

The 2007 Governorship candidate of the Accord Party in Rivers State Chief Bekinbo Soberekon maybe hiding his head in shame as majority of his people have concluded plans to abandon him due to what they describe as Soberekon's aimless struggle at occupying the Brick House, seat of power in the state.

A reliable source told our correspondent over the weekend that the people of Kalabari are not happy with their son going by his intention to disrupt the on-going peace in the state and wondered why such a man should fail to appreciate the level of

development ongoing in the state.

The people who said they were still not convinced over what Soberekon wants the court to do in the governorship case in the state wondered why his party which has no competent structures in all the 23 LGAs of the state is expecting from the court.

According to them, even if elections were conducted twenty times in the state, Accord Party would not see the light of day and called on the party's governorship candidate

to stop distracting the peoples' attention and embrace Governor Chibuike Amaechi's developmental strides.

Another member of the Accord Party in the state who spoke to our correspondent on conditions of anonymity said Soberekon was really not fighting to become governor of the state but rather those who are opposed to Amaechi's administration are the ones pushing him to do what he is doing as the money used for the case are being provided by these politicians who do not

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mean well for the state.

According to the source, Soberekon ordinarily would have relaxed since 2007 knowing full well that his party does not have what it takes to occupy the Brick House for now, but for these political gladiators who think they can unseat Amaechi by all means.

What these so-called opposition members have forgotten so easily according to the former Accord Party member is that Governor

Amaechi has come to stay. They described the Governor as God's sent.

You will recall that Governor Amaechi won the PDP Governorship Primaries in 2007 but was denied his mandate by some party members contrary to Odili's wish until the intervention of the nation's Supreme Court which declared the incumbent governor the most qualified person for the exalted seat.

"Soberekon is calling for the nullification of the 2007 governorship election, has he

forgotten that PDP in that election won landslide, has he forgotten that his party did not embark on any campaign during the election, what is he really struggling for", the people queried.

However, the Amaechi group are battle ready as Soberekon will also record a huge failure at the end like his colleagues who thought they could truncate the governor's position.



Soberekon

## RSG Declares War On Illegal Traders

The Rivers State Government has declared total war on illegal traders especially those operating within the Port Harcourt metropolis.

The Hon. Commissioner for Environment Barr. Kingsley Chinda made the declaration last weekend in Port Harcourt while supervising the destruction of the make-shift tables by the illegal traders at the Mile One flyover market during this month's sanitation exercise.

In a chat with newsmen, the commissioner disclosed that unlike in the past, this time around, as the traders are driven away, the ministry will take possession and regreen the arena with its "Green Revolution" exercise.

In answer to a question, Mr. Chinda explained that the traders operating there were never at anytime allocated the place neither were they part of those to occupy the newly completed Mile One Rumuwoji, market.

He disclosed further that those to be considered by the committee raised for that purpose were the original occupiers of the place who are now temporarily staying at the Silver Bird Cinema area and others at the Rumuwoji community playground.

Other areas that should expect war are the Sangana

Street illegal marketers who have been issued with a 7-day notice in addition to the quit order by the visiting members of the Rivers State House of Assembly recently as well as the Bishop Okoye Street Market at Mile 3 Diobu.

Another area that has attracted the eagle eye of the workaholic commissioner is the illegal bureau de change market by the Hausa-men at Birabi Street, GRA. Barr. Chinda said the State Government intends to drive away the traders and interlock the area for use as car park.

On the area vacated by the cattle rearers at Eleme junction and other buildings acquired by the State Government, the commissioner disclosed that as soon as arrangements are concluded for the payment of compensation, repair work would commence in the area.

On the dirty nature of the Creek Road Market, the commissioner said he has extracted a new promise from the traders to maintain a new culture of cleanliness.

"To this effect, we agreed that refuse will no longer be dumped along the median and the refuse contractor in charge of the area will visit the place twice daily to collect the refuse".

Other areas the monitoring team visited were the flyover bend down" boutique market;

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the bushy spot at the old GRA near the P.H Polo club; the illegal receptacle at the Ntanwogba Creek by Holy Rosary Secondary School, and another at the Eleme Junction roundabout.

Once again the Elelenwo community attracted the commissioner and his inspection team who also assessed the reconstruction work at the Woji/Oginigba under bridge whose illegal occupants were evicted last two months.

The Commissioner for Environment used the opportunity to commend the residents of the state for their level of participation during the sanitation exercise and other times, "From our observation, the level of consciousness among our people is increasing daily and the tempo getting higher, we urge them not to relent because it is in our interest not to do so".

Mr. Chinda said the onslaught against refuse and waste is total. "As the production of waste is continuous, so the exercise to tackle it must be continuous, consistent and persistent".

He noted that the last week's exercise was special and peculiar because it fell within the 30 day period of the

special sanitation exercise declared by the ministry.

At Elelenwo community, Chairman of Elelenwo Sanitation Committee Mr. Frank Wogunka Worlu brought out his members from the three villages of Rumuodani, Rumuodunwere and Rumueghileze all spotting

white T-shirts, to participate in monitoring the exercise.

HRH Eze Capt (rtd) Promise W. Chekwes Agusegeli I of Ikwerre Kingdom who was also among the team said, "it was important they support their own both morally and otherwise to succeed".

## Ogba Monarch Bags Life Patronship Of "WOMEN"

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The Rivers State Traditional Rulers Council Chairman and Oba of Ogbaland, His Eminence, Sir (Dr) Chukwela Nnam Obi II (OON, JP) has added another feather to his big cap, he has bagged the life patron of a vibrant women non-governmental organization Women Initiative for the Emancipation of the Needy (WOMEN).

The NGO over the weekend in a colourful ceremony at the council's secretariat presented the first class monarch with a certificate to this effect.

Making the presentation the President of the NGO, Princess (Mrs.) Jennifer Ijeoma Spiff said the gesture was in recognition of His Majesty's assistance, fatherly advise and protection during their NGO week and launching of its magazine and almanac earlier in the week which she noted translated into a huge success.

According to the President, "Your Majesty's presence at the occasion to welcome his counterparts from Northern Nigeria was a big relief to us and we would have been lost were it not for you," she confessed.

The NGO also used the opportunity to appreciate the Oba and apologize to him and indeed his people for the inconveniences of having to pull out their monarch from sleep outside his domain which is considered a taboo in the African setting.

The NGO further reasoned that with a fatherly backing from the foremost traditional



Sir (Dr) Chukwela Nnam Obi II (OON, JP)

for assistance or the goodwill of the monarch's connection to achieve its goals.

In his acceptance speech, the Royal Father said he was elated at the gesture and promised to do all within his power to assist the NGO in anyway possible to achieve its aims and objectives.

He used the opportunity to berate Nigerian leaders for abdicate their responsibilities to the people.

"The resources to go round all of us is never the problem but the political will on the part of our leaders to implement people oriented policies".

He commended the NGO for thinking up such a lofty humanitarian venture and embarking on it irrespective of the daunting challenges ahead".

"It takes humane Nigerians to think about the welfare and wellbeing of other broken-hearted, down trodden, dejected and deprived fellow citizens" he noted.

The Ogba Monarch regretted that our society today thinks and cares only for themselves which he noted has contributed in no small way in keeping us where we have found ourselves calling for a change of heart in the interest of all.

He made it known that one do not have to be a millionaire before extending a helping hand to the less-privileged in the society.

On the organization, the Monarch advised the members to always guide against detractors, adding that unity and team work is important in any organizational setting and prayed for their success.

## NDDC: Gives Free Health To Gbarain Kingdom

### ... Recieves Commendation

The Niger Delta Development Commission has been commended for giving hope to the less privileged through its Free Health Medical Scheme.

Speaking during the flag off ceremony of NDDC/PRO Health International Free Medical Mission, Chief Mbeka Joel Akpuruku, a Community Leader in Gbarain Kingdom, commended the Commission for its well coordinated Medical Mission, saying that the "NDDC has

done well by bringing the programme to the rural communities. "We want more of this life-touching health programmes. We call on the Federal Government to release more funds to the NDDC to continue this good work in the Niger Delta Region."

In an address of welcome, the Managing Director of NDDC, Mr. Chibuzor Ugwoha represented by Dr. Harcourt Ukomadu, Director, Education, Health and Social Services, stated that the Commission's desire to see

people from the rural areas enjoy a healthy living was the driving force behind the Free Medical Mission.

The Managing Director urged the people to be law abiding and live in harmony in order to attract more developmental projects in their Communities.

Over 2,500 patients with various ailments ranging from surgical operations, ophthalmology, dentistry as well as out patients received medical attention during the exercise.