

Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi of Rivers State says the ION International Film Festival held in the state was part of government's effort to diversify the state economy from its oil base to that of tourism and film making.

Governor Amaechi, who was speaking at the award night and closing ceremony of the ION Film Festival in Port Harcourt, said the event has turned out to be an image laundering activity which shows that Rivers State is not as violent as the international media portray it.

The governor said the festival provided a platform for local actors and actresses to interact and network with the internationally recognized celebrities to foster partnership.



Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi Governor of River State (left) discussing with Hon. Tonye Harry, Speaker of River State House of Assembly and Senator Lee Maeba at the closing of International Film Festival

Sponsorship Of Ion Film Festival To Diversify Economy ~Amaechi

He observed that the film festival was a huge success,

noting that the move was intended to encourage tourism

and expressed the hope that the state and its budding talents

would take part in the next edition of the event scheduled for Tokyo, Japan.

The governor explained that the film industry is a money spinning sector that can grow on its own, under a conducive atmosphere provided by government through the existence of basic infrastructure such as power, good roads security amongst others, and urged sponsors from the private sector to latch onto the opportunities created in the industry.

Governor Amaechi, thanked the foreign journalists, actors and actresses that participated in the festival for coming to Port Harcourt and sharing the moments with the good people of the state and urged them to tell the world about the positive things happening in the area

Patronize Nigerian Goods, Enhance Economy ~Amaechi

Rivers State Governor, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi says patronage of made in Nigeria goods will enhance the chances of the nation to attain greatness.

Governor Amaechi, who

made the assertion yesterday when the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Chief Achike Udenwa paid him a courtesy visit at Government House Port Harcourt, explained that if

Nigerians are not encouraged to buy Nigerian made goods the industrial base of the nation would suffer.

The governor said apart from strengthening the manufacturing sector, such

patronage would also help the country to save the much needed foreign exchange which can be used for other areas of growth and equally create more jobs for the people.

According to him "now

is the right time to patronize Nigerian made goods but those companies whose standards are below public expectation should be punished to encourage others".

Governor Amaechi thanked the Minister for the choice of Port Harcourt by the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the South-South zonal campaign for the patronage of made in Nigeria goods and assured him of the state government's support towards the success of the campaign.

Earlier, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Chief Achike Udenwa said he was in Port Harcourt to access the level of industries in the state and to launch the zonal campaign for the patronage of made in Nigeria goods.

Chief Udenwa, who emphasized the need for Nigerians to patronize Nigerian goods to encourage local producers, hinted that government on its part was addressing some of the problems facing the industries such as availability of constant power.

The Minister lauded the developmental strides of governor Amaechi, noting that much development had taken place in the state since he assumed office without so much noise and urged him not to rest on his oars.

RSG Poised To Develop All Parts Of The State

The Rivers State Government says it will ensure that development gets to all parts of the state.

Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi gave the assurance yesterday at a reception ceremony organized by the people of Omerelu in Ikwerre Local Government Area of the state in honour of their son, Ezemonye Ezekiel-Amadi on his appointment as Commissioner for Lands and Survey.

The Governor, who stated that every community in the state deserved government presence, said Omerelu has benefitted from government's rural development programmes.

He said apart from the Model Primary School and Health Centre, sited in the Community, government has also awarded contract for the construction of Omerelu/Egbeda road amongst others.

The State Chief Executive urged the youths of the community to embrace education and shun violence to create the enabling environment for the speedy

development of the area and the state in general.

He thanked the people of Omerelu for their support and congratulated Ezemonye Ezekiel-Amadi on his chieftaincy installation.

Earlier in an address read on behalf of the community,

Mr Solomon Amadi thanked Governor Chibuike Amaechi for appointing their son, Ezemonye Ezekiel-Amadi, as member of the State Executive Council, which has opened the doors of development to the community.

Rivers Stakeholders Endorse Social Services Bill

Stakeholders in the development of Rivers State have unanimously endorsed the social services levy bill as a strategic way in which residents and indigenes of the state would contribute to the funding of social services.

The bill, which is to be forwarded to the State House of Assembly for consideration, is aimed at providing a legal framework for the social services levy proposed by Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi for the funding of social services in the Education and Health sectors among others.

Moving a motion endorsing the levy bill today Sir Goddy Onuekwa, supported by Dr. Walter Ollor described the levy bill as a necessary step towards sustaining needed growth in the social sector.

The motion was the outcome of Friday's Stakeholders meeting which adjourned proceedings for 24 hours to allow for proper circulation of the report to enable participants

make relevant inputs.

Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi thanked the committee members for a job well done in producing the working document and directed the committee to reflect relevant contributions of stakeholders that would strengthen the draft bill within one week before presentation to the State Assembly.

The governor said when the bill is finally passed by the law makers, he would seek the approval of the stakeholders to appoint transparent and credible persons to serve in the Board of Trustees.

Responding to questions raised by participants, a member of the committee Dr. Theophilus Osanakpo (SAN), who stood in for the Chairman Justice Adolphus-Karibi-Whyte, commended the State Governor for his vision to provide services for the people and particularly for encouraging participatory democracy.

Dr. Osanakpo said what the committee did was to provide a

framework that would generate further inputs before presenting the draft bill to the State Assembly and advised those that wish to make further inputs into the bill to attend the public hearings that would be organized by the law makers in the course of their legislative function.

He lauded those that made contributions to the report, adding that the committee was mindful of the existence of other laws and to avoid double taxation in the process.

Caption

Wife of Rivers State Governor Judith Amaechi, Minister of Commerce Achike Udenwa and Commissioner of Commerce Prince Ogbonna Nwuke during the Minister's visit to Rivers State Ministry of Women Affairs RIVLUX Paint Factory in Port Harcourt.

Wife of Rivers State Governor Judith Amaechi listen to Minister of Commerce Chief Achike Udenwa during his Visit to Rivers State Ministry of Women Affairs RIVLUX Paint Factory in Port Harcourt.