



Abia Gov. Otti Has Made Me Proud
– Chief Uche Agwu Udo **Pg 10**



Governor Eno Presents First Year Scorecard, Outlines Future Plans

Akwa Ibom State Governor, governance in the following years of his administration. Pastor Umo Eno, has attributed the successes recorded in his first year in office to God's grace and the massive support of Akwa Ibom people, as he outlined plans to increase the tempo of celebration at the Uyo Township...

continues on back cover



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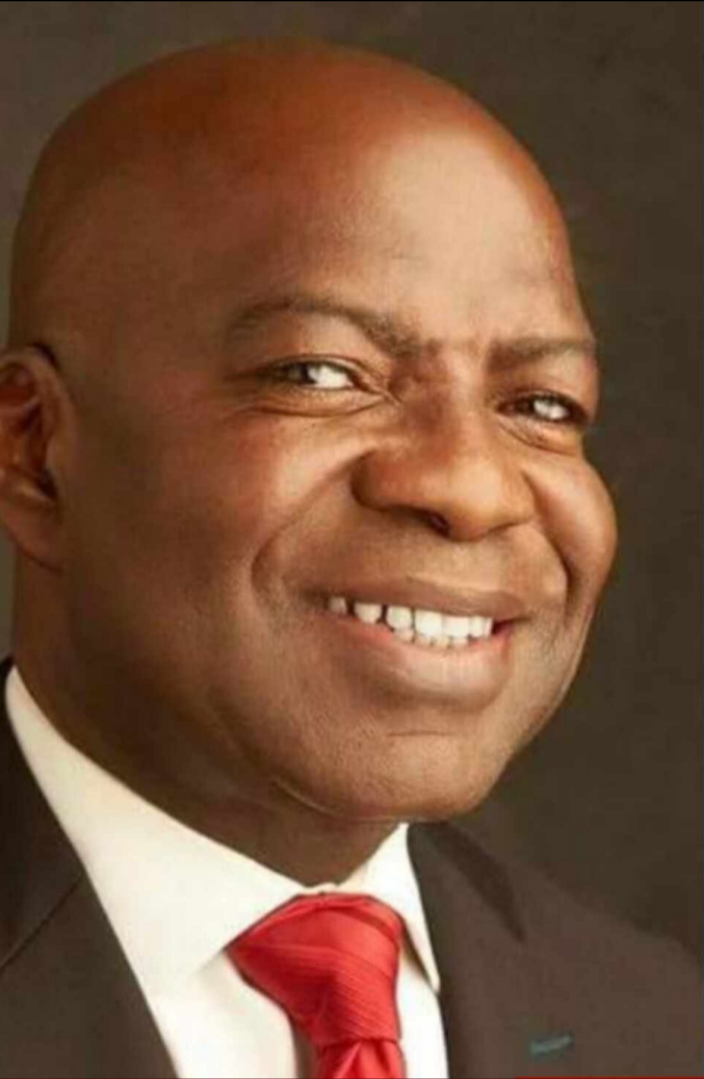
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Otti 's Administration Is Really Transforming Abia State For The Better

– PDP Chieftain, Emeka Kalu

In this interaction with Chief Dr. Emeka Kalu the CEO of Stercoll Group, we reviewed his political activities, reviewed the Governor Alex Otti led administration one year scorecard in Abia State and also discussed about the future. Enjoy the read

AFNEWS: Can we get to meet you sir?
 Yes, I am Chief Dr. Emeka Kalu, the CEO of StercollGroup. I also preside over ECK Foundation whose objectives

are sailing round the world impacting humanity. Not only these but also currently function as the National Coordinator, PDP Coalition under whose platform Atikulated Agenda 2018/ 2023 Presidential Campaigns were piloted. However, I reside in the United States of America from where all the annexes of my conglomerates are administered. I am conveniently available to field questions from you and



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Abia State Is Now A No Go Area For Criminals

– SA Security, Comdr. Macdonald Ubah Rtd



Comdr. Macdonald Ubah Rtd

AFNEWS: what was it like when this present administration came on board security wise?

We've had ups and downs, but the bottom line is that, we have a leader who understands that security, is the bed rock that engenders Development. Without security, there won't be that room for development to take place.

When we took over office in May 2023, we were bequeathed a state that had amyriadof security challenges which were as a result of bad pass government.

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During this interaction with the Special Adviser to the Governor on Security Comdr. Macdonald Ubah Rtd, we reviewed the security results for the past one year in Abia State. Enjoy the read;

What We Agreed With Abia Pensioners Before Paying Backlogs

- Abia Finance Comm.

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Why We Are Honouring Former Senate President Adolphus Wabara – PDP

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ABIA BORN PHILANTHROPIST, OKWUN OJAH LAUNCHES N5M SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR STUDENTS | READ HOW TO APPLY

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Senator Adolphus Wabara

Why We Are Honouring Former Senate President Adolphus Wabara – PDP

The chairman of the Grand Civic Reception in honour of Senator Adolphus Wabara, Rt Hon Sir Ude Oko Chukwu has described Wabara as a

Institution, a statesman and a worthy leader who has contributed his quota to the development of Abia State and Nigeria in general over decades.

The former Deputy Governor of Abia State who stated this during an interaction with the media on Monday 27th May 2024 at his Umuahia residence, went further to reveal the political journey of Wabara from a Councilor, Supervisory Councilor, Chairman of a Local Government Area, Senator and then Senate President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. “What people don't know about is that this man was once a councilor, a supervisory Councilor, Chairman of a Local Government Area and

from there he was elected as the Senator Representing Abia South Senatorial District and then Senate President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria” “This is the very appropriate time for us to let him know that we appreciate his contribution in Nigeria and in particular the PDP family. We are going to roll out the drums to accord him this great honour through the reception.” “So, on the 1st of June 2024 at Trade More Event Centre in

Umuahia, the National body of PDP will be coming, the Acting National Chairman will be here and the Vice Chairman of Nigerian Governor's Forum Governor Seyi Makinde will be the Chairman of that event and the Governor of Enugu State Peter Mba will be the host” The Chairman of the Grand Reception and former Deputy Governor of Abia State Rt Hon Sir Ude Oko, assured that the Central Planning Committee of the event has put everything in

place to ensure that Senator Adolphus Wabara is honored in grand style. “On this part of the committees, everything is in top gear and God helping us it, will be an epoch-making event” “The main essence for us is to honour him and for us as a party we know we will harness the outcome of the event accordingly. Coincidentally, 1st June 2024 Coincides with his 76th birthday celebration and it's all about honoring him”

Abia Orientation Intensifies Effort, Inspects Monthly Sanitation Compliance, Preaches New Abia Ideologies

The Abia State Orientation Agency (ABS OA) has intensified effort towards educating Abians and residents in Abia State of the importance of cleanliness, while equally inspecting the level of compliance towards the regular monthly sanitation that held the 25th of May 2024.

The ABSOA inspection team which was led by the Deputy General Manager Ure Abazie, took a tour of public facilities within Umuahia Central Area

educating, preaching the New Abia message and outlining the health benefits of a clean environment and the negative impact that comes with dirty environment.

When the team which also includes Chidinma Okpara (ABS OA Secretary), Blessing Obiakor (ABS OA Director of Finance) and Idoko Daniel (ABS OA Head Media) visited the popular Aba and Ochendo parks along Aba Road in Umuahia, the team discovered that workers in the park were fully engaged

in the clean-up exercise. The workers also assured that they will continue making sure there working environment is clean for the benefit of passengers, drivers and conductors.

While interacting with the workers at the parks, the workers requested for the asphaltting of the parks, provision of public convenience, borehole and flood light within the park. They posited that if provided, it will make the parks more effective, secured and travelers friendly.

The team which also spent time interacting and supporting in the cleanup exercise at the popular Isigate junction, also visited the abattoir and chicken market along the railway line close to Bank Road. At the market, they assembled the traders who were cleaning up the market and advised them on the need to dispose waste properly to avoid a pandemic.

“We must make sure we keep this market clean; Governor Otti has made



cleanliness a priority in Abia State and we cannot be left behind. This is a market where chicken is processed and we must not allow people to get contaminated here or eat

contaminated food” “Waste disposal is also very important, waste must not be dumped indiscriminately”, Ure Abazie advises.

OPPORTUNITIES

ABIA BORN PHILANTHROPIST, OKWUN OJAH LAUNCHES N5M SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR STUDENTS | READ HOW TO APPLY

To commemorate his birthday, Dr. Barrister OkwunOjah (Okeosisi 1 of Ndi Umuozio), an Australian based Philanthropist from Ohafia Community in Ohafia Local Government Area of Abia State, has set up a N5million scholarship scheme for medicine and surgery students. The scholarship which is funded by the philanthropist's foundation, 'Ojah family foundation', is strictly for students studying medicine and surgery in Nigerian universities.

According to Ojah, the scholarship is designed to support and empower the next generation of medical professionals, aligning with the foundation's mission to promote access to quality education and healthcare in Ohafia communities. The scholarship will accommodate struggling undergraduates from year one to final year. Application is open from May 11 to August 10th 2024. Eligibility criteria includes; – applicants must have gained admission

into a recognised Nigerian tertiary institution to study medicine and surgery. – must provide two academic references. – must be Ohafia indigenes.

Eligible applicants should submit their applications including all supporting documents like attestation letter from Head of department and village head of their community to www.ojahfamilyfoundation.org or call 08068193656, 07066633404, 09036885432.



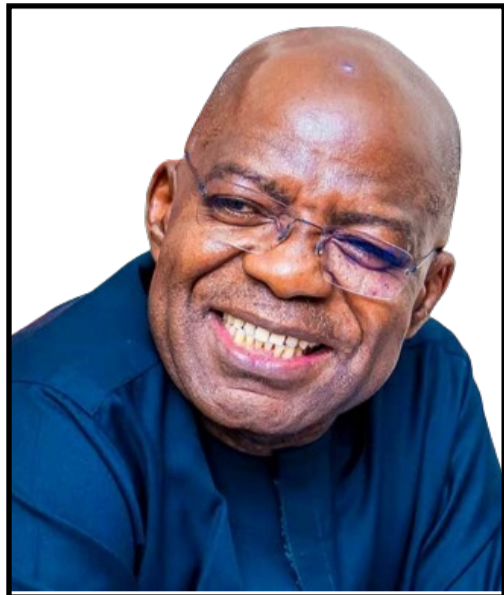
OTTI'S ONE YEAR AND THE BLISS OF TRANSFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Dr Ebere Uzoukwa, Ph.D

Dr Alex Chioma Otti OFR will clock one year in office as the fifth Executive Governor of Abia State on 29th May 2024. The first-class economist and ex-bank chief declared his intention to govern God's Own State in 2015, following his resignation as the Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the defunct Diamond Bank.

Unfortunately, his victory was brazenly snatched. In 2019, he presented himself again and was again robbed. His landslide and declaration as Governor of Abia State by the Independent National Electoral Commission stood to the glory of God as the electoral bandits were rounded up and stopped on the way.

Many thanks to the resilient Abians and good spirited Nigerians God used to protect Dr Otti's victory, particularly the Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO), Prof. Nnenna Otti, who served as the INEC Returning Officer for Abia Governorship Election, for insisting that authentic and verified Obingwa votes be counted against falsified figures. Recall Gov. Otti's victories in 2015 and 2019 were upturned with what Abia electoral thieves celebrated as 'Obingwa Magic'. Upon his inauguration, Gov. Otti unveiled a development template for speedy transformation and development. As one prepared for the job, he swung into action without delay. Though Abia's transformation and socio-economic recovery are work-in-progress, an unbiased and objective assessment of the achievements of the



Dr Alex Chioma Otti OFR

governor shows early deliveries of democratic dividend, cutting across every sector, community, LGAs that also impact on the lives of the people. The wave of the governor's transformation and good governance are not only felt in Abia but outstandingly recognised nationwide given the ruins of underdevelopment, corruption, massive looting of public funds, mediocrity and godfatherism that inflicted extreme hardship on the people during the inglorious 24-years of the decimated Abia Peoples Democratic Party. It is gratifying that a state that was mocked and caricatured is speedily transforming to a model and an epicenter of development and good governance within the first one year of Gov. Alex Chioma Otti OFR. This

underscores the rationale Abians are renewing the social contract entered with him through the ballots. Inasmuch as the governor doesn't believe in celebrating his achievements and milestones recorded within the first one year, the anniversary, however, marks the completion and inauguration of several completed projects in Abia. It also marks the ongoing rejuvenation and socio-economic emancipation of Aba, the commercial hub of the south east and south south, regular payment of salaries and pensions, including the recent payment of accumulated pensions and salary arrears, revival of critical sectors, such as education, health, transportation, agriculture and other social service providing MDAs as well as several empowerments programmes designed to lift Abians from the dungeon and economic hardship. It marks purposeful leadership, accountability, transparent and prudent management of public funds for the welfare of Abians. It also marks the end of the era of hopelessness with a confirmation of the defeat of the oppressors and looters of public treasury. The plan by Gov. Otti to bequeath an infrastructural and economically re-engineered state with unlimited opportunities for citizens' prosperity, obviously, worths more than mere anniversary celebration. It took the governor's progressive mind, resources and purposeful spirit to conduct a study on the rot in Abia thus

arriving at strategic actions to be taken in rebuilding a completely decsyed state and her dwindled economy. That accounts for the reason the first anniversary of Gov. Otti represents a work-in-progress and strong foundation for a New Abia. It also defines the governor's excellence and commitment to delivering an Abia of our collective dream and aspiration. As the opposition plans evil against Gov. Otti and his administration apparently to trauncate his eighth-year development agenda, the governor on the other hand is increasingly demonstrating commitment towards delivering on his electoral promises. His excellent performance within one year has enlarged his support base, earned him enormous goodwill and favourable public perception. Any conspiracy hatched against Gov. Otti is tantamount to an evil against the people, who are indeed the beneficiaries of the ongoing transformation and good governance in Abia. Gov. Otti had severally promised never to loose focus in his determination and commitment to deliver a model state that shall become an epicenter of good governance and economic prosperity. Congratulations, Gov. Alex Chioma Otti OFR for making Abians proud in your first one year in office. Dr Ebere Uzoukwa, a policy analyst and media consultant, writes from Obingwa.



Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu

It was Amit Ray, an Indian peace advocate who once posited that "Peace, harmony and brotherhood are the marks of humanity. They are the heart of every religion. They are the ultimate weapons against all powerful weapons". Recently, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu hinted on the possible

REMINISCING ON KALU'S 'PEACE MARSHALS' AS AN EXTENSION OF PISE-P – By Mike Ukooha

need for the use of 'Peace Marshals' as agents to propagate peace in all political wards across the South East geopolitical zone. Kalu gave the hints while addressing members of Club 17 Peace Movement, Abia State Caucus and the Local Government Areas Executives who paid him a courtesy visit. In his address to the association members in Umuahia, Kalu explained that the Peace Marshals would function as an extension of Peace In South East Project (PISE-P), an initiative that craves non kinetic approaches to solving the security issues, infrastructural decay and other sociological challenges in the South East region, stressing that the marshals will serve as peace advocates and reconciliation officers. It will be recalled that PISE-P, a brainchild of the Deputy Speaker was launched on December 29, 2023 in Bende, Abia State. Kalu also emphasized the need for Club

17 Movement as a peace initiative to also collaborate with PISE-P to spread the gospel of peace and unity in the Southeast. Indeed, this new additional approach towards achieving a lasting peace in the Southeast region of Nigeria needs to be applauded and supported by all peace loving individuals. Like Amit Ray asserted in his postulations, the indefatigable Deputy Speaker is gradually lifting the horns of the people of the South East in all ramifications through his many approaches and interventions towards achieving peace and harmony in the region. As an extension of PISE-P, the job of the Peace Marshals will not only be limited to acting as foot soldiers of peace and harmony in our various communities and wards; but assisting in educating the society of what the 8 pillars of PISE-P subsumed in Agriculture, Education, Commerce/Industry, Infrastructural

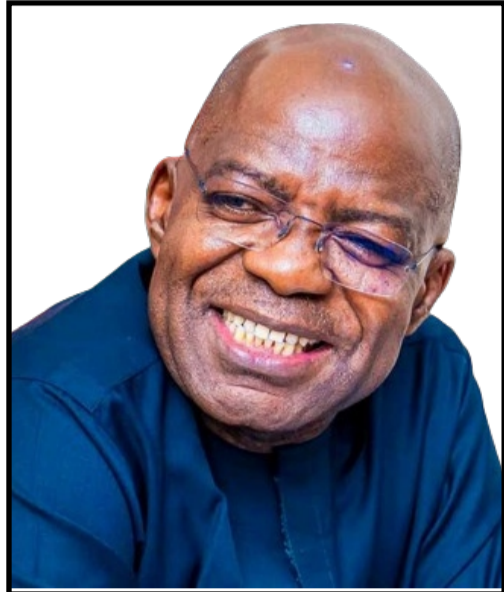
development, Culture and Tourism, Sports / entertainment, Governance/leadership as well as Reconciliation/rehabilitation and re-integration tend to achieve for Ndigbo of the South East and the country at large. All over the world, the antidote to all lethal weapons impeding peace has always been found in brotherly love shared amongst the people who understand the importance of peaceful co-existence. This is the magic wand the Deputy Speaker has in abundance. The Deputy Speaker understands the importance of engaging Peace Marshals as forerunners in propagating peace. Above all, not only will this unique approach go a long way in reaching and changing the youths in our rural areas, but it will be a means of positive engagement through peace talk. It is expected that the workings of these

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Dr Alex Chioma Otti OFR

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Congratulations, Gov. Alex Chioma Otti OFR for making Abians proud in your first one year in office.

Dr Ebere Uzoukwa, a policy analyst and media consultant, writes from Obingwa.

REMINISCING ON KALU'S 'PEACE MARSHALS' AS AN EXTENSION OF PISE-P – By Mike Ukoha

FROM PAGE 3

Peace Advocates will, for instance, help to identify some of the restive youths who would be willing to venture into various skills. Those who are interested in agriculture will also assist in massive food production for both the region and the country at large. In the same vein, there's need to identify the latent talents in our youth who are good in sports and entertainment but have no sponsors to push them through.

Harnessing the potentials in this sector on what the future holds for the young ones in the next couple of years will be a huge plus for our region.

Research has shown that when people are properly engaged in meaningful ventures, it will automatically disengage them from negative behaviors. There is no gainsaying that there's need for volunteers in this regard. These volunteers must be people who are



passionate enough to understand the importance of peace in our society and genuinely preach it wherever they go. Peace advocacy is essential in propagating a harmonious environment for everyone, and our peace loving Deputy Speaker in his usual manner has set the ball rolling. There's a need for all hands to be on deck in order to achieve this lofty goal.

Ukoha, a former Minority Whip, Abia State House of Assembly, writes from Umuahia, the State Capital

WHY I DEFECTED TO APC – EX-ABIA SPEAKER, ORJI

The former Speaker of the Abia State House of Assembly, Chinedum Orji, has adduced the rationale behind his recent defection to the All Progressives Congress from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Orji explained that he left the former ruling PDP in Abia because it had deviated from the core ideology on which it was founded.

According to him, "In the build-up to the 2023 general elections and in the aftermath of that election, the Peoples Democratic Party engaged in activities that were detrimental to the peace, progress, and cohesion of the party, resulting in catastrophic political losses.

"Expectations that the Party would conduct an introspective review of its performance in that election and embark on an honest process of healing wounds and rallying its members to forge a common front going forward were disappointingly not met.



Rt. Hon. Chinedum Orji

"The Peoples Democratic Party, as presently constituted and run, does not hold promises for the political

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Over 111km Of Roads Done In Aba By Gov. Alex Otti Under One Year - GADA DG, UKEJE

intervened to remedy it.



Mr Uche Ukeje

Gov. Alex Otti

... Highlights challenges Gov. Otti is intervening on

Ukeje also addressed some of the challenges facing Aba.

In assessing the performance of Governor Alex Otti of Abia state in his one year in office, the Director General, Greater Aba Development Authority (GADA), Mr Uche Ukeje, has said that 111KM of roads have been constructed and reconstructed in Aba.

On the issue of improper disposal of refuse and flooding, the Director General posited that the administration of governor Alex Otti is using all available machinery to ensure that the menace is tackled, hence the support given to the Abia State Environmental Protection Agency, ASEPA and the Abia State Orientation Agency.

Speaking in a media interaction tagged " Governor Alex Otti's one year in office-scorecard" Ukeje reiterated governor Otti's commitment to return the lost glory of the Enyimba city and also make it a choice destination for local and foreign investors.

He revealed that the governor has so far, provided 40 waste bins, deposited at various locations in Aba, adding that plans are already on ground to supply more to ensure that wastes are properly disposed and not littered.

He however, stressed that more than a year is needed to achieve this feat which the governor has embarked on, adding that it took over 50 years for Aba to deteriorate to the level Otti met it.

On the challenges of the Geometrics power plant, Ukeje said its major problem is the supply of gas which according to him, Governor Alex Otti has

"They (Geometrics) have installed four turbines currently but only one is operational because of gas. Once the supply of gas is stabilized and more turbines come on, power will stabilize" Ukeje assured.

Speaking further, Ukeje reiterated the governor's stand on zero tolerance for touting and illegal tax collection. He assured that the present administration and GADA are committed to creating a business-friendly environment in Aba.

He assured that more security measures like installation of street light, CCTV Cameras in porous areas and employment opportunities are being considered to help the fight against insecurity.

Responding to inquiry on merging Town Planning Authorities into GADA, Ukeje assured that no civil servant employed by the Abia state government lost his or her job owing to the merger.

Recall that upon resumption of office, Governor Alex Otti had promised to work tirelessly to restore the glory of the Enyimba city, the commercial nerve centre of Abia state. This saw to the creation of GADA on December 22, 2023.

ONE YEAR IN OFFICE: GOV. ALEX OTTI DESIRES TO MAKE UMUAHIA A BEFITTING STATE CAPITAL - Ferdinand Ekeoma



On the six lane Ossah road expansion, Ekeoma said the first phase of the project have been concluded and the second phase would be the further dualisation of the road from Express tower to Onuimo, being the boundary between Abia and Imo state.

"Governor Alex Otti wants a situation where, when you are coming to Abia state, once you get to the boundary, even if the other sides are bad, you will know that you are in a new Abia" Ekeoma stated.

Mr Ferdinand Ekeoma, the Special Adviser to governor Alex Otti, has reiterated the governor's developmental plans for the state.

He added that the governor intends to further push the road project from Okpara square to corporative; Zone 9 to the starting point of Umuahia-Uzuakoli-Abiriba road.

Speaking on infrastructural development in Umuahia, during a media interaction tagged "Governor Alex Otti's one year in office scorecard, Ekeoma said his principal desires to revamp all corners of the state with emphasis on Umuahia, to give it a face befitting of a state capital.

Also, the road expansion will also be done from Okpara square through bank road and possibly end at the Umudike junction in Umuahia.

He opined that before the administration of Governor Alex Otti, Umuahia was a glorified village without any iota of development nor maintenance by previous administrations.

Asked if there would be a flyover at the express tower Umuahia to ease traffic jam, Ekeoma said it is the duty of experts to decide. However, he assured that the Abia state government is committed to creating alternative routes to ease traffic.

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WHY I DEFECTED TO APC - EX-ABIA SPEAKER, ORJI



Rt. Hon. Chinedum Orji

advancement of its members. And it has become imperative that I lead my followers to where they stand better chances of political advancement.

"I pledge my loyalty to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his Renewed Hope Agenda to develop our nation. I salute, especially, the leaders of the APC at all levels and thank them for opening their doors to me and my followers. I also pledge to abide by the rules and regulations of the party."

The former Speaker of the Abia State House of Assembly, Chinedum Orji, defected to the ruling All Progressive Congress, APC, on Tuesday.

He was issued the APC membership card by the state chairman of the party in Abia, Kingsley Ononogbu.

Recall that Enyinnaya, the son of Theodore Orji, a former governor of Abia State, tendered his resignation from the Peoples Democratic Party on Monday, citing issues rocking the party as the reason for his decision.

GOV. OTTI SCORECARD: BOTTLENECKS AGAINST EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN ABIA CLEARED – Nwaka Inem



Nwaka Inem



Dr. Alex Otti

The Special Adviser on Trade, Commerce and Industry to the governor of Abia State Chief Nwaka Inem "Enyi Oha", has revealed that bottlenecks against Ease of Doing Business in Abia State are cleared.

Chief Inem who stated this exclusively during the DR. ALEX OTTI ONE YEAR IN OFFICE SCORECARD programme, aired live on FLO FM RADIO UMUHIA and streamed online live via ALL FACTS NEWSPAPER on Facebook and AF TELEVISION on YouTube, stated that the Governor Alex Otti led administration has done so much to make sure Abia State is number one when choosing a choice of investment destination.

"Every business person or investor has options, so all those things that will make Abia not an option has been removed" – he posited.

On the issue of touting, Chief Inem insisted that the present administration

has no room for touts and therefore can not be tolerated. He went further to state that the government is handling the dislodgement with human milk of kindness, but if the touts keep resisting, then government will apply force to clear them out from other areas they are still operating.

"Abia State Government has made it clear that we have zero tolerance for touts. It is only a mad man that will be told that the market is over, touts should know that they are not allowed in this government led by Governor Alex Otti" he explained.

On the issues of Isi gate market and other markets in the state, Chief Inem exposed that the plan of government is to make the market comfortable for both the traders and customers. He hinted on the Urban Renewal design coming out anytime soon, revealing that the design will clearly state the remodeling plan for Isi gate and other markets in Abia State.

HOW A CHINESE EXPATRIATE ALLEGEDLY MURDERED AN ABIA LADY IN UKWA – Rep. Member Reveals



The member representing Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency of Abia State in the House of Representatives, Chris Nkwonta, on Tuesday condemned the alleged killing of Miss Ocheze Ogbonna, a crane operator at the Inner Galaxy Steel Company, by a Chinese expatriate.

It was gathered that Ocheze Ogbonna died after the Chinese expatriate working at the Inner Galaxy Steel Company located in Umuahala-Obuzor pushed her down from the crane for rejecting his love advances.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Nkwonta expressed deep sadness on the death of his constituent, Ocheze, describing the action of the Chinese expatriate as wicked.

While maintaining that his constituency is known for peace, the federal lawmaker demanded justice for the victim.

"Miss Ocheze Ogbonna's death orchestrated by a Chinese expatriate is a gross abuse of the rules of engagement and a total disregard for the sanctity of human life and an affront on their host

community, Umuahala-Obuzor and the peace loving people of Ukwa West Local Government Area.

"This barbaric act once again calls to mind the incessant calls by well-meaning Nigerians that the Chinese expatriates operating in Nigeria do not have regard for human lives and must be called to order immediately to avert the breakdown of law and order.

"I strongly condemn the dastardly act and brutal killing of late Miss Ocheze Ogbonna by the Chinese expatriate who has been identified as Mr Power.

"I hereby call on the Inspector General of Police, IGP, Kayode Egbetokun, the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Taoreed Lagbaja, the Abia State Commissioner of Police, CP, Kenechukwu Onwumelie, the Honourable Minister of State, Labour and Productivity, Hon Barr. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha and the Trade Union Congress (TUC), to ensure that the culprit, who I understand is being shielded by the security agents, is brought to book and made to face the full wrath of the law," he added.

ABIA PDP CHIEFTAIN 'EMEKA KALU' BACKS OTTI'S INVESTIGATION OF FINANCES UNDER IKPEAZU



GOVERNOR ALEX OTTI ONE YEAR IN OFFICE SCORECARD programme aired live on Flo FM Radio Umuahia and streamed live via ALL FACTS NEWSPAPER social media handles, explained that the governor is doing his job and that accountability is one of the key factors in quality leadership.

Prominent Abia State People's Democratic Party (PDP) Chieftain and ally to 2023 PDP Presidential Candidate Atiku Abubakar Chief Dr. Emeka Charles Kalu, has backed the financial investigation kicked off by Governor Alex Chioma Otti OFR.

Chief Kalu who stated this during a

"The governor has the right to investigate the finances of the state and we as Abians also have the right to know what happened to our funds"

"The investigation will enable the governor know where we are exactly and help him to chart the right course forward" he stated.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 7

GOVERNOR OTTI COMMENDS OMPAN FOR PROJECTS INSPECTION IN ABA, UMUAHIA, ASSURES OF CONTINUOUS SYNERGY

The Governor of Abia State Dr Alex Chioma Otti has commended Online Media Practitioners Association of Nigeria (OMPAN) Abia for touring and inspecting projects in the State towards identifying the progress the government has made under one year in office, assured that government will continue to partner with them and must at all times pay attention to their observations so as to know areas that need improvement.

Governor Otti who was represented by his Senior Special Adviser on Media and Publicity Mr Ferdinand Ekeoma at an interactive session with Online Media Practitioners Association of Nigeria held at Umuahia North LGA multi-purpose Hall, lauded OMPAN for thinking outside the box, said what they have done is geared towards bringing Abia State to limelight.

Dr Otti who described media as critical stakeholders in governance especially in democracy, said government is excited that OMPAN stepped out to go and inspect projects independently to confirm as well as authenticate what government claims to have done.

"I want to commend you for thinking outside the box and embarking on such independent projects inspection geared towards identifying the progress the government has recorded and bringing Abia State to limelight.

"For us we are excited that you stepped out to go and do what you did. You know it is easy for a government to say we are doing well, but then it is another thing for the people to confirm, to authenticate, to say yes what government claims to have actually done or has not done it.

"The media is a critical stakeholder in governance especially in a democracy. We will continue to partner with you and must at all times pay attention to what you are saying and observations to identify the areas that need improvement"

He pointed out that even though the tour was limited to only road infrastructure, noted that government has done much more in different areas trying to take the State to the place it should be.

According to him, "On assumption of office the Governor declared state of emergency in 5 key areas; road infrastructure, education, health, waste management and security" he said

He disclosed that government appointed experts and professionals as key officers in charge of the health sector, actions taken to completely overhaul the sector as well as to turn the health sector around.



Governor Otti revealed that government plans to renovate all the General hospitals in the State, added that the health sector received the second highest allocation in 2024 budget which he said was an intentional action by government to ensure that the health sector is given a facelift.

He informed that there is massive improvement in the area of waste management considering where the government started because on assumption of office, someone in charge of task force was appointed and charged to clear the huge of refuse on the streets of Aba and Umuahia.

He pointed out that private operators were selected which was not a politicize arrangement or something done to settle people and Aba was divided into 4, Umuahia was divided into 2 because government wants to ensure absolute cleaning of the city.

He said government has not issued any demand notice for refuse waste since assumption of office rather, "What we have done now is to enumerate all the households in the State, especially in Aba and Umuahia, reviewed what we did, backed it by law because what we want to do is house to house collection of refuse"

He further explained that, "what we are doing in the area of infrastructure, government is being very intentional. We are doing it as a way of taking our State where it should be and we are doing a whole lot to ensure that we rebuild our State"

He said security is another area that his government has recorded enough achievements to ensure security of lives and properties.

He explained that government set up the joint security force, Operation Crush, mobilized them and provided the

required security equipments and they swung into action, noted that a place like Lokpanta criminals no longer have control of there because government has sanitized the place.

"Government is putting on measures to ensure that all those criminal activities are nip on the bud. Government is very intentional about making life livable for the people of Abia State and we are committed to rewriting our history"

Explaining the efforts of government in the education sector, he revealed that an approval was given for the construction of 10 primary and 3 secondary schools per a local government, added government was intentional to ensure that education sector was allocated 20 percent of 2024 budget.

He said most of the public schools in the State are in a state of decay which led to the upsurge in private school, said government wants to invest massively to the public schools to rebuild them and make sure Public schools are more patronize in Abia.

Continuing, he said government wants to employ capable and competent hands, retrain and equip them on the use of modern tools, added that the extension of retiring age of teachers from 60 to 65 years as well as reviewing their salaries and incentives was to ensure that the education sector is turned around.

Earlier in his speech, the Chairman of OMPAN Chief Promise Uzoma Okoro said the association toured most of the road projects both on going and completed in Abia South, Central and North to verify the claims by government and give objective reportage on their findings.

He stressed that OMPAN is not a stooge of government in power nor tools of the oppositions, rather as watchdog to investigate, report and educate people, while clarifying that the movement was not sponsored by government as being rumoured in some quarters.

Chief Okoro expressed appreciation to all members of OMPAN who despite their tight schedules took part in the projects tour.

He made it categorically clear that OMPAN as a media body will support every good policies and programmes of the government and criticize them when necessary.

ABIA PDP CHIEFTAIN 'EMEKA KALU' BACKS OTTI'S INVESTIGATION OF FINANCES UNDER IKPEAZU



FROM PAGE 6

On the issue of how he will rate Governor Alex Otti's performance in the last one year, the PDP chieftain gave the governor 100%.

"I am happy and Abians have seen what Governor Otti has done within the short period of time he has been governor. If his mandate was not stolen from him in the previous elections, Abia would have been a paradise compared to other states around"

"Abians are reaping the dividends of democracy, the best thing to happen to Abia State is Governor Otti" – Chief Kalu posited.

On the issue of investment, Chief Kalu who was speaking virtually from United State of America, revealed that investor now see Abia State as a choice place for investment. He said this is happening because the state now has someone that has what it takes to attract investors.

"In 2015, I tried to bring investors to Abia State, it did not work because there was no enabling environment, but things have changed now"

On why he is speaking for Governor Otti when other PDP members are criticizing him, Chief Kalu explained that governance is not about party, that governance is about what you can do for your people and anyone that is doing the right thing should be encouraged.

ABIANS ARE GETTING THE BEST FROM GOVERNOR ALEX OTTI

– LP Nat. Vice Chairman, Ceekay Igara

In this interview with the outgoing State Chairman of the Labour Party in Abia state, and the incoming National Vice Chairman Comrade Ceekay Igara, we analyzed the activities of the Abia State Government led by Governor Alex Chioma Otti OFR for the last one year in office and other developing political issues in Abia state.

AFNEWS: Give us an over view of the activities of the state government since this one year?

So far so good, we have not played at this level of engagement before, but we are making sure everything is working well.

Now look at it, our output is measured by the acceptance of the citizens. We came in on the promise that his Excellency was going to pay outstanding Arrears of pensions, salaries, gratuities. He equally came in on the promise of improvement on the infrastructure of Abia state, the governor also promised Abians that security will be one of his top agenda.

Accessing it from this tripod above, I recall that after the elections was declared and we were sworn in as the winners of the election, the governor hit the ground running by launching a security team called "OPERATION CRUSH". This security team had the task of unraveling those behind the kidnapping especially at Umunneochi and Okigwe axis, all of us know the outcome and the successes so far recorded.

I also want to bring to your notice that in this stateno matter the level of criminality that is committed, the person must be fished out because of the infrastructure that have been put in place. You recall the ABSU DVC case, the kidnappers have been arrested. Last night, I read that somebody was kidnapped at Osisioma, as the information came to me, I sent it to the points I need to send it and they all responded and are acting swiftly on this issue.

On the issue of infrastructure, I have been receiving barrage of calls every day from people who keep congratulating us over what we are doing across the state. Look at the Ossah road, the road construction will from Ossah road get to Onuimo bridge. The road will be dualized and will contain 3 cars on every side.

You're also aware that the Umuahia - Uzoakoli - Bende to Ohafia roads is seriously under construction, you're also aware of the government policy on zero potholes across the entire state. I don't know when last you drove around town and see potholes, there are very minimal if any.

Get to Aba, Aba is a special case because it lays the golden eggs. Aba was given a special status, that's why you have what is



Igara

Gov. Otti

called the Greater Aba Development Authority (GADA). GADA is retrofitting the entire ecosystem in Aba led by Honorable Uche Ukeje.

Then look at all the local government headquarters, the Aba Town Hall, Ohafia, Obingwa and all these other LGAs, you will see that the local government headquarters are wearing a new look. Unlike when they look retrogressive, like where you train animals. We promised to upgrade the infrastructures of the State, that is why the mayors from their own angle are making sure that the LGA headquarters look like where people will be comfortable and happy to work from.

I am aware you've gone to some health institutions and you can see the level of reconstruction and retrofitting that is going on there. Why are we doing this? Because Abians deserves the best, that's what the government of the day promised during campaigns.

Just yesterday, the Governor Alex Otti signed the 'Dig Once' policy, setting forth clear guidelines for the installation of underground broadband technology infrastructure within the state. This is to make sure that there's synergy, order and decorum within telecom sector operations within the state.

On welfare of workers; clearance of backlogs of salaries, pensions, gratuities are ongoing. If you visit the secretariate now, you will see that the entire structure itself has been reconfigured, retrofitted. The last one that was abandoned job is ongoing right now, but the two major blocks lots of job, lot of improvement has been done there because if you're not healthy, you cannot give the best. So, we are not only working on infrastructure, we are also working on welfare and protecting the health of our people.

Also, on the issue of welfare, there was wide jubilation across the state because of the payment of Arrears of pensions and salaries. We are not there already, but there's a leap and that leap is what is putting smiles on the face of Abians to an

extent.

AFNEWS: Let's go back to the issue of pensions, the disagreements, do you think there are better ways government should have handled it?

Well, I don't have details of what happened, I have received numerous calls of congratulations from people as regards the pension payment.

Not everybody would be happy knowing the magnitude of people affected, but the government was very fast to create a desk where all the issues of those who were not paid, those who were short paid, those who have not received their own and those who were overpaid will be addressed. It is a continuous process; gradually all the issues will be resolved.

“
If you visit the secretariate now, you will see that the entire structure itself has been reconfigured, retrofitted.”

AFNEWS: Let's look at politics generally in the state, how is your party fairing, what is the growth like, the penetration of the party in Abia state at the moment?

Initially before we came on board, the party wasn't as strong as it is now. There were some areas we had minimal presence but as at today, we are everywhere in the 84 wards in Abia State. If you go to places like Ohafia, we are not just concentrating on the INEC wards, we have also furthered our discussions and our structure to the ABSIEC wards. So, the penetration and acceptance by the people is very high. Some days ago, I was at Isialangwa to receive the deputy vice chairman of APGA, I was also at Nkporo to receive a decampees from PDP. The other day, I was

at Aba North and South to receive decampees from PDP.

In a bid to consolidate what we've done, we have decided to visit all the 17 local government areas in Abia State, where we will see the structures the way it is raw and we are not going to announce it so that people will not tell us any stories. It is going to a spontaneous assessment of what we have there then use that opportunity to fully receivedecampees from all across the state.

AFNEWS: Let's look into Abia House of Assembly, the lock jam as regards the inauguration of PDP House member Hon. Aaron Uzosike, who was declared winner by the Appeal court. what is your take, why the Delay?

I recall when this issue started, I was challenged by a caller whocalled in during a TV program, he started by asking me why I kept quite as chairman of the party. Well, my own is to watch the process, unless when I feel there are hiccups that's when I can intervene.

But I assured the caller that i was going to engage the authorities involved and immediately the programme came to an end, I drove straight to the speaker's office. The speaker then told me about an injunction that was served on him, stating that he does not want to break the law.

I also engaged our National Assembly caucus on what do we do? We all agreed that if the injunction is vacated, of course we cannot fail the law.

The speaker equally informed me that he will do needful once everything is in order and I can't go beyond what the speaker told me or say any other thing aside it.

AFNEWS: There are allegations that your party wants to turn this state to a one-party state, what's your take?

I have friends who are still in PDP like John Okiyi Kalu, the state PDP chairman is my friend, he's still in PDP. What about APGA, IPAC is still working, they've not said this. If it is one party, all of them are supposed to be in LP by now. It is just a propaganda, there's no truth in it.

AFNEWS: As the incoming national vice chairman of LP in the south East, what should LP followers be expecting from your office?

The fundamental take away from this isthat we are coming to turn the entire South East to LP.

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OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION IS REALLY TRANSFORMING ABIA FOR THE BETTER – PDP Chieftain, Emeka Kalu

In this interaction with Chief Dr. Emeka Kalu the CEO of Stercoll Group, we reviewed his political activities, reviewed the Governor Alex Otti led administration one year scorecard in Abia State and also discussed about the future. Enjoy the read..

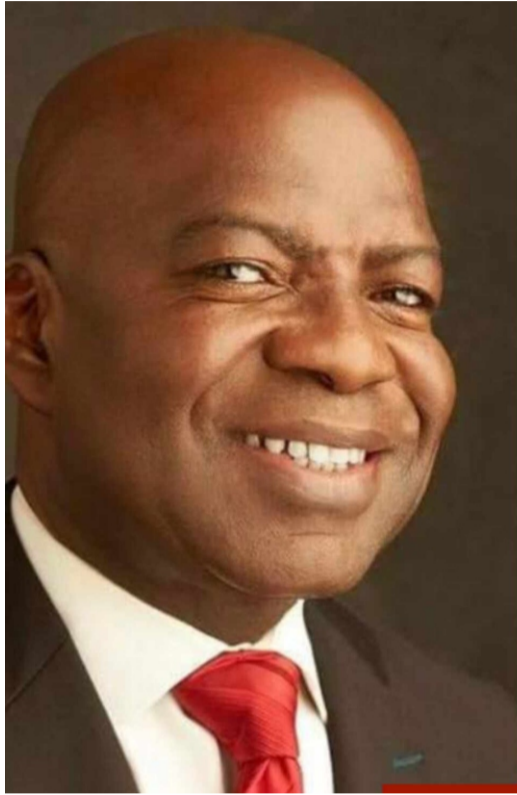
AFNEWS: Can we get to meet you sir?

Yes, I am Chief Dr. Emeka Kalu, the CEO of StercollGroup. I also preside over ECK Foundation whose objectives are sailing round the world impacting humanity. Not only these but also currently function as the National Coordinator, PDP Coalition under whose platform Atikulated Agenda 2018/ 2023 Presidential Campaigns were piloted. However, I reside in the United States of America from where all the annexes of my conglomerates are administered. I am conveniently available to field questions from you and respond to them. I am not such a difficult person in terms of politically and socially interacting with people, especially on issues bordering on how to move the nation forward. Governance is all about putting the interest of the people first and as a person, I give 90% of my daily attention to addressing issues affecting humanity and that is actually what those in the power are expected to be doing.

AFNEWS: You are one of the strong supporters of the 2023 PDP presidential candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, how has it been since after the election?

All things being equal, Atiku is waxing stronger and as a stakeholder in the party, he has not relented in assiduously working to ensure PDP comes stronger ahead of 2027. My relationship with Atiku remains robust and I have not lost hope in supporting his commitment to emerge the next President of Nigeria. Waziri Adamawa's wealth of experience in handling national issues is an exceptional one because he understands the crux of Nigeria problems with all quotients to address them when elected the next President. Nigeria needs a President who is ably committed to rectify all lapses confronting the strength of the national economy, improve on workers condition and stabilize commodity prices where an average citizen could easily afford daily square meals. Political power is not only acquired to be giving binding instructions on the governed but one expected to be positively impacting the lives of the people on whose behalf the mandate of power is held.

AFNEWS: You are also an



Gov. Otti



Kalu

influential politician in the African sub region, how do you cope with all these political pressures?

By God's grace, it has been a tough one considering the deluge of challenges but gradually, things are getting flourished as expected. My being part of the system does not provide food on my table but my passion for involvement and participation in African, my involvement in the global political system is simply to ensure sustainable leadership is achieved in advancing humanity. Like the biblical Christ, I shall not be tired in airing this message of hope and transformation across the board until Africa and the world at large attain excellence in terms of human capacity building. As God enables, I will continue my campaign for good governance and only on the realization of same would Africa excel. The under development and poverty volume in Africa is not as a result of shortage of economic and human resources but due to cesspit of corruption bedeviling her political system and it takes leadership of sound mind to right the wrongs.

AFNEWS: Your party (PDP) in the state (Abia) is almost in disarray, she lost the last election to Labour Party and stakeholders are resigning in droves, what do you think are the issues?

It is not abnormal in party politics to experience defeat and challenges. That is why we are all mortals subject to weakness, shortcomings even death. Dr. Alex Otti of Labour party won 2023 governorship election in Abia State because it pleased the people who in maximum capacity voted and elected him. That is why it is popularly held

that "power belongs to the people". In the case of the continuous resignation of PDP members from the party, I can sincerely tell you that it is caused by lack of unity, considering the lopsided condition of the party's leadership in the State. No party is capable of making headways in the face of disunity and it

“ Power is transient and the Labour Party's coming on board the throne of Abia State government wasn't a surprise because power when the time is ripe changes hands. It is impossible to stop a change whose time has come.

behooves on the stakeholders of the party to facilitate actions towards restoring the collapsing glory of the party. Power is transient and the Labour Party's coming on board the throne of Abia State government wasn't a surprise because power when the time is ripe changes hands. It is impossible to stop a change whose time has come. Martins Luther Kings in quotes..

AFNEWS: Do you think there is still hope of unity restoration in your party the PDP?

There is always a hope of regeneration and re sprouting for a tree that has cut down. So, if a tree cut down still buds, sprouts and recovers its lost photosynthesis, PDP wouldn't be a different ball game in terms of re gaining solidification and greater structural harmony ahead of 2027 general election. The challenge PDP is

having lies in the national organ of the party's inability to filter off the bag eggs, restructure the central leadership and resuscitate the hope of Nigerians who have lost confidence in the party. Certain issues need be settled and reconciled so as to pave ways for peace and unity foreign. It is not a magic thing to expect a political party whose structure is not harmonized to succeed in winning elections. Edo, Imo and Abia States leadership of the party is extremely threatened because of conflict of interest and other bottlenecks.

AFNEWS: Do you have any political interest come 2027?

I must tell you that power belongs to the people and through the instrumentality of their unflinching support, I would be happy to run for a political position in 2027 and God being so kind, succeed. My interest is predicated on the concern of my constituents who keep motivating my spirit to apply and contest but what I haven't decided on is which political office I would contest for. Having Interest in running for a political position is a force while the people's robust support accomplishes it. I strongly believe in this notion. So, I depend on the people for the accomplishment of my ambitions and with the undivided support of the people, I am prepared to serve them in any capacity on which they massively elect me to do. In all, I have an interest to run for an election in 2027 when my people truly lead the way.

AFNEWS: reflecting on the current Labour Party administration led by Governor Alex Otti in Abia State, the government will be one year in office come May 29, 2024. How far, so far?

Hook, line and sinker, Dr. Alex Otti despite my not being in the same party with him is tremendously doing well in Abia State. His achievements so far have truly made my State proud, especially in the provisions of basic infrastructures. The forensic audit conducted by his government in analyzing the financial status of the State towards improvement has to a longer distance reshaped the face value of the State economy. Be that as it may, Otti's administration is really transforming Abia for the better unlike in the past where governance failed to put smiles on the faces of the governed. As a political realist, I firmly believe in a government of services delivery not one surreptitiously pillared on imaginations and deception. Plato once opined that "Philosopher kings are leaders of the society". A political king

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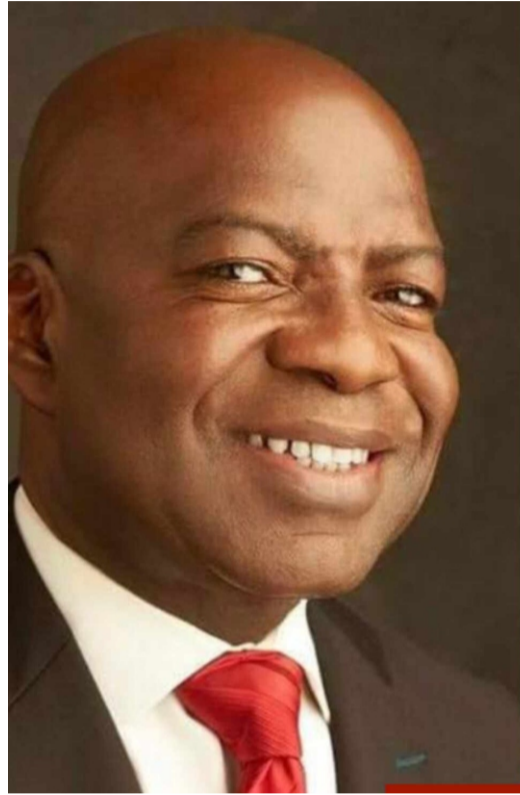
OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION IS REALLY TRANSFORMING ABIA FOR THE BETTER – PDP Chieftain, Emeka Kalu

CONTINUE FROM PAGE 9

thinker is one who takes over the government and records excellence and accountability and on this foundation my political ideology is built despite how other may interpret it

AFNEWS: Inconclusion, what will Abians be expecting from you as a philanthropist?

God is in control and by strength, no man prevails. I confide in realities that quicken good results. That makes me a realist. I have been doing my best in the Abia State and beyond the records are there for anyone to verify and evaluate. Presently, we are extending our liaison office to the old eastern region capital, (Enugu) to ensure Eck Foundation achieves its global talent transformation setgoals. No government agency pays us for doing



Gov. Otti



Kalu

these charitable works and we are happy seeing them done actually done. I also appreciate the management team of Eck Foundation in her commitment to get along with the demands of the work. I am confident that in the near future, the good people of Abia States, Nigerians and the world at large would be greatly feeling the goodwill, impacts and show of all kinds of philanthropy from Eck Family. We are currently working on our Talent integration and Scholarship programmes where all Nigerians according to the stipulations/benchmarks are qualified to apply. Our diaspora outreach management desk is busy working on organizing intl seminars in different parts of the world on human capacity development, empowerment, security and global environmental comfortability for the habitation of mankind.

ABIANS ARE GETTING THE BEST FROM GOVERNOR ALEX OTTI

– LP Nat. Vice Chairman, Ceekay Igara

From page 8

LP is doing well as you can see in Abia State. So, we are going to replicate what is happening in Abia State in the entire south East and across the country.

We are going to leverage on the challenges we had, how we surmounted them and what we did with what we had on ground. We will leverage on that experience to achieve the same feat with other states. You and I know that we won the last election at the presidential level, but because of few issues that was why they were able to take it away. This time around, it will not happen again.



Igara

Gov. Otti

ones. Abians on their own, will willingly vote us back without issues.

Then to Abians, I encourage everyone, there's this adage in my place that says; if a woman marries two husbands, she will know which one is better. so far, I want to believe Abians are happy based on the accolades we've been receiving and based on the receptions, the calls from across the country over what we are doing. We are now the pride of the south East and because we're the pride of the south East, I encourage all citizens to pay their taxes to support the government, pray for this governor and to make sure we live by example.

AFNEWS: What Is Your Advice To The Governor As He Clocks One Year In Office As Executive Governor Of Abia State?

My advice first to the government is that people voted for us because they wanted good life, to a large extent we have been able to introduce that to them. I want us to hold tenaciously on all these things we are doing that the people are happy about and keep doing more and more.

I encourage the government to look into all these areas that there are agitations, like the area of pension payment, gratuity and few other things.

I want to believe if we look into them, touch them, make sure there's sanity within the system, Abians will be happy and our next election wouldn't be as cumbersome, tedious and difficult like the previous



Gov. Otti

Chief Uche

ONE YEAR IN OFFICE: Gov. Otti Has Made Me Proud

– Chief Uche Agwu Udo

The former President of Abia State Union and Onowu Ndi Igbo in Ghana, who is also the leader of Labour Party in Ania ward in Ohafia Local Government Area. Chief Uche Agwu Udo has revealed that Governor Alex Otti has surpassed the expectation of most Abians in his first year in office by the positive impact people can see all around Abia

State.

The international businessman who stated this in a media chat from Ghana, further revealed that Abians are now proud to be associated with the state and that he has mobilized more Abians in the diaspora in support of Governor Otti.

Chief Udo stated that the infrastructural revolution taking place in Abia has amazed him and that he never imagined that this could happen in Abia State due to the past 24 years of bad governance.

“During the election, I told my people that we must support Governor Alex Otti, I mobilized my people because I believed

he has the capacity to transform Abia, and I strongly believe that he will deliver no doubt.

“Governor Otti has made many of us proud to say we are from Abia State, unlike before if you say you are from Abia. People will mock you. The case is different now. We are now the pride of Nigeria outside there in the international world”

“My governor should make sure he continues in this path of development, and we will also continue to stand by him every time to achieve his political heart desire” he posited.

OTTIMYSTIC MAYORAL APOSTLES AND DISCIPLES: KALEIDOSCOPIC PERSPECTIVES

By ShaFT@Polemics

Today, is significant in the annals of the political choreography of Abia State. As we mark the one year anniversary in office of His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, we extend hearty congratulations to the Governor, and the entire members of his cabinet team, and the government of Abia State; and especially, NdiAbia, at home, and in diaspora. The great symbolism and significance of today, must not bypass or elude us. The relevance of the Milestone, affords us collectively, the opportunity to review retrospectively; and to preview with expectancy, some critical or unique political developments, specifically in the strategic subsystems of LGAs in Abia State.

His Excellency, Governor Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, of Abia State, cruised to electoral victory in the 2023 governorship polls, essentially on the crest of populist campaigns agenda and promises, on the platform of Labour Party.

Additionally, Peter Obi phenomenon, as the national icon and image of the Labour Party cum the hypotonic appeals of the waves of political tsunamis unleashed under the aegis of Obidient Movement, combined effectively to guarantee Otti's ultimate emergence, as the preferred candidate of choice among Abia electorate, for the highly esteemed governorship office.

Aggregation of Governor Otti's campaigns agenda and package, in the context of what he considered transformative, responsible government, encapsulated varieties of strategic programs, designed on the altar of Reformist mission and zeal, spread across the entire spectrum of socioeconomic, political fabrics, structures and superstructures; across multiple ancillary frameworks and public institutions, to represent collectively that seamless organic entity and structure known as transformational government and system of governance.

For Alex Otti, as a Technocrat, government and art of governance, is underscored by radical reforms, designed to make government holistically a working, result oriented and highly productive organic structure or system. This mindset and philosophy has shaped the directions and structures of Alex Otti's leadership and administration. Invariably, Alex Otti, thought of his role in politics as a Reformist statesman, essentially,

The Reformist mantra, credo, and agenda of Alex Otti, in the campaigns was not only Structurally defined, conceptualized and contextualized. Significantly, the Reformist agenda incorporated physic reorientation of



the perceptive mindset of the role of government and governance as a strategic public agency instituted and saddled with the enormous responsibility to champion and oversee the promotion of the wellbeing of the citizenry.

In simple terms, the raison d' etre of government is to work for the welfare and wellbeing of the peoples, deploying effectively and efficiently public funds and other critical resources placed at the disposal of government and government officials, in all ramifications. Otti, by means of sustained advocacy and practical actions, has made this abundantly clear. Otti's widely circulated pre-election media column, titled "Thinking Outside the Box", preached this singular message, in a variety of tones.

Specifically, Ottimystic (special term coined to describe) Otti's Reformist agenda, aimed as a target, holistic, comprehensive, Structural and Psycho-mental dismantling and overhauling of the 24 years old PDP styled systems of leadership, management, administration, and governance, in Abia State. Defective Style and systems, which characteristically, have been portrayed by some political analysts and commentators as exploitative, plunderous, unproductive, wasteful, and notorious for institutionalizing and nationalizing fiscal indiscipline and mismanagement; responsible for leaving Abia State backwards and behind in consideration of virtual absence of significant developmental indices.

Notable and critical Stakeholders, drawn from the political elite class,

public affairs analysts and commentators, civil society activists, academics and scholars, argue that for unbroken 24 years, PDP (mis)governed Abia State, rapaciously, perhaps with the singular political

agenda driven by unmitigated and remorseless sense of exploitations and despoliation, chiefly for the sadistic satisfaction of private or organized group interests and aggrandizements. PDP overlords, may deny or refute this stigma and characterization.

On May, 29, 2023, PDP's stranglehold on Abia State, was broken and came to end, by means of transition of power to Labour Party, as the new Party in charge of affairs, particularly at the Executive Branch. Previously, the

**“
how well have
the Mayors
and Deputies,
understood
the charge,
duty, and
responsibility
assigned to
them, by the
Governor, in
his speech
and
proclamation
?”**

office changed hands from one PDP governor to another, except the brief interlude of the political drama and

saga, when TA Orji was, declared governor on a different platform, while in detention or imprisoned. But on the dictates of political expediency, TA Orji, end up as PDP governor.

On May 29, 2023, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, was sworn in, in office, as the Governor of Abia State. Labour Party, took over the reins and mantle of political power in the Executive Branch and Chambers, in Government House Umuahia. The historic event, marked the second time PDP was defeated in guber polls and conceded power officially, in line with constitutional provision.

Otti, left no one in any serious doubts of the extent of the Reformist agenda and templates, when in paragraph 16 of his maiden speech as Governor, he declared thus: "We must therefore get ready to have a clean break from our past. For all citizens and residents of God's Own State, this a time to rebuild".

Later, continuing in paragraph 44, of the inaugural speech, Otti, revealed and posited, "Transparency, accountability, and public trust shall be at the centre of everything we do. We will run a responsible and honest government and lead by example. We will not tolerate any form of corruption or stealing of public property. Gratification and kickbacks are totally forbidden in this government".

These audacious declaratory intents and proclamations, it is, safe and reasonable to argue, were framed to cover every aspect of government business, including the strategic templates for the revitalization of effective and efficient systems of administration and governance of the Local Government systems, the third tier of the tripod systems of governance, as provided in the constitution.

On Thursday, November 30, 2023, 17 Ottimystic Apostles and Disciples, were sworn in, for the first time, in Abia State, in the dual capacity of Transition Chairmen cum Mayors and Deputies. The mandates: to oversee the affairs of government and governance at the strategic local government level (the third tier of the politico-administrative Structure, designed to step down benefits or dividends of democratic system of governance to the grassroots populace in the urban, semi-urban, or rural communities. Thus, kicked off, Ottimystic version of local government administration and governance, anchored on the banners

continues on page 12

OTTIMYSTIC MAYORAL APOSTLES AND DISCIPLES: KALEIDOSCOPIC PERSPECTIVES

By ShaFT@Polemics

from page 11

of the Rebuild agenda, mantra, and templates.

Paragraph 6 of the Governor's speech at the swearing in ceremony, to mark the official initiation of the 17 Mayoral appointees and Deputies, proclaimed, "We may not have made the most perfect of choices but if the feedback we have gotten since the names of the would-be mayors were announced are anything to go by, there is no doubt that we have made quality judgement in the choices of the individuals selected. It is my hope that the optimism that attended the announcement would be matched by the quality of your performance and dedication".

The critical matter that continued to generate much interests and excitements amongst different spectrum of partisan and nonpartisan political stakeholders, analysts and commentators, is the crucial issue and question: how well have the Mayors and Deputies, understood the charge, duty, and responsibility assigned to them, by the Governor, in his speech and proclamation? Another critical question, that continued to bug the minds of some segments of the Abia polity, some months into the advent of the Mayoral styled system, remains, how well have the Mayoral appointees, performed the responsibility in the separate or respective jurisdictions of the 17 LGAs?

Obviously, the answers and opinions, are divided and conflictual, as expected, on any hotly debated political issues. The Governor, predictably, with the benefit of foresight and hindsight, acknowledged in advance the divergence of public opinion that would trail the Mayoral appointments, and more importantly, the performance indices or indicators of the Mayors and Deputies of the enormous responsibility, by virtue of the following declaration and pronouncement, "We are also not oblivious of the fact that there are a few leaders, who may have some misgivings about the people that have been selected". No doubt, the pre-selection and post-selection process, exchanges, trade offs, and the reservations harboured on the parts of some stakeholders and leaders, have not expired or extinguished. But hangs precariously as the Sword of Damocles, in the context of jostling or tussling for power, in the 17 LGAs, internally or externally analyzed and contextualized, with the attendant implications, in the short term or long terms. PDP, the Party that once appeared formidable and invincible, before the current spate of

disintegration and exodus, committed similar suicidal mistakes. We believe, the current Labour Party administration, can gain useful lessons from the PDP experience and put her house in good order, speedily.

Challenging but equally encouraging the Mayors and Deputies, the Governor, decreed, "To the new mayors and deputies, may I remind you that this is a call to serve and not to be served. We do not expect you to get everything right on the first day but you must be willing to learn, keeping your mind open to new ideas and possibilities".

The eager question that has pricked the minds and hearts of Abia populace, is: how well have the Mayors and Deputies, learned, embraced, and internalised wholesomely the core ideology, principles, and philosophy driving Ottimystic administration; and particularly, the mystique surrounding the Alex Otti persona?

Predictably, the 17 Mayors and 17 Deputies, as individuals nurtured under different backgrounds and orientations, definitely may have come to some common understanding of what Ottimystic brand of leadership and administration represents. This assumption, is plausible and logically correct. But, from another angle or perspective, as individuals, based on experiential differentials and reference points, invariably the Mayors and Deputies, equally must be having or holding different shades of opinions, perceptions, understanding, on what it means to keep the door of "your mind open to new ideas and possibilities". The simplicity and the complexity of this enigma, constitute the puzzle of Ottimystic styled leadership education, apprenticeship, mentorship and training.

With great ambivalence, admiration and expression of reassurance of guaranteed freedom, liberty, and appreciation of personal initiatives, but under the radar of the close monitoring, watchful eyes of the Governor, Otti, issued the following command, "While the State would give each of you the

freehand to manage the affairs of the council responsibly, it is very important to design your programmes in ways that align with the general development philosophy of the present Labour Party Administration in the State".

Some strands of stakeholders and keen observers of the affairs in different LGAs, have pondered and wondered on how well fitted, (re) configured, (re)

packaged, (de/re) constructed, or in alignment, are the political or managerial credentials and pedigrees of the Mayoral appointees, in the context of Ottimystic political curriculum and schematic blueprints?

The relevance of

this question or the reservations expressed by some stakeholders, hinges squarely on the perceived or

speech. The remarks was correct, essentially, bearing in mind some stakeholders, rightly or wrongly, believed they played critical key roles in the electoral victory of Alex Otti, were embittered, dejected, demotivated, uncomfortable, unhappy, with the surprising turn of events, in the post-election policy and decisions, in terms of securing or denied political appointments, as compensations or rewards for the roles played. Some stakeholders have continued to feel short-changed, used and dumped obliviously, in spite of the immense support or contributions rendered, that galvanized and propelled the forces which culminated ultimately in the electoral victory of the incumbent Governor, in the 2023 guber polls. It is equally necessary to point out, we believe, such claims need to be balanced against the other sides of the story, taking into consideration certain variables, and circumstances that drive political environments and political developments, dynamically.

Kudos, to the Governor, who without pretences, or denials, with honour, acknowledged the tides and waves of resentments that swept across the spectrum of Labour Party stakeholders, but calmed the frayed nerves by means of astute display of art of statecraftmanship. The soothing assurances and promises of the Governor, did the magic, by proclaiming, "The beauty of democracy is that in the long run, opportunities and platforms for service present themselves to everyone in diverse capacities".

Evidently, the political appointments that have taken place in recent times, corroborate and validate the Governor's promise and reassurance, in his speech.

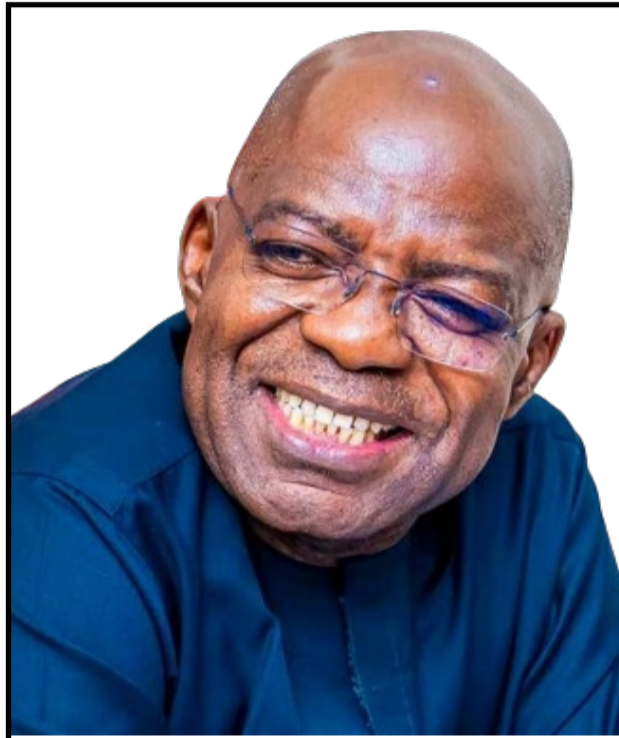
What would the scorecards of the Mayors and Deputies, look like, ultimately, at the end of the term/tenure of stewardship?

I dare say, this is hardwired question.

Only time, can shed lights, and provide the right answer.

Meanwhile, Abians, let us have high hopes, and great faith, in God, the God of God's Own State, that ultimately, in the best interests of Abia State, Ottimystic experimentations, on going, in the 17 LGAs, end in OttiOptimism refrains, and chorus; never in Ottipessimism chants or regrets.

Amen!



Dr Alex Chioma Otti OFR

“
What would the scorecards of the Mayors and Deputies, look like, ultimately, at the end of the term/tenure of stewardship?
”

real "misgivings about the people that have been selected", acknowledged and pinpointed, in the Governor's

Those People Leaving PDP To APC Are The People That Raped And Wrecked Us For 24 Years – Chief Nwangwa

In this interaction with Chief Lawrence Charles Nwangwa, we discussed Governor Alex Otti's administration this past one year and also looked into other political issues. Enjoy the read.

AFNEWS: Can we get to meet you sir?

I am Chief Lawrence Charles Nwangwa (AKAJIUGO). I am an industrialist and political analyst. I am a staunch supporter of the Government of Dr Alex OTTI OFR, and Abia stakeholder from Obingwa LGA. I am a versatile and well-grounded intellectual.

AFNEWS: You have been one of the key supporters of Governor Alex Otti's administration, how will you rate this administration for the past 1 year?

I will score him 90%. The Governor and his Government has surpassed the expectations of every Abian. He can fondly be called the BIG-HEART for no one except few people like me who knew the burning desires in him before now. Though people knew the potentials of Abia State, they never contemplated it will crystallize in so short a time.

He has restored the dignity of Abians on every facet and aspect. Now, then ever before you can proudly say you are from Abia State. This is more than enough for me.

AFNEWS: What are those areas you think this administration has done well in the past 1 year?

In terms of infrastructure, he is fulfilling the dreams of Abia State citizens. He has turned the whole State into a works yard and every day new and rehabilitated roads are being delivered. Sanitation has improved greatly; he has also infused discipline in the civil service as well as restoring professionalism. So much to talk about.

AFNEWS: What are those areas you think this administration needs to improve upon?

Law, order and issues bordering on micro governance. The State Orientation Agency has much more work to do. So far, their impact is not being felt. We need to reorientate our people and their psyche.

AFNEWS: As an industrialist, has

your business improved in terms of the numbers since this administration came in?

It has not been a roller coaster for every business since the APC led Government at the centre came in. But in Abia there is ease of doing business and more roads have been rehabilitated. This is making us spend less time on the road and on maintenance of our vehicles and equipment's.

AFNEWS: A lot of political gladiators are dumping the PDP and moving to the APC, do you think this can turn the tide against Governor Alex Otti in 2027?

The answer is capital NO! I have written a comprehensive article on this though yet to be posted.

What is happening to PDP at the moment is political sifting. What is leaving the PDP is a particular block that usurped power from the original PDP. Those are the PPAPDP and APCPDP. What will now happen is that the ORIGINAL PDP or PDPPDP 'agbafuru' like Senator Abaribe etc will now come back and take their Party back. What will happen is that the actual competitors or opposition the Labour Party will face is this reinvigorated PDP.

APC is a party that has been casted and discredited. It's like a good man wearing the robe of a rogue. Go and ask DR UCHE OGAH he suffered it. Everyone knows that those people leaving PDP to APC are the people that raped and wrecked us for 24 years. They only have nuisance value. Non has real electoral value. They are going into APC with ramshackle apparatus. The type of rigging for which they rose to fame and infamy are outdated hence I don't see their relevance. Before the furore they will cause in the rather stable APC will be settled the election will be over. To the real progressives and PDPPDP it's good riddance and joyful that JEHOVAH EBUPUOLA IBU NJO (God has fought for them and removed the Jonah in their Boat).

AFNEWS: People are wondering why big names are not joining the Labour Party in Abia State, they say it maybe because Labour Party is not willing to accommodate more people. What do you think?

His Excellency Governor ALEX OTTI OFR and by extension the LABOUR PARTY in Abia State is not focused on POLITICS for NOW but deeply concerned and concentrating on putting things on the table for Abians. Dr Alex OTTI is a seasoned and accomplished professional and technocrat. Abians yearned for him and gave him a mandate and with it he crafted an



Chief Charles Nwangwa

What you don't know is that over 60% of progressive Abians have silently moved over to LP. Dr OTTI does not believe in fanfare but doing the needful intrinsically.

AFNEWS: They have been complains from supporters of the governor that despite all their support from 2015 to date, they have not enjoyed any benefit from the present administration. What is your take?

The Governor has said it several even during his campaigns that he will not share Abia money. He said that the days of blood tonic are over.

Whoever fought or contributed to the new Abia should beat his chest and be happy that the new Abia is here. Salaries are being paid as when due and PENSION areas have been cleared.

The Governor and ALEX OTTI as a person is not an ingrate and will never be. He does not forget but what people do not understand is that he is meticulous and systematic in his actions. Watch out all will be touched. He hates being harangued. He is averse to blackmail and never submit to intimidation.

AFNEWS: Do you think the governor has done well politically over this past 1 year?

YES. The politics that were essential to the wellbeing of the State he played it and came out in flying colours. If you noticed he has not fallen out with any top politician or even sectional blocks in the State. Against expectations in some quarters, he gave juicy appointments to some local governments he even got the least votes.

And I can assure you that when time comes for real politics you will marvel and then KNOW that he is a colossus.

AFNEWS: What other advice do you have for the governor and Abians in general going forward?

To the Governor I say kudos, Revelation chapter 3 verse 11 (Jide nkeiji) ...let no man take thy crown"

For Abians I will say be steadfast in supporting Alex Otti and Labour Party for you ain't seen nothing yet.

“ Non has real electoral value. They are going into APC with ramshackle apparatus. The type of rigging for which they rose to fame and infamy are outdated hence I don't see their relevance. ”

AGENDA and so far it's paying off and the accolades are almost deafening from home and abroad.

ABIA STATE IS NOW A NO GO AREA FOR CRIMINALS

— SA Security, Comdr. Macdonald Ubah Rtd

From Cover Page

You know when people do not get their salaries, when people are not paid for the services rendered, that is a recipe for thievery because, a man will not sit back and see his family go hungry. We inherited a state of non-payment of salaries for over a period of time and they said it is called core and uncore civil servants. You see, when people are not paid, it gives rise for those individuals who are not criminals to find it hard to put food on their table.

What then becomes the easiest way is to resort to criminality. so, we have percentage of involuntary criminals and that percentage, this administration has taken care of by ensuring that their salaries are paid, once you render any service, you get paid for it. Putting money in the economy has eliminated that segment of people who are not inherently born criminals. His Excellency, Dr Alex Chioma Otti OFR understands that psychology, and he made sure that aspect was taken care of. You see people earn their salaries, workers on the 28th of every month whether is on a Sunday, they receive their alerts.

So that segment leaves us to the point of those who are born criminals by birth and we have made sure that we deal decisively with that segment.

In the early days of Alex Otti, we launched the "Operation Crush". you can bear me witness that the Umunneochi axis that was a no-go area, you can now sleep there with your eyes closed.

We made sure that we saturated the whole place with troops on ground, with technology to stem the tide of what those criminals were perpetrating in the area and now you see the results.

In the early days of this administration, unraveled that mystery around the Lokpanta cattle market, because we had the intelligence that it was an axis of ransom payment.

We immediately went into all that place, the ungoverned spaces that were in existence that were left unattended to, we made sure we took over the bushes because the governor said, "Noinch of Abia state, will be left in the hands of the criminals. As we speak, we have fenced off 22.2 hectares of lands that was major ungoverned space in that Lokpanta cattle market, we have increased security presence and applied technology.

The fulani herdsmen that were perpetrating these crimes using natives as collaborators, we've smoked most of them out. What we're witnessing now is displacement of criminals from the known areas because we've denied them the latitude to operate, they now resorted to going to farm lands to kidnap people who are doing their farm work for 8-9 hours, collecting peanuts from them that, we will

eradicate them as time goes on.

AFNEWS: How are you guys going to completely make sure that our city is safe?

Like I told you, there's a displacement of



criminals and most of it is classified but, I assure you this; when the case of Prof. Emezue came up, we deployed all within our powers to get him out. Like his Excellency Dr. Alex Chioma Otti says, "the rest is history, Prof. Emezue has been released, we've apprehended the culprits and we are going after the remaining members of the gang.

**“
No investor will come where they're aware of the fact that the environment is insecure. So, what we are doing is placing the Advisory Security Council that will bring about policies that will help in streamlining the security environment in Abia state.**

I will be little economical with words but, Abia will not be a safe haven for those criminals who think that they will come and cause mayhem and go away Scot free we understand how it operates. Unfortunately, Abia state is bounded by seven other states so, we have to contend with the fact that we are bounded by Akwa ibom, Cross River, Rivers, Imo, Ebonyi, Anambra and Enugu state so, whatever happens in those areas, they have a way of emptying themselves into Abia but, overtime, we've managed to keep Abia safe at least, I make bold to say

that Abia is one of the safest place in the south East.

AFNEWS: In a scale of 1-100, how can you rate Abia in terms of security ?

With all modesty, we are not where we want to be but, I think we are inching forward where we should be. His Excellency is a perfectionist and he is putting resources in security to make sure that if we're at 70% now, we should be at 90% in the coming years.

AFNEWS: The Security Advisory



council and the Security Trust Board, what is it all about?

You see, His Excellency is always a step ahead, see the caliber of people in the Advisory council using the former chief of Army staff Lt.Gen. Azubuike ihejirika as chairman and then, the other members who are seasoned men that have done their work in military, SSS, Police and their work is to provide security Advice to ensure that Abia state is safe and secure.

No investor will come where they're aware of the fact that the environment is insecure. So, what we are doing is placing the Advisory Security Council that will bring about policies that will help in streamlining the security environment in Abia state. You know security is a very expensive business and the state government cannot do it alone, so we need Security Trust Fund, that will attract resources to be able to fund the security

needs of government security agencies in the state.

The world is fast clinging towards artificial intelligence, so this are very expensive ventures the security trust fund isto provide that enablement to fund the security apparatus that will be needed by this government security agencies to operate. Like the Hilux truck alone now, how much it is and then, drones and all that.

These are items that we really need. You see the level of bunkery activities that is happening around Ukwu East and Ukwu west axis, we need to stop the bunkery activities to the bearest minimum and we need drones and all that to prosecute that activity.

There was an enabling act that established the Abia state security trust fund, but it was not well runned by the previous administration. The enabling act is very explicit, money will be coming from every contractor that does any job in Abia state, thereby contributing to the security trust fund. Like I said, His Excellency, has everything wrapped up and considering the caliber of people that make up the trust fund starting with the chairman Obiamarije Stanley, who is the CEO of Shorelink Oil and Gas Services Ltd, Lady Josephine Nwaeze, who is the CEO of the News Engineering Nigeria Limited and couple of others like Bank Anthony Okoroafor, who is the immediate past president of TAN. His Excellency, knows how to select his onions so, I give him kudos for his selection and for always putting square parts in square holes.

AFNEWS: What is your Advice for Abians in respect to security and what they can do to contribute to security in Abia?

Basically, security is everybody's business. if you see something, say something. The governor has made sure that he brings the traditional rulers on board and they are quite cooperative. It is good step because you cannot operate on a particular locality, without the traditional institution knowing about it.

And you know what's burning is state policing and Abia is fully subscribing to state policing and I know if it is consented to as a bill and comes into law, Abia will fully get integrated into state policing and provide funding for it to the extent that the law has prescribed for states.

So, I enjoin all of us to join hands to make Abia a safe place where development, growth and most of all, the mission and the vision of his Excellency in making Abia the No 1 state be achieved.

WE EVACUATED OVER 6000 TRUCK LOADS OF WASTES IN SIX WEEKS

– ASEPA DG, OKEREKE



The Director General of the Abia State Environmental Protection Agency, ASEPA Mazi Ogbonnia Okereke has revealed that it was a tasking job removing the tones of abandoned wastes in Umuahia and Aba, and ensuring that they are properly disposed of the streets by the taskforce set up by Governor Alex Otti on assumption of office. In a media interaction tagged "Governor Alex Otti's one year in office scorecard" Okereke said his administration met on ground, tonnes of abandoned wastes in Abia State which prompted the employment of trucks and payloaders to evacuate them. According to Okereke, over six thousand truckloads of humongous waste were evacuated by the Agency in six weeks. He also added that the Agency's dumpsite was also in a mess as it was abandoned and not maintained properly by previous administration.

The ASEPA boss regretted that people do not make use of the receptacles provided by Governor Alex Otti in disposing their wastes but rather prefers dumping wastes on the ground. He also lamented the illegal activities of scavengers who steal the receptacles, warning that anyone caught would be made to face the law.

Okereke reiterated the 5pm to 6am time for dumping of wastes into government approved dumpsites. "There is time for dumping wastes so that our people can come and evacuate them after that time and everywhere will be clean. But when you dump refuse 24/7, everywhere will look messed up" Okereke admonished.

He also revealed that ASEPA has started construction of stands for receptacles in some places to avoid them occupying the roads.

Okereke pointed at plans to transit from use of receptacles for waste disposal to pick up from homes to make it easier for people.

He explained that the governor's earlier initiative to privatise waste management in the state was temporarily suspended as companies who bided and got approval failed to deliver values as expected in four months.

In his words; "We are looking at the whole process again. Afterwards, government will decide where to go. Now it is purely ASEPA running it".

Wife Declares Abia NIPR Chairman Missing



state council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ). Wife of the missing NIPR chairman, Mrs Olunkwa had raised the alarm after the husband failed to return home from Alaoji Spare Parts Market along Aba axis of Enugu-Port Harcourt Express where he had gone to repair his car. Mrs Olunkwa said when the husband called her on phone at around 8pm, he said he left the mechanic's workshop at around 7pm and was driving toward Umuahia, the state capital. "Later at about 10 pm," she explained, "I called him back, but the effort proved abortive and since then, he has remained incommunicado."

The whereabouts of the Chairman, Abia State chapter of the Nigeria Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Felix Olunkwa remained unknown after his wife raised the alarm on Sunday.

This is even as the state command of the Nigeria Police has not reacted to the alarm which has rattled both the chapter and the

According to the embittered wife, the car is an ash coloured Toyota 4RUNNER Jeep (2000 model) with registration number HS 391 ABC. She appealed to the police and other security agencies to step into the matter to rescue her husband to save the family from the pain and agony it is passing through.

Abia hospitals retrofitted to standard under one year- Health Commissioner



As governor Alex Otti of Abia state marks one year in office, the commissioner for health, Dr Ngozi Okoronkwo has highlighted some of the achievements in the health sector. Dr Okoronkwo in a media

interaction, listed the General Hospital Amachara and Specialist/diagnostic Centre as those that have been completely renovated and have started functioning in Umuahia. For Aba, she named the Cottage Hospital and Umunneato General Hospital. Okoronkwo revealed that both hospitals from findings were built in the 50s. The present administration had to demolish the structures and are building from scratch which caused the delay in their reopening. She assured that a certain standard is beared in mind during the retrofitting to get quality facilities, adding that hospitals still under construction would soon be completed and commissioned.

In her words; "We are not giving Abians structures that will not stand the test of time; that is why we are taking our time to do them". Other achievement she mentioned was free surgical outreach for Abians. Addressing issues on the Abia state multi specialist hospital built by the immediate past administration, the commissioner said the facility is not yet in use because it was hurriedly commissioned before completion. Okoronkwo said the structure which was badly built was not wired, lacks proper ventilation, among other faults. According to her, the structure was initially proposed to be a hostel for nurses but at some point, the plan was changed and it was converted to a hospital. " We are working assiduously to ensure that it is good enough to house a hospital. Everything there was done in a hurry. Recall that it was commissioned a night before hand over" she said.

What We Agreed With Abia Pensioners Before Paying Backlogs - Finance Commissioner



The Commissioner for Finance in Abia state, Mr Mike Akpara, has clarified issues surrounding the payment of pension arrears made by governor Alex Otti. According to the commissioner, the governor on assumption of office, met humongous pension and gratuity arrears

and in a bid to rectify it, delegated him (Akpara) and others to meet and negotiate with the leadership of the state chapter of the Nigeria Union of Pensioners, NUP.

He said bearing in mind that the government also needs money to address decayed infrastructures, revive moribund industries and other projects and not just paying pensions and salaries arrears alone, there was need to compromise and make sacrifices. This he said the leadership of the pensioners willingly agreed to. Akpara further revealed that during the negotiation which took months, both parties agreed that the governor will pay pensions in full without any deduction, from when he assumed office and would also add extra payment which would be full and final payment. The commissioner stated; "... We said

there will be compromises and sacrifices and all of us are willing to do that and they said they were willing. In fact, at a point, they said, begin to pay us now as when due so that we can get our drugs. But the governor said no, I will go the extra mile.

After paying you what is supposed to be your due, I'll also add something to it. And we said, before now, some of you were being paid 20% or 50% of whatever pension you are supposed to receive. We will pay you full amount from when we came in. We cleared it and then he made extra payment and we agreed that it is going to be full and final payment. It was written, signed and delivered. We have our own copy and they have theirs." The full and final payment of pensions and gratuities arrears means that no more arrears would be paid.

Gov Otti Unveils 15th Road Project Executed In Aba Under One Year

Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, on Tuesday commissioned the 15th road project executed in Aba within one year of his stay in office.

Governor Otti commissioned the University Road, Green Avenue, and College Road, all in Aba, with a pledge to transform the commercial capital of the state into a modern, functional city. "We are glad to be delivering the 15th road in Aba. By the time we commission this roads, we would have commissioned 15 new roads that we took on, retrofitted, remodelled, redesigned and and rebuilt," he said.

The Governor highlighted the strategic importance of the newly commissioned roads, noting their economic relevance as well as improved connectivity to the area. Governor Otti, who disclosed that the roads were some of the first sets of roads awarded by his administration, noted that for decades, the area was notorious for severe flooding, which transformed the streets into rivers during heavy rains. He further revealed that the road was redesigned with drainage system and an underground tunnel to channel storm



water into the Aba river, which has resolved the long-standing issues of flooding in the area.

"People who are used to this place will tell you their story and how the road has been for decades.

"When you see people dancing, when you see them expressing joy, when you see them rejoicing, it is because of what they have been going through and we thank God that today, the story is different," Governor Otti remarked.

The Governor outlined several ongoing

projects nearing completion to include Cemetery Road, the Dual Carriageway Omuma Road, which he said would be ready within one month; Pepple Road, and various roads in the World Bank, Umungasi, and Umule areas, all expected to be completed by the end of the year.

He assured that work is progressing smoothly on the major Port Harcourt Road, as well as on Ohanku, Ndoki, Ekeakpara and the once impassable Obohia Road. He urged residents to

protect the road infrastructure and ensure proper disposal of waste.

"Like I said, what we have come here to do is to fix our place, your own responsibility is to ensure that you protect these assets.

"We don't want to come here and see the solar lights has a problem not to talk of disappearing. Days are gone when we will tolerate garbage on our roads. So, my request to you is to help me implement it," Otti stated.

Earlier, the Commissioner for Works, Engr. Otumchere Oti, described the construction of various road projects as a clear evidence that Governor Otti recognises the importance of infrastructure for development. Engr. Oti, while commending the present administration, stated that the Governor has prioritised the provision of infrastructure and road networks.

He added that the roads are equipped with street lights to enhance security and welfare of the people among other assets.



Gov. Umo Eno

from cover page

Stadium where he expressed gratitude to God and Akwa Ibom people across ethnic and socio-political divides.

He paid glowing tribute to his predecessor, Mr Udom Emmanuel, members of his campaign team and those who voted him into office.

Governor Eno also congratulated President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and commended him for signing the old national anthem bill into law, which he said, reflects the nation's aspiration and gives credence to the Akwa Ibom State anthem.

The Governor equally congratulated the President of the 10th Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio, whose collaboration, according to him, has helped him reduce the political temperature in the state.

Attempting a review of development in

Governor Eno Presents First Year Scorecard, Outlines Future Plans

the past one year, the governor said his government has kept faith with its aspirations in rural development, education, housing, job creation, agriculture, human capacity development and several infrastructural development.

Making projections into the coming years of his administration, he said his administration will step up the tempo in rural development, food security, housing, market development, infrastructure upgrade, real estate development in Lagos and Abuja, just as he announced approval for a second round of one project per LGA and construction of more strategic rural roads.

"In our second year in office, we plan by the Grace of the Almighty God and the support of all people both at home and the diaspora to increase the tempo of governance in the coming years, we will be focusing on implementing projects in line with the five pillars of the ARISE agenda.

"In Agriculture, we will complete the Ibom Model Farm and Resort, in partnership with the Songhai Farms of Porto Novo, we will significantly increase food production and price stability of our staple foods among others. We plan to link up existing infrastructure to a full value chain and consolidate on existing policies and programmes," he stated.

Other things in the subsequent years

forecast, according to the Governor, include: the ARISE Shopping City in Uyo, a mall that will attract certified global brands, commercialisation of the State's existing facilities in Lagos and Abuja, medium density housing estate in Ewet Housing for upwardly mobile professionals, and activation of the industrial park with several industries coming alive, as well as upgrading the Ibom Specialist Hospital by adding a renal centre in the corridor, among many other things.

Also in the pipe line are: building of elderly peoples recreational centre, International Market in Ikot Ekpene, construction of the Oron Beach, construction of more model schools provision of ICT centre in Ibom-LED to be used for all exams including recruitment test into the State Civil Service, construction of more model schools, implementation of students exchange programme to London, consolidation of the Dakkada Skills Acquisition Centre among others.

"We remain committed to our obligation with our flagship Airline Ibom Air. In July, we will receive the second A220-300 brand new Airbus to Ibom Air fleet. We will complete and put to use the Smart International Terminal Building Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) building and the Taxiway and we will build a complete Aviation ecosystem in

Akwa Ibom State," Umo Eno added. Stakeholders from the various strands of the State presented goodwill messages to express satisfaction with Umo Eno's governance disposition and achievements recorded within one year, therefore expressing optimism that the State and the people will be the better in the coming years.

In their separate remarks, former Military Administrator Yakubu Bako, Senators Ekong Sampson, Effiong Bob and Emmanuel Ibok Essien for their respective senatorial districts, the Oku Ibom Ibibio for the traditional institutions, Chairman of Association of Local Governments of Nigeria for the third tier of government, the Speaker, Rt Hon. Udeme Otong for the Legislative arm, the Chief Judge of the State on behalf of the Judiciary, and Elder Aniekan Akpan for the PDP congratulated the Governor stressing, "we are proud of you achievements within one year in office."

High points of the event featured cultural displays and special musical presentations celebrate Governor Eno's one year of remarkable development, while some ordinary people and supporters of the ARISE Agenda were identified and honoured as ARISE Ambassadors by the Governor for making significant and outstanding contributions to the State.