

Gov. Amaechi Restates Commitment To Infrastructural Development

...Assures Militants Of Their Safety

Governor Chibuike Amaechi on Wednesday in Port Harcourt restated his administration's commitment to develop the state along infrastructural planks saying that though the task is daunting but the way and means are available.

In a media briefing at the Government House the Ubiama born Governor reeled out his administrations efforts so far in the education sector, power, health, security and his involvement in the amnesty saga.

According to the Governor and to prove his administrations belief in manpower development, the Governor pointed out that the education sector has taken in more money than most other sectors of the economy.

He stated that after taking over primary schools from Local Government Areas (LGAs) his regime started building 250 primary schools and along the line have added more 100.

He emphasized that before the end of his 4-year tenure he is definite that the state would have more than 750 schools at the primary level and 1,600 classroom blocks and would be spending N27 billion.

He noted that aside from taking over schools from the LGAs, the administration also took over the payment of salaries for teachers in the Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) in the state and that this astronomically shot up the overall investments or regular monthly wage bills of the state to N1.1billion in that sector.

Still in the education sector, his commitment he maintained pushed him to decide in demolishing some substandard Junior Secondary School blocks in the state so that new classroom blocks will be built in the schools.

In this bid, about six JSS schools have been earmarked to be demolished as some have already been demolished.

The students invariably he asserted, have been relocated and attached to some other schools pending when the new blocks are completed.

In the Senior Secondary cadre, the Governor stated that N90 billion has been earmarked to be invested and that work has also commenced in most of the schools to benefit.

In this area, 24 secondary schools in the state would be part of this largesse.

At the tertiary level, Governor Amaechi stressed and regretted how incessant rains have forced the contractor handling the Rivers State University of Science and Technology hostel block at the new site at Iguruta to temporarily stop.

According to him, 10 hostels are to be built with a capacity for 60,000 students, while faculty blocks, departments will also be built as the work progresses.

He decried the dearth of teachers generally in the education sector nowadays and hinted that the administration is tinkering towards re-establishing the

Teachers training colleges so as to produce enough teachers.

Alongside the TTCs, Governor Amaechi informed that Rivers State will be blessed with a University of Education as the need for teachers is glaring.

The health sector was another sector where the Governor was at home to talk about.

"You are aware we are building 150 Health Centres, and you also know that 50 are already completed.

This is strictly in the primary health sector", the Governor said.

He reiterated the importance of the Primary Health Centres and that for this 190 medical doctors are to be employed.

According to him, this 190 doctors are exactly the total number that applied for jobs when the state advertised and as the need is clear for more doctors, he said there was need not leaving out some.

Amaechi said... "I have given order for all the 190 doctors that applied to be hired since the whole number remains hardly enough".

He emphasized of efforts in other sectors of the health industry.

According to the number one citizen, three hospitals-a Dental hospital in Garrison, the New Niger Delta Hospital, at Emenike and a 50-bed hospital at the present site of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology.

The Karibi Whyte Specialist Hospital the Governor said has also been commenced.

In equipping some of the hospitals, the Governor rued the slow pace of activities as a result of 'Due Process' but assured that sooner than later the hospitals would start serving their purposes.

In the area of roads, it was clear from the Governor's poise and disposition that he was in full grasp of issues as he stated rhetorically "we are trying in roads but the problem remains that the city was not according to the initial master plan blessed with much roads.

"This is why new ones are being created here and there while old ones are being renovated and expanded," he stated.

However, Governor Amaechi noted that indiscipline was seriously part of what causes problems on our roads as drivers and road users have a penchant for disobeying very common traffic laws which invariably lead to traffic congestion.

Nonetheless, he promised that the Rivers State House of Assembly will soon enact the Traffic Management Law and from their also an agency-Traffic Management Agency?

will come into place and all issues and abuse of traffic laws will be checked.

Security was equally uppermost in the Governor's list of important sectors. He expressed his happiness at the level of peace pervading the state right now and also emphasized that media men should help stress the need for the rule of law to be maintained in every area of the city's ambience and even in the rural areas.

According to him, peace is essential to healthy life and it was at this juncture that a journalist asked after his touted seeming nonchalance to the Federal Government (FG) Amnesty deal, he said, "Am I not the one that first started talking about rehabilitation to our youths, are you not aware that I established a rehabilitation centre at Okehi in Etche and another one in Aluu and has also taken 300 repented youths to Jos, Plateau

By
Paschal Agbada



Ateke Tom

State for Skills acquisition Programmes', he asked.

The same journalist asked him of his relationship with

Ateke Tom, the Governor said, "I have no case with Ateke, we don't have anything between us, if he comes and surrenders in view of the FG Amnesty Programme definitely he remains my hero, I'll assure him of his safety and other encouragements.

On demolition of the waterfronts, Governor Amaechi stated "unless the Supreme Court stops me". The security implications are far too enormous to leave the waterfronts.

For instance", Governor Amaechi said, "if a serious crime is committed, or someone is killed, no one living in the waterfront area is allowed to report the matter to the police, if any one dares this law, he will be killed. And you know, no government will allow another government to exist or operate within its confines. So, the waterfronts must go with their own

governments.

Besides, we have consulted with stakeholders and all the necessary forums and they are in support of demolition", the Governor said.

"Finally, for those who may have problem acquiring land for relocation, added to the compensation to be paid, we will promise to reclaim land in Okirika for them", Amaechi stressed.

The power sector was not left out. Governor Amaechi noted that, "as of now, the Rivers State Government is almost attaining independence in power generation, the only problem is distribution".

He said that at present, power generation has gone up and that between now and December, 280 megawatts will be realizable.

He assured that by 2011 the state power generation effort will yield up to 500 megawatts.

PDP Crisis: Yar'Adua Convenes Emergency NEC Meeting

By
Okechukwu Geoffrey

In order to settle the internal wrangling within the National Working Committee (NWC) of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and prevent the Party from further disintegration, a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the party has been convened by President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

Beam Checks learnt that the meeting is scheduled to hold on September 24, 2009 to discuss amongst other issues, the alleged polarized nature of the National Working Committee.

It was learnt that as at today, two 'factions' exist within the NWC.

One faction is said to be

loyal to the National Deputy Chairman, Dr. Bello Muhammed and National Secretary Alhaji Abubakar Barje Kawu, while the other group is alleged to have the tacit support and blessings of the National Chairman, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor.

This ugly bickering got to an embarrassing limit when statements made on behalf of the party by the Deputy National Chairman was discountenanced on the pages of newspaper by the National Publicity Secretary, Prof. Rufai Alkali.

With this internal crisis, the party could not come up with one voice on crisis rocking state chapters of the party in Anambra and Ogun.

The 'factions' in NWC support different leaderships in these states thereby making harmonization and reconciliation of issues relating to leadership in these states nearly impossible.

There are indications however that President Yar'Adua is not comfortable with this internal crisis within the NWC especially now that PDP needs strengthening as 2011 general elections approach.

The National Publicity Secretary of PDP, Prof. Alkali revealed the opinion of the Presidency last week when he hinted to newsmen that at the emergency meeting, issues relating to the party's mid term



President Yar'Adua

convention expected to come up in March next year would be extensively discussed.

It is expected that at the March 2010 convention, the NWC led by Prince Ogbulafor would either be sacked or receive a vote of confidence.

The President is said to be worried that the present leadership of the party is not doing enough to settle the various leadership cum other sundry problems rocking PDP in some states.

A source at the PDP National Secretariat hinted to Beam Checks that the Deputy National Chairman of the Party enjoys the ears of the President and is alleged to be surreptitiously plotting to expose the "negative antics" of the National Chairman, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor.

"Let us watch and see as the developments unfold", our source hinted.

ASUU Chairman Turns Bus Conductor In Port Harcourt

By
Okechukwu Geoffrey

This story to our esteemed readers may sound funny, unbelievable if not ridiculous, that a University lecturer could not find any business worthy except that of "conductor business". The news in indeed is real for those who had the time to watch the AIT few days ago where the ASUU Chairman Rivers State Chapter Dr. Andrew Efemini was seen live doing a conductor job in one of the buses painted in Rivers colour.

Answering questions from newsmen who wanted to know the reasons behind his decision, Dr Efemini said he decided to go back to his

former business since Federal Government has refused to sign its agreement with the Academic Staff Union of Universities ASUU.

According to Dr. Efemini, "I will not continue to remain idle, I must look for what me and my family will eat, Federal Government thinks I will die, I will not die, infact I make between N1,500/2,000 dailys then you can imagine how much in a week he said.

ASUU he said, would not call off the strike until Federal Government signs the agreement with ASUU".

He maintained that even if

it would take government three years to sign the agreement ASUU will continue to maintain its stand noting that ASUU wants to use this period to tell government that it cannot be taken for granted or fooled all the time.

Dr. Efemini is a senior lecturer in Uniport and also doubles as the substantive Chairman of ASUU, Rivers State Chapter.

ASUU you will recall has been on strike for over three months now with the decision to continue in the strike as long as possible unless the Federal Government signs the controversial agreement.

In the bid to shore up revenue of the State, Governor Ikedi Ohakim of Imo State has inaugurated a three-man interim management committee charged with the responsibility of generating internally at least N1 billion every month for the state.

Inaugurating the committee at the Executive Chambers, Government House, Owerri, the Governor asked members of the committee to be prudent, corrupt-free and checkmate

waste and recklessness that had been the bane of the system for a long time now.

He charged the new committee to ensure that fiscal policies relating to tax and rent laws are adequately

implemented.

The Governor frowned at the paltry N106 million internally generated for the state at present.

This he said remains a stumbling block to the

Internally Generated Revenue: Ohakim Aims N1bn Monthly

...Inaugurates Committee

By

Wilson Uchendu

realization of his 'big dreams' for Imo State.

He also gave the committee the responsibility of changing to a professional commission for revenue generation and management.



Gov. Ohakim

ABIA: Renegade Group Threatens Ututu Community's Peace Process

The peace process raised to restore normalcy in Ututu, in Arochuku LGA of Abia State after the controversial deliverance organized by the Ututu Believers Association, UBA that saw many sacred deities and shrines destroyed is allegedly being threatened by a renegade group in Abuma Ututu village led by a lawyer John Okore Ogbonnaya.

According to the Chairman of Ututu Traditional Rulers Council HRH Eze (Sir) Linus Okore Okafor in an exclusive chat with this publication "these group are responsible for forging peoples signatures to sell the community landed property for their selfish interest".

Eze Okafor who is also the Traditional Ruler of Amaeza Autonomous Community said attempt by his cabinet to stop them from their nefarious activities brought them headlong with the group.

He alleged that the group at a point engaged the services of thugs to kidnap him and has been sending him death threats through text messages, a development the monarch said, he has reported to the police which eventually has charged the matter to court.

At some other time, he further disclosed that this group in an attempt to discredit him or even dethrone him had to blackmail him to the Abia State Government accusing him of campaigning against the PPA State Administration of Governor Theodore Orji and gun running which he said were all false.

On the relationship among the Ututu Traditional Rulers Council, Sir Okafor said it was cordial except of course that one of them Eze Chris O. Nwankwo wants to arrogate superiority to himself.

"He even at a point arrogated His Royal Majesty to himself, an appellation we know that is only awarded by the government in recognition of a traditional

By
Joe Kalu

ruler who has served his people creditably for upwards of 20 years.

On the possibility of having an overall Monarch to oversee them, Eze Okafor said that is very remote, it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to create such a structure.

He however remarked that if such a development becomes possible the candidate has to be among the eight (8) autonomous communities, traditional rulers and indeed from Amaeke in Umunna Autonomous Community, the traditional seat of power.

On his opinion over the action of the religious fanatics, the Monarch said he was in support of their action to an extent.

"You see what happened was approved by God and to be executed that day because the Izu Festival celebration had gone violent of recent and nobody liked it".

He disclosed that part of their mandate as Traditional Rulers was not only to maintain peace and unity in their domain but to protect the peoples custom, tradition and culture, adding that the peace committee headed by a Professor Emeritus, J.K Onoh has as part of its terms of reference in the

modernization of the Izu Festival celebration.

He used the opportunity to advice all Ututu people

especially the stakeholders to cooperate with the Committee in order to create a conducive environment in the area needed for development.

Awari Plans Big For ONELGA Students

By

Paschal Agbada

The Acting Chairman of Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Council, Hon. Ikechukwu Awari Nwabrije, has announced that his government will provide the National Association of Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Students (ONESA) with a fully air-conditioned 18-Seater Bus as well as an office accommodation

which will serve as its National Secretariat.

The Chairman equally announced that Council will set up a committee to take charge of the contentious issue of indigent students of the Local Government Area.

The Council Boss made these announcements shortly after he had formally inaugurated the Executive

body of the students Association.

Hon. Awari therefore called on the students to reciprocate the kind gestures of his administration by shunning negative vices and eschewing rancour and acrimony.

He called on them to contribute their quota towards building a strong and virile ONELGA society.

UBE Boss Calls On Donor Agencies To Join In Development Of Education

By

Okechukwu Geoffrey

The Chairman of the Rivers State Universal Basic Education Board (UBE) Sir Oruitemeka has called on donor agencies and other development partners such as UNICEF, UNESCO and RSSDA among others to join hands with the Empowerment Support Initiative (ESI) enunciated by the wife of the State Governor Dame Judith Amaechi to move education in the state forward.

The Chairman who made the call during this year's International Literacy Day Celebration described education as the bedrock of any society adding that time has come for all to give the present administration all the necessary support to place education on the right track.

Represented by Hon. Lucky Worluh (Board Member 1) Sir, Oruitemeka lauded the bold step taken by ESI in ensuring that every child in the state gets educated through her Early Child Care Development Education Programme.

He particularly commended the State Governor Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi for his



Sir Alli Oruitemeka UBE Chairman

developmental strides especially in the education sector pointing out that the state of emergency declared in the sector has distinguished him from his counterparts in the country describing the 250 Model Primary School Buildings currently on-going in every part of the state as the first of its kind in the whole of West Africa. He also said the taken over of the payment of teachers salary has also

shown the Governor as one who have the interest of education at heart.

On the girl child education, the UBE boss maintained that the efforts being put in place by ESI would go along way to boosting the girl child education in the state stressing that the board will not hesitate to take the programme and policies of education to the grassroots and called for enough funds for the promotion of ECCDE Programme.

Thanking the State Commissioner for Education, Dame Alice Lawrence Nemi for her vision and doggedness towards repositioning the sector the chairman however called on the Parent Teachers Association (PTA) in all the schools in Rivers State to sit up as their inability to perform has also led to the falling standard of education in the state.

Other Speakers at the occasion also expressed happiness with the efforts of ESI and called for the support of all to move education forward in the state.



HRH Eze Linus Okafor

Wokekoro Drums Support For Amaechi

By

Okechukwu Geoffrey

The Chairman of the Rivers State Environmental Sanitation Authority Chief Nnadi Wokekoro has called on Rivers people to join hands with the present administration in the state to move Rivers State forward.

He has also appealed to politicians serving in the present administration to ensure that they give the Governor Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi the needed support.

He tasked the politicians to also see the development of the downtrodden as part of their responsibilities since according to him a politician will be adequately rewarded by God Almighty if such a

politician uses his God-given wealth to assist the poor rather than acquiring all the material things of the world.

Speaking when members of the Ikwerre Media Practitioners Association of Nigeria (IMPAN) led by its Chairman Esotericist Monday Wehere visited him in his office along Ikwerre Road in Port Harcourt, Chief Wokekoro said the only way any politician can be remembered when he leaves office is the number of persons he has been able to give a sense of belonging.

He however, decried a situation whereby the Governor is doing everything within his power to transform

every nook and cranny of the state and those who have been blessed by God are busy doing nothing to alleviate the plight of the poor ones around them pointing out that all the material things anyone has acquired on earth will definitely end here on earth as according to him, God will not judge you by the number of skyscrapers or fleet of cars you owned while alive but the extent you have gone to touch lives.

The former mayor of Port Harcourt also used the medium to appeal to Ikwerre Journalists and their colleagues in the state to project the present government in good light and described the Governor as God sent.

Court Stops EFCC From Arresting, Prosecuting Odili

A Federal High Court in Abuja has stopped the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) from arresting, detaining, prosecuting or embarrassing former Rivers State Governor Dr. Peter Odili in relation with alleged N189m debt he owed the troubled Finbank Plc.

Besides, Odili secured order of the Court that his property in any part of the country must not be trespassed upon by the anti graft body and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) or any of their agents for the purpose of realizing any security for the indebtedness to the bank.

The Court sitting in Maitama, in the Federal Capital Territory [FCT] ordered that EFCC, CBN and Finbank must not act against the former governor upon being served with originating summons in a suit in which Odili sought for protection of his fundamental rights.

Justice Gabriel Kolawole issued the order in Abuja while ruling in an ex-parte motion brought to the Court by the former Governor.

The judge ordered that even in the absence of a written order from the court for now, none of the defendants upon receiving originating summons from the plaintiff

must take any step or act in any manner that would prejudice on the issue already brought before the court.

Odili through his lawyer Chief Ifedayo Adedipe (SAN) had sued the EFCC, CBN and Finbank praying for an order restraining the three defendants from apprehending him or interfering with his banking operations and the relationship between him and his bank.

He also urged the court to stop the defendants from trespassing on any of his property for the purpose of security for his indebtedness.

In the motions, Odili admitted being a customer to

—From
Mebrim Uchechukwu, Abuja

Finbank and that indebtedness arose in the normal course of

In his ruling, Justice Kolawole held that his Court has to intervene because of the nature of the suit which he said bothered on fundamental human rights of the plaintiff.

He ordered that the originating summons be immediately served on the three defendants and must appear before the Court on September 17 to show cause on why the plaintiff's fundamental right must not be protected.

In the same vein, injunction was granted in favour of Foby Engineering Company, Engineer Emmanuel Efobi and Dr. (Mrs) Efobi by Court who also sued EFCC, CBN and Intercontinental Bank over

another debt issue.

Stop Building Six Classroom Blocks, Turn To Mega Projects

...Gov Amaechi Tells NDDC Board

Rivers State Governor Rt. Hon. Chibuike Amaechi has advised the newly constituted Board of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to embark on mega projects that will stand the test of time, and impact positively on the lives of the people.

Governor Amaechi gave the charge when the new Board of the NDDC led by its Chairman *Air Vice Marshal Larry Koinyan Rtd.* paid him a courtesy call at Government House, Port Harcourt.

The Governor pointed out that the era of building 6 classroom blocks and market for communities in the state has gone and urged them to emulate the example of building model schools like the Rivers State Government is doing across the State.

"If you see the kind of

Primary Schools that we are building, they are not 6 classroom blocks, they are schools that the French Senators said are bigger than the Primary schools in their country".

He said one of the model secondary schools under construction in each of the 23 Local Government Areas of the state would cost the state government the sum N3.1bn, noting that NLNG is collaborating with the Government to build one at Bonny.

The Governor also urged them to be united and work together as a team to achieve meaningful result, stressing that Niger Delta is the only place where Development does not match the resources that is generated from it.

Governor Amaechi, who congratulated members of the board on their appointments, pointed out

that the caliber of members of the board, shows the seriousness which the Federal Government attaches to the Commission, and urged them to reciprocate the gesture by contributing to the growth of the area.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Board of NDDC *Air Vice Marshal Larry Koinyan Rtd.* said they were at Government House to pay due courtesy to

the host governors of the commission.

Air Vice Marshal Koinyan expressed the hope that the existing cordial relationship between the commission and the state Government would be maintained, adding that NDDC and the state Government would continue to partner together to move the country forward.

Man Sends S.O.S To Gov. Amaechi

By
Joe Kalu

Rev. Joseph Eresu, a native of Beakogoro in Beeri community, Khana LGA of Rivers State has sent a 'save our soul' message to Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi.

Narrating his story at *Beam* office yesterday (10/9/09) Mr. Eresu said he and his family of fifteen (15) are dying gradually since 10 months ago when they

were driven out of their home and their property destroyed.

He disclosed that it all started few years back when one of their kinsmen, Mr. Joel Nunienh tried to take his plots of land by force and he resisted him.

Consequently, he said, Joel went and contacted his brother (now late) late Torsi Nunien popularly called 'Bob Satan'



Farida Waziri



Odili

who was the head of a militant group in the Ogoni axis to mobilize, and destroy his house and eventually chase him and his family away to exile since Dec. 2008.

Thereafter the vast plots of land in contention was allegedly lease/sold out to three (3) companies namely Renaults

Construction Company, JENU Construction Company and Joy Construction Company.

Not long, the Joint Military Taskforce (JTF) in exchange of fire with the particular militants' group shot their leader Bob Satan'. Mr. Joel Nunien lodged a complaint with the police accusing Rev. (Dr) Eresu of causing his brother's death who he said is an innocent and law abiding citizen.

Rev. Eresu said, he was eventually picked up by the police based on the false information. "I was locked up for days in the police cell for a crime I knew nothing about", he cried.

Rev. Eresu, who looked haggard said, he however narrated to them what happened to him earlier insisting that the late 'Bob Satan' was actually a militant leader.

Not long after, he said, the members of the militant leader's group allegedly came on a revenge mission attacking the Bori Police Station where souls were lost and property destroyed.

That was how the truth was established and he was left off the hook but without a home.

Rev. Eresu used the opportunity to appeal to the authorities concerned to help not only to rehabilitate him and his family from a looming death but to retrieve his plots of land from the companies.

"Camp Five" Militant Groups Set To Surrender Arms

...Even As They List Conditions

All is now set for the militants/freedom fighters from the famous "Camp Five Zone" to surrender their arms to the Federal Government in response to the amnesty deal.

The groups include Camp 'A' led by Commander Dogo Yeya; Camp 'B' led by Commander Victor; Camp 'C' led by Commander Akpo M. Mkiye;

Camp 'D' led by Commander Emma Ovie Camp 'E' led by Commander Fiemebede Gavis and Camp "F" led by Commander Mallamasi Godwin.

These groups through their representative Prince Joseph Etella Harry Onwuchekwa disclosed to newsmen that their fears of not working with the Presidential Committee on Amnesty is because of the Bayelsa experience where their repentant colleagues were short changed.

Also in a letter written by

the Prince Joseph Etella Harry Foundation and sent to the State Security Service, SSS the group suggested some post amnesty measures that will bring a lasting solution to the region.

It read in part, "we had suggested to the President for the building of 3 bedroom house units, three (3) Filling Stations in each LGAs of the region for the militant commander to manage as an independent marketer with their boys and for the sale of some of these oil wells discovered to be unattached to any company at the moment, that are being used for illegal bunkering if Government is sincere to stop the illegal bunkering while some of these boys will be engaged in welding, auto-mobile mechanics, furniture and shoe manufacturing as hitherto stated".

By
Joe Kalu

Prince Harry pointed out that it would be unfair for these boys to be forced to train on bakery, carpentry or welding aside from what they have known all these years, just like a typical Fulani man will abhor the idea of learning carpentry or office jobs order than the art of rearing cows.

The "Godfather" as he popularly known used the



Arms to be surrendered