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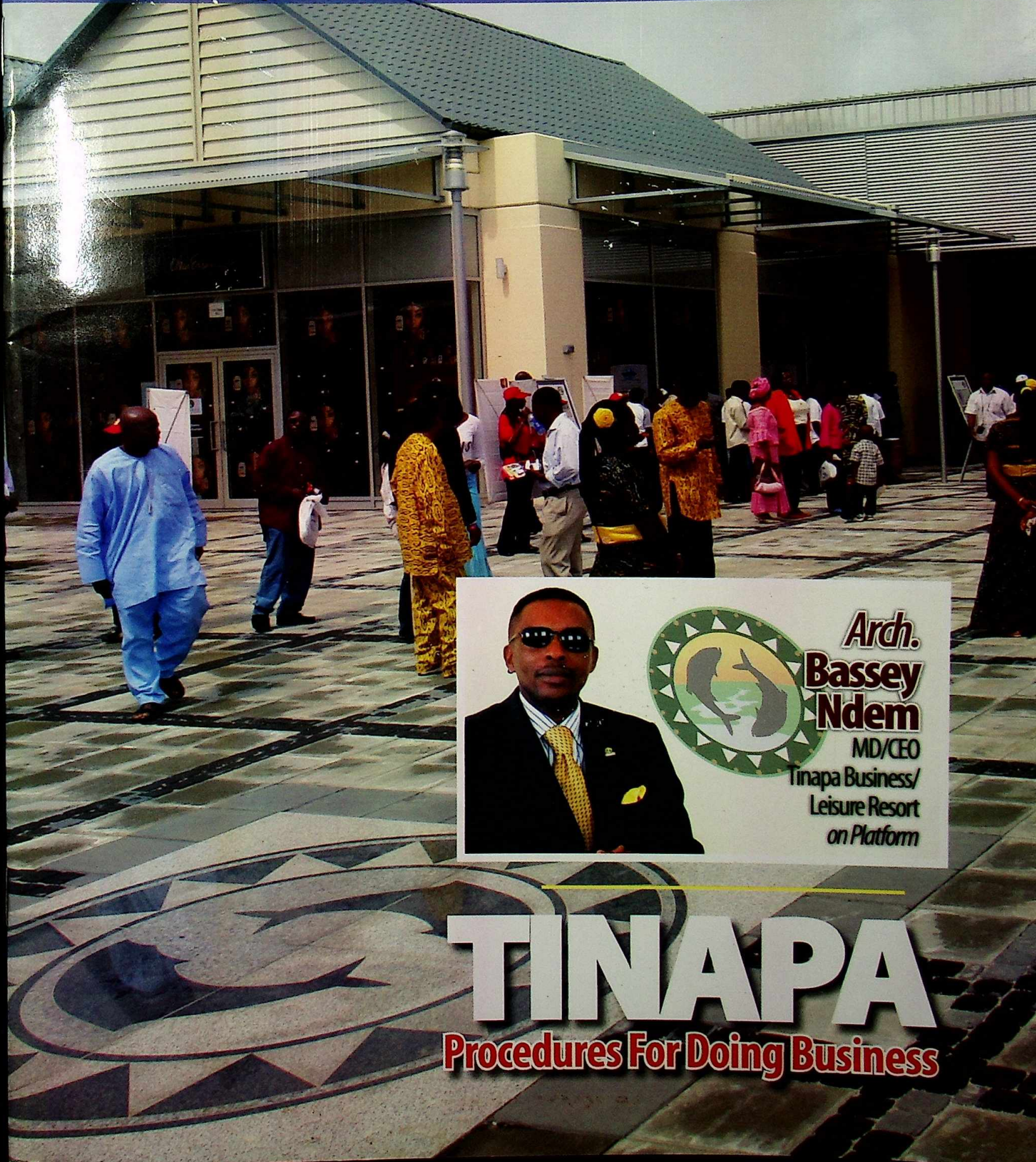
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The people's right to know!

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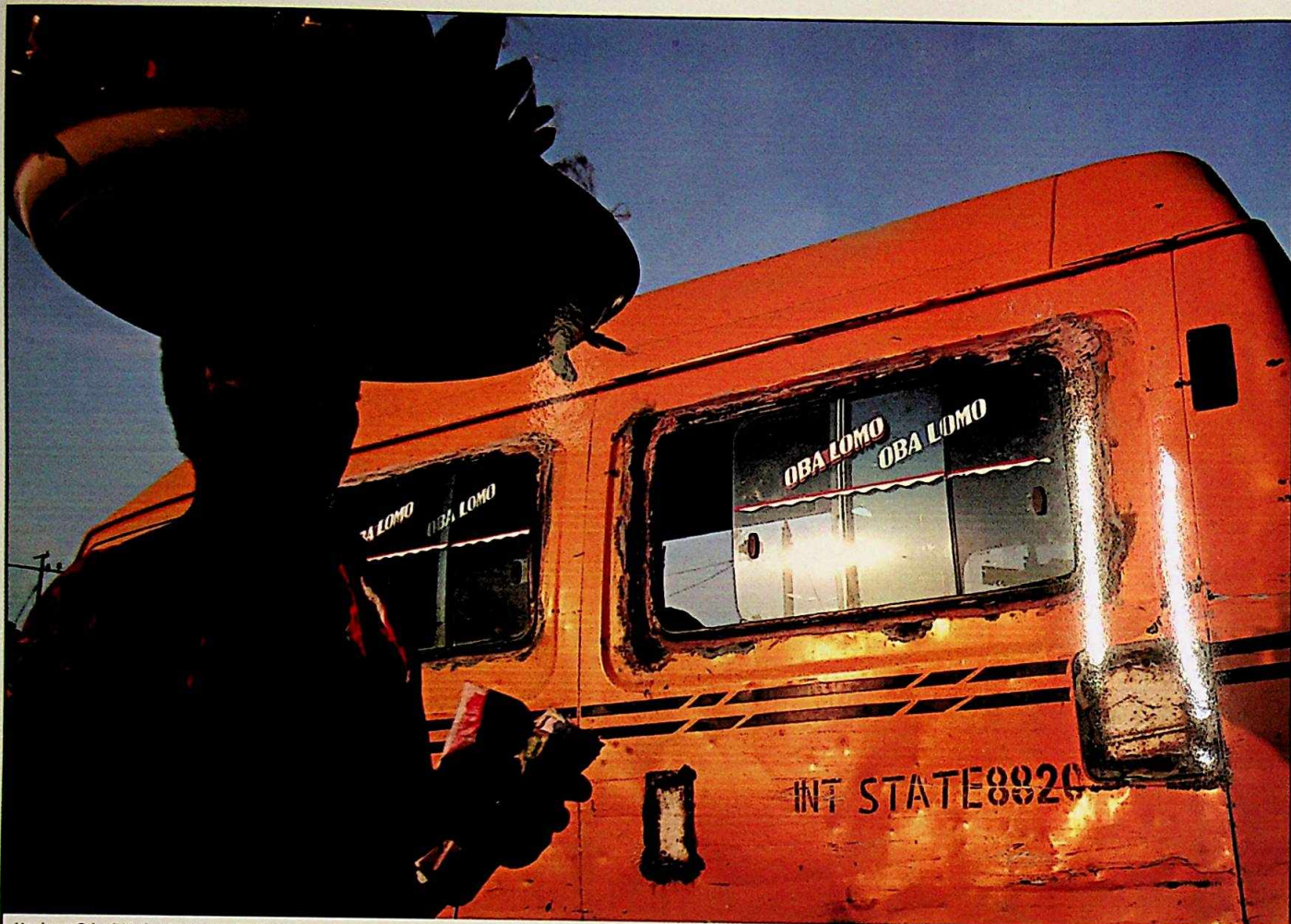




Arch. Bassey Ndem
MD/CEO
Tinapa Business/
Leisure Resort
on Platform

TINAPA

Procedures For Doing Business



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TINAPA, it came with a bang. Its presentation to major stakeholders was simply wonderful: it looked so sweet and real. In the words of the former President Chief Olusegun Obasanjo during one of such presentations at Aso Rock Villa, Abuja he said: "Tinapa, I can see it and smell it. Others even thought the project was larger than life. Its construction and finishing was near perfect and world class.

Its branding and media hype was simply mesmerizing. Then came its commissioning. Everyone that mattered was there. This was the day the world came together in Calabar. Thereafter, some ships commenced loading... The loading that was meant for the turning of the Bayview into a reality.

Amidst excitement, the final document signed.

At the end of the day, the National Director of MOFINEWS and the National Director of the State Planning Commission, Calabar, signed the document. The document that was signed by the National Director of MOFINEWS and the National Director of the State Planning Commission, Calabar, signed the document.

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TINAPA Hope Kept Alive



Today, it is Leaders with courage to dream, with clear visions that are able to ultimately impact positively on the society and humanity.

Leadership is the art of influencing people to willingly work with zeal and confidence towards achievement of group goals. Leaders do not stand behind and push or prod, they place themselves before the group and inspire progress, inspire performance. They induce obedience by their conduct.

Leadership without vision is worse than a voyage without a compass, it usually will end in disaster. Vision, principally, is building gateways to the future. It takes visionary leadership to transform society. Tinapa Business/Leisure Resort is a product of vision, conceived in a small, poor and previously unheralded region of Nigeria, Cross River State.

Tinapa was conceptualized "to play a catalytic role in establishing Calabar as a trade and distribution hub in West Africa while at the same time provides a unique tourism experience that will start to inform growth of tourism sector in Calabar, Cross River State and Nigeria." The idea was to develop a world class retail and tourist attraction to serve the regional and domestic market in Nigeria and the international market.

The vision of the project was to ensure high economic growth and prosperity for the Cross River people and all Nigerians.

Tinapa was created to provide an institutional backbone to build a purpose driven and highly successful leisure tourism industry which should also provide the expanding expatriate population currently craving for high quality entertainment and leisure, a safe and secure environment.

The fight for the realization of Project Tinapa commenced with physical construction work awarded to Nigeria's construction grant, Julius Berger. Indeed Julius Berger successfully translated all drawing to physical structures with perfect finishing.

On the 2nd of April 2007, Tinapa Business and Leisure Resort was officially commissioned by then President, Chief


Olusegun Obasanjo amidst pomp and pageantry. However, anchor tenants had stocked their shops prior to the commissioning preparatory for real business to commence when a lockdown was observed; the absence of a regulatory framework for the operation of Tinapa. The procedures required for doing business in Tinapa had not been prepared by the federal government. Therefore business was suspended.

Today, that document has been released. What are these regulations? Architect Bassey Eyo Ndem, the Chief Executive Officer of Tinapa Business/Leisure Resort is our guest on Platform, our high profile interview section. "Tinapa Business Resort is a Free Trade Zone. Therefore goods that can enter into Tinapa do not necessarily have to be goods that are allowed into Nigeria. So prohibited and banned items can come into Tinapa. But Tinapa is located within Nigeria Custom Territory. Therefore government has to guide and guard how those goods go out of Tinapa into the country, that is, Nigeria. The official gazette is like the operating manual for the Business Resort". This interview with the CEO of Tinapa is a must-read if you are keen on keying into the project.

Persistence pays because he that can have patience can have what he will. At last, at long last Tinapa has received the nod. With the final release of the official gazette, all encumbrances that hindered full commencement of activities have been cleared.

Thank you President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua for your vision and dogged determination to reposition and place our country among the 20 developed economies of the world. We appreciate the Ministers of Commerce and Industry, Finance, Justice/Attorney-General and the Comptroller General of Customs and all who contributed in getting this document out.

Congratulations Senator Imoke and your entire Exco members for pulling this through. Tinapa Business/Leisure Resort offers great opportunities for investment.

We implore all to key into the Resort. The time is now. 



Destination CROSS RIVER



Kelly Ayamba

Welcome yet to a new and exciting year of hope and great challenges. Challenges arising from the looming yet fast spreading economic recession engendered, as it were, by the movements in the sub-prime (lending) rate which affected the American mortgage sector, resulting in multi-billion dollar loans being trapped in failed mortgages. These affected the construction industry and other sectors of the American economy resulting in spiraling unemployment and creating depressions in the American economy.

In the tradition of MOFINEWS, we considered



the imperatives for increased Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) as a cushion against the current economic recession (global meltdown) and the continuous slide in crude oil prices resulting in lower receipts from the Federation Account. Perhaps even more urgent is the need for the development of wider strategic options to grow the economy in the face of the recession and for the creation of a friendlier and conducive environment for business.

Although this may not have become obvious to many governments both in Nigeria and across the world, the Government and people of Cross River State have over the years worked tirelessly to develop the State into a destination for business and leisure, taking full cognisance of the State's rich natural endowments in Agriculture, Tourism and indeed the ecosystem. The objective of government is to provide opportunities for business owners and managers to engage in successful businesses while enjoying a serene, peaceful and clean environment garnished with world-class facilities for leisure and recreation (afterall, as the saying goes, all works and no play ...)

It is in the light of this overall strategy of government that the eventual approval and release of the official gazette embodying the guidelines and regulations for the TINAPA FTZ and Leisure Resort is considered a major achievement for us. This has added impetus to the drive to make Cross River State a true destination for business and leisure.


Worth over 50 billion naira, the TINAPA Resort is envisioned to be a world-class integrated business and leisure resort offering employment to over 5,000 Nigerians and foreigners. As a distribution point and a trading hub of the West African sub region, the expected multiplier effect on the State and National economies can only be imagined.

However, this bold, exciting and insightful vision, after its commissioning on April 2nd, 2007, went into limbo with many describing it as a white elephant project. Today, that instrument needed to give the spark for a brighter tomorrow, the official gazette for the operation and regulation of TINAPA Free Trade Zone and Resort has been released. We join millions of Nigerians to thank Mr. President for ensuring that the vision of TINAPA is realized.

We use this opportunity to invite serious minded business owners and managers to take advantage of the huge opportunities created in TINAPA to set up and own businesses in the TINAPA Free Trade Zone and Resort.

Beyond TINAPA Project, the Cross River State Government is creating more and more opportunities for business - serious business - in a friendly and clean environment. Projects like the New Calabar Metropolitan Market, the Energy City, the International Convention Centre, the Theme Park and the Calabar Monorail Project, among others, are potentially viable opportunities for private sector investment.

With the ambience of its natural and serene environment, friendly and hospitable people, high degree of peace, law and order, reforms in governance and public financial management with a sound economic management team, business friendly tax administration and a deliberate policy of investment promotion, Cross River State is truly and certainly the preferred destination for business.

Welcome Home!!! 

With the ambience of its natural and serene environment, friendly and hospitable people, high degree of peace, law and order, reforms in governance and public financial management with a sound economic management team, business friendly tax administration and a deliberate policy of investment promotion, Cross River State is certainly and truly the Nigeria's destination choice for business or leisure.

consequences. This would have made domestic borrowing a better option. But borrowing from the local money market is out of the question because of the high foreign exchange component of the 2009 Federal budget.

The 2009 Federal budget is tailored after the actualization of the President's 7-point agenda, which consists of some projects with high foreign components. Having surplus funds in the domestic economy is not the same as having enough foreign exchange in our foreign reserves. If the economy cannot generate enough foreign exchange through exports to finance the budget, then the naira cannot be used in the place of the dollar.

The only option that would be open to the Federal Government in funding the budget is to borrow from foreign sources or devalue the naira.

But the devaluation of the naira may not be a feasible option because, firstly, it would escalate prices in the domestic economy thus accelerating the pace of approach of the recession to Nigeria. Secondly, the demand for oil at this time may even be price inelastic because the demand for oil is a function of the level of industrial activity over there. The devaluation may, therefore, not give us the required amount of foreign exchange; and thirdly, the oil industry operates in the oligopolistic market structure. If the devaluation of the naira would make the price of our oil cheap, other oil producing countries could take retaliatory action that could make their oil even cheaper.

Few months ago OPEC came to the rescue to save the oil market from total collapse, by reducing quotas of member countries across the board. This action raised the price of oil to almost \$42 per barrel. This was quite a relief even though the price still fell below the benchmark used in the 2009 Federal budget. But it was not certain whether the adjustment in production quotas would leave Nigeria with the same quota that was used in estimating oil revenue in the 2009 Federal budget; otherwise, the country would still not be comfortable unless the marginal rise in oil price would be higher than the marginal fall in the quota allocated

to Nigeria.

On the other hand, foreign borrowing could have future repercussions. Foreign borrowing may slow down the rate of accumulation of foreign reserves in future. The economy is, therefore, in a serious dilemma.

But there is a possible option that we can apply to ward-off the recession, and grow the economy without borrowing from foreign sources or devaluing the naira.

How to Avert The Recession in Nigeria

Normally recession starts with depression in the largest sector or industry in an economy. Certainly, the recession can enter Nigeria through the Civil Service, which is the largest sector/industry in our economy in view of its position as the largest employer of urban labour in the economy, who hold more than 70% of the purchasing power of the economy. Through market connectivity or simultaneity, the depression in the Civil Service will effect the rest of the economy.

To avoid the recession is, therefore to protect the Civil Service from catching the depression bog by paying salaries and allowances constantly as they fall due.

Conclusion/Policy Suggestion

The world economy is now in recession; and it is possible that the recession can get to Nigeria unless steps are taken to avert the situation. To implement the 2009 Federal budget to the letter is to put pressures on foreign exchange demand, which may force the government to go for foreign borrowing or to devalue the naira. But the devaluation of the naira would bring about the recession faster to Nigeria.

Since the objective of government spending is to grow the national income (GDP) without exacerbating other economic problems, and it is unreasonable to suggest at this point in time, that capital expenditure should increase for fear that it would bring more pressure on foreign exchange demand, the growth of the GDP should be funded through increase in recurrent expenditure of government


by reviewing salaries and wages in the economy.

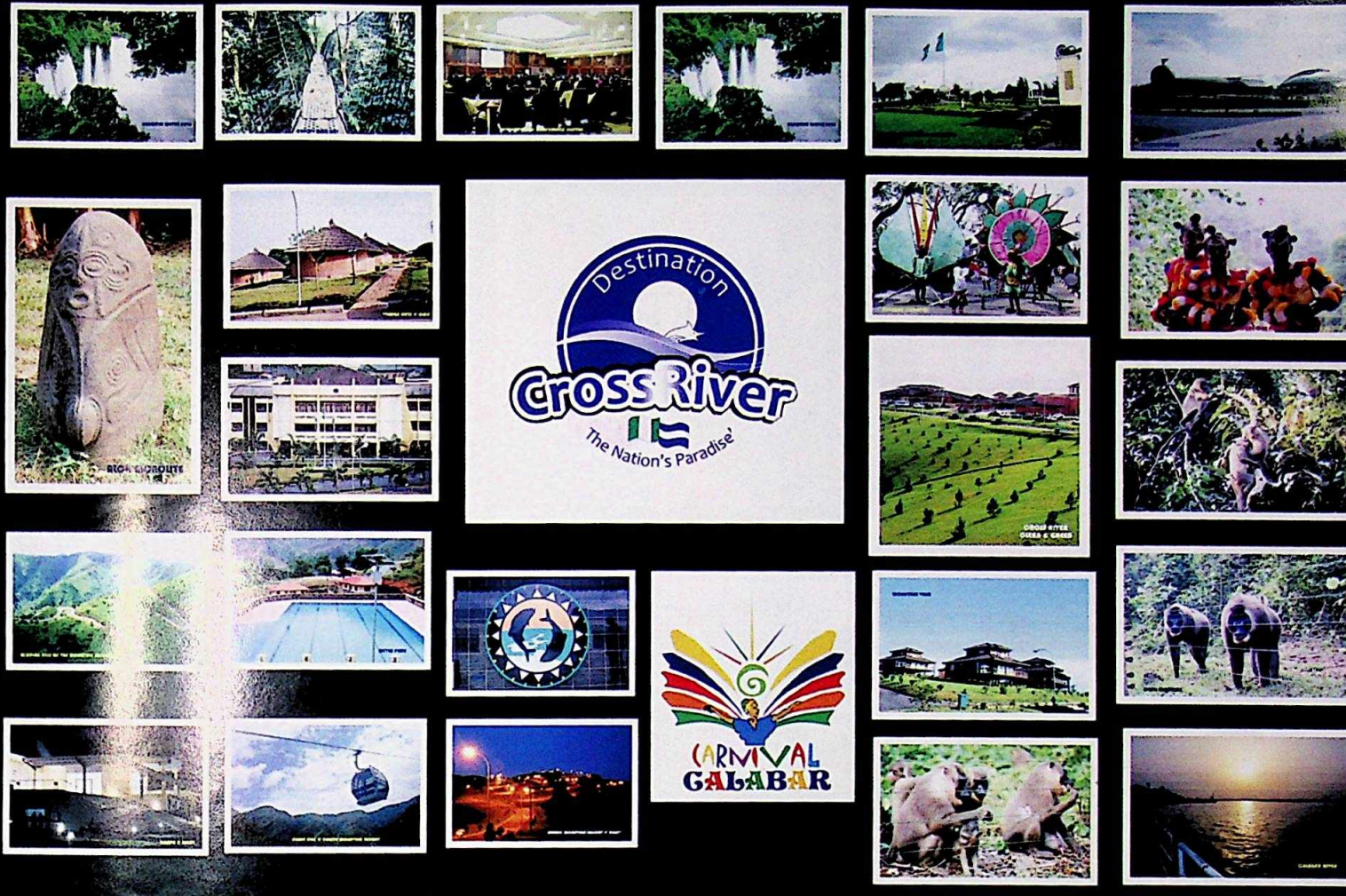
Increase in salaries and wages would ginger consumers spending which will, in turn, stimulate investment and employment in the economy; and our GDP will grow in the midst of the world recession. President Shehu Shagari tried this policy during the oil glut of the early 1980s which created recession in our economy. The President suspended most of his administration's capital projects but increased the national minimum wage from N60.00 to N100.00 which kept the factories humming. But when he was pressurized to review the policy, we all saw what happened. In November 1982 till he left office in December 1983.

Alternatively, government should seek foreign aid for the implementation of the President's 7-point agenda. After all, four of the seven items in the agenda are such that could win the sympathy of foreign donor agencies. There is no amortization obligation attached to funding the agenda with aid; and so there would be no liability hanging over any body.

Alternatively, government should choose only three of the 7-point agenda, namely, critical infrastructure; Niger Delta and food security, for implementation. The few amount of foreign exchange that could be generated by the economy under the prevailing circumstance could then be used in funding these three items and for funding imports of raw materials, machineries, spare parts, etc, for home production that would rise as consumers demand rise with the increase in salaries and wages, while government can borrow from the local money market where we have enough money, to fund the increase in salaries and wages; if and only if, after the review of the budget as herein suggested, there would still be some grey areas of resource insufficiency.

When these methods are adopted, government shall have succeeded in funding the growth of the economy without borrowing from foreign sources or devaluing the naira.


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Destination Cross River: Imoke's Drive for a Model State

INTRODUCTION

Cross River State is located within the tropical rain forest belt of Nigeria. It lies between latitude 4° 28' and 6° 55' North of the Equator and longitude 7° 50' and 9° 28' East of the Greenwich meridian. It shares common boundaries with the Republic of Cameroon in the East, Benue State in the North, Ebonyi and Abia States in the West, Akwa Ibom State in the Southwest and the Atlantic Ocean in the South. It has a total landmass of about 23,000 Sq kilometres. Arising from its location, the State enjoys a tropical climate with the Obudu Plateau at an altitude of 1,595.79 metres above sea level enjoying a temperate climate. The State records heavy rainfall during the wet season (April – November). At least five distinct ecological zones are represented in the State ranging from mangrove and swamp forests towards the coast, tropical rain forests further inland, and savannah woodlands in the northern parts of the State. The highlands of the Obudu

Plateau offer montane type vegetation. The favourable climate of tropical, humid, dry and wet seasons gives rise to rich agricultural lands, thus encouraging both perennial and annual crop cultivation.

Amongst the six States in Nigeria's oil rich Niger Delta region, and indeed the 36 States in the country, Cross River State occupies a distinctive position of primus inter pares. This is due to the pragmatic and visionary leadership the State has had since the onset of civil rule.

This pragmatism and vision acquired more significance, depth and relevance when Senator Liyel Imoke was elected Governor, first on 14 April 2007, and in a re-run election in August 23, 2008. The purpose of his Government, and by that very fact, the justification of his mandate, as he has repeated so often, is to bring Government to those who need it most, and create wealth and prosperity for the people and the State.

This is a theme he has articulated in a road map document – The Cross River State



By Etowa Okoi

“...Senator Imoke is fine-tuning the creation of a Theme Park and Energy City, to offer people in the Sub-region and the rest of the World, a place where they can have leisure and business with strategic value...”

Public Implementation and Economic Performance In Nigeria

Refocusing Policy Strategies

By Anam Bassey, E

It is clear that Nigeria possesses abundant natural and human resources, including large reserves of oil and gas, fertile agricultural land, talented and well educated entrepreneurs, a skilled labor force, and a domestic market of 120 million people. Nevertheless, her role in the world economy has diminished since the late 1970s and her economic performance has fallen far short of her potential. This has primarily been due to frequent changes of government and policies as well as poor economic policy implementation that have resulted in slow output growth, a lower standard of living, greater income inequality, and increased poverty. In particular, economic growth has been inhibited by the neglect of the non-oil export sector, high, inconsistent and dispersed rates of import tariffs, exchange market controls, large and inefficient state owned enterprises, and weak fiscal and monetary discipline.

These factors have been aggravated by a demoralized bureaucracy, a weakened judicial system, and pervasive corruption. Political instability, the high cost of doing business and a lack of confidence have made it extremely difficult for the private sector to operate efficiently, discouraged domestic and foreign investment and encouraged capital flight. A prerequisite for achieving many of Nigeria's economic policy objectives is curtailing endemic corruption, which stifles development and taints Nigeria's business environment. Within the context through which this advocacy can be attained defines the focus of this article.

Introduction

Literally, a policy is a deliberate plan of action to guide decisions and achieve rational outcome(s). The term may apply to government, private sector organizations and groups, and even individuals. It is the process of making important organizational

spending priorities, and choosing among them on the basis of the impact they will have. Policies can be understood as political, management, financial, and administrative mechanisms arranged to reach explicit goals. On the other hand, economic policy(s) deals with the actions that governments take in the economic field. It covers the systems for setting interest rates and guiding government deficit as well as the labour market, national ownership, and many other areas of government.

It has been observed that policy implementation is one of the major problems confronting developing nations including Nigeria. According to Adamolekun (1983), policy implementation refers to the activities that are carried out in the light of established policies. It refers to the process of converting financial, material, technical and human inputs into outputs – goods and services (Egonmwan, 1991). Edwards (1980) defines policy implementation as a stage of policy making between the establishment of a policy (such as the passage of a legislative act, the issuing of an executive order, or the promulgation of a regulatory rule) and the consequences of the policy for the people whom it affects. It also involves a wide variety of actions such as issuing and enforcing directives, disbursing funds, making loans, assigning, hiring and even firing of personnel, etc.

Stripped of all technicalities, implementation problem in most developing nations, in Nigeria in particular, is the problem of a widening gap between intentions and results. Honadle (1979) tried to identify the problems associated with policy implementation as that of social carpenters and masons who fail to build to specifications and thus distort the beautiful blue print. Here he was equating policy with a building plan. Quoting him he said:

"Implementation is the nemesis of designers; it conjures up images of plans gone awry and of social carpenters and

prints for progress which are handed to them. It provokes memories of "good" ideas that did not work and places the blame on the second (and second-class) member of the policy and administrative team..." (p.6)

The above quotation shows the importance that is attached to policy implementation and those that are responsible for implementing these policies. It also shows that no matter how beautiful the blueprint of a program is, a defective implementation will make nonsense of the whole program. Unfortunately, the situation as described by Honadle above is what goes on in most developing countries, Nigeria inclusive. As stated by Egonmwan (1971), implementation in these countries often turns out to be the graveyard of policy where the intentions of the designer of policies are often undermined by a constellation of powerful forces of politics and administration in cooperation with people. ***Little attention is paid to the subject of policy implementation by policy decision makers while it is often taken for granted that once a policy is adopted by government it must be implemented and the desired goals achieved.*** The above lapse has often resulted in poor policy implementation, which, in effect, gives rise to implementation gap.

Implementation problem occurs when the desired result on the target beneficiaries is not achieved. Such problem is not restricted to only the developing nations. Wherever and whenever the basic critical factors that are very crucial to implementing public policy are missing, whether in developing or developed nations, there is bound to be implementation problem. These critical factors are communication, resources, dispositions or attitudes, and bureaucratic structure (Edwards III, 1980). The four factors operate simultaneously and they interact with each other to aid or hinder policy implementation. By implication,

paper, interest will be on the bureaucratic structure. The public bureaucracy, machinery set up to execute the policies of the government is faced with a lot of challenges. One of such challenge is that of corrupt practices. A critical assessment of the problem of corruption and how it affect the proper implementation of economic policies in Nigeria, followed by a rational policy strategy to refocus its activities so as to bridge the existing gap between policy formulation decision, and proper implementation, forms the focus of this paper.

Assessment of Nigerian Economic Policy and Performance

The sector has no clear area of emphasis with regard to government economic policies in the country. This is partly because Nigeria has a dual economy with a modern sector dependent on oil earnings, oil and the traditional agricultural and mining economy. At independence in 1960 agriculture accounted for well over half of Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product, and was the main source of export earnings and public revenue. The oil sector, which emerged in the 1960's and was firmly established during the 1970's, is now of overwhelming importance to the point of over-dependence: it provides 20% of GDP, 95% of foreign exchange earnings, and about 65% of budgetary revenues. The largely subsistence agricultural sector has not kept up with rapid population growth, and Nigeria, once a large net exporter, now imports food. Based on GNP per capita, Nigeria is among the world's 20 poorest countries (Cohen, Ariel and Brett, Schaefer, 2004). Economic growth since the early 1970's has been erratic, driven primarily by the fluctuations of the global oil market. During the 1980's and 1990's Nigeria faced growing economic decline and falling living standards, a reflection also of political instability, corruption, and poor macroeconomic management (most notably the failure to diversify the economy).

In the economic ranking at the World Economic Forum (2006) held in Geneva, Switzerland to determine global competitiveness of nations, despite its tremendous oil wealth and competitive potential, Nigeria recorded a very steep fall in its competitiveness, ranking only 101st

to rank 112) in the basic requirements sub-index, which highlights the fundamentals for achieving sustained growth namely strong institutions, adequate infrastructure, a supportive macroeconomic environment, and good basic health and education (Cohen, et al 2004).

Little wonder, despite the availability of natural resources, population, and domestic markets, all sectors of the Nigerian economy perform below their potential's during the nation's first 40 years of independence and still there seem to be no drastic improvement. Inter-sectoral linkages remain weak, and the rate of unemployment remains high and problematic. Among other things, most observers of the Nigerian scene—domestic as well as foreign—attribute the poor performance and the over-reliance on the oil sector to a variety of reasons, including political instability, prolonged authoritarian rule by the military, poor macroeconomic management, inadequate infrastructure, and external financing. In November 1996, the military ruler Major General Sani Abacha set up the VISION 2010 Committee which looked into the general situation and recommended targets for year 2010. No tangible progress has so far been made.

In same vein, the civilian administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo had proposed substantial reforms in its economic policy for 1999 to 2003. The main thrust of the reforms was to deregulate the economy and to disengage the state from activities which were private-sector oriented, leaving the state to act as a facilitator. The plan also concentrated on the provision of incentives, policy, and infrastructure essential to the private sector's role as the engine of growth. The administration's industrial policy sort to generate productive employment and raise productivity, increase export of locally manufactured goods, create a wider geographical dispersal of industries, attract foreign investment, and increase private sector participation. The policy also placed highest priority on the agricultural sector—to achieve both poverty reduction, especially in rural areas, and sufficiency in food production and surplus for use as industrial raw materials for export. Other areas of high priority included manufacturing industries, solid minerals, oil and gas, small and medium enterprises, and tourism.

The dawn of President Umaru Musa

met a nation with vital infrastructure such as roads, power, water etc in comatose state. Key sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, education and transportation were floundering. It was against this background that the President unveiled a seven-point agenda which he hoped would put back the economy on track, and act as the platform on which his administration would spring off. The seven-point agenda had the following: power and energy; food security and agriculture; wealth creation and employment; mass transportation; land reforms; security; qualitative and functional education and pursuance of the rule of law.

The ability of this seven-point agenda to lift the economy out of its present doldrums state leaves much to be desired. Nigeria had seen such economic packages before that had resulted in failed hopes. Some of such included the Green Revolution, the austerity measures; Structural Adjustment Programme, (SAP), Privatization, Monetization, and Consolidation policies, among others, promulgated by the various military regimes and civilian administrations. Despite all these, the economy remains sluggish, its market potential unrealized, infrastructures ill-maintained, inconsistent regulatory environment, and enjoys a well-deserved reputation for endemic crime and corruption.

In fact, in Nigeria, policies have been formulated in virtually all aspects of the economy ranging from poverty and inequality, environment, fiscal and monetary, gender, financing and external debt, economic infrastructure, science and technology, education, employment and workforce, to agriculture, all with the intension of improving the lot of Nigerians and Nigeria. The outcome of each implementation however has most often been distorted by the activities of corrupt bureaucratic authorities.

Bureaucracy and the Demeanor of Policy Implementations in Nigeria

The word "bureaucracy" stems from the word "bureau", used from the early 18th century in Western Europe not just to refer to a writing desk, but to an office. i.e. a workplace, where officials worked. Bureaucracy is a management structure with

extremely efficient and effective system because it rests on a rational ordering of time and space. However, for bureaucracy to succeed, certain basic factors must guide its operation. Certain amount of effectiveness and accountability is vital. Being an organizational framework bounded by rules, the hidden costs of over-doing the regulation are very considerable. As the rules and organization become more complicated, it becomes so difficult to do anything that one has to cheat or break the rules in order to survive. Indeed, since the rules often conflict with each other and whatever one does breaks some rule, so it is a question of choosing between illegalities.

The hierarchical nature of bureaucracy leads to duplication, the erosion of trust and individual creativity and the emergence of a 'surveillance society'. One unexpected effect of over-bureaucratization is the spread of cynicism. For much of English history rules were few but were observed and respected. The proliferation of rules, as in Nigeria, means that they are seen as obstacles, nuisances, pressures which work against the individual, barriers to get round and break if possible. Cunning, cheating, deviance, learning the real rules behind the rules, are what it is all about, a phenomenon found in all over-centralized bureaucracies. This breeds cynicism since the less successful, the small rule breakers, assume that the successful have got to where they are by cheating, bribery, corruption and breaking rules.

Another harmful effect of over-active bureaucracies is that they divert talent. In almost all organizations, the higher the pay and the higher the status, the less practical work and the more administration. A head teacher who was perhaps an excellent communicator does not teach any more. An excellent surgeon ends up doing paperwork as head of a hospital. A brilliant academic is finally the administrative head of a University. None of them any longer does the thing they most enjoy or are good at. They spend their time as fund raisers, personnel officers, chairs of committees. It is a widespread tendency: if you can do anything really well, stop doing it and

least two explanations for this behaviour. First, most public bureaucrats are overly concerned about the security of their positions and as such are not inclined to take the initiative (Mohr 1987). Second, public bureaucrats in Nigeria appear to have a pervasive concern with status, and authority breeds status. The greater the authority concentrated in the hands of one person, the more other individuals must deal directly with that person to acquire the desired service (Beach 1980; Onyeonoru 2005) and the greater the chance of the person becoming corrupt.

The Corruption Question

Corruption is one enemy of development that has received much attention worldwide in almost all countries of the world. In fact, public policies to fight corruption seem to double polices made for all other sectors put together, because it transverses all sectors of the economy, public and private. Corruption easily makes nonsense of every other policy.

Corruption, defined as 'the abuse of public power for personal gains', has always existed. Public office is abused through rent seeking activities for private gain when an official accepts, solicits, or extorts a bribe. Abuse is also the case when private agents actively offer bribes to circumvent public policies and processes for competitive advantage and profit. When bribery occurs, through patronage and nepotism, the theft of state assets or the diversion of state resources, administrative morality is sacrificed on the altar of compromise, hence corruption. Therefore, a public official is corrupt if he accepts money for not doing or doing something that he is under duty to do or that he is under duty not to do.

Corruption is a betrayal of trust resulting directly or indirectly from the subordination of public goals (policy objectives) to those of the individual. Thus a person who engages in nepotism has committed an act of corruption by putting his family interests over those of the larger society (Gire 1999). Corruption is endemic as well as an enemy within (Agbu, 2003). It is a canker worm that has eaten deep into the fabric of the country and had stunted growth in

consistent rating of Nigeria as one of the top three most corrupt countries in the world (Ribadu, 2003).

Although President Olusegun Obasanjo had pledged to end corruption and adopted economic reforms, vested interests opposed change. As U.S. Secretary of the Treasury John Snow has noted, "While some steps were taken to introduce transparency and accountability, little change was seen in budgetary practices, contract awarding, monetary policy, privatization, or public service reform."

Petty corruption such as the need to tip officials for expected services continues to flourish in most ministries and parastatals in Nigeria (Obiajulu 2000; The Punch July 6, 2005; The Guardian, May 11, 2005). Besides corruption, a variety of other counterproductive attitudes have also flourished. The work habits and motivational levels of most middle and junior public bureaucrats are substandard. Their performance tends to be sluggish; their coffee breaks and school runs prolonged, and their need for supervision constant (Okoh 1998; Ejiolorun 1987; Onyeonoru 2005). This has compounded and led to lack of mass confidence on the machinery of the bureaucracy. Public bureaucrats, while frequently engendering both respect and fear, tend to be objects of doubt and suspicion. Much of the doubt and suspicion directed at public bureaucrats also reflects long traditions of ethno-religious hostilities in Nigeria.

More evidence shows that the performance of the public service in virtually all tiers of government in Nigeria has remained very dismal, hence the present state of underdevelopment (Jike 2003; Adebayo 2001). The dismal performance of parastatals and agencies of government, like the former National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) and the Nigerian Telecommunication (NITEL) despite all lofty policies propounded, is very obvious in this regard (Okafor 2004). In effect, this has not just slowed the process of socio-economic and political development but greatly endangered prospective efforts in further implementation of public (economic) policies in the country.

corruption in Nigeria as Dike (1999 and 2002) pointed out, the general population should be re-orientated to a better value system. This is because Nigerians have for long been living on the survival of the fittest and grab-whatever-comes-your-way mentality. The re-orientation of the youth in Nigeria to a good value system could help in the war against corruption. There is the need for enlightenment in discouraging excessive materialism and the culture of 'get rich quick', employment for the teeming youths and incorporation of human rights and development perspectives into anti-corruption work.

In order for Nigeria to successfully combat corruption, setting up mechanisms that can transform dramatically the culture of the legal system against corruption has also been considered. It has been suggested that the positive transformation of Nigeria can only occur through addressing the root causes of corruption and through effectively implementing the legal mechanisms already in place. Nigeria has introduced economic reforms through privatization, deregulation, removal of market restrictions, and civil service reform with the aim of promoting the integrity of public service. These measures were all very important in the fight against corruption, but the key factor to galvanize and orchestrate these measures is having honest leaders with the political will to tackle corruption. Despite measures, provision of appropriate punishment for corruption in and of itself is not sufficient to eliminate corruption. The phenomenon of corruption has multiple causes, and is determined by more than just seeing people go unpunished for engaging in corrupt behavior. It has been recommended that in addition to other measures being taken to reduce corruption, leaders must demonstrate the willingness to track and punish corrupt officials and citizens as well as create conducive economic climate that would raise the standard of living of the citizenry.

Programs such as social safety net have been recommended to be instituted among the non-working class in order to reduce the worry about basic survival in the face of growing insecurity about the job situation. Considerable steps have been taken in this direction, yet much is still required. Equally, the need for the provision of adequate

of EFCC, ICPC, etc. Yet the intended role of government on their mandate has crippled the anti-corruption agencies and has made them ineffective.

With particular interest on the civil service someone noted, if the civil service is to achieve the desired results in Nigeria, a far reaching reform is needed. First, the reform must start with the process of recruitment of personnel into public bureaucracies. Recruiting personnel on the basis of federal character is to sacrifice efficiency and effectiveness. Second, the public bureaucracies and other categories of workers must be well motivated to enable them perform their duties without fear or favour. All those public officials found to be corrupt must be shown the way out. Thirdly, the behaviour of personnel and officials must change. It must not be business as usual. They must be trained and retrained to imbibe the spirit of innovation, ingenuity, efficiency, achievement, prudent use of resources and to do away with all forms of waste that have characterised the public bureaucracies over the years. There should be public education so that the public appreciate what working in the civil service entails. Finally, government should must have enough political will to initiate reform programmes and carry them to a logical conclusion, including the privatisation of public enterprises (CODESRIA Bulletin Nos 3 & 4, 2005 Page 67).

Despite these policy recommendations there seem to be no clear cut improvements. Time after time, the ills keep manifesting and it affects the implementation of policies. I would have said, 'everyone' in the public service is involved in one corrupt practice or the other. But, just to reserve a percentage to a few morally sound Nigerians, it is not all there are. This is not derogatory, it is objective. Even those fighting corruption are themselves even more corrupt. With this continuing trend, the implementation of public policies remain uncertain. There is an obvious need therefore to redirect focus on establishing other agencies, other than the civil service to handle the implementation of most sensitive government policies especially, economic policies while the servants play a monitoring role.

Proposal and Policy Recommendation



The Paradox of *Niger Delta* "CORE STATES"



Dr. Okpo Ojah

At a stakeholder's consultative forum of the Niger Delta states held recently in Calabar, Cross River state government and her people called for the abolition of the term "core states" in the development of the Niger Delta region. From all indications, the status of Cross River State in the petroleum economy of Nigeria can best be described as a pawn in the chessboard of the overall economy of the country. This is in view of the growing marginalization of the state in terms of revenue sharing and infrastructural development against the backdrop of false fact that Cross River is not one of the so called core-oil bearing states in the Niger

Delta region. Accordingly, fifty-eight years of Nigeria's petroleum economy has been nothing to write home about for Cross River. This is why one completely supports the recent call by the Cross River Government and her people towards abolition of the term "core states" in the development of the Niger Delta region.

For such a term is not only a paradox but complete contradiction in the context of a zone which inhabits people exposed to various environmental hazards.

Yet historically with relevant facts, it is pertinent to state that if there is any state that can be said to be the most core state within the Niger Delta zone of Nigeria, it is Cross



River with Calabar as the capital.

That is to say that there is ample evidence that Calabar which is the capital of Cross River State has always been part and parcel of the Niger Delta.

Thus the Oil Rivers Protectorate of 1884 was headquartered in Calabar and included the people of Calabar and Ijaws of present day Bayelsa and Rivers states.

Equally, the Niger Coast Protectorate of 1891 covered the same exact area of Niger Delta and again was headquartered in Calabar.

Even common place uses of Niger Delta for such groupings as ecclesiastical and diocesan administrative areas have always included Calabar and Cross River in general. More importantly the Willink's Commission of 1958 recommended in chapter 15, paragraph 9 of its report that the Calabar Province, which is today's Cross River should be constituted a minority area to be known as the Calabar Area within the core Niger Delta.

Certainly, such overwhelming antecedents of relevance would have put Cross River in a most comfortable status like its counterparts in the Niger Delta even after the abrogation of the on-shore dichotomy which the state fought aggressively to achieve.

But more compelling a reason for Cross River to have been a clear beneficiary of fifty years of Nigeria's

petroleum economy can be seen from the following perspectives; and that is the fact that for good measure, Cross River has its share of ecological and environmental problems in relation to oil prospecting and exploration in the Niger Delta region.

For example when Mobil Oil Producing Nigeria in Eket had an oil spill in 1998, the oil found its way through the creeks and water ways into at least seven local government areas in Cross River including Calabar and Calabar South, Bakassi, Odukpani, Akpabuyo and Biase local government areas. Abana Island alone in the then Bakassi local government area lost over 100 meters of land to the sea also in 1998. The other islands and shorelines across the state have continued to lose proportions of

"...After all, it is the original three states of Cross River, Rivers and Bendel which have been split into six... to constitute the Niger Delta region or the South- South Zone. Therefore mere administrative division can not vitiate geographical facts..."

land in the same way. Right now, there are very serious gully erosions across the state with some of the most severe in Calabar, the state capital itself. Even the effect of oil exploration by some oil companies from Cameroon and oil serving companies located in Calabar operating in part of the oil rich Bakassi which apparently no longer belong to Nigeria is adversely affecting the people of Cross

River especially those along the coastal areas.


Yet Cross River is as qualified as any other so-called core states to be part of the Niger Delta historically, geographically and from the point of view of other circumstances. That is the more reason why the derivation fund sharing should benefit Cross River especially in view of the original reason for grouping the southern minorities into what is now designated the South- South Zone as the core Niger Delta. After all, it is the original three states of Cross River, Rivers and Bendel which have been split into six namely, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta, and Edo to constitute the Niger Delta region or the South- South Zone. Therefore mere administrative division can not vitiate geographical facts.

To that extent, the trend whereby Cross River continues to be regarded as a pawn in the chessboard of Nigeria's petroleum economy in the name of the irrelevant term, "core states" which has continued to marginalize Cross River, especially in terms of negligible revenue allocation under the derivation principle should be dropped at once.

For it is on record that in the last fifty years of Nigeria's petroleum economy, Cross River, based on its marginalization has been deprived of many infrastructural facilities like motorable roads in its hinterland, rail lines, electricity and portable water to cover all part of the state. Neither has it gained from key federal appointments.

Against such a background, Cross Riverians cannot continue to fold their arms in the face of such marginalization under the smoke screen of the so-called core states of Niger delta zone.

Therefore in the absence of the core states perspective, Cross River deserves equal share of the 13% oil derivation fund to the Niger Delta region to enhance the development equation of the area.

For that will justify the fact that Cross River will not continue to be overtly sidelined in subsequent years of operation of petroleum economy in the Niger Delta region in particular and Nigeria in general. 

Dr. Okpo Ojah is a commentator on public issues

The 2008 CRS Christmas Festival/Carnival Calabar

Living The Dream



Hon. Sonie Udeh

For him, the real deal will be to properly situate the economic objective of the Festival/Carnival in proper focus, with the overall aim of taking full advantage of the various activities to generate a significant impact in the economic well-being of the State and its people.

When by October 2007, there were no indications that the annual Cross River State Christmas Festival/Carnival Calabar will hold, the residents of Calabar and its environs became apprehensive. In the preceding years that the event had held, they have become accustomed to a frenzy of 'tangible' preparations that started as early as September with the painting and decoration of the streets in and around Calabar and the construction of the Christmas Village. The anxiety heightened to a point when it became muted discussion that the present Government was jettisoning the Festival/Carnival.

Unbeknown to the people, the Governor had constituted a Planning Committee with a charge to broaden the content and scope of the Festival/Carnival, identify and employ means of alternative funding (to relieve pressure on Government's lean funds), generate verifiable information on the economic, social and environmental impact of the Festival/Carnival on the citizens and residents of the State, amongst other responsibilities. The in-depth planning, organization and execution resulted in the 2007 Christmas Festival/Carnival that was widely acclaimed as the best thus far.

Standards were set. Innovations were employed. The people saw a vastly improved Festival/Carnival. The content was rich. From musical concerts featuring top international stars like Akon, Hugh Masekela, Awilo Longomba, Oliver Mtukudzi and our national musical stars like Tuface, P-Square, D-Banj, etc to the Carnival Calabar Queen pageant (and its charity dimension), the audience were

thrilled to no end, throughout the 32-day duration. All of these with the Government footing only 50% of the bill.

While still reveling in the euphoria of pulling off the 2007 Festival/Carnival first time out, the 2008 edition popped up around the corner. Of course the political developments in the State then, resultant from the annulment of the Governorship elections in July 2008 meant that so much time that will have been used in planning was lost. When the Government was re-installed in August, 2008, the Governor resuscitated the Events Management Department with a mandate to coordinate and organize all major State events, while also conceptualizing new ones in a manner that ensures that every quarter of the year witnesses at least one major State event.

After having raised the bar with the performance in the 2007 Christmas Festival/Carnival, it was a huge challenge organizing the 2008 Christmas Festival/Carnival without a committee. Expectations were sky high even as the doubts resurfaced again. Will it hold? Will it not? October came, and it seemed nothing was happening or going to happen.

The anxiety not only came from the residents of the State, but also visitors – whether regular or potential. This, of course was not misplaced given that Cross River State has become the destination of choice in Nigeria, especially in December. This situation has been achieved through a combination of factors. On the one hand, the State is famed for its warm and hospitable people; peaceful, clean and green. Arguably second to none other in Nigeria. On the other hand, there is strong Government commitment to leverage on the potential that is



inherent in the rich and diverse cultural and natural endowments of the State. Thus, the development of tourism (infact destination tourism) has been on the Government priority list. The Christmas Festival/Carnival had become a veritable tool in the consolidation of the Destination Cross River brand.

That is why important the Festival/Carnival is to not only the government but the people of Cross River State. It is a flagship event for the State. So when it looked as though 'nothing day happen', everyone, from far and near became anxious. Nonetheless, something was actually happening in the background to ensure the delivery of a well-packaged 2008 Christmas Festival/Carnival as no effort was spared.

However, this time around, that there was no committee but a department – the Events Management Department (which is relatively new, small and understaffed) and meant it was a huge challenge. From Her Excellency, Mrs. Obioma Imoke, there was tremendous in-put and encouragement, both in physically overseeing aspects of the preparations, and also in providing moral support. A tripartite relationship amongst the Events Management Department, the Carnival Commission and the Tourism Bureau proved a hugely successful set-up. Other MDAs with cross-linked responsibilities played key roles too. The end result was the delivery of another world-class product.

So what made the 2008 Christmas Festival stand out? Firstly, the State procured brand new state-of-the-art stage, lighting and sound equipment to power the various live events. The equipment were enough to cater for the technical requirements of two event venues that could actually run simultaneously. For instance, when the Jazz Festival was going on in the awe-inspiring hills of the Obudu Ranch Resort, musical concerts were simultaneously running in the expansive U.J Esuene Stadium. Both venues were prepped with complete array of equipment for stage, lighting and sound.

Furthermore, the artiste list was unprecedented in the history of the Festival. For lovers of Jazz and soul music, the American jazz artiste Najee was in town with his 10-member band. Papa Hugh Masekela was in, and so was Asa, Dede Mabiaku, Tee Mac, Mike Aremu and a host of others. The gospel music fiesta witnessed Kirk Franklin make a return to Calabar, ably complemented by Pastor Donnie McClurkin and Chevelle Franklyn, the buxom Jamaican gospel act. Of course there were our own Sammie Okposo, Buchi, Infinity, Hope Davies, Anne Inyang, etc.

The hip-hop and R & B enthusiasts could not have asked for a better deal. While Yung Joc caused frills and shrills from the crowd, Fat Joe thrilled them and Ne-Yo set their hearts racing, all right here in the Canaan City of Calabar. For the national artistes, the Kokomaster D'Banj ruled the stage, just like other popular

Nigerian artistes like Timaya, J-Martins, African China, Sasha, Ikechukwu, etc. There were very stimulating theatre performances, as there were training sessions with a chosen number of young people training in various aspects of Events Management and Entertainment Arts. The 2008 Christmas Festival was really an awesome experience, going by the testimonies of participants. There was a consensus that organizational improvements were evident.

The carnival parade was, as usual, the cynosure of all eyes. The build-up to it reached feverish pitch with the cultural and children's carnival. Before then, there had been different dry-run sessions, which are basically dress rehearsals for the main show of December 27. Calabar came to a stand-still. The streets became one huge, snaking mass of colourfully costumed characters. All the constructed viewing platforms (or risers) were sold out. The number of revelers (participants) was almost equal to the number of spectators. Unconfirmed figures put the number of participants at about 100,000 made up of the five competing bands (Bayside, Passion 4, Master Blaster, Freedom and Seagull) and the non-competing bands (Army, Police, Civil Defence, NYSC, sponsors etc). It was indeed Africa's biggest street party, live in Calabar.

After all said and done, the team met in January 2009 to do a post-mortem. There were hugs. There was back-slapping. There was a general feeling of achievement. The euphoria built to a crescendo. In the middle of all that, Governor Liyel Imoke came into the hall, nodded at all present and simply said: "Well done. But there is still a long way to go." That sort of brought everyone back to reality. That was vintage Liyel Imoke. He had to put everyone's feet firmly on the ground, lest they get too carried away. For him, there was no achievement yet. Everyone had simply done only a part of their jobs.

Like the deep thinker that he is, the Governor proceeded to outline the fact that taking the Festival/Carnival to the level where it has become one of the most important components of the Destination Cross River brand was just Phase I of 'the project'. There was nothing spectacular in that. There was nothing to gloat about in that. Nothing short of that was expected of any Cross River State initiative. For him, the real deal will be to properly situate the economic objective of the Festival/Carnival in proper focus, with the overall aim of taking full advantage of the various activities to generate a significant impact in the economic well-being of the State and its people. How this will be achieved is a subject for another day.

He, however, acknowledged that to have other States of the Federation copy, in one form or another, aspects of the Cross River State Christmas Festival/Carnival is a testimony that we are on the right path. With the focused leadership in the State, achieving the larger objective is a matter of time. After all, the Chinese say that "the journey of one thousand kilometers begins with a step..."

We are on course. Having lived the dream in 2008, we shall become the dream (for other States) in 2009 and beyond. Please stay tuned.

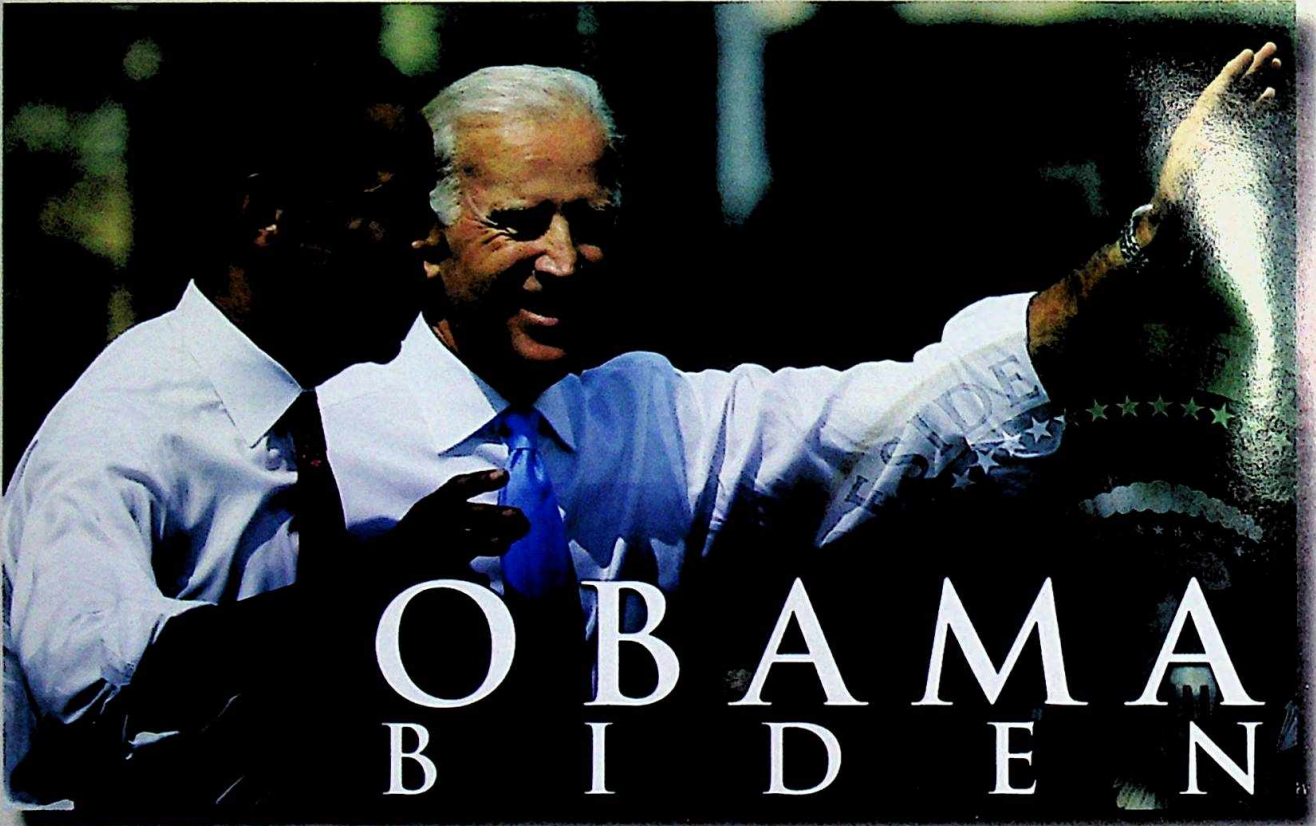


Hon. Sonie Udeh is
SA Administration, Governor's Office



Barrack Obama, People's President America's New Year Gift to the World

The election of Barack Obama as President has finally broken the greatest barrier of prejudice in human history.
– Umaru Yar'Adua, President of Nigeria.



O B A M A B I D E N



Hon. Etim Solomon Edet

America's art of democracy has been redefined. USA historic presidential vote '08 is a paradigm shift, a departure from the norm. America has indeed redefined democracy, and has made of it an art with a human face. Americans are proud to amplify their claims that they take over from where others have failed to install a nascent democracy and good governance. Martin Luther King Jnr saw it in "I have a dream". Yes, indeed the dream is true, Obama proved it! Reverend Jesse Jackson, foremost African-American civil rights leader, who many years ago also aspired to be president, shed tears of joy as he watched the realization of a life-long dream come true.

Obama, the gold fish has no hiding place in history. Intellectually endowed, young, gifted and black, African-American, Senator Barack Hussein Obama, 47, son of a Kenyan father from Kogelo and a white mother from Kansas, this New Year made all things bright and beautiful from slavery

to kingship, from the cradle to the pinnacle, Obama has broken barriers of history, pulled down race supremacy, superiority and inferiority complexes, to make history unprecedented in the Guinness Book of Records as the first African-American black president of the United States of America. Obama is a defining moment in world history.

In his presidential campaign, the unstoppable Obama, aspiring for excellence and greatness like a diamond in the sky, like a twinkle, twinkle little star in a constellation of stars, soaring higher and brighter, captured the support of majority and minority and was loved by the young and old. Obama won with a landslide. He polled 349 electoral votes, 79 more than he needed to emerge victorious. Obama, the enfant terrible, like a gladiator in a battle royal, fought and won the battle. Obama is seen as a messiah, a change agent. His emergence as the first black American president, naturally designed to take root this

season, heralded good tidings, bringing with it change to America and the entire world.

In some media reactions to Obama's victory at the polls, Ray Ekpu, CEO Newswatch stated: America gets full marks for electing a man of colour, a minority. His election will not wipe away racism but the monster is almost mortally wounded. It has in a sense made Martin Luther King Jr's dream come true, the dream of African-American children not judged by their skin pigmentation... Modukpe Ogunbayo, Principal Staff Writer who anchors Newswatch's foreign desk, stated that Obama victory at the polls – A Great Leap for Mankind. Yes. Obama's victory brought back memories of hard-fought battles of the African-Americans for generations past.

Obama, graduate of Harvard Law School, in 1990 was elected first black president of Harvard Law Review. He was elected to the Illinois Senate 1996, reelected in 1998 and in January 04, 2005 he was sworn in as the fifth African-American Senator in US history and the only senate member of the Congressional Black Caucus. At the climax of his political career, November 4, 2008, Obama was elected the 1st black president of USA.

Leslie Coffe a BBC correspondent in New York reporting in the BBC Focus on Africa Jan - Mar '09 edition stated that Obama will be the sixth or maybe even the seventh person of African ancestry to be president, and that historians in the US claimed to have uncovered evidence proving that several presidents were black Americans but hid their African ancestry. The report adds that it is Thomas Jefferson, the country's third president from 1801-1809(8Yrs) who is the first black president, not Barack Obama. Others are Andrew Jackson 1829-1837(8 yrs); Abraham Lincoln 1961-1865(4yrs); Warren G Harding 1921-1923(2 yrs); Coolidge Calvin 1923-1929 (6yrs); Dwight Eisenhower 1953-1961(8yrs), being the 7th, 16th, 29th, 30th, and 34th black presidents of the US respectively. Notably Barack Obama never ever hid his African ancestry. With Obama, the black gold, on our minds, the toast of the world this new millennium, Obama is known and accepted the world over as the 1st African-American black president of USA. This historic mandate is celebrated all over the world as the most remarkable political development of the 21st century.

What benefits can the Africa continent reap from having a black man as President of the United States? Adekunle Yusuf, Staff Writer, TELL stated: Experts offer divergent views, some however, maintain that African countries' bilateral relations with the US may be business as usual. Ray Ekpu CEO Newswatch stated, it is important, however, for Africans or black people not to expect too much from the Obama presidency. However, Africans including his root Kenya hope Obama's era will usher in some goodies to the whole continent. This includes: building upon the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); strengthening: the global Demand for Good Governance; Africa's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other international development targets; International Community's Commission on Africa's development needs. Democratization of International Institutions; Bringing Democracy to the

United Nations (UN) and the UN fulfilling the mandates clearly outlined in its Charter 63 years ago.

Looking at other challenges before Obama, Wola Adeyemo/Chicago, Senior Associate Writer, TELL, reported that Obama may have made history as America's first African-American president, but his place in history will be better judged by his response to the inherited challenges of recession and despondency. That will also include balancing the situation at home and abroad. Other daunting challenges include, US the world's most powerful nation addressing two wars: a planet in peril, which also include the Palestinian question, Iraq, Afghanistan and other world's trouble spots; and the worst financial crisis in a century.

Principal Staff Writer, Newswatch, Modukpe Ogunbayo stated that reports said Obama's election has led to 200 or more deaths threats on him. The Klu Klux Klan, KKK, an old group which aims at propagating white supremacy, is reportedly linked to some of these developments. In a pre-election analysis, the BBC quoted the former Cuban leader, Fidel Castro as saying that, it remains a miracle that Obama is not assassinated.

American voters have blazed the trail to overcome centuries of racial strife. Americans, Africans and the rest of the world, while waiting for Obama-magic, look forward to seeing policies that would bring the change that was the mantra in Obama's speeches in his electoral promises.

On the threshold of the 21st century, after 200 years of America's chequered history of slavery, oppression, and domination of the black minority, Obama has fulfilled the black man's cry for equal rights, freedom and justice.

World leaders have welcomed the election of Barack Obama. January 20, 2009 the catalyst for change, the black pearl, Barack Obama, the first black president and the 44th President of the USA, is ushered, with pomp and pageantry, into the White House with his Harvard-trained lawyer-wife and their two beautiful children. Obama's historic inauguration as the first black president of USA, America's New Year Gift to the world, couldn't have come at a better time than now as season change; Change and Hope has come to America and the rest of the world! The Obama-nomics, Obama phenomenon has broken the jinx hook-line-and-sinker, and as the bubble bursts! it's a time to toast for the coming of change that will bring benefits to humanity.

This historic moment will continue to be celebrated the world over as a celebration of victory for African-American struggle for freedom, the most defining moment of America's political evolution.

Join the Americans, in America's Great Triumph, to keep this celebration of victory alive. For America, Africa and the rest of the world it's a dawn of a new era! It's a dream come true. 'At this defining moment, change has come to America... I will never forget who this victory belongs to – it belongs to you' – Barack Obama.

Hon. Erim Solomon Edet, member, World Bank Group's Demand for Good Governance (DFGG)
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Whom The CROWN Fits



Governor Liyel Imoke(left) with the Obong of Calabar, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu (V) During The Obong's Coronation Procession In Calabar (December 2008)

The royal procession to the church ceremony was marked by the cheerfulness and bonhomie of a victory party. Victory indeed they celebrated and in style too. Not after the schism occasioned by succession tussle that almost made nonsense of the revered stool.

Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V, the new Obong of Calabar is sitting now comfortably on the throne of his forebears. Church service and the final coronation rite took place last December at the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria (PCN), Duke Town Parish, Calabar South. In attendance were ministers of the gosple from various dinominations in Calabar.

The elegant ceremony was attended by Governor Liyel Imoke, his Deputy, Mr. Efiok Cobham, former Governor, Mr. Donald Duke, some first class traditional rulers in the country, industrialists, politicians, businessmen and women, prominent sons and daughters of Efik kingdom. The church

hall and its premises could not contain the crowd that turned out.

It was one occasion to showcase the Efik culture and tradition. The mode of dressing was traditionally regal and the ceremony was full of favour and variety of the Nigerian State. Efik men came adorned in long wrappers, white long sleeve shirts and beaded caps to match. The women wore long gowns (onyonyo) with beautiful headgears to show for. Other Nigerians came in their tribal attires. Ekpe masquerades, traditional dancers and praise singers were not left out. They danced, sang and literally set Calabar on fire. There was much to eat and drink. The royal ceremony was a day of pomp amid tight security. Armed policemen were at the palace, Calabar Road, U.J. Esuene Stadium and the church.

The throne of Obong of Calabar is a lofty eminence ascended to by only the blue blooded. Every time an occupant emerges on it, there is such substance and prominence that stands him out. He becomes the first among

equals. Even people who are not of Efik ethnic stock do justifiably hail the stool and its influence in the Nigerian polity. Its occupant must be a man of integrity. For the current occupant according to investigations, he is all clear vision, forthrightness, of imminence, practical sense, upright, courageous to the last degree, truthful and filled with contempt for evil and fetish practices. His gifts and amiable disposition made him most suitable for the stool.

This may have been responsible for the struggle by the high and mighty to make the procession from the palace to the church. The royal train wound slowly through its route. With a fanfare of trumpets, the procession majestically strolled to the church, with the monarch waving repeatedly to his subjects who lined the routes.

The royal procession was in this order: standard bears, followed by the secretaries, representatives of Efik royal houses, Obong's children, His eminence consort, Obong himself, members of Etuboms Traditional Council, palace



chiefs, members of coronation planning committee, staff of Palace International Nursery/Primary School, Esop Nditto Efik Eburutu, women's group, men's group and cultural societies. The route of procession was the Palace-Effanga Ansa Street-Egerton Street-Calabar Road-Garden Street-Eton Street-Eyamba Street-Duke Town PCN and back through Eyamba Street-Offiong Street-Eyo Edem Street-Hewett Street-Egerton Street-Effanga Ansa Street back to the Palace.

Edidem Abasi Otu who succeeded late Edidem (Prof) Nta Elijah Henshaw as Obong on November 20, 1949 to the royal house of late Etubom Okon Abasi Otu, son of Ukpoko Mbo Otu Adiabo and his wife Madam Iquo Okokon Ansa of Ikot Abang, all of Odukpani Local Government Area in Cross River State. His Royal Genealogy transcends 14 generations.

After his primary school at St. Mary's Primary School, Adiabo Esine Ufor in 1963, he proceeded to the famous West African People's Institute (WAPI), Calabar for his secondary education. Unforeseen constraints experienced by his parents put a halt to his quest for tertiary education. What he could not get in university education immediately was made up for with a diploma in telecommunications engineering at the P&T School, Oshodi, Lagos in 1973.

While as an employee of the P&T Department, he sat for the City and Guilds examinations and came out in flying colours. His academic prowess became a source of inspiration to other workers. Armed with this new qualification, he rose through the rank quickly. His juicy pay and positions did not defeat his quest for a university education as he later bagged a B.Sc in Electrical/Electronics from the University of Benin.

Before this time, he had attended long and short term courses in Administrative and Domestic Satellite Communication in Houston, Texas

(USA), Sweden, Norway and Lagos, Nigeria. At the deregulation of the telecommunication industry by the Nigerian Government, he left the public service to pick up a job with TelNET Nigeria Ltd, a client of Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria. He later joined the employ of McNair Nigeria Ltd where he worked as a divisional manager, South West until his community persuaded him to resign for a higher service.

Church coronation is a creation of colonial rule. The British crown made it so. During British colonial rule, attempts were made to make the stool become part and parcel of the colonial administration. It is said that coronation in the house of God came into being when the crown in London sent a Bible and orb to the Obong of Calabar many years ago. It is against this background that the church coronation takes after that of Britain. This is why the purple regalia looks like that of the British. Last December, the Efik king wore a flowing robe hemmed with gold embroidery. His fingers were buried in white gloves. Shortly after he entered the church auditorium, hymns were sung followed by the Bible reading and sermon.

The high point of service was the investiture of the Obong in his full regalia. The crown after receiving blessings and being touched by Bishops and Pastors was finally put on his head by Pastor E. E. Okon, National President of Apostolic Church of Nigeria. This drew thunderous applause from members of the congregation. This crown remains a legendary symbol in traditional governance. As a symbol of authority, it is a priceless gold crown fitted with rubies and displays exquisitely detailed enamel portraits. It is reflective and commands homage once the Obong turns or passes by.

The officiating minister in his sermon, advised all those in leadership positions to eschew bitterness, violence, cultism and all other behaviours that do

not befit their status. The man of God urged them to rather use their offices for the betterment of the society as God helped them there for a purpose.

According to him, once the leadership becomes selfish, confidence and loyalty are lost. Specifically, Rev. Egbala admonished the traditional institution against being an instrument for the promotion of fetish practices. Traditional rulers must strive at all times to complement government in its development strides just as they should assist government in checking crime, vandalization of public utilities and anti-social behaviours.

In an interview, the monarch promised that the Efiks both at home and the Diaspora would be united under a strong traditional authority under his reign. The bond of unity would be rekindled so that the kingdom can regain its pride of place. To him, all cultural practices that promote growth and development would be encouraged while those that retard peace and progress would be discouraged.

It is the vow of Edidem Abasi Otu that under his reign, a new palace that befits the status of Efik people would be built. Already, architectural design of the palace is handy while a committee is searching for a spacious site that would accommodate the project.

"I shall bring together all warring houses and those that have been excluded from the palace over the years. A committee has been raised for that purpose. This Peace and Reconciliation Committee is headed by a distinguished son of Efik, Dr. Emmanuel Nsan. We cannot afford to have a divided kingdom. It is not part of our character or culture.

"I'm not expecting all the aggrieved persons to come back immediately. It is a gradual process. But over time, we hope to get them in. We want to carry everybody along. I extend my hand of fellowship to all Efik sons and daughters. Our throne is our heritage,

...cont. on page 25



"...make Tinapa your choice destination, because we have the largest Water Park in Africa, the largest Games Arcade in Nigeria, you won't find it in Lagos or Abuja. We have one of the nicest hotels in this country, Tinapa Amber Hotel, the environment is serene and unique, a first-class grassed, flowered infrastructure..."

Arch. Basseyy Ndem

MD/CEO Tinapa Business/Leisure Resort.

TINAPA, it came with a bang. Its presentation to major stakeholders was simply wonderful; it looked so sweet and real. In the words of the former President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo during one of such presentations at Aso Rock Villa, Abuja, he said, "Tinapa, I can see it and smell it". Others even thought the project was larger than life. Its construction and finishing was near perfect and world-class.

Its branding and media hype was simply mesmerizing. Then came its commissioning. Everyone that mattered was there. This was the day the world converged in Calabar. Thereafter, some shops commenced trading but were closed by law enforcement agents. Reason? The operating manual needed for the running of the Business Resort was not ready.

Almost twenty-four months after, that document is ready. Ever wonder what special incentives you stand to benefit from doing business in TFZR? Now consider this: All laws pertaining to taxes, rates, levies, duties and foreign exchange regulations whether federal, state or local government are not applicable in Tinapa Free Zone Resort. This is a tip of the iceberg.

Architect Basseyy Eyo Ndem, our guest on MOFINEWS platform is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. He filled questions on a wide range of issues.

It's a must read for you as Tinapa is set to bubble again. Key in now.

It is gratifying to hear that the much awaited regulatory framework for Tinapahaseventuallybeenreleased by the Federal Government. What are these guidelines about?

Before I launch into the gazette, it's imperative I acknowledge all those who made it possible. First and foremost, I appreciate and thank most heartily, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Yar'Adua for not only ensuring that the gazette is out, but that every Stakeholder participated in the harmonization of the various components of the gazette, so that a document released today, can meet the needs of the tomorrow. This was Mr. President's singular initiative.

Secondly, special thanks to Senator Liyel Imoke, the State Governor. Given the travails and challenges he faced, and the kind of pressure that this project faced, it could have been very easy to succumb and turn-away from a project that is taking away so much from his FAAC allocation. But because he understands what Tinapa is all about, and what it can do for the State and the region, he publicly made the right declaration. Privately he appealed to government, made contacts extensively. He led the behind-the-scene consultation with those that matter, trying to make them understand what Tinapa is. I must also thank the wife of the Governor, Her Excellency, Mrs. Obioma Imoke for the wonderful support. Indeed behind every successful husband, there is a tireless wife.

The state team at the National Assembly, Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (SAN) Senator Ewa Henshaw and Senator Greg Ngaji and our members in the House of Reps, did so much in getting their colleagues on our side. For instance the resolution that was moved at the floor of the House was moved by Beni Lar from Plateau state. We salute the members of the National Assembly and other Nigerians too numerous to mention for their contributions to this official gazette on Tinapa. Time and space will not allow me mention all of them from NEPZA, Ministry of

Commerce, Justice, Finance, Culture and Tourism, the Ministers of these Ministries did so much.

Mention must be made of His Excellency, Mr. Donald Duke, who even after leaving office as Governor saw it as a challenge to get the dream of Tinapa realized. In all, this document is the result of collective efforts from several groups and individuals. God almighty will bless you all abundantly.

Now the guidelines?

These guidelines are regulations for the procedures of doing business in Tinapa resort. Now what are these regulations? Essentially they deal with how each tenant, investor, regulator and the management will work within the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Why is it necessary to have guidelines? Tinapa Business Resort is a Free Trade Zone. This means that goods that can enter into Tinapa do not necessarily have to be goods that are allowed into Nigeria, and so prohibited and banned items can come into Tinapa. But Tinapa is located within Nigeria, therefore government has to be very careful to guide and guard how those goods go out of Tinapa into the Nigeria Customs Territory that is Nigeria. Without the guidelines, Tinapa can adversely affect Government's Economic Policies.

It's therefore very necessary to have the guidelines before business commences. The guidelines deal with issues like Customs procedures, as regards bringing in goods and exporting, also with banking that is, transacting financial business between Tinapa and the outside world. This is to ensure that the Nigerian financial system is not impacted negatively by the transactions in the zone.

The guidelines deal with Immigration. If people are coming from outside the country to work in the zone, there are laws that guide and guard them. It deals with security, commerce, shipping, air traffic etc. It also handles bringing in goods from other countries by land. These are all issues contained in the guidelines. The official gazette is like the operating manual for Tinapa Business



"...Renting a space in the largest shopping mall in Lagos goes for about 1,100 dollars; the largest in Abuja goes for about 350-250 dollars. None of them is as well laid out as Tinapa. The Lagos mall will fit into just one of our emporiums. Tinapa has four emporia plus line-shops and other facilities..."

Resort.

Having received the gazette, what is the next step?

Tinapa is a business and Leisure resort. The gazette has very little to do with the leisure aspect of the zone. The Leisure department has the Hotel, The Water Park, The Children Arcade, the Cinema, the restaurants, clubs etc. Because these aspects have nothing to do with the gazette, we had started off with these.

The business part of Tinapa has the Line-Shops, – the emporia, A, B, C, and D and the warehousing area. A number of people had come making enquiries about taking shops. Because we hadn't this operating manual, it was impossible for us to consummate the deal, but now that the terms are there for negotiation, we can invite these people back, and say these are the guidelines study and come to set up business. Indeed, this was the major impediment stopping Tinapa from taking off.

The Calabar Port is very crucial to the success of Tinapa Resort. With the consideration of Calabar Port

as some far end by some shippers, what do the guidelines say about landing cost and tariffs as a way of attracting them to the zone?

The gazette does not talk about landing cost and tariffs. It is the responsibility of the Nigerian Ports Authority and Eco-marine. Eco-marine is the concessionaire for Calabar Port and it is a private company. They are aware that there is competition out there. It will be in their own interest to make sure that their charges in this Port are among the lowest in the country. We are holding discussions with them to try and achieve this.

In your calculation of Calabar Port as far corner, is it further from Aba and Ariaria market than Lagos Port? Is it further from Onitsha main market than Lagos Port? Is it further from Makurdi than Lagos Port? The way the laymen see this distance is different from a business man's angle. For instance, if my goods land in Lagos, as a businessman I have to clear them, put them on a truck, and drive 600km to Onitsha main market and then open them there and sell to people that will take them back through Lagos to Benin Republic, and to those that will leave to Kano, Kaduna, Aba, Abakaliki, etc. It is inefficient because I truck my goods for 600km, burning diesel unnecessarily. Now there is an opportunity where I can truck it for only 200km; of course a wise businessman will come here.



"...I appreciate and thank most heartily, the President and Commander-in-chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Yar'Adua for not only ensuring that the gazette is out, but that every Stakeholder participated in the harmonization of the various components of the gazette..."

What is the expected role of the Nigerian Customs?

They were very instrumental to the successful publication of this gazette. We sat with them in the harmonization committee and agreed on how we would proceed. The Nigeria Customs is the gateway through which all goods enter into the Nigeria Custom Territory. Their role therefore is pivotal. But the guidelines clearly state how they are to apply those rules. The guidelines, for

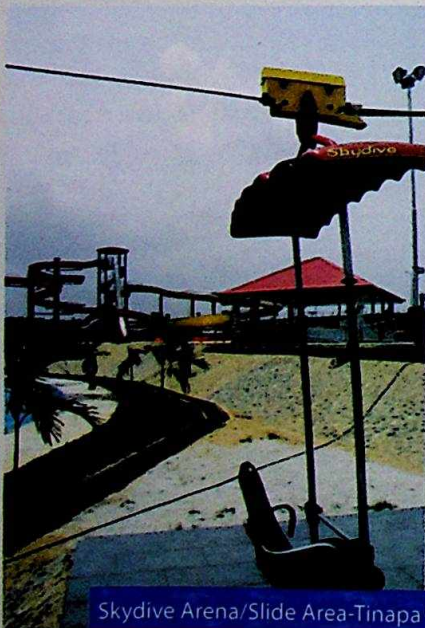
instance, clearly states that we must recognize small items like personal effects which can enter the Nigerian Customs Territory: DUTY FREE. This is equivalent to what you see in Murtala Mohammed Airport or Kano Airport, when you arrive from abroad with a suitcase, containing clothes, shoes etc. Those items are banned, but only when imported in large scale commercial quantities. So Customs role will be the same as in any of our international airports. For those coming with personal items, it will be to examine and ascertain that it does not exceed the allowed quantity.

Those who are for import will go through the same fiscal and customs process as applicable in Seme Border, Tin Can Island, Apapa, or any of the other Customs Ports. The role of Customs in Tinapa is essentially the same but with the extra slant that here you have a duty free zone.

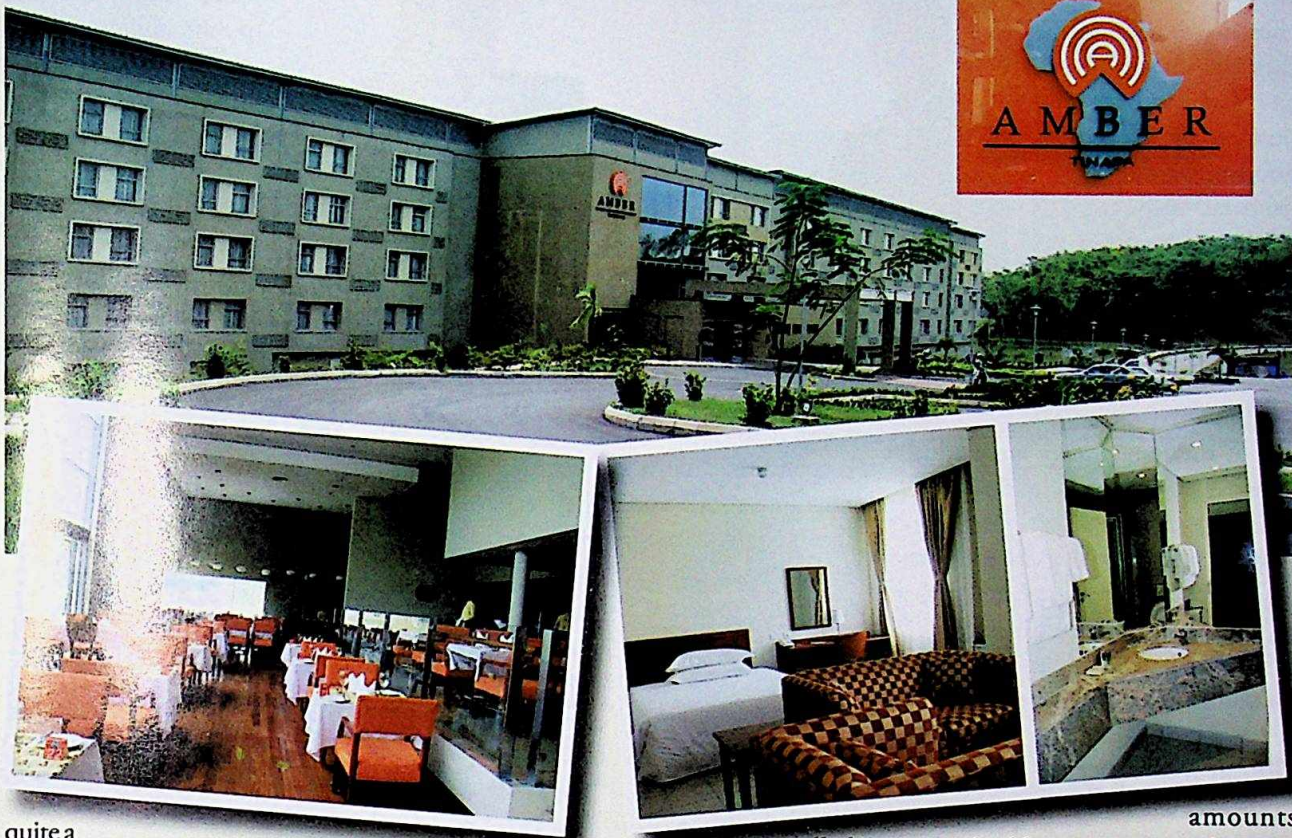
These months of having to battle for the approval and release of these guidelines, how was Tinapa faring?

Quite an interesting question! Tinapa had a very difficult time were it not for the steadfastness of Senator Liyel Imoke and the entire people of Cross River State, we would have gone under. In several ways, the state government did its best to keep Tinapa on. For instance, Tinapa is not hooked on to the national electricity grid. It was the state government that sustained our power plants. Security had to be maintained to ensure that the place is not vandalized. This is where I must commend the Obong of Calabar; Edidem Ekpo Otu who hails from our host community, Adiabo, and the entire youths of Adiabo whose wonderful cooperation ensured that cases of theft and vandalization were very minimal.

These were the challenges. How do you keep a place running, pay salaries of staff already engaged? How do you manage the contractors who are being owed so much money? People who supplied one item or another, but have not yet been paid? Essentially, government did



Skydive Arena/Slide Area-Tinapa Water Park, Calabar



quite a lot to sustain the place. But we also had the confidence that at the end of the day, the light will come at the end of the tunnel.

You had told MOFINEWS about a year ago that physical construction was still on-going. What are the new additions?

In December, 2008, the Water Park was commissioned; the Games Arcade was also commissioned same period, and Amber Tinapa Hotel was also completed around December 2008 and commenced trading.

Note that Tinapa is an on-going project whose second phase will seamlessly integrate with the first phase. It is therefore difficult to say phase one is complete, let's run phase two.

In that interview too, you also spoke about the defect liability period. Have we overcome that now?

Yes. Defect Liability period is six months after the construction and taking-over of a project or at least one rainy season, whichever is longer. We have covered that period. Where we had snags, we

called the attention of the contractors and they effected the corrections.

With so much time lost, is management considering a re-launch of Tinapa?

The launch that took place was designed to create awareness for the brand and at the time, we did not have tenant. Our thinking now is to continue to invite the public to participate in the opening of new branches of shops, and services that are coming in. For instance in December 08, we opened the Water Park. As we opened shop for each of these facilities, we advertise and draw attention to the place.

As major anchor tenants sign in, they will key into our publicity schedule. Accordingly, Tinapa will always be in the news as events come up. For instance, this February, we are putting on special valentine package and beach picnic. There will always be a number of such events throughout the year. Remember it's a business and leisure resort.

A re-launch in the form of what took place last time will not be necessary as that

amounts to building expectation that may not be met immediately. Let me explain further; that we have the gazette today will not over night populate the resort. Any serious company coming will take a considerable period before the transaction is sealed. First they will study the gazette, do their market research, modify rented space to their specification, shipping in of goods, stocking etc. There is also training of local staff on point of sales etc. All I'm trying to explain is that the release of the gazette should not suggest that after one week we expect a full house. It is a process that will take sometime.

The Tinapa Amber Hotel being managed by African Sun is already up and running. Tell us about the hotel and the managers.

I can tell you confidently that except Nicon Nuga there is no Hotel that is as well appointed as Tinapa Amber Hotel in Nigeria. African Sun Group has over 79 Hotels across the continent. Tinapa Amber Hotel is the flagship for these international managers from Zimbabwe. They are also managing the Obudu Mountain Resort.

One of the reasons why there were chosen was because they demonstrated an uncanny nose for business, smelling a good opportunity from far. They also exhibited very strong quality management style. The African Sun Group is also very innovative. Within their short

stay at the Ranch, they are gradually transforming the place.

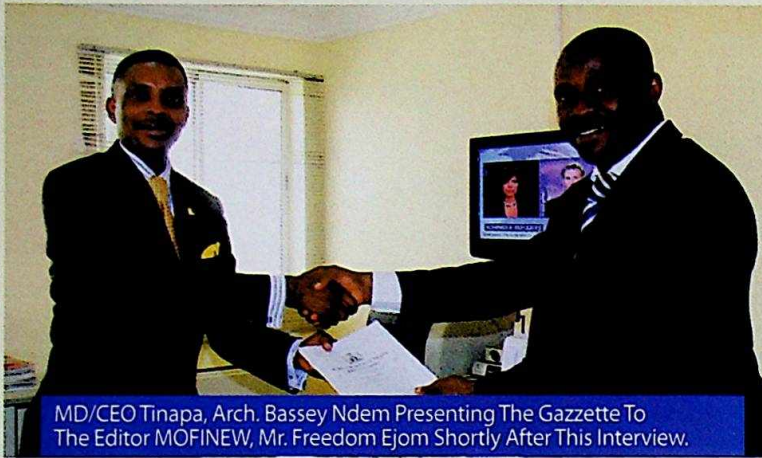
With the Amber Hotel, they have proven their mettle because there were ready to open the hotel even when facilities were not 100% ready. A number of hotel managers will prefer a photo-furnished place to manage.

Tinapa was expected to host the Kora Musical Award. Has the period of uncertainty affected this event in any way?

Not at all. What has affected that event is far above Tinapa, not our period of lull. Our role was to provide them with a venue and facilities which are ready. But the organization has legal and management issues that are no business of ours. Should they decide to come back, we are ever ready.

The impression created is that tenancy in Tinapa is far above the ordinary businessmen. What does it cost to rent space in either the line-shops or emporia?

Renting a space in the largest shopping mall in Lagos goes for about 1,100 dollars; the largest in Abuja goes for about 350-250 dollars. None of them is as well laid out as Tinapa. The



MD/CEO Tinapa, Arch. Basse Ndem Presenting The Gazette To The Editor MOFINews, Mr. Freedom Ejom Shortly After This Interview.

Lagos mall will fit into just one of our emporiums. Tinapa has four emporia plus line-shops and other facilities. But because we are into business, our rents are even lower than these places. Secondly, there are several incentives for our people who want to do business in Tinapa, if your business is going to complement our model; we are ready to give a year's rent free to such a person or company, coupled with other mouth-watering attractions.

Our rents are not out of the reach of people willing to do business in the zone.

Do you have spaces for petty traders in the Resort?

Yes. We do have small spaces for those selling souvenirs, arts and crafts. In fact there is a whole village for this category of businesses. As an international business resort, there must be recognition of our culture, socio-economic circumstances and values. This we can present through beaded caps, shoes, bags, raffia works etc. Those who can sell local delicacies, with decent packaging can also come for us to have further discussions.

How well mobilized is the average Cross Riverian to enable them key into this laudable programme?

We have identified the need for additional public enlightenment on Tinapa and will be liaising

Ministry of Information for this.

Tinapa is a business and leisure area. In the leisure aspect, the State is comfortably leading other states in tourism packages. Tinapa has wonderful recreational

facilities for both children and adult. Take time off work and business and play. You cannot quantify the health benefits for relaxing and unwinding. On the other hand, there are direct benefits and multiplier effects on the economy of the state. If you are business conscious, you must ask questions like "what and how can I get from this resort?." Even for our academia, there is so much they can do in terms of lectures, conferences, symposia etc.

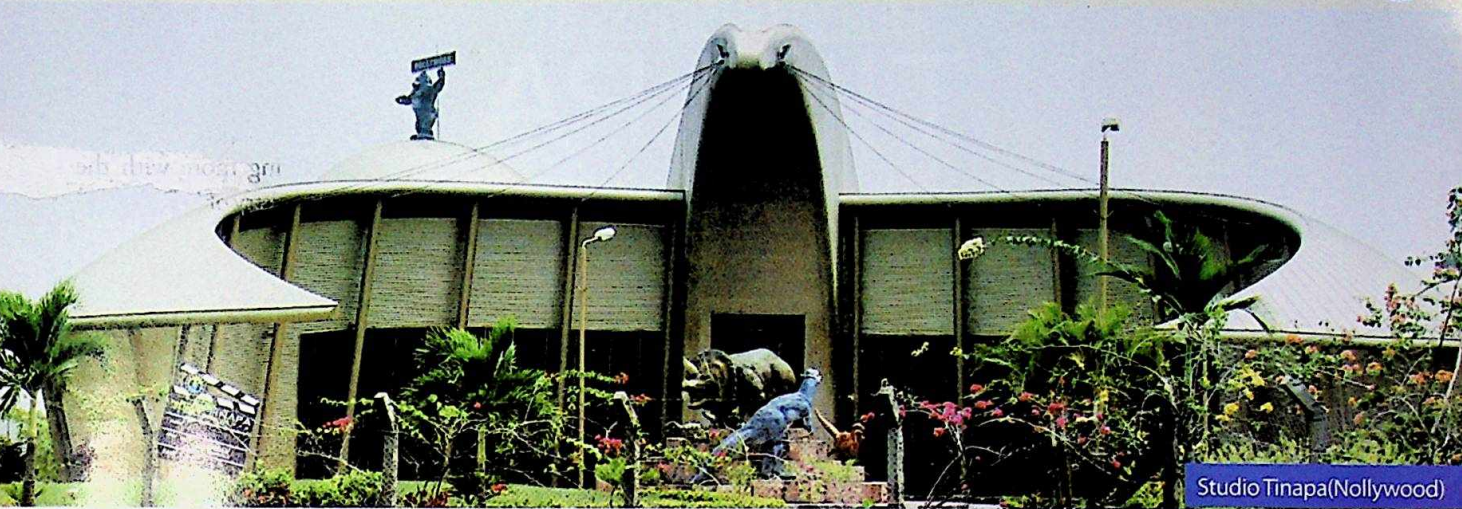
People in the world over are coming to this place. Ask yourself today, what can I do to impact and benefit from Tinapa? These people will need to be transported, eat food, shop and even hope to learn something from here.

Which are the channels for obtaining information on Tinapa Business Resort?

For enquiries from anywhere, visit our website, tinapa.com.ng. For all enquiries and explanations, you could call these lines (+234-(0)803-307-2060, +234-(0)803-963-9030) Thirdly, if you are in Calabar, visit us, see the place and ask us questions. You can also write to us with this address; The Managing Director, Tinapa Business and Leisure Resort, Calabar-Cross River State.



Seaworld Arcade, Tinapa



Studio Tinapa(Nollywood)



Fisherman Lake, Tinapa.

As a person, how do you feel managing an enterprise many have seen as a colossal failure?

Ignorance is not a crime in Nigeria as far as I know. People who saw the project as a colossal failure are ignorant. Tinapa would have been a failure if the state government and His Excellency the State Governor were not steadfast. Nothing good comes easy. Now the official gazette is out. Please come back in 24 months period and ask how it feels like. Many of those people screaming Tinapa is a failure were all propagandists because they know what they stand to lose due to how Tinapa will reposition the economy. I bear them no grudge. Ignorance is a terrible disease. With time they will understand.

Do you think there were distractions from outside and within the country to ensure Tinapa failed?

Yes there were. But it was not meant to make Tinapa fail, though they saw the success of Tinapa as a major threat to

them. So steps were taken to minimize Tinapa's impact on their own businesses by coming to sign agreement with our neighbouring countries where Nigerians have a perception of more efficient service. It's all designed to divide our market.

On the other hand, the idea to build Tinapa was not to make Dubai fail! No. The sky is big enough for everyone. We have spent about 450 million dollars; our competitors have said they are ready to spend 3 billion dollars. This realization helped government to expedite action on Tinapa.

Your Last line

To the leisure seekers, I urge you to make Tinapa your choice destination, because we have the largest Water Park in Africa, the largest Games Arcade in Nigeria, you won't find it in Lagos or



Line Shops, Tinapa

Abuja. We have one of the nicest hotels in this country, Tinapa Amber Hotel, the environment is serene and unique, a first-class grassed and flowered infrastructure.

To our business class, Tinapa is a gold mine for those with foresight. By the time the place is populated, a lot of people will cry "had I known." So I want to appeal to Cross Riverians, in particular to key in now.

The aims and objectives for this project are realizable. Thanks to the government and people of the state and all Nigerians.

Interview by Freedom Ejom

Invigorating Maritime Activities At The Calabar Free Port

Generally, seaports constitute the gateway to a nation's commercial and economic development. This is because seaports are the terminus of bulk trade. It was therefore, when the Calabar seaport was commissioned in the early eighties, it buoyed the expectations of Cross Riverians and indeed Nigerians in the catchment area that a new area of industry, wealth and commerce had been ushered in.

For example, Calabar, the state capital experienced an upsurge in clearing and forwarding agencies while a number of warehouses were built in different parts of the town.

Also hotels and the hospitality industry positioned themselves in readiness for the expected boom. The confidence of the indigenes of the state was further boosted when the Calabar Seaport was designed first as a part of the Export Processing Zone and later Free Trade Zone (FTZ). The intention been that export and import activities will flourish in the zone. Unfortunately, none of these policy thrust has been fully realized. Thus leaving the seaport as it were a near white elephant project.

The near absence of maritime activities at Calabar Seaport has shattered the aspirations of attaining great economic heights which was to have been engendered by the increase trade and transportation activities at the seaport.

From records, the only time that there was increased maritime activities since Calabar port was declared Free Port by the federal government was in the last quarter of the year, 2001 when a merchant ship brought in about one thousand five hundred used vehicles popularly referred to as tokunbo cars.

We must stress that the arrival of the ship impacted positively on the economy of the catchment states of the port providing jobs for a number of jobless people. We also recall with nostalgia the boom in electronic trade, used carpets and electrical equipment.

In order to make Cross Riverians take the centre stage in ensuring maritime activities, the state government provided free training for a number of people on the rudiment of clearing and forwarding agency. Today, it is as if we have lost the gains



or
strides made to
keep the Calabar free port busy.

While we acknowledge the factors that have been adduced as the impediments to the full utilization of the Calabar Free Port we must align ourselves with the demands of an effective maritime service. Notably, the liberalization of port of entry of imported goods like essential items on the import list and the dredging of the Calabar sea channel at least twice a year to make way for ocean-going liners.

There is also the need for the federal government to dualize without further delay the Calabar-Ikot Ekpene-Aba Road and the Calabar - Ogoja- katsina highways as well as the reconstruction of the Ikom bridge for free movement of bulk goods.

The only way for the federal government to assure Cross River State that it is an equal partner in the gains and pains of Nigeria is for it to implement these advocacies to launch the Calabar Port into full maritime activities.

Lastly, it is time Cross Riverians joined the Export-Import business to enable them to become active participants in the use of the Calabar Seaport.

By Fabian Awben
CRBC, CALABAR

"...I want to place it on record that the Police have been very responsive and supportive of the Emergency Response Centre. If you look at the history of that centre in terms of incidents recorded and Police response, you will appreciate how wonderful that centre has been..."

MOFINews

Chat with State Security Adviser

Hon. Bassey Okim

How do you carry out your functions as the State Security Adviser?

You must understand that before the administration of his Excellency Senator Imoke was sworn into office, there was a transition committee that fashioned out the structure of government for the state. One of the committees under that transition programme was the Security Sub-Committee and that committee came out with the mandate for the Office of the State Security Adviser and that document was later adopted as part of the blue print of this administration. In essence, my mandate is to ensure that there is a sustainable and zero tolerance of crime and security incidents. Secondly, we are to work towards a sustainable reduction in criminal activities in the state.

The 2008 Xmas Festival/Calabar Carnival is said to have recorded the highest attendance so far. What was the security report like?

I must confess that the attendance was unprecedented. This sort of defied the security plan we put to play. In spite of whatever security breaches that may have occurred, we did not lose any life. We thank God. You know carnival is all about people and celebration, what people expected the

security agents to do cannot be done under a tourism environment. The period and event calls for celebration and happiness. So the security apparatus had to be friendly, even as they performed their function. I only want to pray that we should be given the opportunity to learn from the setbacks of 2008. But if you ask me, the events were relatively okay. I want to inform you that there is no place in the whole world that such a critical mass of people will converge that there will not be small breaches here and there. We have taken note of them. As we look forward to Carnival/Xmas activities of 2009, we will be better prepared.

What were your major challenges?

One of the major challenges was the crowd. The crowd was 60% more than what we had in 2007. In an event of that magnitude, everybody, the security, the artistes, spectators, all have roles to play. People are yet to be aware of some of the responsibilities and limitations expected of them during these events. You will also agree with us that the event is for all, so as the good people were migrating to Calabar from all works of life, the bad ones also came in. While we managed the good people, we also had to manage the bad ones.

Our tourism initiative has already assumed international status. Do you think that Security Operatives, especially the Police Force need special training for events like the state's Christmas / Carnival programmes?

Like I said earlier, everyone should understand his/her own responsibility during events. For instance there are restricted areas during these activities and people should know that they are not to get into those areas. And then the indigenes must understand that so many people are coming from all over the world and so should be accommodating as ever. The security agencies, yes, remember tourism is gaining grounds in Nigeria and so there's a need for more sensitization on the part of the security agencies. I am not saying they are not doing well, No. But there is a new environment which has been created; therefore we must try to meet up with the challenges posed by the demands of tourism. For instance, there's need to adopt a lot of public relations strategies, as far as security agencies are concerned. There is also the need to understand that the people too are trying to get acquainted with tourism. So the security agents need to be accommodating. You would agree that tourism as seen today is a new

industry in the state, though it has always been our way of life. Everyone is learning both the public and security agencies. It is our hope that with time we will meet with the tourism challenges. For this year we've already started holding our security meetings against December 2009. We also intend to have monthly workshops for the security agencies across the state, and we will try to ensure that the tourism agenda is part of our security sensitization programme for this year.

There was an idea that a unit of the Police Force should be carved out and trained specially for tourism-related events. What is your opinion about this?

It could have been a wonderful idea, but we don't have a state police. We created the tourism police team, just like the blanket post police along our highways. We were organizing workshops for them and paying them on special allowances, mobilized them so as to aid the job, and just as we were completing the intellectual aspect, there were changes within the state and The Police Command which affected the programme. The difficulty in this idea is that we do not have a State Police, and we have no control on how the police officers are transferred and deployed. But we could think of a paramilitary security outfit that could be responsible or involved in tourism, while the Police remain responsible for the day to day policing of tourism environment. But the specific responsibility of tourism could be assigned to this security outfit, a specialized unit with security background on tourism. The law allows the floating of security companies. The relevant departments will think on this to compliment the duties of the Police.

Recently, we have recorded incidents of carsnatching, people with machetes and other dangerous weapons attacking innocent citizens even as early as 7p.m. How are you addressing this new crime wave?

Firstly you will agree with us that most of the culprits of these offences are the commercial motor cyclists. I have discussed with the Special Adviser on Transportation. His mandate on getting the city a modern taxi service is very clear. Besides crime, the commercial motor cyclists have wrecked so much havoc on the citizenry. Calabar needs a safer and well organized transport system. It is expected that those displaced from



“...The Governor’s seven-point agenda is such that in the nearest future, Cross River State will be one of the most developed states in the country. When the youths are gainfully employed, the tendency is for crime rate to drop...”

“Okada” business will invest into the taxi scheme. There are plans to identify the bad elements, rehabilitate them for meaningful contribution to the system. The strategy we applied last year worked very well. So this year we intend to identify the groups and also incorporate the Local Government Chairmen into the arrangements. The state government is doing so much in terms of infrastructural development; the Chairmen should rather concentrate on the empowerment of youths within their various LGAs. Imagine what will happen if they can empower 1,000 youths a year, overall we will be looking at the empowerment of 18,000 youths. We are going to access the LGA this year and see how we can partner with them to empower our youths. For instance they can partner with the government in agricultural development and ensuring that the greater number of people in terms of labour that participate are youths, or carry out other empowerment initiative for these youths. So this year, just as we will be having seminars with security agencies, as we meet the good people of Cross River State, we will also be accessing these youths where ever they are whether they are in the creeks, slums, we will bring them out and give them a sense of belonging by creating responsibility for them, all aimed towards a better CRS.

A couple of initiatives were introduced in the state to maintain the peace like the Emergency Response Centre, Joint

Patrol Teams, Mobile Police Post along the highways etc. To what extent have these helped the security situation in the state?

You will appreciate the situation more if you could reflect back to the period before the creation of these structures. For instance, Emergency Response Centre. It was established in 2006. If you take your mind back to the period before the creation, you will discover that people were left at the mercy of armed robbers, people did not know who to call, they had no access to security agents, people in distress, in emergency did not know who to call. The centre is merely an information organ that assists people by taking their information to the security agencies that are primarily responsible for dealing with such incidents like fire, theft, accidents etc. So if there's an armed robbery, the primary agency responsible for dealing with such incident is the Police. Before now you didn't even know you could place a call, very few people knew. Now people know that there's a centre that they can call, and I want to place it on record that the Police have been very responsive and supportive of the Emergency Response Centre. If you look at the history of that centre in terms of incidents recorded and Police response, you will appreciate how wonderful that centre has been. Then if you look at the Blanket Security Network, the observation post along the high ways, just reflect back, or ask those in the northern LGAs on what the situation was. It was so bad that armed robbers were coming in from neighbouring states to operate freely without hindrance. Since the creation of this interventions we have had no reported cases of armed robbery operations along our highway in the afternoons. We have had few cases at night. The Blanket Security, complemented by the ERC is more than ever tackling incidents within the city. We have created an emergency website where members of the public can contribute and render their own ideal opinion on the security issues. We are out to partner with everyone because we are all stakeholders in the security business. We want to give people the opportunity to make useful contribution to the security of the state.

As the State Security Adviser, how are you tackling the problem of inter/intra communal and state land boundary crises in the state?

When the Liyel Imoke led administration came into being, the first thing he appreciated



was the transition report that was submitted to him. He saw the challenges posed on the state and its resources by the inter/intra land disputes; a situation where some communities were completely wiped out. So he deliberately created a department known as Conflict Resolution and placed it under His Excellency the Deputy Governor. This was the first of such creation. We have been working as an intelligence arm of that department, we have been working with the security agencies trying to act proactively to also ensure that reports of committees or panels of enquiries submitted to government are enforced. The Office of the Deputy Governor has duplicated this same department in all the LGAs, so in every local government area in the state, we now have a Resolution and Boundary Department. And it is placed under the Office of the Vice Chairman, so we have people in the LG in charge of these situations. In the past, we go right down to the grassroots to follow up matters. But now, we are like a referral unit and we have the Departmental Security Office working over there. So in all, we now have a network that monitors events/activities as they happen around as we have channels down the line. For instance, today, a text message just came in that the motor cyclists in Yakurr are protesting and the matter was attended to immediately. We

are in touch on what occurs around the state even at our grassroots. Before the end of March, ERC's website will be ready and published, Apart from security information, the essence of the emergency website is to keep people informed on what is happening in the state and also access information on the security business. We have very knowledgeable people in CRS and we want them to make their contributions towards the development of the state. We try to access Cross Riverians where ever they are in the world, whether they are in London, Germany, U.S.A, they should be telling us the latest in security on the website.

One strong reason that is attracting both investors and tourists to the state is our peaceful nature. Since economic prosperity also draws the criminal elements, how can we sustain our peace?

The Governor's seven-point agenda is such that in the nearest future, Cross River State will be one of the most developed states in the country. When the youths are gainfully employed, the tendency is for crime rate to drop. Crime is part of human existence. No amount of development can eliminate crime in our society, but it can be reduced. Good enough our people are humane and peace loving. We intend to solicit the support of everyone as major stakeholders

in the maintenance of peace in this territory. Criminals operate amongst us, if we are ready to give information about them, peace will be maintained.

What is the relationship between your department and other MDAs?

All MDAs are headed by appointees of the governor of the state who has a very clear picture of where he is taking this state to. We therefore all have a common aim and must at all time work in harmony.

I relate with all the MDAs by meeting their security needs. Take Tourism for instance, I ensure that security is provided for all sites, and that, visitors to the state, and these sites are not molested. The same applies to all the other MDAs, wherever our services are needed, we are there for them.

Last line?

Security is paramount in every endeavour. The Governor's 7 point agenda gives a very clear picture of what he desires for Cross River State. Having consulted widely, and with the Economic Blue Print, this administration is on track. I am very confident that seven years down the line, our people will be thankful to God Almighty for giving us this government. We must continue to give our support and prayers.





National Security The Nigeria Challenge (1)



Rekpene E. Bassey

National Security is the security of the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and the international freedom of action of a nation. As a prelude to the issues on the subject under reference, let us begin by looking at a brief historical perspective of the global security situation. The end of the cold war marked the commencement of a new outlook in the national security of many nations. The cold war period was an era of protracted geopolitical, ideological and economic struggle that emerged at the end of WW II between alliances of capitalist and communist states.

While the world-wide capitalist alliance was spearheaded by the United States of America, Russia led the states in the communist alliance. The cold war lasted from 1947 to 1991, a period of about 44 years,

until the collapse of the Soviet Union. The war itself took the form of arms race involving nuclear, chemical, biological and conventional weapons; economic warfare, trade embargo, political propaganda and proxy wars. Both divides stirred and took more than ordinary interest in the political development and civil wars in different nations of the world, but in particular the developing and the third world countries like Greece, Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan.

The alliances also showed interest in the civil wars in Angola, El-Salvador, Nicaragua, Algeria, Laos, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Mozambique. The 1940s, 60s, 70s and in fact up to the 80s witnessed the impact of the cold war in several other global crises such as the Cuban Missile Crisis (and later the Cuban Revolution), the Iranian Crisis, the Berlin Blockade, the East German uprising,

“...the bigger picture encapsulates the state of readiness of a nation against foreign attack, and being able to effectively deal with threats to internal security...”



the Mau Mau Uprising, the first and second Taiwan Strait Crises and the Iranian Revolution.

It is debatable if the US or the Soviet Union showed more than ordinary interest in the Nigeria civil war and in fact the events that led to it. But this could not be said of Britain which was the country's colonial master. Britain, a traditional ally of the USA might indeed have been seriously involved in the crisis in the country then either due to her role in the so-called wrong peopling occasioned by the 1914 amalgamation of the northern and southern protectorates by Lord Fredrick Lugard (which brought strange bed fellows into the Nigerian union). Anyway, it would appear that Britain did little to prevent the crisis in the first instance. Otherwise Britain should in fact always be fingered for laying the political foundation which gave vent to the crisis itself.

The fact that Nigeria did not pursue a definite ideological line within the communist or capitalist divide of the cold war can be situated around the foundation laid by the British colonial authorities on the one hand and the non-aligned posture taken by her founders on

"...Technically speaking, the objective of national security can be perorated as the protection of a nation's overall interest at home and abroad from all acts that are capable of jeopardizing the security of the nation..."

the other hand. But General Murtala Mohammed who succeeded General Yakubu Gowon (Nigeria's civil war and post-war time leader) appeared to have been significantly interested in moving the country towards a socialist state. The very fact that he started off with the posture of revolutionary leaders like Cuba's Fidel Castro may have sent fears of socialist ideological signal into the world. The United States and Britain in particular could have taken serious

exception to General Murtala Mohammed's posture given the influence of Nigeria over the rest of Africa.

Let us at this point consider a historical overview of the origin of the cold war itself. World War II ended in 1945. By 1947, the cold war began. Two paradigms have been suggested by historians on the Russian perspective of the war. The first paradigm considers the primacy of the communist ideology. The second perspective suggests the Russian hegemony over Eastern Europe, access to warm water seaports and the defense of orthodox Christians and Slavic peoples. Specifically the roots of the clashes can be situated in Vladimir Ilyich Levin's seizure of power in Russia (the Bolshevik Revolution of October – November



1917). But on its part, the United States was thought to be engrossed with capitalist expansionism. A fourth factor was the control of nuclear energy. The Soviet Union had outrightly objected to the American control of nuclear energy because they thought it would undermine the principles of national sovereignty. But what exacerbated the problem was the defection in 1945 by Igor Gouzenko a cipher clerk in the Soviet Embassy in Canada. He defected from the Soviet Union with espionage documents on Canada, the United Kingdom and United States. From that point, these countries began to perceive the Soviet Union as an enemy state.

The cold war crises escalated during the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, the erection of the Berlin Wall in 1961 and the Cuban Missile crisis of 1962. A third world war almost broke out due to the Cuban Missile crisis. The Soviets had installed medium-range ballistic missiles in Cuba against the wishes of the United States, which demanded unilateral withdrawal from Cuba. The period of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, which led to the mass boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games by western and some third world countries, also witnessed increased cold war tensions between the two superpowers.

One of the fall-outs of the cold war was the emergence of computerized military technology. Revolutionary advances were made in the field of nuclear weapons and rocketry, and the space race. There were vast technological improvements in the production of jet fighters, bombers, chemical and biological weapons. Innovations were also noticeable in the areas of anti-aircraft warfare, surface-to-surface missiles (including cruise missiles), multi-megaton hydrogen bombs, inter-continental and anti-ballistic missiles, anti-tank weapons, submarines and anti-submarine wares. Military and security design improvements were also recorded in submarine ballistic missiles launch, electronic intelligence, signals intelligence, reconnaissance aircraft and spy satellites.

Nuclear weapons were used as instruments of political strategy during the cold war. America's monopoly in this area was only broken by the Soviets in 1949, and followed by other countries. The emphasis under President Eisenhower was the use of nuclear weapons as a strategic deterrent. However, because of the quantum of the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) at the time, the nuclear powers then resorted to the precaution of mutual assured destruction (MAD) – to deter the launch of attack by either of the blocks.

The intelligence communities within the major power blocks played very significant roles during the cold war. Prominent among these were institutions like the American CIA, the British MI6 and West Germany's BND, the Stasi of East Germany and Soviet Union's KGB. These spy agencies indulged in the massive use of

electronic and signal intelligence, reconnaissance aircraft and spy satellites. Many of the communication and military technologies developed in those days are now being used within civilian economy. For instance, some of the earliest digital computers were used to detect nuclear bombs. The same is true of today's long range satellite communication systems.

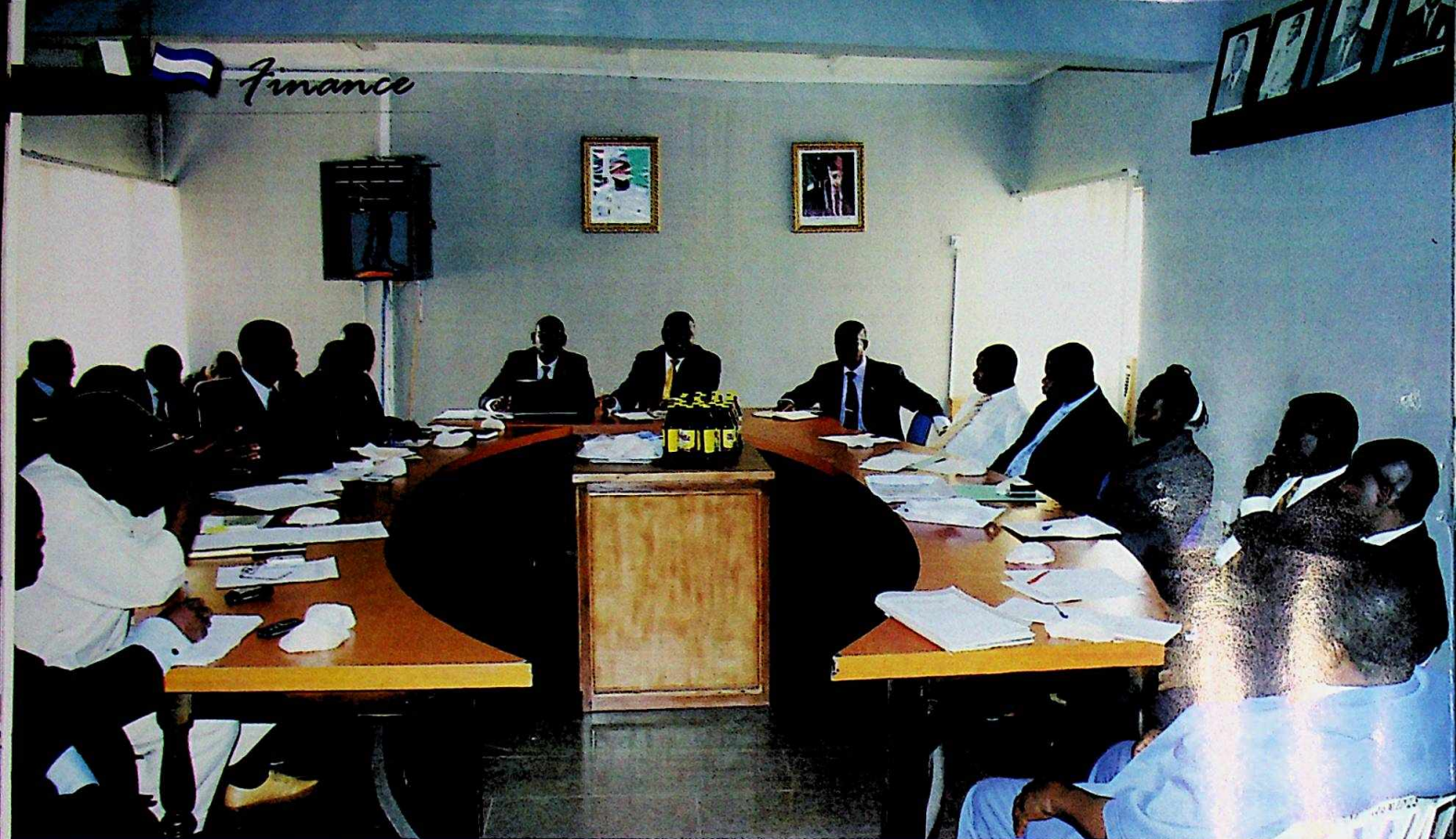
The first indication that the cold war would come to an abrupt end was the fall of the Berlin Wall on 11 November 1989, and the collapse of the Soviet Union two years later. Since then, newer dimensions have emerged. Presently the major challenge to global security is terrorism, and the Middle East crises.

Now back to the subject matter of this write-up. We needed to recourse to an overview of the background of the cold war era to offer us some insight into national security generally. At this point, let us consider the objective of national security. Technically speaking, the objective of national security can be perorated as the protection of a nation's overall interest at home and abroad from all acts that are capable of jeopardizing the security of the nation. The fundamental approach to this objective is to continue to update the internal and external security strategies that will deny enemies of the state any kind of control, resources and environment to cultivate and propagate their ideologies and strategies for undermining the nation. The bigger picture encapsulates the state of readiness of a nation against foreign attack, and being able to effectively deal with threats to internal security.

There have been some instances of palpable threats to the nation's national security, but the major ones include the 1966 coup d'etat led by Major Chukwuma Nzeogwu; the 1966 counter-coup led by Lt. Col. Murtala Mohammed which metamorphosed into the 1967 – 70 civil war; the 1975 coup d'etat by General Murtala Mohammed which led to the overthrow of General Yakubu Gowon, and the 1977 abortive Dimka coup. Others are the 1983 General Muhamadu Buhari coup d'etat; the 1985 General Ibrahim Babangida Coup d'etat; the abortive Major Gideon Orka coup of 1990 against General Ibrahim Babangida, and the 12 June 1993 annulment of the presidential election by Babangida, which was said to have been won by the late Chief M.K.O. Abiola.

General Sani Abacha's coup d'etat against Chief Earnest Shonekan in 1995, the death of Abacha and Abiola within one month in 1998 and the aborted third term move of May 2006 all constituted threats to our national security. So did the Bakassi Peninsula imbroglio.

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Finance Commissioner Meets With MDs/Directors of MFBs

The Commissioner of Finance, Mr. Kelly Ayamba has reiterated the need for a more effective and efficient management of the state's financial resources in order to achieve the developmental goals of the administration. He expressed this in a meeting held recently with directors and stakeholders of Micro Finance Banks (MFBs) across the state. The forum was meant to chart a framework for the disbursement of funds secured by the state government. The Micro Credit scheme which was launched in February 2008 according to Mr. Ayamba, is to provide a pool of fund to the tune of fifty billion naira only (₦50, 000,000,000) to aid the small scale entrepreneurs and the active poor mostly at the grass roots level.

He emphasised the need for the success of the scheme and in turn placed the responsibility on the MFBs stating that they act from the driving seat of the scheme, and their collaboration is therefore highly needed towards the scheme's success.

The Commissioner further pointed out that the scheme is to boost the operational services of the MFBs by mobilizing deposit and adequate cash at their disposal so they can lend to their customers/beneficiaries. He revealed that the sum of five hundred and six million naira only (₦506,000,000) has been made available for the scheme, with the state fulfilling its required 50% obligation. He made it clear that the scheme is not a grant but a revolving loan payable over a stipulated period of 24 months. He therefore called on all stakeholders to put in their best to ensure a complete success of the scheme whilst appreciating Access Bank Plc for their commitment and involvement as the lead bank in the scheme. Also speaking, the Special Adviser (SA) Investment Promotion,

Mr. Gerald Adah hinted that though government is determined to spread the scheme across the three senatorial districts of the state, one challenge towards the accomplishment of this intention is the fact that most of the MFBs are not licensed. On the issue of license, he said the earlier deadline of January 2009 has been extended to April 2009, and therefore urged the banks to send in their final approval from Central Bank of Nigeria for processing. He further explained that the idea behind the scheme is the development of entrepreneurs in the state, and must be devoid of political consideration and sentiments. He urged the MFBs to ensure that the entire State is adequately covered.

Advising the MFBs on the scheme, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr. Essien Anko suggested the Know-Your-Customer (K.Y.C) model, as it is very effective in monitoring loan repayments.

Also speaking, the Branch Manager, Access Bank Plc, Mr. Isaac Isagha, stated that the scheme is intended to fight poverty to the lowest ebb as they make available funds for entrepreneurs of Cross River origin, and in turn contribute to building a wealthy and prosperous society. He also revealed the bank's intention of organizing a workshop/capacity building programme for credit officers of the MFBs all aimed towards a 100% success of the scheme.

The specified sectors for the loan scheme includes: Agriculture, Commerce, Service and Cottage industry. The well attended meeting had in attendance Directors/Managers of Micro Finance Banks in the state.



By Ofem, Glory M



Ministry of Finance To Regulate Insurance For CRSG

Henceforth, Insurance Companies intending to do business with Cross River State government, must be registered, certified and approved by the state Ministry of Finance. In addition, such a company must have an operational office in Calabar.

The Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Kelly Ayamba, made this known while having a stakeholders meeting with Managing Directors, Directors/Operators of Insurance Companies in the state.

Mr. Kelly stated that Cross River State is known to be a law abiding state where things are done orderly and Insurance business in the state should therefore not be treated differently. He added that the objective of the interactive forum is to regulate insurance activities in the state in an open and transparent manner.

The Commissioner further added that the essence of the regulation is not to witch-hunt any company as the regulation will create a level playing ground for all who are duly registered in the state and also in keeping with the Federal Government's insurance policies/ laws in the country. He called on insurance companies to pay premiums on time.

On issues of unwholesome practices, the Commissioner explained that in doing business in the state, there would be no cutting of corners especially with the open door policy of the present administration. This is in line with

the focus of the Imoke administration to refocus and reposition the state through good governance enhanced by best practices.

He called on the insurance companies to report any short comings that will jeopardize their operations as the state government is ever ready to partner with them in moving the state forward.

Another issue raised in the meeting was the seeming over-emphasis on motor-vehicle insurance while nothing is done about insurance of government immovable assets such as offices buildings. An example was cited of the state Cultural Centre Complex which was razed down by fire some years back which government had to struggle solely to restore due to unguided insurance operations. Another example cited was that of the Twin Towers in the United States of America which went down due to terrorists attack. It was said that America is currently going through financial pains as the Twin Towers worth billions of dollars, were under-insured to the tune of about five hundred million dollars.

Responding to these issues, Mr. Kelly Ayamba promised to work with stakeholders in order to draw-up modalities on comprehensive insurance of all government assets, movable and immovable.

In his vote of thanks, the Chairman, Chartered Institute of Insurance, Calabar Branch, Mr. John Urom, commended the state government for the meeting which he described



Insurance Representatives During One of Its Recent Meetings With The Commissioner For Finance, Mr. Kellie Oba



as timely and the first in recent times, having both Brokers and Underwriters rub minds with the government. He pledged total commitment to ensure viability and proper security of government's property. Also speaking, Managing Director, Spring Life Assurance PLC, Mr. Tayo Akintunde and that of Union Assurance, Mr. Ani Ntekim, both indicated willingness to support and also promised to

work with the state government to ensure that Cross River State gets the best. In attendance were: the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Elder (DR.) Essien Anko, Directors in the Ministry of Finance and over thirty (30) Insurance companies and Brokers operating in the state.

Daniel Williams



CRS to Increase IGR by 300%

"...If business organizations in the state/individuals that are taxable carry out their obligations fervently, Cross River State can increase its IGR by 300%..."

The Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Kelly Ayamba, made this assertion during the weekly scheduled Ministerial press briefing by the Ministry of Finance at the Nigerian Union of Journalist (NUJ) secretariat in Calabar. He told the press that the objective of the Ministry is to generate funds as well as manage the state's financial resources.

The Commissioner noted that Cross River state as one of the states with lean allocation from the Federal government cannot afford to depend solely on Federation Account thus the need to wean the state off FAAC accounts for government's investment in projects like Tinapa, the Ranch etc. and upcoming projects like the Calabar Energy City, Theme Park to generate revenue for the state.

Mr. Kelly explained that although government intends to increase its IGR by 300%, nothing outside the law on taxation shall be introduced. He faulted accusations that taxation in Cross River State is the highest. He stated that some tax payers do not

check ghost workers/pensioners. He disclosed that, the state currently pays salaries to about 21,000 civil servants and about 6,600 pensioners as at February 2009.

On the state debt profile, the Commissioner explained that Governor Imoke on assumption of office took interest on the issue thus creating the Debt Management Department (DMD) with the aim of servicing some of the debts. He added that for Cross River, the debts are tied to projects of economic importance that when properly managed, could turn around the state economy example Tinapa, which he said, has been acclaimed to be a money spinner for the state. According to the Commissioner for Finance, the state has since the inception of this administration been able to pay local contractual debt of over Two (2) Billion Naira.

On conditionalities for assessing the Micro-Credit Scheme, the Commissioner revealed that it is accessible to both Cross Riverians and non Cross Riverians who have residential business activities in the state but such businesses must be registered as



Left: Chairman Board Of Internal Revenue, Mr. Etim Ukorebi, Commissioner For Finance, Mr. Kelly Ayamba, Accountant General, Mr. Henry O. Ojogu and NUJ Chairman CRS, Mr. Sam Egbala.




A Cross Section Of Journalists In A Press Briefing.

know the appropriate tax to pay and through what channel thus falling into the hands of unauthorized tax collectors. He added that the legislature had come up with a law called the "Tax and Levies Approved List for Collection Act" According to the Commissioner, this law spells out those taxes to be collected by the Federal, State and Local governments.

The Commissioner, called on tax payers not to see taxation as something out of the extra-ordinary as it is a global practice which helps government in the provision of basic infrastructures. In Cross River, he explained that government is judiciously utilizing tax payers money in the provision of basic infrastructural needs for its people as it is obvious to have projects on ground in order to motivate the tax payers. Mr. Ayamba, revealed that, the new tax clearance certificate will carry photographs/ personal data of every tax payer in the state for proper identification even as government intends to introduce Bio-Metrix especially to

co-operatives Society or as Individuals who have a commercially viable businesses with a steady cash flow. He pointed out that the scheme is not a national cake as thorough assessments are carried out to ensure that the money given out are adequately invested with an agreeable turn-over on a single digit interest rates.

Commenting on the global economic meltdown, the Commissioner explained that with the recent announcement by the Federal Government to carry out downward review on salaries of political office holders, the states will also seek measures to save cost in running government, as all hands must be on deck. He added that if the end result will be a downward review as it has been proposed at the federal level, they have no other option but to sacrifice for the betterment of the state and its people. He revealed that for the Month of January 2009, the state allocation went down by 40%. 

Daniel Williams

ZENITH BANK Waxes On; Commissions 2nd Branch In Calabar

The Cross River State government is determined to partner with financial institutions towards achieving a public private sector driven economy.

Barrister Efiok Cobham made this declaration while commissioning Zenith Bank's second branch in the state capital, Calabar.

Barr. Cobham acknowledged the crucial role of the financial institutions as vehicles for transmission of monetary policies in the development of the economy. He commended Zenith Bank for the giant strides in the financial sector recorded in the past nineteen years though it started its business operations in Calabar in 2002.

According to him, the Bank's corporate policy has not only distinguished it as one of the prestigious banks in the nation but also sustained its viable growth and status, culminating in the winning of awards and excellent rating from both local and international agencies.

The No. 2 citizen of the state further expressed the state government's satisfaction with the bank in some of the state's development initiatives such as the Tinapa Business/Leisure Resort, their sponsorship of the Christmas Festival/Carnival, and partnering with government in the provision of basic infrastructures in the state.

He however appealed for their support particularly in the area of propelling small and medium scale enterprises through SMS financing, as well as a considerable adjustment in the high interest lending rates of the banks in the country.

He added that as partners in progress, they must adopt ways that ensure friendly interest rates in order to enhance the economic development of the nation.

He further urged the bank to expand its business tentacles to the rural areas as the benefits derivable from such investment are massive.

In his welcome address, the Group Zonal Head South-South of Zenith Bank, Mr. Sunday Ilegar, appreciated his Excellency's presence at the ceremony, which, he said has indeed showcased the administration's concern for economic development.

He also congratulated the government for its resilience and focus on the Tinapa project through the gazetting of operations in the Business Resort, and which has in no doubt placed Cross River State as the destination of choice for business and pleasure in Africa. In his words "with the combination of Tinapa and the existing FTZ (Free Trade Zone), Cross River State in little or no time will become an international business hub; the Dubai of Nigeria, and, this invariably will boost

the nation's economy."

Describing Zenith Bank Plc as one of the fastest growing banks in the nation, and the best global bank, he assured His Excellency of better banking services and the creation of more branches across the state in addition to the five branches (Calabar, Ikom,

Ogoja and Obudu) already in operation. This he added is to partner with the administration in delivering democracy dividends to its citizens as the management of Zenith Bank believes in its dynamic leadership and sincerity to meet the yearnings of Cross Riverians.

In a vote of thanks, the Manager, Mr Anietie Ibanga assured the Deputy Governor of a world class service considering the era of electronic transaction (E-banking, business and governance), Zenith Bank is capable and ready to support the development initiatives of the government through their different packages already in place for a better mutual and beneficial relationship.

Present at the event were the Commissioner of Finance, Mr. Kelly Ayamba, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mr Joe Edet, other top government functionaries, the business class, Ministers of the gospel, as well as staff and customers of Zenith Bank Plc.



Ofem, Glory M



Cross River State Deputy Governor, Barr. Efiok Cobham Commissioning Zenith Bank (2)



From Right: COF, Mr. Kelly Ayamba, GZH, South-South Of Zenith Bank, Mr. Sunday Ilegar



Ministry Of Finance To Wear A **New Look** Soon



Work In Progress. Ministry of Finance Headquarters, Calabar

In line with the policy of the state government to re-orientate, re-invigorate and re-engineer the civil service for optimum performance, contract has been awarded for the total renovation of the Ministry of Finance Headquarters in Calabar

In an interview with MOFINEWS, the Commissioner of Finance, Mr Kelly Ayamba pointed out that since most civil servants spend over nine hours in their offices daily, the working environment should be conducive enough to allow for concentration and quality performance.

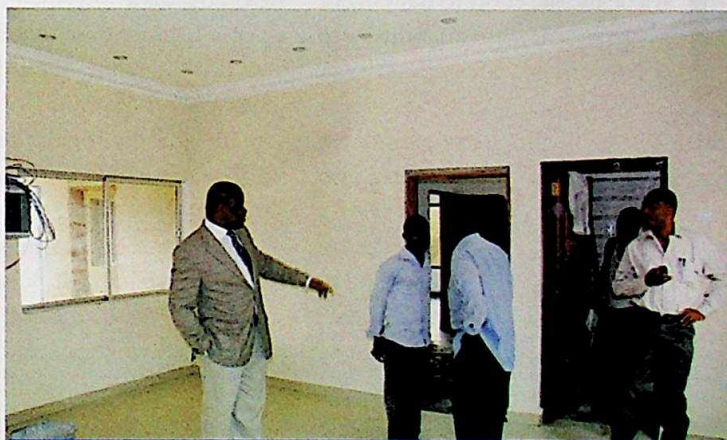
Mr Ayamba disclosed that His Excellency the state governor, Senator Liyel Imoke also granted approval for the furnishing, tarring and landscaping of the office environment.

On the perennial flooding of the premises of the ministry, the Commissioner said channels have been created and existing drains enlarged to accommodate more volume of water, but that the Ministry of Works is considering the re-direction of the channel which drains water through the Ministry of Finance, Governor's Office across the Murtala Mohammed highway to a new direction. Because this channel runs under the Metropolitan Hotel Building into Big Qua, the possibility of its enlargement is very slim. It is hoped that before the rains set in, something is done in this direction.

In a related development, a six man Project and Programmes Implementation Committee for the Ministry of Finance has been inaugurated by the Permanent Secretary, Dr Essien Anko .

Addressing members of the Committee, Dr Anko disclosed that this is in line with a directive from the State Executive Council that all MDAs constitute this committee.

The Committee is charged with the responsibilities of expediting




Commissioner For Finance Addressing Contractor/Workers As Renovation Work On The Ministry Progresses.

the implementation of all projects of the Ministry provided for in the 2009 Budget amongst others.

The Permanent Secretary Dr Anko urged the Committee to work hand in hand with the Project Implementation Committee of the Governor's office for update and other related matters.

Responding, the Chairman of the Committee and Director (PRS), Chief Joseph U. Ugbe assured the Permanent Secretary that all projects in the Ministry will be implemented before the last quota of the year.

Other members of the Committee are Mr. Victor B.Henshaw, Director MOFI, Mr Freedom Ejom, Director Information/Editor MOFINEWS and Mr Godwin Uwen, Chartered Accountant Reserve Funds. Others include Mr Ekpenyong Owoo, Head of Accounts and Mr Inah Egbe Mgbada as secretary. 



Cross River To Establish a *Tourism Academy*

In a deliberate effort to train major players in the tourism industry to enhance their capacity for efficient service delivery which is the major challenge to the industry, the Cross River State Government is to establish a Tourism Academy in Calabar.

While briefing news men during the weekly Ministerial interaction in Calabar, the Special Adviser to Governor Liyel Imoke on Tourism, Mr. Gabe Onah, said the concept of the Academy is one of Government's strategic moves to institutionalize tourism in the State with sustainable service delivery. The Academy will function side by side with the Department of Tourism in the Cross River University of Technology, (CRUTECH).

Mr. Onah maintained that with over 67 tourists sites discovered and developed in the State, it is pertinent to train the operators to fully harness their potentials if Government is to achieve the target of making tourism a major contributor to its economy to a tune of 40% by 2012.

He pointed out Government's readiness to expand facilities at the Marina

Resort, Calabar with the provision of a cinema theatre, entertainment arcade as well as upgrading the amphi-theatre to acceptable standard.

On the International Art and Craft village at the Tinapa Business and Leisure Resort, Onah said, the village is currently collaborating with the Department of Visual Art of CRUTECH and other stakeholders in the field to showcase indigenous arts and crafts work, adding that the collaboration which was formed since December last year will continue to expose talents.

The Special Adviser further disclosed USAID's contribution to training of the inhabitants of the catchment area, for wealth creation while World Bank on the other hand, is handling the training of the workforce in the industry.

He stated that Remlords Tour was recently chosen as the preferred bidder to float and manage the fleet of five luxury buses recently acquired by the State Government to convey tourists to tourist sites, adding that when operational, the transportation problem often encountered by them would be

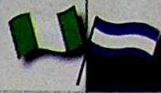
addressed.

In a separate briefing, the Special Adviser to Imoke on Special Projects, Mr. Eyo Ekpo disclosed that work on the \$1.5 billion Calabar Energy City would commence in the first quarter of this year with reclamation of site already at Ekorinim Peninsula for the industrial area and a portion of Pamol Rubber Estate for the residential area, adding that the project which would cover about 373 hectares of land will be funded and managed through public private partnership.

He said the engineering work for the project has been concluded and that it will have eco-industrial park as one of its attractions, hoping that when completed, the project will take advantage of Federal Government's policy which demands that 60% of manpower be domiciled within the operating region which is yet to be achieved in the region due to the problem associated with the Niger Delta.

Responding to why the proposed new Airport has not taken off two years

...Contd from Pg. 56



Dazell-B Mega Station Commissioned

The Biggest Privately Owned Petrol Station In Cross River State

Governor Imoke has reiterated the determination of the state government to make Cross River State a public private sector driven economy through the creation of investor friendly climate. He made this assertion while commissioning Dazell- B Mega Station; one of the biggest privately owned petroleum stations in the country, and precisely the biggest privately owned in the state located at Odukpani Local Government Area by the Ikom-Calabar, Calabar-Itu junction.

The state Governor who was represented by his deputy Barrister Efiok Cobham, revealed the state's pride in being the destination for business, or leisure. Considering the importance of private sector in the development and growth of the economy, Barr. Cobham affirmed government's determination to support the private sector by being proactive on matters that touch on trade and investment. The creation of the Investment Promotion Bureau Office; a one-stop shop where investors can get information relating to investment in the state is designed to achieve a better public/private partnership that will continue to boost the state's drive towards economic growth, the governor stated.

Barrister Cobham commended the CEO of Dazell-B Mega station, Chief Udah Basseyy Udah, for his legendary brand that has grown into a large group and with its magnificent edifice which he believed will serve as a source of inspiration to other investors especially Cross Riverians. He therefore urged investors to cash on the opportunities available in the state. Barr. Cobham described Cross River State as the fastest growing economy with its sterling qualities of being the "greenest, safest and cleanest location with the lowest crime rate in the country, providing the best climate for investors with her warm and



Pix (1 & 2) CRS Deputy Gov. Barr. Efiok Cobham Commissions Dazell B Mega Station In Calabar.

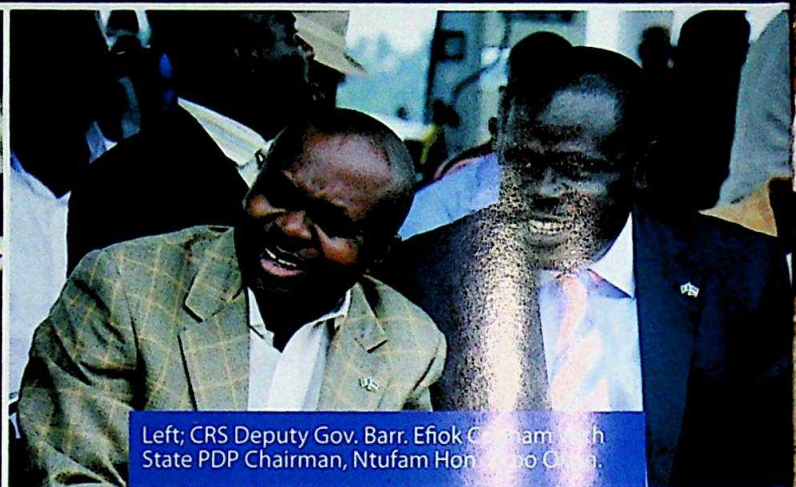
friendly people." He finally appealed that with the deregulation of petroleum products, the station should make available products at affordable prices in their service to humanity.



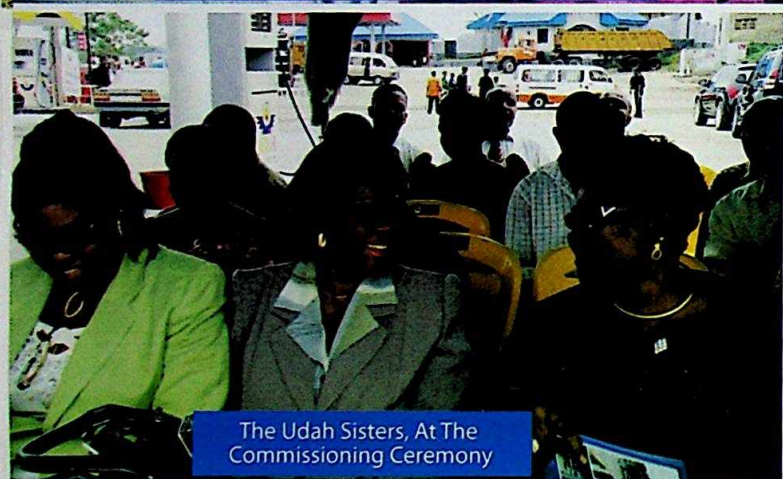
Cross Section Of Dignitaries During The Commissioning Ceremony Of Dazell B Mega Station, Odukpany Junction CRS



CEO Dazell B. Mr. Udah B. Udah With Wife At The Commissioning



Left; CRS Deputy Gov. Barr. Efiok G. Osham, State PDP Chairman, Ntufam Hon. Ekpo Okon.



The Udah Sisters, At The Commissioning Ceremony



Speaking earlier, the National President, Independent Petroleum Marketers Association (IPMAN), Mr Tunji Adeniji, described the commissioning of Dazell-B mega station as history made in the spectrum of private petroleum dealers in the state. According to him it is an epitome of hard work, resilience and determination. He further disclosed IPMAN's desire to establish a tank farm in Calabar to ensure availability of petroleum products at all times.

In his presentation of the station's facilities, Engineer Peter .O. O. Merere revealed all equipment, fabrication and personnel were 100% Nigerian and that due to strict adherence to standards and safety measures, no casualty was recorded during the construction. In addition, the station is constructed in a way that enables the evacuation of all vehicles in the station within 5minutes of a fire outbreak. Other facilities includes a rest room and an eatery managed by MACBITE.

In a vote of thanks, the younger brother of Chief Udah, Dr

Udah emphasized that determination and prudence is what has seen Dazell-B investment rise from mere retailing of kerosene to a mega station today. He expressed his gratitude to his Excellency and assured the public of standard services to citizens.

In attendance were the State Chairman PDP, Ntufam Ekpo Okon, Deputy Chairman PDP, Chief Peter Ojie, Commissioner for Information, Ntufam Edet Asim , Mr Kasmir Obok, SA, Special Duties, Mr. Patrick Ephraim representative of Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), Chairman Abi Local Government Area, Mr Chucks Agube, Directors of IPMAN, Elder Statesmen, Business Tycoons, Major Marketers, Bank Representatives and the good people of the host community Odukpani Local Government Area.

Story by Ofem, Glory.M

Photos: Dan williams



Abi LGA, Celebrates New Year Day With Carnival

Governor Liyel Imoke of Cross River State has assured citizens of the state that 2009 holds great opportunities for them. He made the statement while addressing the people of Abi Local Government Area during the celebration of their 2009 Carnival and New Year Day at Itigidi, Gov. Imoke declared that the people and indeed Cross River will witness great developmental transformation this year.

He appreciated the Council for putting together the carnival at a time when the cultural values of the people is facing extinction due to modernization and sophistication. He noted that the celebration afforded the audience opportunity to see some old traditional culture which was spiced with little bit of modernity.

The Governor reasoned that they could now entertain their guests with an array of cultural displays through their efforts, which was good.

The Chairman of Abi Local Government Council, Mr. Chuks Agube in a

welcome address, said the 2009 Abi Carnival was the first of its kind in the area with the aim of attracting tourists.

Agube said the Council, apart from putting together the carnival, has within its first year in office, constructed a political office block, Council Guest house, health centre, market stalls, lock-up shops and bridges at various locations, adding that while the water project at Igbo Imabana has been upgraded, AbiTrans is being reorganized for effective service.

The Council Boss expressed gratitude to Imoke for his support to Local Government Councils and early release of funds for the execution of various projects which have impacted positively on the lives of the people.

The carnival was attended by the wife of the Governor, Mrs. Obioma Imoke, the Deputy Governor, Mr. Efiok Cobham and wife Glory, others were members of the National and State Assemblies,



Federal and State Executive Council members and friends of Abi LGA. Highlights of the ceremony was the display of cultural dances from the various wards of the Council as well as Carnival parade by senior and junior bands to the cheer of the crowd.

Imoke and wife later entertained guests at their country home in Itigidi as part of their usual New Year Day reception for family members and friends.

Mrs. Imoke Receives PDP Women Stalwards



Left: First Lady CRS, Mrs. Obioma Imoke With Mrs. Glory Chobham Wife Of The Deputy Governor.

The Wife of the Governor, Mrs. Obioma Liyel-Imoke has enjoined women to go into agriculture for the betterment of the people of Cross River State.

Mrs Obioma Liyel Imoke said this at an interactive gathering in her office where she showed appreciation to PDP women stalwarts in the State.



The Governor's wife maintained that women are the changing force in the society, and advised all to be creative to become successful so as to leave behind a befitting legacy worthy of emulation.

Mrs Obioma Liyel-Imoke who used the forum to thank women in the State for supporting her husband during his campaign, urged every woman in the State to key into Government's programmes so as to derive maximum benefits. she pointed out that the interaction with the women will be a biannual event.

Speaking earlier, the Commissioner for Women Affairs Mrs Ekama Awara implored all the women in the State to support the programmes of Mrs. Obioma Liyel Imoke and also emulate her footsteps.

Mrs. Awara advised women to shun gossip and embrace positive ideas for successful achievements.

The occasion featured the re-representation of the CBN award of "Best Support First Lady for Women Empowerment Micro-Credit for 2008" to Mrs Obioma Liyel-Imoke by the Wife of the Deputy Governor, Mrs. Glory Efiok Cobham, who represented her at the CBN award ceremony, which was recently held at Abuja.

High point of the occasion was presentation of gift items to the women.

Nancy Irek
Information Officer

First Lady CRS, Calls for Closer Tie Between Ethnic Tribes

Her Excellency, the Wife of the Governor of Cross River State Mrs. Obioma Liyel Imoke has called for unification and closer ties among the ethnic tribes in Cross River State.

She made the call while playing host to the wife of the Obong of Calabar, Her Majesty, Queen Ansa Ekpo Abasi Otu who paid her a courtesy call at the Government Lodge.

The Governor's Wife who quoted the Bible to support her call said, "in the place of unity there is blessing", enjoined the Queen and other women in the State to join hands together to banish what she described as only negative terminology – (Efik and Atam) saying that women are better placed to influence the society positively, and if they channel their energies to work very hard, Cross River State will record greater growth.

She reminded Her Majesty that the task of being the wife of Obong is enormous but prayed God to guide and direct her.

Earlier in her address, Her Majesty Queen Ansa Ekpo Abasi Otu, on behalf of her husband the Obong of



Left: Her Majesty, Queen Ansa Ekpo Abasi Otu Presenting Her Excellency Mrs. Obioma Imoke With a Gift During A Courtesy Call In Government House, Calabar.

Calabar and the entire people of Efik kingdom thanked Mrs. Obioma Liyel Imoke and her husband Senator Liyel Imoke for their support and encouragement during the coronation of the new Obong.

While describing Governor Liyel Imoke as a man of exemplary modesty who gave credence to the truth, the Obong's wife commended Her Excellency for her POWER programme in the State which she said has brought succor to teenage pregnant girls at risk and

abandoned babies. She noted that POWER programme has also contributed to the reduction of child mortality and improved maternal health for the women in the State. She therefore pledged to work with Her Excellency to further enhance the success of project POWER.

High point of the event was exchange of gifts between the two parties.

Present at the occasion were the Deputy Governor's wife Mrs. Glory Efiok Cobham, Commissioner for Women Affairs Mrs. Ekama Awara, wife of the SSG, Mrs. Ann Ugbo, Dr.

Mrs. Ame Offiong, Special Assistant on Finance Mrs. Immambo Eval Imoke. Others were Barr. Mrs. Nella Andern Ewa Director General Border Commission, High Chief Minika James, and Chief Mrs. Christie Ise among others.

Nancy Irek
Information Officer



CRUTECH Graduates 892, Two With First Class

Governor Liyel Imoke has vowed that no child of Cross River origin will be denied access to quality education as the government is irrevocably committed to provide relevant infrastructure to enhance the realization of the pledge.

He made this assertion as the Visitor to the Cross River University of Technology (CRUTECH) during its third convocation ceremony where 892 students graduated, saying that the state accords priority to education through comprehensive intervention in primary and secondary schools.

Imoke re-emphasized the relevance of training and retraining of qualified teachers as a means of improving the standard of education in schools across the state. He promised that the government is determined to ensure that the remaining seven programmes of the university are fully accredited.

He said that the government is awaiting the approval of the National Commission of Colleges for its take-off as he pledged to sustain the award of scholarship to the best graduating students each session while reiterating his promise that the faculty of health sciences would be added to its programmes of studies.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Eka Ikpi Braide who described the convocation as the climax of an eventful academic year, said that the vision of the institution is robust and ambitious with emphasis on producing graduates that could compete with their equals anywhere in the world as well as an



institution where high standards are practicable.

She disclosed that since 2004, the University has moved towards achieving its goals through the joint efforts of the academic community, stating that 17 programmes have been fully accredited while seven have been issued with interim accreditation with the hope of attaining full accreditation this year.

Prof. Braide said facilities in the Estate Management, Architecture, Town Planning, Engineering and Accounting Department have been inspected by their respective professional bodies for their upgrading and accreditation.

She also disclosed efforts to introduce courses in Tourism and Hospitality Management in the Faculty of Health Sciences emphasizing that one major prerequisite for



favorably with their counterparts globally.

Program expressed appreciation to the state government for funding the university despite its lean financial resources and called on stakeholders, individuals, organizations and corporate bodies to

achieving its vision has been the improvement of quality of students admitted into the institution. The Vice Chancellor contended that the attention paid to quality control in education by government of Cross River since inception of the school has resulted in improved performance of students of Cross River origin in competitive qualifying and entrance examinations.

According to her, the on-going phased comprehensive renovation and up-grading of facilities in primary and secondary schools in the state will result in further improvement in performance of these students. The V.C. noted that the institution has carried out a number of community service activities including the integrated community implementation in Obudu Ranch, free JAMB intensive lessons in Calabar, entrepreneurial skills training for youths

in Calabar South and training and extension services for farmers in Obudu while lectures were organized on topical issues.

She appreciated the donations of a science block, books, computers, laptops, equipment, research materials, funds, guidance and technical support from corporate bodies, institutions and individuals. Derailed lists of graduands indicated that two graduands had first class honours, 97 emerged with second class upper, 466 with second class lower and 315 with third class while 12 recorded success at pass level.

The Pro-Chancellor and the Chairman of the Governing Council of CRUTECH, His Royal Highness (HRH) Muri Prof. Itam Hogan Itam said that the institution is bearing qualitative and dependable fruits within the short period of its existence and was confident that the graduating students will continue to make the University unique as they will compete

give massive support to the institution as government alone cannot shoulder the great task ahead.

The best graduating student, Neji Mariam Osim in a valedictory speech commended Imoke for his pragmatic leadership style that has moved the state to greater heights. Such heights she said are the restoration of the State College of Education, Akamkpa and the increase in the number of beneficiaries of the state scholarship scheme and constantly improving the infrastructure in the various strata of educational institutions in the state.

Neji, however appealed that students studying education as a programme should be considered for scholarship awards and more lecturers employed, more lecture halls and theatres constructed as such facilities will ensure effective delivery of lectures and proper conduct of semester examinations.



Cross River Set for Educational Improvement

Cross River Education programmes are geared towards a model in which its products can compete globally with their peers.

Governor Liyel Imoke stated this while declaring open a two-day mini-summit on Education at the State Library Complex, Calabar, recently. He said that the summit offers opportunity to look at global trends and come out with objectives of the state being somewhere in five years.

Imoke urged participants to evolve a pact, understanding and agree to achieve a minimum success because it is the desire of the state to create a difference in its effort to establish magnet schools to create centres of excellence.

He said the desire is not focused on public schools alone as government must intervene in mission schools to get them back to where they were before they were taken over by government and this will take effect from 2009, stressing that the challenge is that of being competitive and producing people who can compete in global economy.

According to Imoke, Education is powerful, and Cross River cannot be a leading state in Nigeria with low standard. In terms of quality and standard, the challenge among teachers is the willingness and desire to make everybody pass thereby making it irrelevant by lowering the standard to produce graduates within a world that is moving forward in science and technology, the

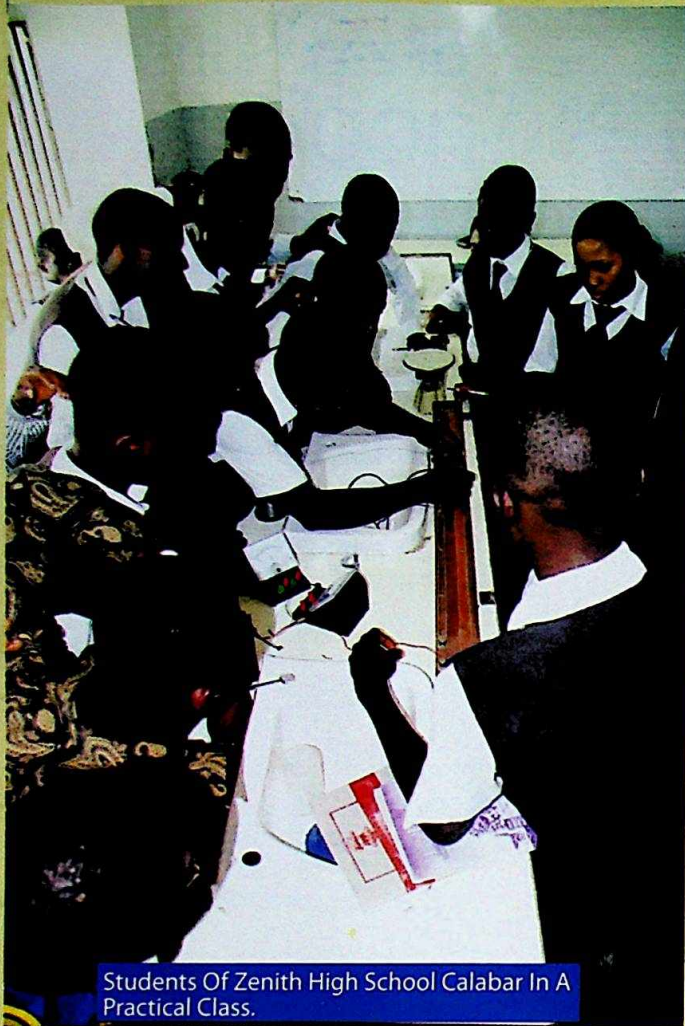
governor noted.

Senator Imoke said the state must remain firm but may not be popular in keeping quality standard for the children to have a chance among their peers from other countries, remarking that the state must key into the economy of the developed world that pride themselves in one thing which touches on the quality of education it provides to its citizenry.

Imoke said, today, children compete on internet, politics, sports, design on every sphere because science and technology has made the world a small place, advising that as the stakeholders deliberate on the way forward, they should share his thoughts and focus on quality of education and commit Cross River to high standards.

He said though the State has made significant gains in external examination, it is not yet there as there is still room for better performance. The governor emphasized that the state cannot meet its manpower needs through the kind of training it offers which remains the challenge, and that in their two days of meeting, they should advise, enlighten and show government the way forward.

Prof. Offiong E. Offiong, Commissioner for Education said the need to convoke the summit was informed by the fact that critical stakeholders should necessarily be involved in Government activities and their views as much as possible be



Students Of Zenith High School Calabar In A Practical Class.

integrated into government programmes, this he opined will enable government to receive feedback from the end users of various education policies of government in every aspect of the national life.

Offiong averred that education has been used as a potent weapon for technological advancement of many nations and the strides made could not have been attained without conscious effort by these nations to tailor their educational policies toward realizing these goals.

He disclosed that the purpose of the 2000 education summit

was to discuss and help government condense the myriads of ideas so far expressed into concrete policy statements, and develop strategies and a working document for their implementation. The summit, he said made a number of far-reaching recommendations which formed the blue print for the education sector in the last nine years.

According to Offiong, some of its recommendations include measures for quality control and sustenance, funding and measurement of school, merger of tertiary institutions, creation of more secondary schools, return of schools to missions, provision of infrastructure in schools and provision of pre-primary education to rural areas. Its achievements include the return of mission schools to their original owners with payment of grant in-aid to some of them, the merger of tertiary institution which crystallized into the establishment of CRUTECH, a number of model secondary schools which are in different stages of completion, the annual retraining of teachers which commenced in 2004 and has been sustained since then, production of textbooks, recruitment of teachers and payment of WAEC fees for indigenes.

On performance, he disclosed that percentage pass in SSII mock examination which rose from 57% (2007) to 66% (2008) and percentage pass in WAEC from 5% (2004) through 27% (2007) to 33% (2008) are additional gains of the measures adopted by government as the state has also witnessed a systematic reduction in prevalence of examination malpractice from 16.6% (2005), 10% (2006) to 6.5% (2007) and their effort has been boosted by the provision of 22 new vehicles for the inspection of schools across the state.

Mrs. Maria Theresa Ikwen, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education and Chairman of the 2008 Mini Summit on Education Committee, in her welcome remarks, said the forum would afford government opportunity to review, formulate and exchange ideas between it and stakeholders in the education sector.

Ikwen noted that papers would be presented on selected topics critical to improvement of educational standards as government cannot tackle it alone.



School Heads To Handle Renovation Of Schools

Henceforth, the Federal Government intends to send money for renovation of schools to school heads rather than to contractors to ensure accountability.

Dr. Sam Egwu, Minister of

Education disclosed this at a workshop of National Sensitization, Advocacy and Training on the 9-Year Basic Education Curriculum, the New Senior Secondary Education Curriculum Structure and Launching of the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council

(NERDC) in Calabar. He stressed that the idea is hinged on the fact that the contractor goes to sleep immediately he collects money for renovation of schools rather than do the job.

According to Egwu, the idea is geared towards renovating dilapidated



infrastructure in schools as well as create enabling environment for learning. He stated his pleasure with Cross River in its effort to revamp education and promised to partner the State to move education ahead.

Egwu described the workshop as a veritable instrument for the take-off of the programme which will be replicated throughout the nation, explaining that at the end of the workshop, there will be further interaction among stakeholders for effective result through implementation.

He blamed the type of education introduced by the colonial masters which was in place till 1999 as it placed emphasis on white collar jobs. The new programme is intended to make all children in schools computer literate, within the jet age, learn a skill in an entrepreneurial programme and establish a business, be a patriot as well as render services for the development of Nigeria. He added that apart from learning French and English, they are to be taught Nigerian languages because they are expected to communicate effectively with fellow citizens.

The Minister explained that the implementation of the 9-Year Basic Education Curriculum and indeed the new Senior Secondary Education Curriculum is a task for all stakeholders to effectively handle, saying that State Governments are expected to provide adequate funds and enhance the professional standards of their teachers as well as provide equitable remuneration.

Egwu, remarked that in the specific case of the upcoming new Senior Secondary Curriculum, State Governments and private school proprietors have between now and June 2011 to put in place the required infrastructure and resources that will effectively drive the successful take-off of the new Senior Secondary School Curriculum, emphasizing that teachers must develop professionally and remain committed to their work, Government must seek all avenue that will make them well prepared for their jobs, with

confidence and competence.

The Minister urged parents to fully support the education of their children and wards by providing care, love and resources for learning.

Governor Liyel Imoke of Cross River State while declaring open the workshop, described Egwu, who was once a Commissioner of Education in Ebonyi State as "a square peg in a square hole" and has come but to institute a change in the education sector, adding that participants should not only produce a blue print but ensure it is implemented.

Imoke suggested that education should create access, be affordable and qualitative. He revealed that Cross River has embarked on a comprehensive renovation of schools to create "Cross River Standard" and appreciated the Federal Ministry of Education for approving the examination curriculum on Tourism education, while the State will continue to print texts books at subsidized prices and operate the revolving account used for the production of new books.

He appreciated the Ministry for collaborating with Cross River in the success story of UBE in the State and implored stakeholders to join hands with Government to ensure students are fully equipped to compete with their counterparts from any part of the world.

The Executive Secretary, Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) Prof. Godswill Obioma in a speech, said the present advocacy, sensitization and training workshop on the new school curricula for teachers and education managers is one of the turn-around strategies aimed at improving teacher's capacity and inducing quality into education delivery and hoped the workshop would offer participants the opportunity to consider some of the issues and challenges in education, to improve teachers' competence.

Prof. Offiong E. Offiong, the CRS Commissioner for Education in a welcome address acknowledged the

cooperation which the State has received from NERDC as it has commenced a comprehensive intervention renovation of Primary Schools in accordance with UBE guidelines in its effort to make qualitative education accessible to all while calling for the establishment of a Federal Polytechnic in the State to enable it acquire middle level manpower.

Offiong appealed to the Federal Government to ban States from admitting students from other States to register purely to sit for external examinations as it has affected standard of education adversely.

Earlier during a courtesy visit in the State Executive Chamber, Imoke described the visit of Dr Egwu as significant to the State because of its status as the cradle of education in Nigeria which makes Calabar an ideal place for the workshop as the visitor would have the opportunity of informing people of the new policies education is adapting.

Imoke disclosed that the standard of education in the State started picking up three years ago when it introduced quality control through the introduction of mock examination to improve on poor education performance and that the tempo will be sustained.

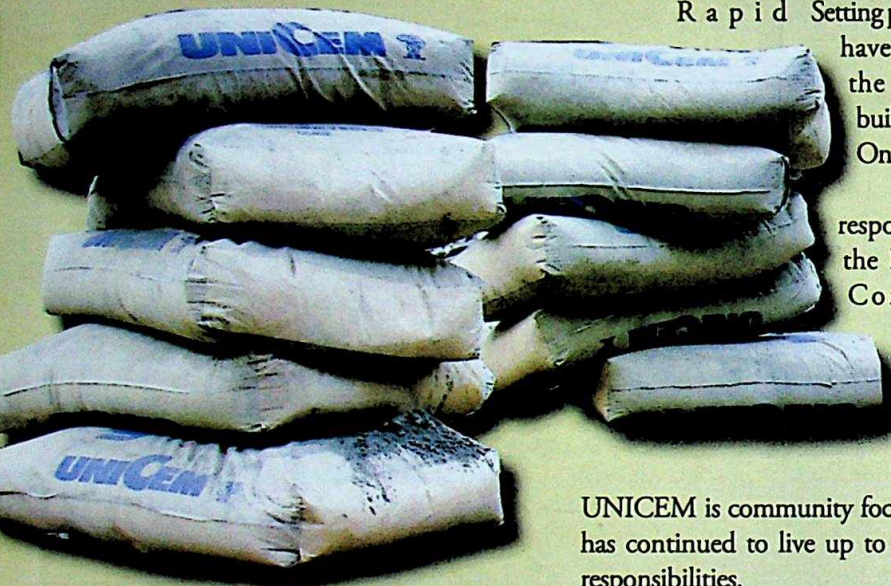
Dr Egwu, while briefing Imoke, said the envisaged programme is important for the development of education in Nigeria because it is a new curriculum and if fully implemented will turn the face of education, adding that his Ministry treats the reality of the curriculum in line with the Seven-Point Agenda of the administration and students that come out from the programme will be well informed especially in this era of information technology.

The former Governor of Ebonyi State blamed the problem of Nigeria on non-implementation of policies, stressing that the programme will be implemented because they intend to carry out a sensitization campaign from Local Government level for teachers to know and Nigerians to appreciate.

Cement Prices To Drop Soon?

Property developers in Calabar, Cross River capital and other neighbouring states in Nigeria can now heave a sigh of relief as there are indications that the price of cement will soon

homes. With rich raw material deposits that can support production in the next 70 years, UNICEM, Dr. Ghose re-iterated, shall remain focused in delivering cement whose tensile strength and



Rapid Setting properties have become the toast of builders.

On corporate responsibility, the Director, Corporate Affairs, Mr. Ayi Ita Ayi said

UNICEM is community focused and has continued to live up to its social responsibilities.

drop to the reach of ordinary Nigerians aspiring to build their own houses.

This indication is certain as the Mfamosing giant plant built by the United Cement Company of Nigeria Limited (UNICEM) is set to commence commercial production of cement soon.

Managing Director of the company, Dr Joey Ghose, disclosed this recently at Mfamosing during an interactive session with journalists.

Ghose said the new Greenfield Clinker and Cement Producing Plant at Mfamosing is the most technically advanced plant south of the Sahara and shall be producing over 2.5 million tones of Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) annually.

With such massive production capacity, the Managing Director expressed optimism that the price of cement will soon drop, making it possible for ordinary Nigerians to own their own

Mr. Ayi said UNICEM has invested heavily on infrastructural development, human empowerment and allied social amenities within its host communities. He added that such social obligations made it possible for the company to source its unskilled workforce from within its host communities.

It could be recalled that UNICEM came into being in 2002 when the Nigeria Cement Holding B. V (NCH) and Flour mills of Nigeria Plc acquired assets of erstwhile Calabar Cement company (CALCEMCO) after liquidation.

After acquisition, UNICEM embarked on a two phase development which saw the expansion of capacity of the Calabar factory and the development of the new ultra modern US \$800 million plant at Mfamosing.

The success of this giant industrial concern is expected to act as tonic to the fast growing economy of Cross River State.



...Tourism Academy continues



Federal Government has failed to live to its agreement to contribute to the project, adding that the state has decided to expand the Margaret Ekpo International Airport. Already ARM Limited has indicated interest in developing it even though there are some set-backs.

He maintained that because of the economic viability of the Airport occasioned by the tourism initiative of the State Government, more investors are indicating interest in investing and managing the facility after expansion, adding that the State awaits approval before anything is done bearing in mind that the facility is yet to be listed in the concession exercise.

Ekpo further disclosed that work on the proposed ₦5 billion Calabar Central Market is to commence before the end of the first quarter of the year, adding that the integrated facilities will cater for all categories of trading with other utility services in line with global trend.

On the monorail which is to serve as intra-city transport, the Special Adviser said, the State has taken delivery of the track components which is part of its contribution and raised the hope that the funding agreement will be reached with the African Export Import Bank which is the main financier to the project for its final take-off.





BAKASSI:

Displaced Nigerians, Housed

President Yar'Adua Commended

Governor Liyel Imoke of Cross River State has commended the efforts of President Musa Yar'Adua and Vice President Goodluck Jonathan in resettling the displaced people of Bakassi to the Republic of Cameroon. Imoke, who was speaking during the handing over of 208 housing units to displaced Nigerians from Bakassi recently said President Yar'Adua and the Vice President who is the Chairman of the National Boundary Commission have put in tremendous efforts to ensure the completion of the first phase of a comprehensive resettlement as well as bring succor to the people.

While expressing his deep appreciation to Yar'Adua, Imoke said without his support and understanding, the occasion would not have come to pass as he thanked the United Nations Mixed Commission, Donor Agencies and the Republic of Cameroon for their support that led to what has become a success story in Nigeria and acknowledged by the International Community as a model. The Governor noted that though 208 housing units were handed over, 3,000 housing units have been earmarked to accommodate all the Nigerians displaced following the Green Tree Agreement between Nigeria and the Republic of Cameroon.

He explained that in making the allotments, the main consideration was the number of the family heads and overall population from each State of the Federation involved in the displacement but the titles of the houses would be retained by



the Cross River State Government, stressing that this implies that no beneficiary may sell or mortgage the property.

The terms and conditions for the allocation of the houses according to him, would subsequently be handed over to the beneficiaries by the State Ministry of Lands and Housing. He gave a breakdown of the allocation as Akwa Ibom 21 units, Bayelsa 54 units, Cross River 32 units, Delta 6 units, Rivers 39 units, host communities 10 units, Bakassi Local Government Area 28 units and others 18 units.

He explained that the State intends to prepare a comprehensive resettlement plan that would address in detail, all needs of the displaced persons, and for this reason, a Board of Trustees that would be responsible for implementing the entire resettlement package is to be inaugurated soon by the State Government. The composition, the governor stated would include Governors of the affected States and other distinguished Nigerians who have shown enough zeal and willingness to ameliorate the plight of fellow Nigerians.

According to him, the board will be empowered to raise funds both within

and outside Nigeria for the comprehensive implementation of the resettlement plan, hoping that the expected goodwill and support of the programme from across the country and beyond, the final resettlement of the displaced Nigerians would not be long in coming.

Gov. Imoke disclosed that a number of activities have been planned to create awareness to the plight of the displaced persons as a number of agencies were involved in the transfer which was the most peaceful anywhere in the world. He thanked the people of Bakassi and Akpabuyo for their understanding and love for being their brothers' keeper as well as the security agencies involved in the process which recorded no violence.

He said there were several thousand of persons in the camp which recorded 13 births and all survived in spite of the challenges there, adding that the challenges of the first phase should not be underestimated as the next step is the handing over of fishing nets and boats to displaced fishermen to start a new life while commending the effort of the Federal Government towards the development of a day spring settlement which will keep the fishermen in shape.

Senator Florence Ita-Giwa, Chairman, Bakassi Resettlement Committee in an address, said their term of reference was to initiate an immediate resettlement



From Left: CRS Dep. Gov. Barr. Efiok Cobham, CRS Gov. Sen. Imoke, Chairman Bakassi LGA, Hon. Saviour Nyong, Sen. (Mrs) Ita Giwa, and Deputy Speaker CRS House of Assembly, Hon. Dominic Oqua at the official handing over of Bakassi houses to the beneficiaries

of the displaced Bakassi people and the project commenced on a fast note which they supervised to completion, saying that Imoke has shown great compassion for the people of Bakassi. She thanked the Cross River State Government for collaborating with the Federal Government in completing the project.

Ita-Giwa thanked the State Government for giving them the opportunity to serve, the Local Government for its support as well as the traditional rulers for their understanding because it was not easy to move people from their ancestral home to another place. She urged the people to be united as well as to show appreciation to the State and Federal Governments.

Mr. Saviour Nyong, the Chairman of Bakassi Local Government Area in a welcome address, commended the efforts of the Federal Government in the release of funds as well as the untiring efforts of Senator Imoke to ensure that the displaced persons were resettled and appealed to the National Assembly and Federal Government for the release of more funds.

Nyong averred that the 208 housing Units were inadequate for Bakassi with a population of 35,000 people and appealed that more be done to bring succour to the people. While speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mr. John D. Iyekorogbe, Commissioner for Special Duties (Central) Bayelsa State, said many had died in the process of displacement as many were alive to watch the occasion and commended the Federal Government for releasing funds for the construction of the housing units, adding that though they were sad when they were displaced, they are now happy with the provision of the houses. Iyekorogbe commended the Cross River State Government for using the money

effectively to ensure the displaced people are accommodated.

Meanwhile, Governor Liyel Imoke has described the resettlement of the displaced people of Bakassi as a national issue that needs the attention of concerned Nigerians and international donor agencies.

The Governor stated this while having an audience with House of Representatives Committee on Special Duties led by its Chairman, Hon. Samson Osagie, in Calabar. Imoke said though the handing over of Bakassi received international attention, the Green Tree Agreement did not make provision for the resettlement of those who opted to remain in Nigeria, stating that the resettlement process started a day after the handing over of Bakassi to Cameroon and has since remained an ongoing programme while the second phase will kick off soon with the provision of suitable accommodation for the riverine dwellers as a suitable location has been sited.

Imoke stressed that emphasis should be laid on how the people could be given a means of livelihood rather than on how much has been spent on providing infrastructure and referred to the House Committee assignment as critically important for a number of reasons including lack of appreciation and understanding of the challenges especially on the Green Tree Agreement and resettlement.

The Governor said he met a grievous situation on ground when he assumed office after the initial one billion naira funding had been made, and being aware that the handing over date was fast approaching, he started the first phase based on what had been arrived at by the previous Government to create new local government area coupled with the new challenges rising from

militancy, piracy, social and other related issues.

He averred that though the Green Tree Agreement was not designed for the displaced persons but to handing over the territory, a great difficulty has been met to resettle the people while the State had made attempts to resettle them irrespective of their State of origin. The state, said Imoke intends to work with the local government because they will take over its administration since they have the concrete number of the persons to be resettled and their means of livelihood because they were issued with identity cards while in camp.

Imoke disclosed that United Nations and other donor agencies did not make any financial contribution to resettle the displaced persons though it is a national problem. He said emphasis should be placed on what steps have been made for the displaced people by showing a genuine care

He disclosed that a Bakassi Resettlement Account has been opened and which can be audited by those who are interested while commending the significant support from National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to attend to the needs of the women and fishermen from the area.

On the boundary skirmishes between Cross River and Ebonyi States, Imoke said detailed information will be provided to the Committee.

Hon. Samson Osagie Chairman House Representatives Committee on Special Duties said they were in the State on oversight functions to address the boundary disputes between Cross River and Ebonyi States as well as ascertain the level of preparations for the resettlement of the displaced people of Bakassi.

Osagie said the Committee has been mandated to ascertain how the two billion Naira funds released by the Federal Government for the resettlement project has been utilized including challenges and prospects, adding that the lingering boundary disputes between the two States over farm land is one which the Federal Government desires to find a lasting solution to.

He disclosed that the Committee had earlier visited Bakassi Local Government Area where over 280 housing units allocated to families were inspected.

Imoke Plans 7,500 Houses

As part of its efforts to ease the acute accommodation problem in the Cross River capital, the state government plans to build at least 7,500 housing unit for its civil and public servants between now and 2012. The scheme which is to be carried in phases under a private partnership participation (PPP) arrangement is expected to commence with the construction of about 610 units in Akpabuyo Local Government area soon.

Special adviser to the governor on Mortgage Finance and Estate Management, Mrs. Rosemary Achonwa disclosed this in Calabar at the on-going media briefing of MDAs in the state. She further affirmed that documentation of prospective beneficiaries for the first phase, adding that plans were also underway to reposition the ailing Cross River Property Investment Ltd (CROSPIL) to make it more viable to meet its expected objective. She further revealed that government was also



Special Adviser, Mortgage Finance, Mrs. Rosemary Achonwa With Developers During An MoU Signing Ceremony Recently in Calabar

considering the possibility of introducing a pre-fabricated housing scheme as is obtainable in some advanced countries which she emphasized was more durable, less expensive and faster to provide depending on the terrain of the available land.

Mrs Achonwa further explained that government also plans to organize a stakeholders forum

to hold soon to fashion out the way forward for the housing programme. The forum which is to be chaired by the state Governor, Senator Liyel Imoke would be attended by the estate developers, Mortgage Finance Limited among other stakeholders stressing that it will come out with an acceptable accessible and affordable housing programme for the state.



Cross River Assures Armed Forces Of Commitment to Security

Cross River state Government has assured the armed forces of its total commitment and support to ensure peace and security within the Niger Delta in its effort to achieve its vision as a preferred destination.

Governor Liyel Imoke stated this while receiving the Chiefs of Army and Naval Staff, Lt. Gen. Abdulraman B. Dambazzau and Vice Admiral Ishaya I. Ibrahim during a courtesy visit in Calabar. Governor Imoke stated that the Joint Military operation earmarked by the military within the zone was capable of solving some of the challenges.

Imoke commended the service Chiefs for their approach to security matters as well as their channel of communication which also goes a long way to address the challenges. He added that the military approach is tailored towards the State's desire to achieve its economic vision because of its enormous tourism potential

Governor Imoke said the State will continue to cooperate with them through its commitment to peace for cordial relationship which exists between the state and the military.

The Governor, who described Cross River as beautiful and peaceful,



From Left: CRS Gov. Sen Liyel Imoke In A Warm HandShake With The Chief Of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ishaya Ibrahim And Chiefs of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Abdulraman B. Dambazzau During A Courtesy Call In Governor's-Calabar.

congratulated the Army and Naval Chiefs, the new GOC 82 Division Enugu, and the new FOC Eastern Naval Command, Calabar who were part of the entourage on their new promotions and postings.

Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ishaya I. Ibrahim speaking on behalf of the Governor's guests, said Cross River and other States which fall within the Niger Delta present a great challenge to the Armed Forces and it is their desire to see how the challenges can be tackled through personnel and capacity building, assuring that things will be done to ensure peace within the zone.

Ibrahim solicited the support of the State while looking for more cooperation between the military and civilians within the State, appealing that all should join hands to ensure the zone is crime free.



On the move

Imoke Calls For Security Within Coastal Areas



Governor Liyel Imoke of Cross River State has described the formation of the Inter Agency Maritime Security Task Force on Acts of Illegalities in Nigerian Waters as a timely decision towards curbing maritime related offences and a catalyst to promote economic activities within the area.

While receiving members of the task force led by its Chairman, Rear Admiral Joseph Dele Ezeoba during a courtesy visit, Imoke said the State which is located within the maritime zone, stands to benefit from the expertise of the task force because of the quality of its composition.

Imoke stated that Cross River is strategically located with historical antecedent and has contributed to the socio-economic development of the nation as well as being the headquarters of the Eastern Naval Command and Zone Six Command of the Nigeria Police.

He highlighted that the incidence of piracy came to the fore with the handing over of Bakassi to the Republic of Cameroon which has enhanced the proliferation of arms between Ikang and Bakassi waters, stressing the need to police the territorial waters to curb the ugly incident.

The Governor said the significant trade between Nigeria and Sao Tome, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea with Calabar as the gateway also calls for concern as there have been reports of piracy within those routes while promising to collaborate

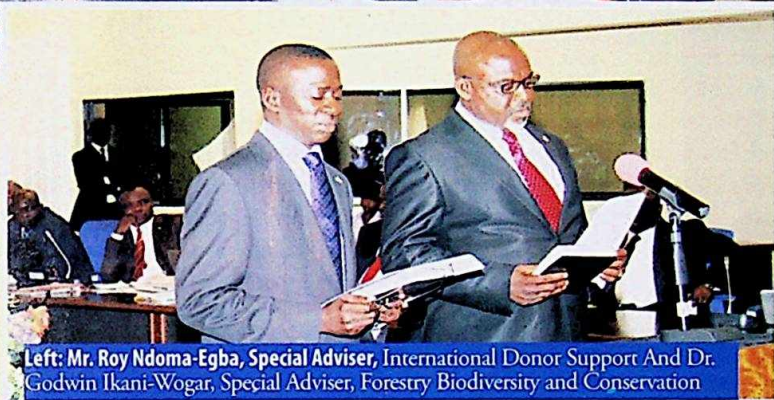
with the task force by implementing its recommendation to ensure safety within the region.

Rear Admiral Joseph Dele Ezeoba, Chairman of the Inter Agency Maritime Security Task force on Acts of Illegalities in Nigerian Waters explained that the task force was formed following reports of piracy within Nigerian territorial waters, adding that they are mandated to check all acts of illegal activities and security breaches in the coastal areas and take immediate action to address them.

Ezeoba explained that the composition of the task force include personnel from the Nigeria Army, Navy, Air Force, Customs, NIMASA, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport, SSS, Commerce and Maritime consultants to ensure effective policing of the coastal waters, stressing the need to review and strengthen the operations of security operators and regulatory agencies in the nation's Ports.

The Chairman said the task force is empowered to investigate and monitor the activities of licensed private jetty operators and sanction those found to be engaged in acts of illegalities as well as ensure immediate closure of all unlicensed and illegal private jetties, adding that they earlier visited Lagos, Ondo, Bayelsa, Rivers and at the end of their exercise in Cross River they will submit their recommendations to the government.





Left: Mr. Roy Ndoma-Egba, Special Adviser, International Donor Support And Dr. Godwin Ikani-Wogar, Special Adviser, Forestry Biodiversity and Conservation

Imoke Swells Exco, Tasks Members

In keeping with a proposal of appointing two new Special Advisers made to the Cross River State House of Assembly last year while presenting the State Budget, Governor Liyel Imoke has strengthened the State Executive Council with the appointment of Special Adviser, Forestry Biodiversity and Conservation and Special Adviser, International Donor Support.

Imoke averred that the Special Advisers were appointed for specific offices and have great responsibilities and assignments which are fundamental to the people, programmes and vision of Cross River. The governor noted that as the State moves on to the implementation of its programmes, certain challenges are met.

Imoke, while swearing in the new Special Advisers, called on members of the State Executive Council to be dedicated, committed, more creative and hardworking, stressing that “gone are the days when it was spend, spend, spend because all expenditure will be justified and those who fail to explain to my satisfaction, will not spend, and we cannot continue to conduct affairs in the manner that was done in the past”.

He said as the new executive members come on board, they should be reminded of the arduous tasks and responsibilities ahead because their offices are new in many ways in the State, stating that the office of Special Adviser Forestry Biodiversity and Conservation has not existed in Cross River before and is being created because of obvious challenges.

The Governor explained that the Forestry Commission does not have representative in the State Executive Council which makes it extremely difficult for the State to enforce some of its laws

and that it is its responsibility to ensure the realization of the vision of forest conservation and development.

Imoke disclosed that the Office of the Special Adviser International Donor Support is to liaise and coordinate all donor related programmes as well as responsible for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) programmes due to their challenges, because of the absence of a one-stop shop for their coordination in the State, emphasizing that the exercise which is handled by the State Planning Commission will now be taken over by the International Donor Support.

Dr. Godwin Ikani-Wogar is the Special Adviser, Forestry Biodiversity and Conservation while Mr. Roy Ndoma-Egba is Special Adviser International Donor Support.

Responding, Ndoma-Egba on behalf of his colleague said they were mindful of the aspiration and expectation of the State Government and thanked Imoke for finding them worthy to serve and promised not to let the State down.

Speaking earlier, Mr. Fidelis Ugbo, the Secretary to the State Government described the swearing in ceremony as another important milestone to deliver quality leadership in Cross River following Imoke’s promise to strengthen the Executive Council, stating that the new appointees are being brought into the team with wealth of experience.

Dr. Godwin Ikani-Wogar is a retired Livestock Officer while Mr. Roy Ndoma-Egba, a geologist, plays great role in some International Development Agencies and civil society network.

Deputy Governor Hails Committees On Oil Wells, Security

Mr. Efiok Cobham, Deputy Governor of Cross River State has described the visits of both the Technical Committee on the Verification of Oil Wells and Inter Agency Task Force on Maritime Security to the State at the same time as a good omen to the State.

Speaking at a dinner in honour of the two Committees at Peregrino Banquet Hall, Governor's Lodge, Calabar recently, Cobham said God has started to answer the prayer of the State as their visits could not have come at a more appropriate time because their membership is composed of tested and trusted Nigerians, hoping that by the time they submit their reports, the fortunes of Cross River will be for the better.

Cobham commended the Committees for not staying in the office to do their assignment but decided to go round and find out things for themselves, remarking that the loss of Bakassi to the Republic of Cameroun does not mean that Cross River does not possess oil.

He noted that of late the waterways in the littoral States have become dangerous because of the incidence of piracy and militancy and reports on such activities should be followed up with action because Cross River as a preferred destination, would want to remain safe to encourage investments, saying that it is the responsibility of all stakeholders including Federal, State and Local Governments to handle the challenges to enhance economic operations within

the State.

Cobham disclosed that preparations for 2009 Cross River State Carnival have begun and invited members of the two Committees to be in Cross River in December while advocating that next time they should take more time to savour from Bakassi to Obudu which is heaven on earth.

Alhaji Abu Gidado, Chairman Technical Committee on Verification of Oil Wells in a remark, said the Committee received tremendous cooperation from communities visited as the people were helpful because every one showed concern and was prepared to assist them while expressing gratitude to the State for making their assignment less cumbersome.

Captain Ben Oyobolo, who represented the Chairman Inter Agency Task Force on Maritime Security, said the activities of militants within the Niger Delta were worrisome while the Joint Task Force has been doing a good job within the zone to put it under control.

Oyobolo said because of the success recorded by the Joint Task Force in other States criminal activities in Akwa Ibom and Cross River have been on the increase, adding that they have completed their reports as they do not want Cross River to be a haven for criminals because of its desire to be a preferred destination.

FIFA NIGERIA 2009, Jack Warner Tips Calabar Centre

Jack Warner, FIFA Vice-President has expressed satisfaction with the level of preparedness as exhibited by the Cross River State Government toward hosting FIFA Under-17 World Cup in October, 2009.

Speaking to newsmen at the Margaret Ekpo International Airport during their last inspection visit and after watching a multimedia presentation on facilities being put in place in Calabar which is one of the nine centres vying to host the tournament, Warner said apart from being the cleanest and the greenest city among the centres visited coupled with its high level of hospitality, he hoped all facilities earmarked for the tournament will be put in place at the end of April when the team will call again.

Warner disclosed that Amos Adamu an executive member of FIFA will undertake a fortnightly inspection of all ongoing works to appraise standard of commitment as well as spur the contractors to complete work before schedule.

He commended Mr. Efiok Cobham, the Chairman of the Calabar Sub Seat Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and Deputy Governor of Cross River State for the level of work which his Committee has attained especially the World class health facility which it intends to put in place before the tournament.

Mr. Cobham disclosed that the LOC has the full backing of the State Government and though FIFA is impressed with Calabar's level of preparedness, the State is not yet there, stressing that everything will be put in place to meet FIFA's standard.

Earlier in the State Executive Council Chambers, where a one minute silence was observed in honour of late Chief Oyo Orok Orok (Mr. Football) one of the football icons

from Cross River, Warner presented a plaque to Cobham after watching a multimedia documentary on the State's approach to the tournament as presented by the Chief Press Secretary/Special Assistant – Media, Mr. Patrick Ugbe, saying that he is in love with the different cuisines from Calabar.

Cobham noted that the medical equipment expected to be put in place will meet standards anywhere in the world as the State is doing everything to ensure its successful hosting of the game in Calabar because the city is "home of football", adding that it is in the State's desire to host other football tournaments whether national or international that it intends to put in place world class facilities.

At the U. J. Esuene Stadium, one of the stadia inspected by the FIFA team, Cobham disclosed that the Committee decided to step up the number of flood light lux from 1200 to 1500 because the quality keeps dropping after every two years and the State does not want to be caught napping in case of other football tournaments.

The Deputy Governor disclosed that facilities earmarked for the stadium will be put in place by the end of the first quata which the State sees as its bench mark, and described Calabar as the most peaceful city within the South-south geopolitical zone.

According to him all security agencies in the State have been co-opted into a joint operative known as "OPERATION MESA" which makes the State a safe haven within the nation.





I'm Not Against OGOJA STATE

- Ndoma Egba

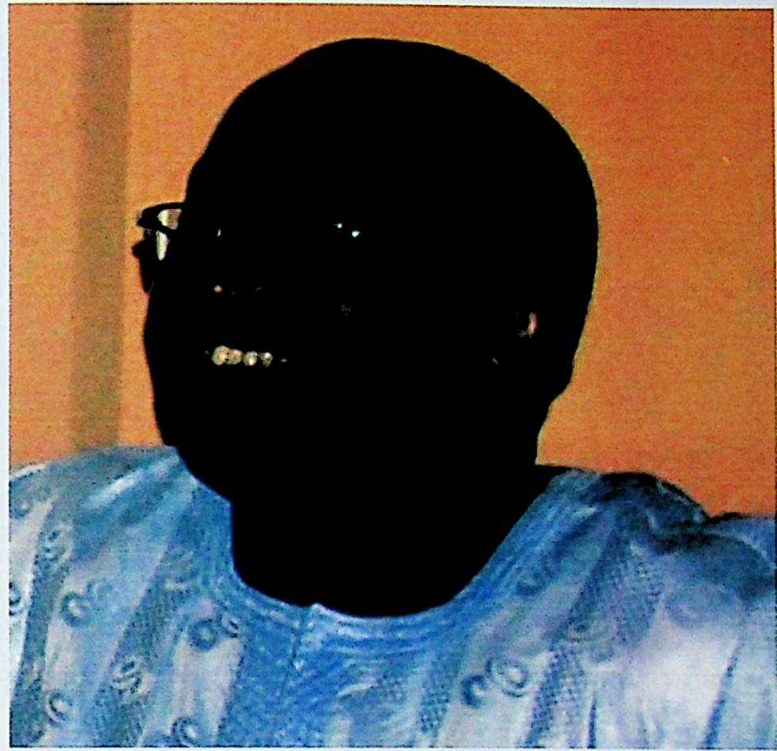
Senate Deputy Leader, Senator Victor Ndoma Egba (SAN) has debunked rumors making the rounds that he was not in support of the creation of Ogoja State.

While presenting account of his stewardship in the Central Senatorial District in Ikom, Cross River State recently, Senator Ndoma Egba (SAN) said he was not opposed to the creation of states, emphasizing that state creation exercise was cumbersome which according to him, must first begin with a request to the senate. "For now there is no request for the creation of Ogoja State. Once such a request is presented in compliance with the constitutional requirement, we, your representatives, will stand where the will of the people is" he said.

Senator Ndoma-Egba enjoined the people of the Central Senatorial District and the People's Democratic Party faithfuls to support Senator Liyel Imoke's administration, pointing out that the speedy development of the state tops both Imoke and the federal legislator's agenda. He said since he became a senator, a scholarship foundation was instituted for students from the six LGAs in the various tertiary institutions adding that over N36 million had been disbursed to beneficiaries with over 280 students penciled down for the award this academic year.

In the post graduate category, two students from each Local Government Area in the Senatorial District will benefit from the scholarship beginning from this academic session. On micro-credit scheme which he instituted, Senator Ndoma-Egba said the first batch of beneficiaries failed to embrace the scheme as planned. He said the second phase will only be given to female entrepreneurs who are ready to comply with the tenets of the scheme. "The project is now a colossal failure. Beneficiaries walked away with money given to them".


Other projects initiated in the district included water projects in Wula, Boki Local Government Area and that of Akparabong currently handled by Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), 120 motor bikes shared amongst the

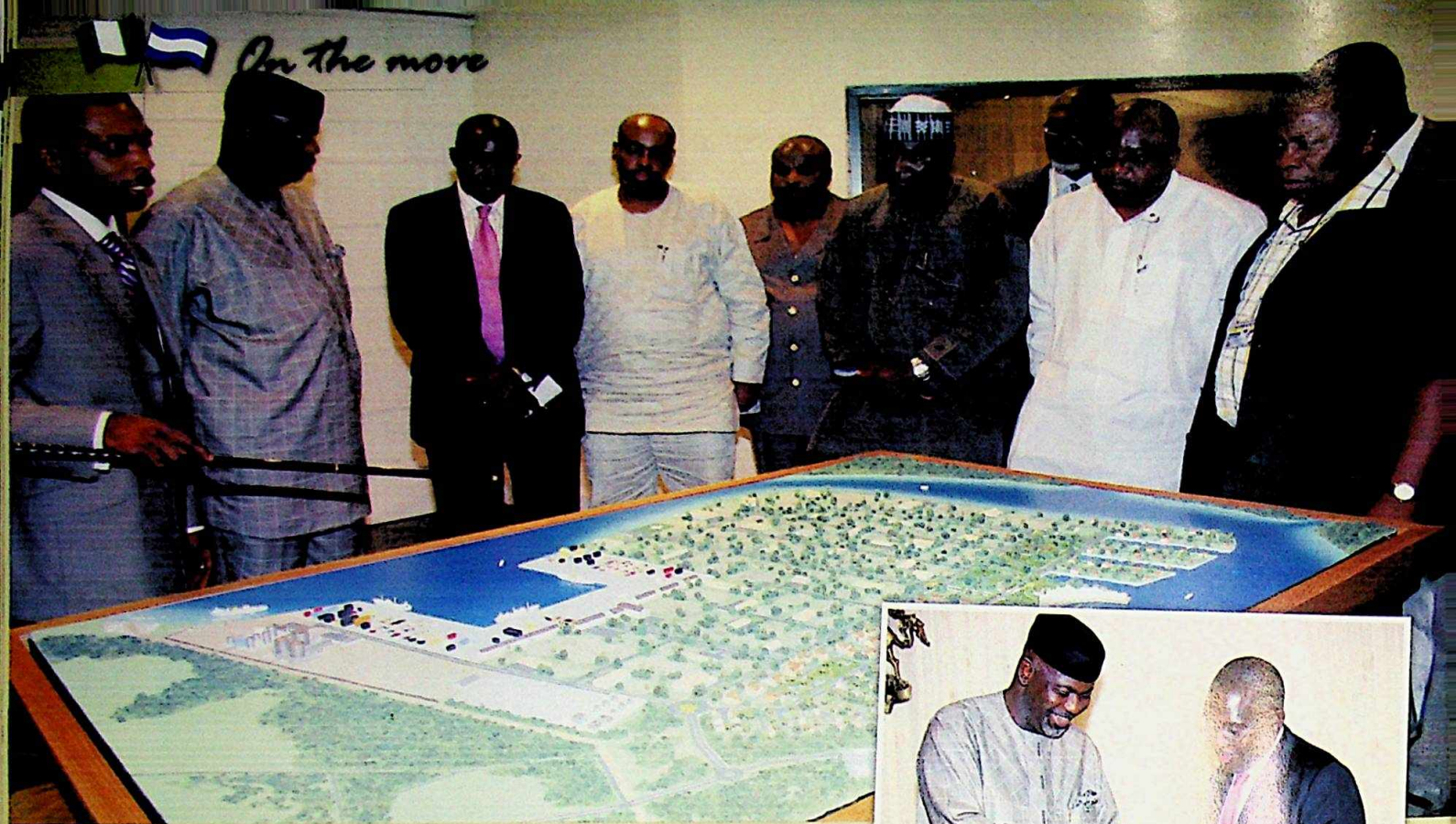


six local government areas and sponsorship of four persons on pilgrimage to Israel, one of whom is an Ibo man, a non-indigene.

Senator Ndoma-Egba also hinted that a consortium of twenty firms will soon commence the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Abakaliki-Ogoja-Ikom-Nfum trans-sahara highway which will pass through Cameroon to Mombassa in Kenya.

Senator Ndoma-Egba further enjoined party faithfuls and the people to see the forum as an avenue for harmonizing issues which are capable of making the people to be kept abreast with what both the legislative and executive leaders are doing for the people.

Dignitaries at the stakeholders forum included Rev. Benedict Ikobi, first PDP state chairman, Chief (Barr) K.T. Kekung Asu, Col. Pam Ogar, Hon. Kevin Akonjom, Elder Bolaji Anani, Hon. John Owan Eno, Hon. Bassey Ewa, Hon. Chris Sunny Etta, Ntufam Ekpo Okon, State PDP chairman, Ntufam (Dr) Gabriel Odu Orji and the six Local Government Council Chairmen from the senatorial district, among others. 



Cross River State Government has received the gazette on the operational regulations policy and guidelines framework on Tinapa Business and Leisure Resort from the Federal Government for activities to commence at the Resort. Governor Liyel Imoke disclosed this when he received the Managing Director, Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) Abdulsalam Mohammed who led other management staff during a courtesy visit, saying that with the go ahead, NPA could play a great role for the State to realize its vision of becoming a preferred destination. Imoke stated that though the State financial standing cannot be compared to other oil producing States within the Niger Delta, its has the political will to steer its lean resources with determination to become a model within the region, adding that the dredging of Calabar channel will boost economic and agro activities within the State. The Governor said with Cross River being the highest producer of palm oil, second highest producer of cocoa and one of the highest producers of rubber in Nigeria, the completion of the dredging exercise will spur the springing up of industries in Cross River thereby replacing the different mills which currently abound in the State. He noted that the framework provides opportunity for NPA to make Calabar Port active because currently “Calabar

is the worst Free Trade Zone on earth”, and its success depends on the operation of the Port to attract investments, stressing that Calabar is strategically located within the Niger Delta and the most peaceful within the region and with the release of the gazette and cooperation of NPA, its Port can function. Imoke reasoned that one of the methods to decongest the Lagos Port is to divert vessels to Calabar Port where facilities are available, adding that the concession of Nigerian Ports is the best option to be introduced by the Federal Government while its reform is the best way of enforcing efficiency, service delivery as well as generating revenue. Imoke, who showed the management team the model of the proposed Calabar Energy City Project which is a Public Private Partnership (PPP), said its success will equally depend on the cooperation and support of NPA as sand dredged from Calabar channel could be used to sandfill the swampy Portion of the project before construction commences. He also suggested that NPA could undertake the building of jetty for those proposing to build tank farms in Calabar as well as provide them with fire fighting equipment and other essential infrastructure, because the NNPC tank farm in Calabar cannot provide enough fuel to cover the North East flank of the country. Mr. Abdulsalam Mohammed, Managing



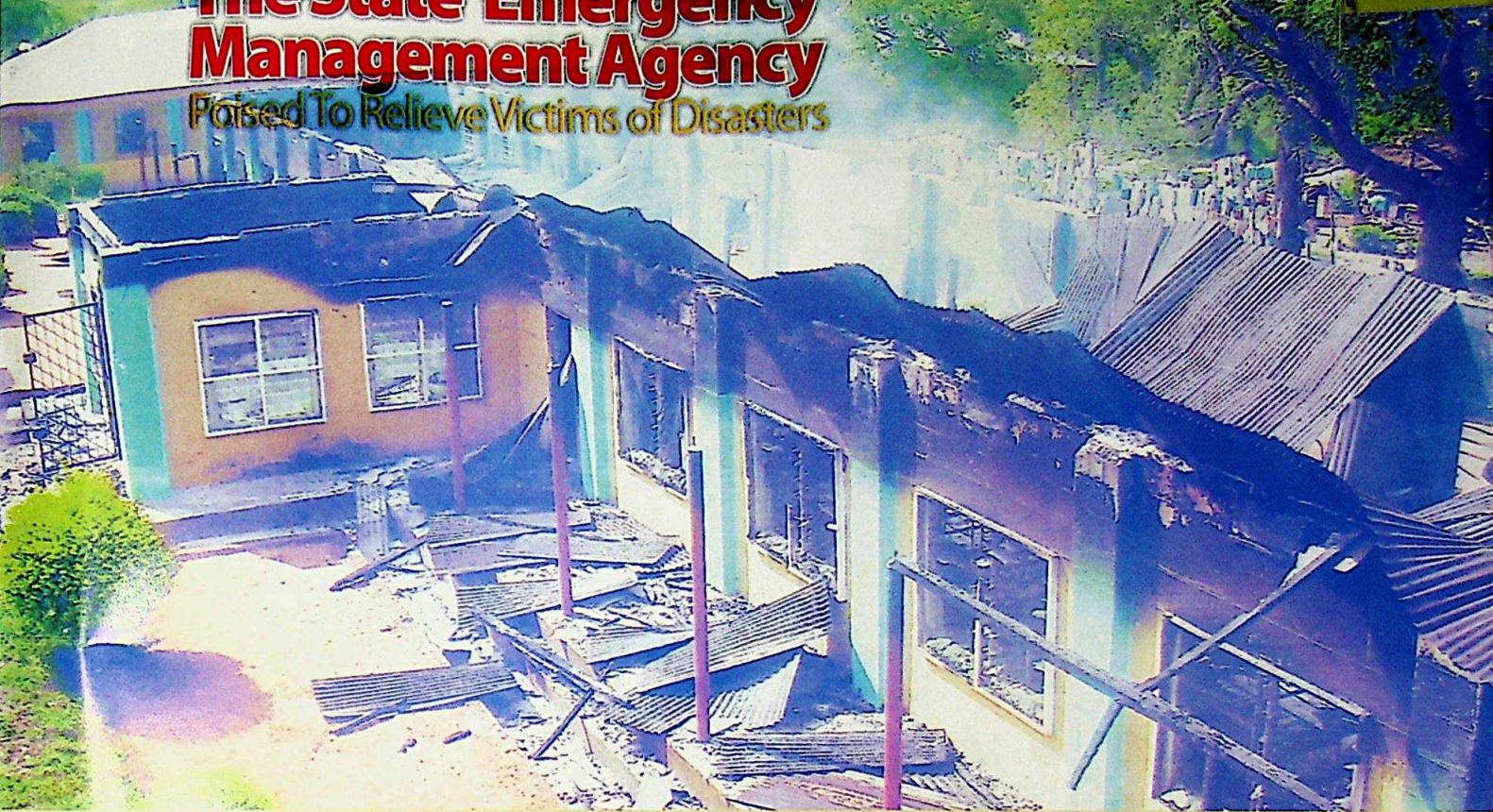
Gov. Imoke With MD, NPA, Abdulsalam Mohammed

Director NPA said his visit to the State was to essentially access facilities at Calabar Port, access challenges facing the authority as well as interact with staff, saying that the reformation process of the Ports is ongoing. Mohammed debunked reports that Ports have been privatized, saying that what NPA does is to run the Ports with the landlord of where they are situated and has adopted a Public Private Partnership (PPP) which benefits both parties, disclosing that the adopted method is what is practised worldwide and has contributed to the growth of the Ports. The Managing Director disclosed that contract for the expansion of Calabar channel to 10 meters was awarded in 2006 to two indigenous contractors who were mobilized but completion has not been achieved, hoping that it will be achieved this year. He said the authority has commenced the process of mapping the Calabar channel to create safety and had advertised for bids and completed the process which requires procurement while appreciating the support and cooperation which it has received from the State and pledged its intention to continue dialoging with the State.

The State Emergency Management Agency

Poised To Relieve Victims of Disasters

On the move



The consistent response of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to the needs of disaster victims in the state is a loud testimony of the Senator Liyel Imoke led administration's commitment to the welfare of Cross Riverians. The Executive Secretary of the Agency, Mr. Vincent Aquah has not relented in radiating the good spirit of the governor at every point of delivery of relief materials. He states openly the willingness of the governor to remain focused in his people-oriented policies and programmes.

Established in 2001 from what used to be Emergency Relief Committee, SEMA has the onerous task of being responsive to the plight of the people of the state who suffered disaster both man-made and natural. The Agency has the mandate to reduce to the barest minimum and if possible prevent disasters and their severity in the state. It's responsibility and scope of work has expanded from the hitherto status of merely relieving victims of disasters to forecasting, prevention/mitigation, response, recovery, reduction and

development. The need for such expansion is basically to remain in tune with the demands of the time brought about by increase in types and rate of disasters in the world.

The successful relocation, settlement and humanitarian concern of returnees from Cameroon following the handover of Bakassi Peninsular to Cameroon is one of the landmark achievements recorded. In fact, this feat has attracted encomiums from all over the world to the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the state government in general.

With the support from relief sources such as the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the State Government and International Partners, the agency has been able to rise up to the needs of the disaster victims in the state.

Several materials worth millions of naira such as corrugated roofing sheets, cement, mattresses, plastic buckets, wood, foodstuff including bags of rice, beans, garri, salt, sugar as well as clothings, toiletries, cooking utensils, oils etc have been delivered to cushion the effect of disasters.

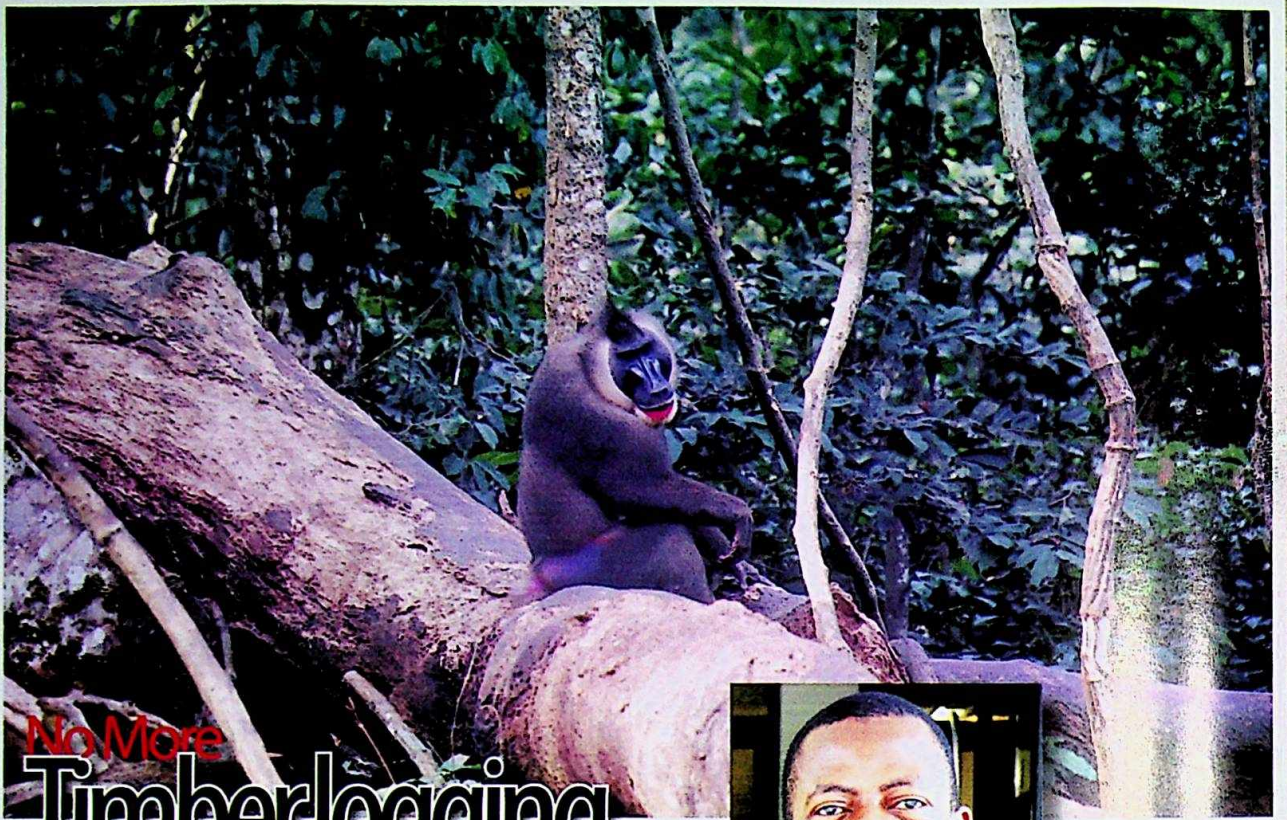
The Executive Secretary, Mr. Vincent Aquah at every opportunity had been vocal in acknowledging the good nature of the governor, Senator Liyel Imoke who had always been willing to wipe tears off the faces of suffering Cross Riverians.

Recent delivery of materials were made to the displaced people of Bakassi, Cameroon refugees/host communities in Obanliku, victims of flood and windstorm disasters in Edor in Ikom, Okundi in Boki and Abuochiche in Bekwarra, Obubra and Ukwa in Odukpani Local Government Area. Also recently SEMA made its impact in the disaster in Abi Local Government Area. It has always been the concern of SEMA that as much as possible, preventable disasters should be avoided.

Mr. Vincent Aquah advised the people to adopt a means of constructing their buildings taking cognizance of the terrain and should be in line with the existing laws. According to him, crops should be cultivated in areas that are not prone to flooding.



David Akate
Assistant Director (Information)



No More Timber logging In Cross River State



Dr. Julius Okputu
Comm. For Environment

Cross River State, the hitherto timber hotspot in the country is now a no-go area as government laid down an order to operatives to henceforth cease logging in its forest pending reforestation between two to four years before business activities are permitted.

Consequently, His Excellency, Senator Liyel Imoke, Governor of Cross River State has constituted a task force to arrest and prosecute any person flouting the order while alternative source of livelihood is being fine-tuned for people living in the enclave.

The Commissioner for Environment Dr. Julius Okputu, who disclosed this during a Ministerial briefing in Calabar, said that government's decision was informed by its preparedness to attract the N30b carbon credit fund by 2012 through forest protection and preservation by effectively implementing the climate change programme of the Ministry.

He maintained that already, the constituted task force has started

operation and a number of persons so far arrested are awaiting prosecution while forestation exercise to drive home this vision has begun with vigorous tree-planting.

Okputu further disclosed that the Calabar estuary mangrove swamp which is part of the remaining rain forest in the country has also been declared a Reserve Area, adding that as the world's 25th bio-diversity hotspot, the Ministry has concluded arrangement to educate the populace, who are yet to key into ethical value for clean and green environment, on the impact of degradation by encouraging preservation and protection while the review of environmental law is under way.

On the climate change currently experienced at the Obudu Cattle Ranch, the Commissioner said that the change is as result of the removal of the vegetation coverage occasioned by bush burning and other degrading practices and not physical development as purported by some quarters, adding that the beautification

and greening of the Ranch would restore its atmospheric condition soon.

Highlighting on the performance of the various Urban Development Agencies across the state, Okputu said though government has put a machinery in motion to achieve effective refuse evacuation with the provision of modern equipment, residents will soon be surcharged because according to him, waste management is capital intensive and government alone cannot bear it. In the same vein, a Public Private Partnership, PPP, would be worked out to even the cost of waste management.

The Commissioner revealed that the issue of Erosion which has threatened the state over the years is gradually being addressed with effective utilization of ecological fund provided by the Federal Government, adding that erosion control does not only entail concrete work, and that other national protection methods are being adopted to check the menace.



Prof. Joe Irukwu, President, Ohanaeze Ndi Igbo, presenting the award for Best Governor on Rural and Agric. Devpt & Empowermt, South-South to Gov. Liyel Imoke while Bishop Sunday Onuoaha watched during Item Day Celebration in Abia State.

Imoke Wins Award In Agriculture, Empowerment

Governor Liyel Imoke of Cross River State has been awarded the 2008 Best Governor of the Year on Rural Agricultural Development and Empowerment in South-South geo-political zone by the Item Development Association (IDA), Abia State.

Presenting the award, the Chairman of the 2008 Item Day Celebration at Okoko Item, Prof. Joe Irukwu, said the award was in recognition of Imoke's vision to turn Cross River into a destination for investors and tourism.

Irukwu said IDA appreciates the love and affection which Imoke has for the people which the Item people are proud of him because they equally believe in development as well as preach harmony, peace and unity.

Responding, the Governor, described the award as a great honour to be recognized by people so far away from Cross River, disclosing that he visited the area in 1975 while on vacation and commended them for

their effort and creativity for the award and other development programmes.

Imoke prayed they continue to sustain the programme as Item will progress from strength to strength because the area which in 1975 had one traditional ruler now has 27 due to its expansion and development, stating that the award was a great honour as the area is a second home to him due to his affiliation to them.

He lauded the people for their industry as one of them, AIG Azubuko J. Udah is in charge of Zone 6 Police Command, Calabar.

Other awardees included Senator Ike Ekweremadu Deputy Senate Leader, 2008 Best Personality of the Year on Rural Development in Nigeria, Dr. Theodore A. Orji, Governor of Abia State, 2008 Best Governor of the Year on Rural Transformation in South East, Chief Godswill Akpabio Governor of Akwa Ibom State 2008 Best Governor of the Year on Community Service and Development in South-South and Dr. Mau'Azu Babangida Aliyu, Governor of

Niger State 2008, Best Personality of the Year on Rural Development in the North.

Others are Alhaji Aliko Dangote, President Dangote Group of Companies, 2008 Best Personality of the Year on Rural Industrialization in Nigeria, Owelle Rochas Okorochoa, President/Founder Rochas Foundation Nigeria, 2008 Best Personality of the Year on Rural Education in Nigeria, Chief Timi Alaibe, Managing Director, NDDC, 2008 Best Personality of the Year on Rural Infrastructural Development in Nigeria and Dr. Magnus Kpakol SSA to the President/National Coordinator NAPEP, 2008 Best Personality of the Year on Rural Economic Development in Nigeria.

Imoke later visited the country home of Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu, the immediate past Governor of Abia State at Igbera, Bende Local Government Area to felicitate him on the traditional retirement ceremony of his mother, Elder (Mrs.) Eunice Uzor Kalu, from business, politics and active communal service during the 2008 prestigious Ezumezu Festival in the area.

Two Refineries For Cross River Soon

Cross River is to benefit from the conducive environment available in the state for investors as two privately owned refineries are to be sited in Calabar.

The two companies that have indicated interest are Total Support with investment capital of 115 million US Dollars and Lloyds Energy Investment valued at 95 million US Dollars with the capacity of 12,000 barrel per day and 10,000 barrel per day (bpd) respectively.

These proposals were unfolded by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Investment Promotion, Mr. Gerald Adah during the weekly media briefing in Calabar. Mr. Adah disclosed that the state government has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the prospective investors.

According to him, the Total Support Group is expected to commence full activities on site by August this year while preliminary survey pending mobilization on site has been concluded by Lloyds Energy.

He told journalists that 13 other companies have indicated interest in various areas as Bio-Diesel production, industrial Parks and Resorts as well as Real Estate Development among others given the advantageous position and hospitable disposition of the state and her citizenry.

The Special Adviser stated that the state government has also initiated a micro-credit scheme to assist small and medium scale enterprises to key into investment opportunities with an initial grant of N560 million.

Adah explained that the grant was secured by the joint effort of both the federal and state governments with another N500 million budgeted this year to expand the scope of the exercise to enable more entrepreneurs to draw from.

He explained that sensitization workshops are to be organized in the 18 local government councils of the state on the existence of the facility, adding that the loan which is granted by Access Bank Plc will be disbursed by all the Micro Finance Banks (MFB) which he noted have grass root contact to enable more groups to benefit from the gesture.

The Special Adviser explained further that the support source put in place to encourage investments in the state through the establishment of a one stop investment centre that consists of staff from related Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) is the second in the country after that of the federal government in Abuja. Adah said that the investments will eliminate bottlenecks and encourage investments in the state, adding that the centre which has a vital link with the Abuja centre will soon start to operate.

On the Technology Incubation Centre in Calabar, he said that the Investment Promotion Bureau has accepted to renovate it and provide a vehicle to stimulate activities with a plan to ensure that all its products meet the required standard. Plans he said are underway to utilize a portion of the Federal Government Industrial Development centre for the Northern Senatorial District while another one has been planned for Ikom in the Central Senatorial District of the state.

The Special Adviser lamented the underutilization of the Calabar Port which he noted would have stimulated the economy of the state as well as generate employment opportunities which abound in its services, adding that effort is being doubled to ensure that the Calabar River channel is dredged to attract bigger ships with deeper draught to berth.



Mrs. Naomi Archibong
Chairperson AFAC

The future of every nation lies in the destiny of her children; it therefore stands appropriate that the leaders of the nation provide a platform where the child is given a standard life.

In the words of the President of the federal republic of Nigeria, President Umaru Yar'Adua, "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"; throw great insight on the relevance of the child in any society.

Cross River State without doubt is one of the states in the country that is child oriented as demonstrated in Mothers

Against Child Abandonment, the free medical services for children from zero-five(0-5) years and pregnant women etc. As the sensitization on the child citizen gain grounds in the state, attention are geared towards addressing the various challenges encountered by the children in order to create the enabling environment for their growth and development.

This conscious effort by the state government and all other NGO's is built on the policy that every child has the right to a standard life, a right to education, good health, and the appropriate way of life that will give the child a meaningful life. This policy guides the initiative of Mrs Naomi Archibong, Chairperson, Akpabuyo Fit For

A Child (AFAC), with a focus to bring to the grassroots the awareness of the child citizen in Akpabuyo, and the society at large.

AFAC is an initiative aimed at raising awareness of the peculiar challenges of children in Akpabuyo, improving on the existing high infant and mortality rates, providing basic health care for children, facilitate the amendment of the existing penalties on rapists, child abuse, child trafficking and labour, promoting academic excellence, qualitative education, individual and corporate social responsibility towards Akpabuyo children.

S/N	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES/ STRATEGIES	TARGET BENEFICIARIES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	OBJECTIVE VARIABLE INDICATOR (CVI)	MEANS OF VERIFICATION (MOV)	TIME FRAME	AMOUNT	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE
1	To promote total 100% ownership of AFAC in the LGA by Stakeholders and Policy markets	1.1 Formative and Inauguration of AFAC Committee at the LGA	The entire LGA	Chairperson/ WDO	Numbers of Meetings	Report attendance	Jan, Feb., 2009	30,000.00	LGA
		1.2 Inauguration of Ward Committee on AFAC	10 wards and 30 village	Chairperson / WDO	Number of sensitization meetings	Attendance list report	Jan, Feb., 2009	70,000.00	LGA
2	HEALTH								
	To sensitise Communities and Community Involvement	2.1 Community enlightenment through wards and villages	Wards/Villages	C/P, WDO, Wards and Village Committee	Reports	Increased utilization of AFAC Programmes	Feb - Dec., 2009 (Continuous)	100,000.00	HCA, WD, EDU
		2.2 Formation of Health/ Clubs in Primary and Sec. Schools	Women Groups and Youth etc.	C/P and WDO	Number of Clubs active	Report		100,000.00	
3	To increase Immunization coverage to 50%	31 strengthen routine immunization	All the Communities	C/P WDO, PHCC	Data and Records	Immunization Register Vaccines Collected and distributors	on-going	1,000,000.00	Donor Agencies, LGA
	Immunization	3.2 Local Immunization Days (LIDs).	Pregnant Mother Children 0-5 months	C/P, WDO, PHCC	Reports Data	Immunization Register	Continuous		LGA
		3.3 Provision of Free Drugs	Pregnant Mothers and Children 0-5 months	C/P WDO PHCC	Report	Data	continous		SMOH, LGA

4	Nutrition								
	To increase the nutritional status of pregnant women and children under 5 years to 50%	4.1 Monitoring of community growth	All the Community	C/P WDO, PHCC	Number of weighing scale increased.	Records	on-going		IHC
		4.2 Planting of Nutrition Garden in the acquired land	Ikot Eyo farm	C/P WDO, Agric (HOD)	1 large farm planted	Record March 2009			WD, Agric.
		4.3 Complimentary fund demonstration	mother and care giver	C/P WDO PHCC	No. of Food demonstrated	Records			Agric./PHCC
5	Safe Motherhood								
	To reduce the incidence of maternal mortality by 50%	5.1 Train 60 TBAs in the LGA for 2 weeks on safe motherhood in 2 batches	Un-trained TBAs	C/P, WDO PHC	60 TBAs trained in 2 Batches	Attendance Register	June and October, 2009	200,000.00	PHC LGA/WD
		5.2 Provision of 60 delivery kits to 60 trained TBAs	60 trained TBAs	LACA, HOD, WDO, C/P WDO, PHCC	60 Delivery Kits Provided	Attendance Register	June, 2009 - Oct., 2010		Donor Agencies
		5.3 Provision of 10 delivery kit to 10 healths facilities	10 Healths facilities	C/P, WDO PHCC	10 healths facilities provided for Delivery Kits	Attendance Register			PHC
		5.4 Distribution of condom	All Communities	C/P WDO, PHCC LACA	Photograph and reports from Communities	Records	Continuous		LACA
5.5 Sensitive TBAs on the prevention of malaria		Pregnant Mother and Children under 5 years	LGA	Records	ITN Provided and distributed	March to May	100,000.00	LGA	
6	To increase access to comprehensive gender sensitive prevention care, treatment and support services for the general population PLWHA and Orphans	6.1 Identify various groups to be sensitized e.g Okada market women etc. school children	children 0 - 18 years	C/P LACA, WDO	under 18 years in the Community identified	Data Register.	Sept - Dec. 2009	Donor Agencies	LACA
		6.2 Advocacy to Chairman of Council, Legislative EXCO, Traditional Rulers to scale up Service Delivery Points (SDPs)	Council C/M EXCO, Legislative Traditional Rulers	C/P, WDO, LACA	Number of advocacy visits made	Records Registers Photographer	July, 2009	50,000.00	WD/ LACA
		6.3 Establishment of VCT in School	Secondary School Children	C/P LACA, WDO Healths	Number of Children Tested Positively Counselling	Statistics	Sept 2009 - March 2010	200,000.00	Donor Agencies/LACA
7	Education								
	Building Capacity and linkage among secondary school children on AFAC	7.1 Advocacy to Principal of School and Head Teacher.	Principal and Head Teachers	C/P, WDO, HOD Edu.	All Principal and Head Teachers Sensitized	Records Minutes	April, 2009		EDU/WD
7.2 One day seminar on AFAC for Secondary School Children		Secondary School Children	Resource Persons	Secondary School Children acquire knowledge on AFAC	Lecture Notes Attendance Lists	April, 2009		EDU/WD	
8	Building the Capacity social potential of school children in English as a Second Language	Debate Competition for Secondary Schools	Secondary Schools Students	C/P WDO	Debate Competition	CUP, WON	Sept - Dec., 2009	100,000.00	WD/EDU
9	WD Unit								
	To Provide empowerment targeting vulnerable group	Identify mobilised children dropped out of school	those dropped out of school due to teenage pregnancy HIV/AIDs and poverty	C/P WDO	vulnerable children empowerment	Inventory Attendance Register Records Pictured			WD
10	To improve monitoring management of AFAC in the LGA	Carryout monthly review meeting with various committes and stakeholders	the entire communities	Chairperson / Committee	Number of meeting held	Records	Continuous	500,000.00	WD



Calabar Open Golf Championship

(Governor's Cup)

Venue:

Calabar Golf Club

Date: 7th - 12th April, 2009

7th - 10th PRO-AM

11th-12th Amateurs

Business or Leisure

Welcome Home