you are not intelligent, you cannot be a beauty queen. People view beauty pageants from a very wrong angle but for those of us, who are in it, we know it to be as decent as any other entertainment event. For instance, now I am a beauty queen, not just a beauty queen, I have initiated a pet project which will grow into an NGO. Without the 'staff of office' (the crown), I will not be able to carry out my pet project. Pageant is a good thing; there is nothing absolutely wrong about it. Parents should encourage their children who have what it takes to do what they believe will bring better prospects to their lives.

### *The Goodies*

Lots and lots of good things have come my way. I never knew I could sit in front of people and talk and they'll

listen to me. With the crown I can step into places and I'm given due attention. People want to identify with me and most amazing, I can go into villages and help the poor. This is a big plus for me. Also the reward for the crown was a million naira, a brand new car, a trip to London and wardrobe to look good. I really thank God for these goodies!

### *Her concern about Teenage pregnancy*

Teenage pregnancy leads to teenage motherhood and abandoned babies. It's a sad scenario. There should be an aggressive campaign in primary and secondary schools, educating the girl child on dangers of early sex. Parents shouldn't shy away from their responsibilities, leaving everything to the teacher and class rooms. Its time children are given sex talk (education) and this is better handled by parents. Scolding or flogging the child may change just a little but when you bring the child face to face with reality, that child will have a rethink about life. There's a place in the north I have been to, you need to see the number of children suffering after effect of teenage pregnancy. They are kept in a place (a special home) under isolation because they are suffering from Viscose Virginal Fistula (VVF), a consequence of teenage pregnancy. These girls get pregnant at tender ages with their hip bones not matured for labour and during delivery; most times there are complications around the birth canal. This results to offensive and uncontrollable discharge and before you know it, the child is isolated. The annoying part is that you may never get to see the man who impregnated the child.

### *Her prayer for Nigeria*

Every day I thank God for the peace in Nigeria especially when I look at what is causing wars and violence in other countries, cannot be compared to some of the things that we have gone through. I will never get weary praying

for Nigeria(With emphasis). We need stable power supply, good schools, free health care etc. I know governance is not easy but we can do it, we'll get there!

### *....if she is privileged to meet with Mr. President Albaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua...*

Just one request will I ask of him and that will be on health care. If only he will provide good health care services to all Nigerians. You may ask why health and not power? Health is wealth, without good health the engineers won't work effectively to bring to us that desired steady power supply. If you are not healthy, you cannot achieve anything that has to do with power. So many people die today not because they wish to but simply due to lack of health services. Some die because there is no money to buy just pain killers.

### *Meet the Queen*

My name is Isabella Agbor Ayuk, I am Twenty Three (23) years of age, I hail from Effraya community in Etung Local Government Area of Cross River State. I am from a polygamous family, I'm the fifth to the last child in a family of Twenty-Five (laughter), I am blessed with... (Laughter continues) three mothers. It was really interesting growing up and I give thanks to God for that.

### *Talking about education*

I attended Federal Government Girls Collage (FGGC) Ikom in Cross River State; from there I proceeded to the University of Calabar also in Cross River State where I studied Business Management. Presently I am awaiting my national youth service.

### *How she relaxes*

I am the indoor type; most times reading novels, watching movies and once in a while, I have fun with my friends. I don't really have any special hobby, I am an all rounder. I'm into sports, music... I just give everything a try. You'll never can tell whom you'll be meeting tomorrow or where you'll be.



As compiled by  
Daniel Williams





# 47

## HEARTY CHEERS TO A GREAT LEADER

Your Excellency,

As you clock 47 this glorious day of our lord  
the government and people of Calabar Municipal Council  
happily felicitate with you  
for an accomplished and purposeful life  
which has created positive impact  
in our state and country in the past 47 years

we are deeply grateful to God for His  
kindness, love and mercies upon you.

Our earnest prayer is that  
the almighty God should grant you  
the wisdom, strength, grace and favour like Joshua,  
to take Cross River State to the Promised Land

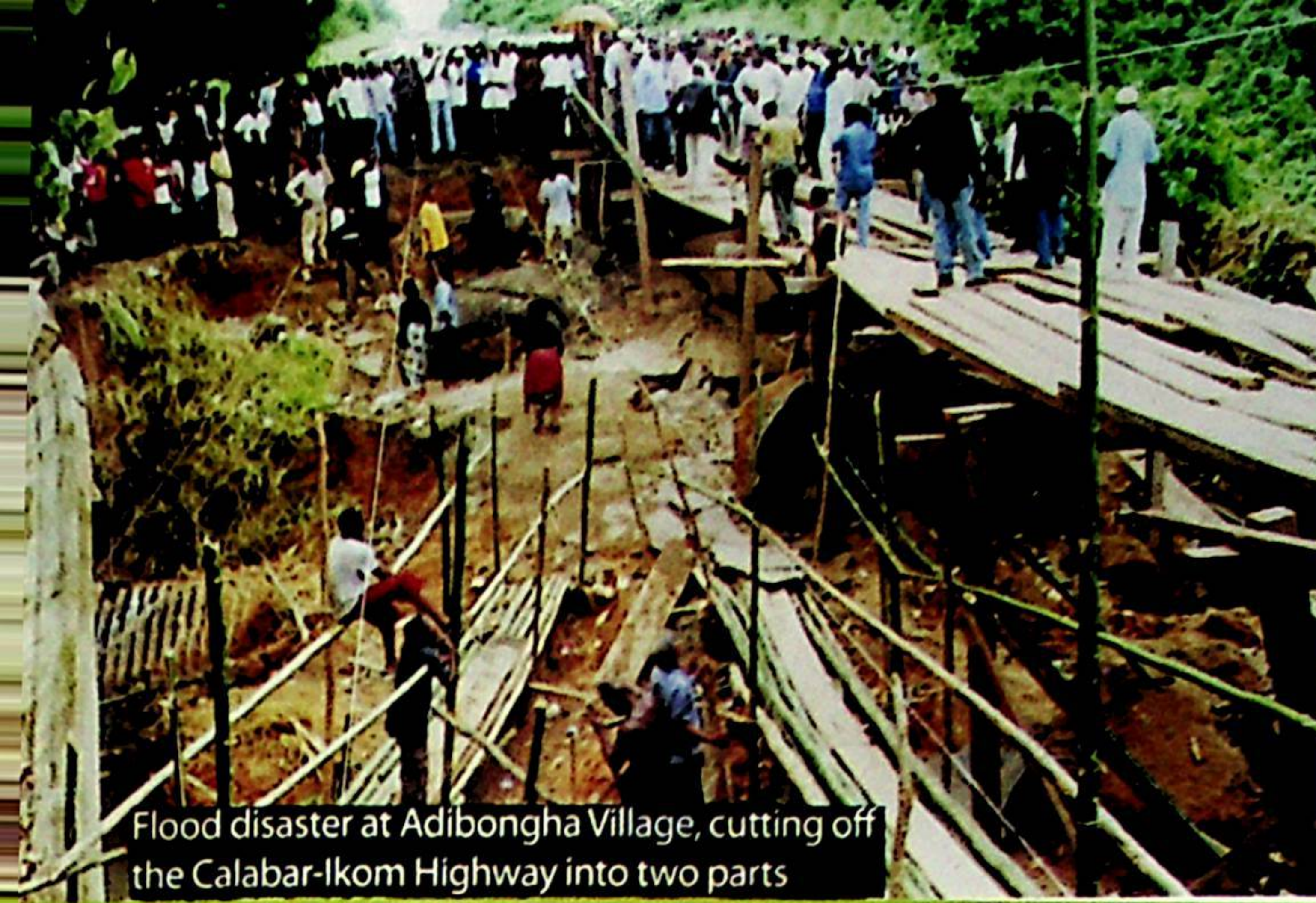
*Happy Birthday Dear Senator*



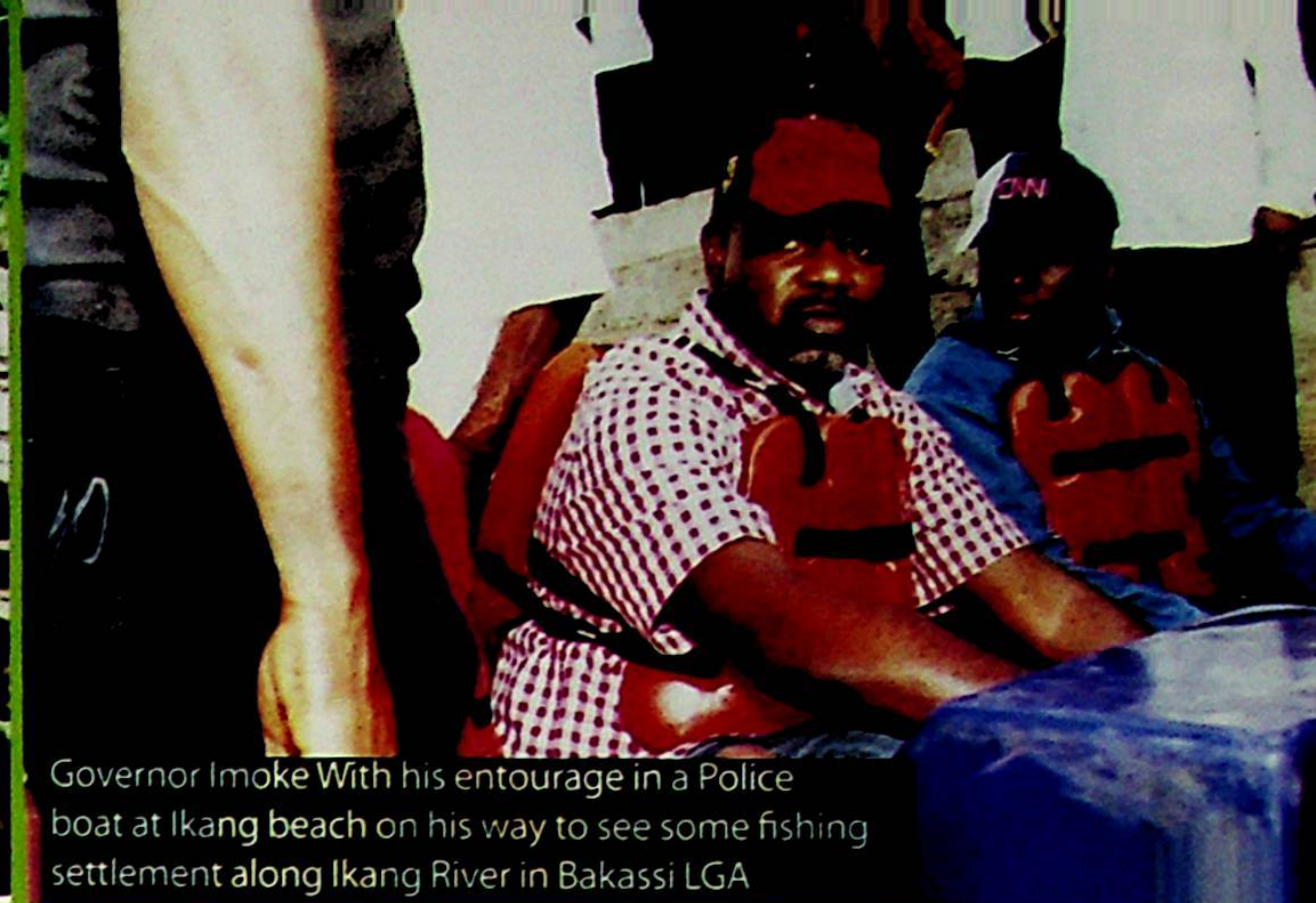
NTUFAM ETA MBORA

**Mayor Calabar Municipality**





Flood disaster at Adibongha Village, cutting off the Calabar-Ikom Highway into two parts



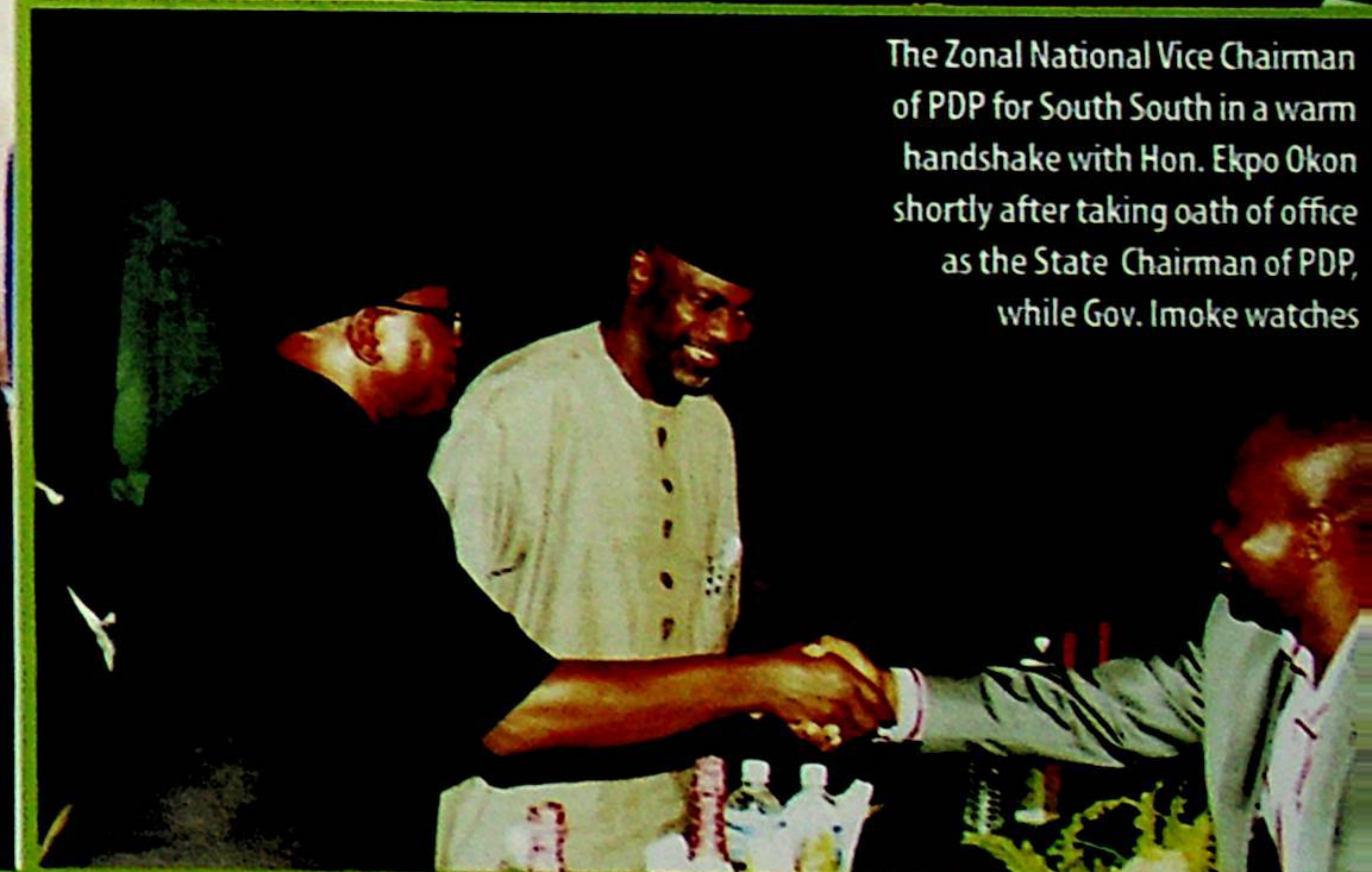
Governor Imoke With his entourage in a Police boat at Ikang beach on his way to see some fishing settlement along Ikang River in Bakassi LGA



Gov. Imoke with World Heavyweight Boxing Champion, Samuel Peters



The State Deputy Governor, Mr. Efiok Cobham, decorating Col. P. G. Ogah when the Foreign Defence Attachee paid him a courtesy call in Calabar



The Zonal National Vice Chairman of PDP for South South in a warm handshake with Hon. Ekpo Okon shortly after taking oath of office as the State Chairman of PDP, while Gov. Imoke watches







New Commissioner For Finance, Mr. Kelly Kejuo Ayamba, signs oath of office before Governor Liyel Imoke at the Executive Council Chambers, Calabar.

## Imoke Swear In New Commissioners, Admonishes Exco On Service

**G**overnor Liyel Imoke of Cross River State has admonished members of the State Executive Council to be prepared to render service as cabinet reshuffle will be a continuous exercise to ensure that the right thing is achieved.

While swearing in four new Commissioners as members of the executive council, Senator Imoke explained that the exercise was with the view of optimizing the requirement of the state administration to provide service to those that need government most, adding that their appointment was based on their wealth of experience and passion for the state and hoped they will join the council with the same passion to serve the people.

Governor Imoke disclosed that cabinet reshuffle is intended to strengthen the engine of governance as well as deliver the dividend of democracy as the state has over the months tried to build the confidence which has been lost in the heart of the people. It is time Cross Riverians were given better services, Imoke said.

He pointed out that it is because the state is committed to serving the people that it took time to ensure those chosen are those who are committed to serve as well as ensure the delivery of dividend of democracy.

After one year in office, he noted the state is determined to implement and execute its programmes as well as deliver

better life to the people of Cross River and therefore members of the state executive should be seen as a team that is dedicated and each member is expected to put his best foot forward and make the state better than how they met it.

The governor described the four new commissioners as persons of integrity and purpose whose qualities he believed would be put to the front burner for the development of the state and admonished them to get cracking as there is a lot to be done because the team is stronger and poised to serve the people. The new commissioners were urged to be transparent and firm because they hold the offices in public trust and should not do anything to lose that trust.

Imoke enjoined them to live by example and should be seen to be doing the right thing for the good of Cross River and thanked them for agreeing to join the cabinet and serve the people.

He, however, warned that if the need arises to strengthen the cabinet, he will not stop from doing that as those found wanting will not remain in the team as the exercise will continue until they do it right.

The governor commended the leadership of the State House of Assembly for its cooperation that the four new commissioners were screened and cleared on time. Their support and cordiality is a model which should be copied by other states, Senator Imoke noted. The new





**Dr. Mrs. Mary Olaiyi**  
Head Of Service, CRS.



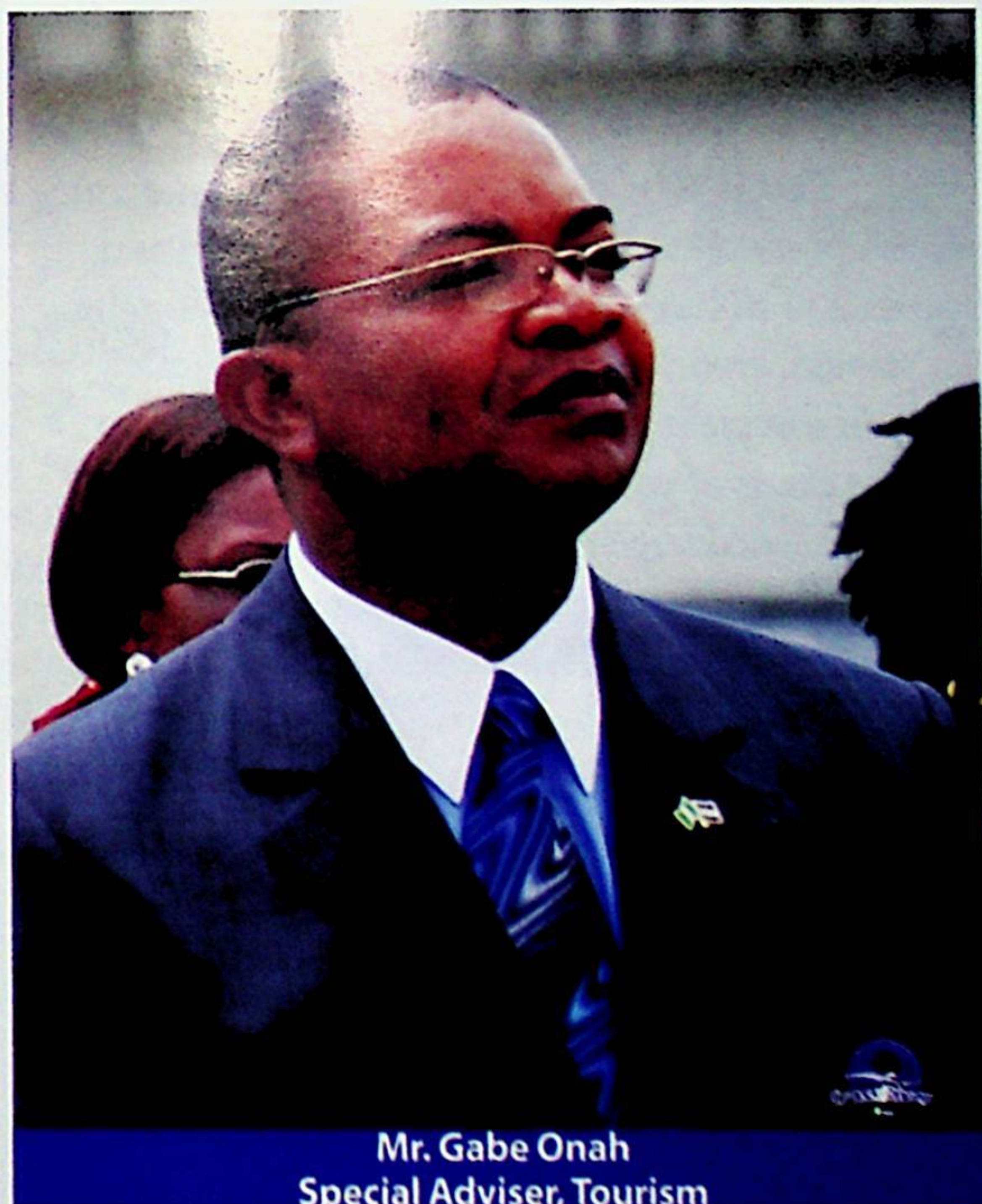
**Mr. Bassey Ekeffreh**  
Commissioner For Works



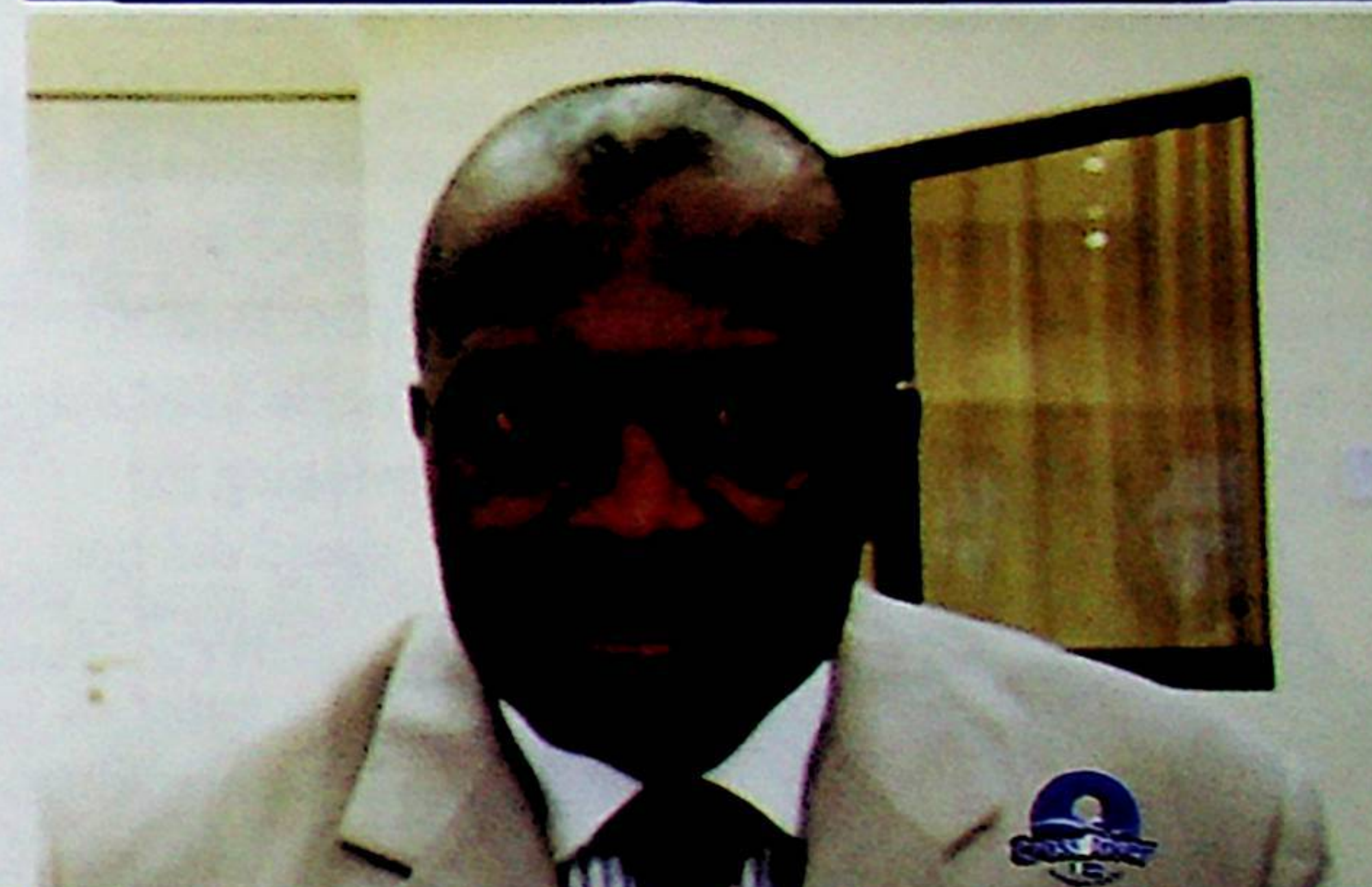
**Kelly Kejuo Ayamba**  
Commissioner for Finance



**Dr. Edet Ikpi**  
Commissioner for Health



**Mr. Gabe Onah**  
Special Adviser, Tourism



**Engineer Bassey Oqua**  
Commissioner for Lands and Housing

commissioners are Kelly Ayamba, a Chartered Accountant and immediate past SA Debt Management – Ministry of Finance. Mr. Bassey Ekeffreh, now Commissioner for Works was the immediate past Chairman of Calabar South LGA; Dr. Edet Ikpi takes over from Dr. Joseph Ana as Commissioner for Health while Engr. Bassey Oqua leads Ministry of Lands and Housing. Dr. Mrs. Mary Olaiyi, who was the Perment Secretary, Establishment Matters, takes over as the new Head of Service for the State.

The Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Fidelis Ugbo

in discribed the occasion as another important milestone in the administration's determination to give quality service to those that need government most.

According to him, the exercise began a few weeks ago when the names of the commissioners were sent to the State House of Assembly for screening and approval and said it went through without any hitch.

Responding on behalf of his colleagues, the Commissioner for Finance Mr. Kelly Ayamba thanked Imoke for considering them for the appointment to serve the state even though they might not be the best in the long list who were short listed. Ayamba said it was a privilege and opportunity to serve the people and promised to serve by the special grace of God while soliciting the fatherly guidance of the Governor and that of their colleagues.





# The African Poetry Ambassador Trophy Comes To Nigeria

A young talented and renown poet of Cross River State origin has not only won The African Poetry Ambassador Award, but was in far away United States of America to receive his trophy and medals. David Ayoka Atim has thus, become the first Nigerian and African to so win the award.

For the honour he has brought to Nigeria as a whole, His Excellency the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Liyel Imoke hosted him to a welcome reception at the Governor's Office where Mr. Ayoka presented and dedicated his award winning poem to the Governor. It could be recalled that Mr. David Ayoka Atim won the contest with his poem "Here they come", dedicated to the Obudu International Mountain race out of about 10,000 entries for the contest and as a mark of honour, he was invited to the United States where he was to collect the award.

While presenting the the Governor, Mr. Atim exhibited w h e n

Gold trophy to David Ayoka pure humility he declared that winning the award did not make him super best, but because as he put it "I was patient,

consistent and faithful, then God favoured me and gave me victory, for with God, all things are possible". Members of the State Executive Council were in agreement that this young man has done the State and Country proud. While responding, His Excellency, Senator Liyel Imoke was of the view that though this honour was bestowed on Mr. David Ayoka Atim, it was indeed bestowed on Cross River State, Nigeria and Africa. He commended Mr. Atim for setting up an NGO, Strength of Cross River Youth Movement (SCRYM) which seeks to encourage reading among youths and make Cross River State the most educated state in Nigeria in the near future.


The Governor further pledged his support to the N and promised to help realize its dream.

At a time when reading culture is dying gradually poetry this young poet has done much to revive same in the State and Country. As Samuel T. Coleridge once said, "No man was ever yet a great poet, without being at the same time a profound philosopher, for poetry is the blossom and the fragrance of all human knowledge, human thoughts, human passion, emotions, languages".

Therefore, if this great young poet has a philosophy to enhance the status of youths in the State, we cannot but give him every encouragement and support he needs, for the youths will always remain the live wire of any society. David is involved in what Prof. Wole Soyinka described as intellectual militancy. Constructive Engagement. He is a Niger Delta Youth with all the natural grievances of a Niger Deltan but he is channelling his grievances along positive pursuits, through poetry, promoting the Niger Delta on the world stage. This is "intellectual militancy".

As we celebrate the achievements of this young man, it only sends one message – that Nigeria is blessed with young literally giant.

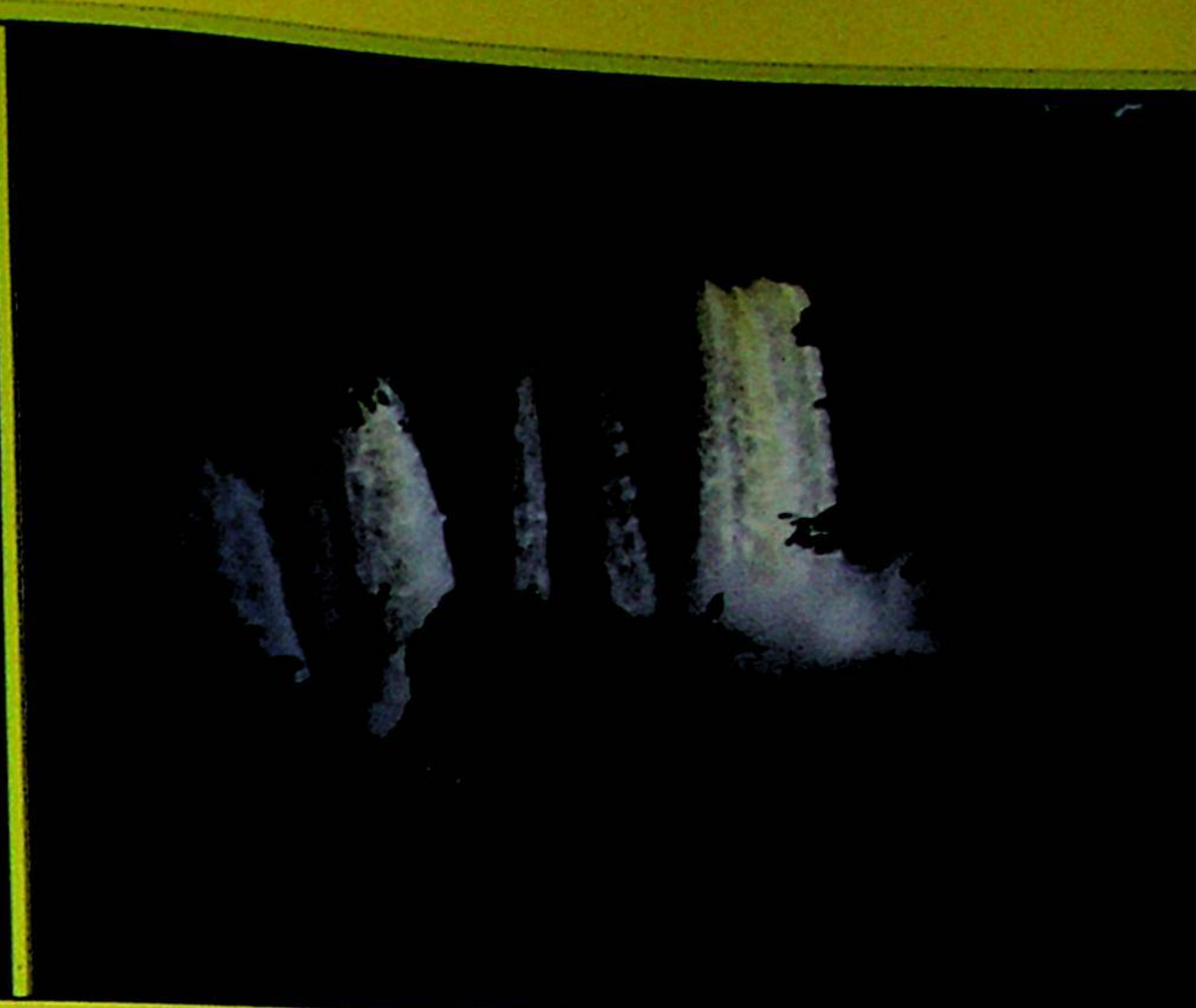
David is also the initiator of the first Nigeria online poetry forum on [www.davepoetry.com](http://www.davepoetry.com) Congratulations David for you are indeed the African Poetry Ambassador.

Governor Imoke said he was proud that Atim had conquered Cross River State, America and the world and that his inspiration and attainment as a youth is a challenge to his generation while appreciating those that have supported the poet to make his mark. 





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### *Congratulatory Message*

The Management and Staff of Remlords Tours and Car Hire Services wish to congratulate His Excellencies, Senator Liyel Imoke and His Deputy, Barrister Efiok Cobham, on their one year anniversary in office. May the good Lord continue to guide and protect you as you meet the aspirations of Cross Riverians.



Senator Liyel Imoke  
Governor  
Cross River State



Barrister Efiok Cobham  
Deputy Governor  
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