

## Amaechi Inaugurates 2010 National Sports Festival LOC

As part of preparations towards the successful hosting of the 17th National Sports Festival in Port Harcourt next year, the Rivers State Government, has inaugurated a 23-member Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the festival tagged "Garden City Games".

Performing the ceremony in Government House, Port Harcourt, Governor Chibuike Amaechi charged members of the committee headed by the Deputy Governor, Tele Ikuru to ensure that facilities of World Class were provided for the festival.

Governor Amaechi who noted that the hosting of the festival in Rivers State provides another opportunity to develop more sporting infrastructure said the committee should look into the need to build new facilities, and existing ones should be rebuilt to international standard as well.

He however explained that the need for the building of world class sporting facilities was not necessarily because of the festival, but for the purposes of providing more recreational infrastructure you youths of Rivers State.

The State Chief Executive directed the Ministry of Tourism to expedite actions on the rebuilding of a new Cultural Centre to be called

Agbani Derego Cultural Centre.

He also directed the demolition of the number one and two fields in the old Port Harcourt Township axis as well as the information centre, and rebuild them to provide facilities for the National Festival.

Governor Amaechi who explained that recreational facilities are needed in the state said if such facilities were on ground, some of the youths who engaged in criminal activities would have utilized them to exert their energies in sporting activities and probably become successful in sports.

Responding on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee, the Chairman, Engr. Tele Ikuru, thanked Governor Chibuike Amaechi for the confidence reposed in them.

He gave assurances that members of the Committee would not only ensure the showcasing of Rivers rich cultural heritage to the world, but would ensure that the State hosts to become the overall winner.

The Local Organizing Committee made of up 23 members, have the Commissioner for Sports Hon. Boma Iyaye as the Vice Chairman while members professional bodies, and parastatals as well.



The Wife of Rivers State former Deputy Governor, Dame Christie Toby (left), presenting an address to Dame Judith Amaechi, wife of Rivers State Governor, during an investiture ceremony as Matron/African Region of Girls Guide Association held in Government House, Port Harcourt.



Dame Christie Toby (left), Chief Commissioner of Girls Guide Association of Nigeria decorating Dame Judith Amaechi (right), wife of Rivers State Governor as Matron/African Region of Girls Guide Association held in Government House, Port Harcourt



The wife of the Rivers State Governor, Dame Judith Amaechi (right), in a hand shake with Chief (Mrs) Josephine Diette-Spiff at the Civic Centre to flag-off the Micro Finance Loan Scheme for Widows in Rivers State, while Mrs Vivian Braide, Hon Commissioner for Women Affairs watches.

## RSG Disburses N600m To Widows

The Rivers State Government has disbursed N600 million soft loans to widows in the state.

The N600 million widow loan scheme covers 96.9 per cent of the Ministry of Women Affairs budget for the fiscal year.

Flagging off the exercise, wife of the Rivers State Governor, Dame Judith Amaechi said the fund disbursed to the widows is a part of the N1.5 billion set aside for empowering women through Micro Finances.

According to her, "the Rivers State Governor has set aside N1.5 billion for empowering women through micro finance scheme adding that there can be no sustainable development if the women are not

empowered".

Dame Judith Amaechi stated that the state government has continued to articulate and implement gender friendly and women supportive programmes geared toward alleviating the suffering of the women, adding that the State House of Assembly has pledged to make legislation that will promote the interest and welfare of the woman.

"The State Assembly is committed to charting a new course through the passage of women friendly legislation for the women".

Mrs Amaechi charged the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the opportunities provided by the state government. "I want to charge you to take this programme seriously and I'll

work hard in developing your skills and also generate meaningful ideas and initiative that will complement the government economic development strides in the state".

She added that mothers should be able to live an exemplary life worthy of emulation "not only should we as mothers of the state be better people to foster unity and purposely initiative, but we should exhibit exemplary virtues for the benefit of our families and the state at large".

Earlier in her speech, the State Commissioner for Women Affairs, Vivian Braide said the State Government is poised to provide widows in the state with necessary resources to permanently lift them and

## Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Opens In PH

...Amaechi Harps On Democratic Culture

Rivers State Governor Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi has urged Commonwealth Parliamentarians to dedicate themselves to the performance of their oversight functions to enhance a democratic culture within the Commonwealth nations.

Governor Amaechi gave the advice while declaring open the 56th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), African Region, at the Rivers State House of Assembly Complex, Port Harcourt.

The governor explained that proper performance of the legislative oversight functions by legislators would check the excesses of the executive and promote accountability in governance.

He noted that since Lawmakers are closer to the electorate than the other arms of government, they should be able to interact with the people, appreciate their problems and speak out for them, emphasizing that democracy cannot succeed if the Legislators failed to check the excesses of the Executive arm.

Governor Amaechi thanked members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, African

Region, for accepting to hold the meeting in Rivers State, and wished them fruitful deliberations.

Earlier, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), African Region, and Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Hon. Amusua Mwanamwambwa, said the task before the Committee is to prepare the agenda for the forthcoming Conference of the Association, also slated to hold in Port Harcourt in July this year.

He said the Committee would recommend among other things the review of the Constitution of the body, to the Conference, and thanked the Rivers State House of Assembly for accepting to host the meeting as well as the conference in July.

Also speaking, the Vice Chairperson of CPA, who is also the Speaker, Rivers State House of Assembly, Hon Tonye Harry, lauded Governor Chibuike Amaechi for making the event possible and for availing the state legislature the unique opportunity of being the first local sub-branch to host the conference.

## N'Delta: NDDC Speeds Up Work On Kaiama Shore Protection

...Also Sagbama-Ebedebiri Road

The Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC says it is making concerted efforts to ensure that the Kaiama shore protection as well as the Sagbama Ebedebiri road, cutting across Tungbo, Bulu-Orua, Angiama, Angalabiri and Ayamanasa is completed within schedule.

Already 84, 100 square metres of the shore protection has been covered while 50% bridge work of the road project has been achieved.

Managing Director of the Commission, Mr Timi Alaibe stated this while briefing newsmen shortly after an inspection tour of the two projects.

Mr Alaibe stated that he was particularly impressed with the extent of job on the Kaiama shore protection, pointing out that at this rate the job was certain to be delivered on schedule.

He said the NDDC was desirous to see contractors meet the projects demands to enable the communities

benefit from them, warning that the Commission will soon be sending defaulting contractors to the security agencies while efforts

will be made to recover funds from the banks that guaranteed such projects.

At Sagbama Ebedebiri road, Mr Alaibe also noted with satisfaction the level of work on the project.

He said the road connects several communities that have never seen road before adding "this is remarkable, it is in line with the 7 point Agenda of the President".

Mr Alaibe stated that the beams for the bridge work are ready and would soon be launched to take the project to the next level.

The NDDC Boss solicited the co-operation and support of the communities where the Commission's projects are sited, saying that the NDDC can only deliver its projects successfully with the understanding of the communities.

## Greater P.H City Master Plan

...Amaechi Pledges Support

By Okechukwu Geoffrey

The governor of Rivers State Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi has pledged to give all the necessary support to the new Greater Port Harcourt City Master Plan but said that for the plan to come to fruition all hands must be on deck.

The governor who disclosed that the sum of 150 billion would be spent by the state government annually on the new master plan also pointed out that a lot is being done to restore Port Harcourt City to its former Garden City status.

The State Chief Executive however called on those in the creeks to come out and join hands to make the new plan work stressing that there are a lot of job opportunities for them in the state.

Thanking the people of the state for their cooperation the governor expressed joy that security has improved compared to what it used to be and said that plans are also in top gear to improve on power supply in the creeks as it is being done in education, road, and health among others.

Governor Amaechi also assured the people that Rivers money is not for sharing like the Abuja based politicians would think but for the development of the state and appealed to Rivers people to embrace the maintenance culture which he said would go a long way to repositioning the city when completed.

Meanwhile, the Sole Administrator of the New Greater Port Harcourt City Master Plan, Dame Aleruchi Cookey Gam said her organization would go into public/private partnership and commended the state governor Chibuike Amaechi for the initiative.

Others who commended the governor for the New Greater Port Harcourt City Master Plan include the first military governor of old Rivers State HRM Alfred Diète Spiff, NAPEP National Co-ordinator, Magnus Kpakol, Minister of State for Petroleum, Odien Ajumogobia and the Managing Director of NDDC Timi Alaibe. They all promised to support the state government in this laudable initiative.

The presentation of the Greater Port Harcourt City Master Plan which took place last Thursday at the main bowl of Alfred Diète Spiff Civic Center in Port Harcourt had so many dignitaries in attendance including women and youths in the state.

LGAs actively involved in the Greater Port Harcourt Master Plan include Ikwerre, Okirika, Ogbolo, Etche and Eleme.