

FAAC allocation to Delta: Where the money goes

By Fred Akpewe, Wilberforce Arinze & Grace Akaighe

It is certainly disingenuous for anyone to query the utilization of funds that accrue to Delta State from the Federation Accounts judging by the avalanche of projects and human capital programmes flying all over the place

Delta State is a state like no other in Nigeria. Some call it a microcosm of the Nigerian state.

MANY CITIES

Delta state parades several cities unlike many other states that have only one city. In Delta State alone, we have cities like Asaba, Warri, Efurun, Ughelli, Sapele, Agbor, Kwale, Ozoro, Oleh, Orerokpe, Obiaruku - all

competing for their fair share of the state resources

EDUCATION

Delta state is the only state in the federation that has as many as four state universities - the Southern Delta University at Ozoro, the University of Delta at Agbor, Delta State University,

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Delta REVEALED

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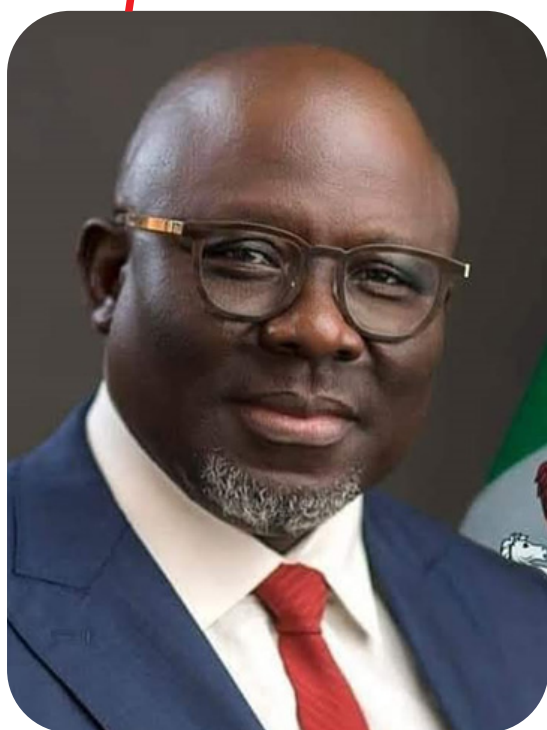


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Age falsification: Panic in Delta as Oborevwori warns civil servants

● Top directors voluntarily retire out of fear



By Felix Ofou and Nelson Egware

There is palpable fear among top civil servants in Delta State following the threat by the Governor, Rt Hon Sheriff Oborevwori to expose those who have altered their age to remain in the system.

The Governor made the threat while frowning at the attitude of some civil servants in the state who engage in age falsification with the dubious intent to prolong their years of service.

He warned those involved to desist from such dubious act or face severe sanctions while threatening to expose those engaged in such nefarious activities.

Oborevwori handed down the warning on Tuesday evening at a dinner organised by the state government for the College of Permanent Secretaries, led by the State Head of Service, Mr. Reginald Bayoko; Heads of Extra Ministerial Departments; Directors and Deputy Directors in the state civil

service which was held at the Event Centre, Asaba.

The Governor said any civil servant who had attained the age of retirement should retire from the service so as to create opportunity for younger ones to be employed, adding that civil servants should always enter their real age in their documentations.

He expressed appreciation to workers in the state for the love they had shown to his administration, pointing out that they should continue to support its policies and programmes for the overall growth and development of the state.

"If you know you have attained retirement age, please, retire so that the younger ones could be employed into the civil service. You should use

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Delta to real estate operators: You must make housing more affordable

By Daniel Bayagbon

Delta State government has appealed to real estate organisations to assist in reducing the cost of rent payable on rented apartments, maintaining that the current high cost of rent in the state

was not sustainable.

Governor Sheriff Oborevwori gave the charge in his remarks at the 13th anniversary celebration of Property World Africa Network Marketing Company, (PWAN), held in Asaba on Wednesday.

The Governor, who was represented by

the Chief of Staff, Government House, Hon Prince Johnson Erijo, noted that the current skyrocketing rents were not sustainable, especially for civil servants.

He applauded the visionary leadership

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PHOTOSPEAK

IMAGES FROM DINNER ORGANISED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE COLLEGE OF PERMANENT SECRETARIES LED BY THE STATE HEAD OF SERVICE, MR. REGINALD BAYOKO; HEADS OF EXTRA MINISTERIAL DEPARTMENTS; DIRECTORS AND DEPUTY DIRECTORS IN THE STATE CIVIL SERVICE WHICH WAS HELD AT THE EVENT CENTRE, ASABA, TUESDAY.

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Guwor's visionary leadership earns endorsement from Delta Legislative Aides —Nkem Nwaeke

In a significant display of solidarity and trust, over 200 legislative aides of the 29 members of the Delta State House of Assembly, Thursday, passed implicit Votes of Confidence in the Presiding Officer and Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Emomotimi Dennis Guwor.

The Confidence Vote, in the motion moved by the Private Secretary to the Member Representing Burutu 2 Constituency, Anthony Gbafade, seconded by the Legal Assistance to the member representing Ika North East, Barr Hannah Enyawuile, was also extended to the Speaker's team of the leadership of the 8th Assembly.

This endorsement came during a 3-day workshop organized in honor of the legislative aides, with the theme, "The Role of Legislative Aides In Enhancing Members' Productivity In State Legislature", aimed at enhancing their skills and performance.

The Workshop, which was a brainchild of the Speaker with full complement of the Principal Officers, demonstrated his commitment to capacity building and effective governance.

By investing in the development of the legislative aides, Rt Hon Emomotimi Guwor has again reiterated the Delta State House of Assembly's poise to maintain its trailblazing status in legislative practice and procedures, among state legislatures across the country.

The implicit votes of confidence passed by the legislative aides, therefore is a testament to the strong leadership and vision of the Speaker, who by divine grace and benevolence of his colleagues, the National Treasurer, Conference of Speakers of State Houses of Assembly in Nigeria.

His efforts to foster a collaborative and inclusive work environment have clearly resonated in the political aides, which are essential to the smooth operation of the legislative process.

As the Delta State House of Assembly continues to drive development in the state, the endorsement by the legislative aides is a welcome boost.

With their skills enhanced and morale lifted, the aides are now better equipped to support their Principals in delivering effective representation and legislation for peace and good governance and to the benefit of the people of Delta State.

This positive development is a reflection of the Delta State House of Assembly's commitment to excellence and enhanced legislative performance.

As key stakeholders in Governor Sheriff Oborevwori's MORE development programme, the Delta Lawmakers and their legislative aides will continue to play vital roles in shaping the future of Delta State.

The Vote of Confidence on the Speaker and House leadership is a clear indication that the legislative aides are united and focused on delivering the best possible outcomes for the state.

Prior to the Vote of Confidence, the Speaker, Rt Hon Emomotimi Dennis Guwor, had challenged the Legislative Aides to ensure optimal support services to their Principals as they strive to achieve the desired results.

Guwor, while addressing the Aides before declaring open the three-day workshop, enjoined them to take advantage of the Capacity Building Programme to improve on their respective legislative priorities.

He listed the work schedules for the Aides to include, legislative/legal research, drafting of bills and motions, writing of speeches, arranging constituency meetings, liaising with constituents on behalf of Members, preparing debates for Members, and coordinating Members' programmes, among others.

Accompanied by the Deputy Speaker, Rt Hon Arthur Akpowowo; Majority Leader, Emeka Nwaobi; Deputy Majority Whip, Emeka Osamuta and Chairman, Delta State

House of Assembly Service Commission, Mr Sunday Ebireri, the Speaker also enjoined participants to give all the seriousness that the Workshop deserves.

He said, "this Workshop is so dear to my heart because it is the first time Legislative Aides to Honourable Members of the House are formally coming together to undergo tutelage in legislative practice and procedures.

"Granted, some of you may have one or two experiences in legislative practice, however, society is dynamic, and knowledge in a particular field is always evolving; better approaches and ways of doing things are constantly evolving".

"For sake of emphasis, I would like to reiterate that legislative aides are cornerstones meant to provide support services to Members" Guwor stated.

The Speaker in a special way commended the Clerk of the House, Otto Aghoghophia, and the Executive Director of African Parliamentary Resource Center, Dr John Mutu, for putting in their best to drive a well articulated and one of the best organized Capacity Building Workshops in recent times.

On their parts, both Aghoghophia and Mutu had also paid glowing tributes to the Speaker and the leadership of the State Assembly for organizing the workshop for the political aides, even as they expressed optimism that the exercise would go a long way in helping the political appointees in discharging their assignment creditably.

"This workshop will no doubt serve as an enlightenment to participants who play significant role in rendering services to their bosses", Mutu added.

Reacting to the resounding Vote of Confidence on Mr Speaker and his leadership by the legislative aides, the Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker, Delta State Assembly, Nkem Nwaeke, described the development as well deserved.

Nwaeke in a statement acknowledged the Vote of Confidence on his Boss, and expressed gratitude to the members' aides for the trust and support for the Speaker.

The CPS reiterated the Speaker's commitment to delivering effective representation and legislation for the people of Delta State.

He said "The Office of the Speaker, Delta State House of Assembly, is delighted to receive the overwhelming Vote of Confidence from the legislative aides of the 29 members of the House. This gesture is a testament to the Speaker's leadership and vision, which have fostered a collaborative and inclusive work environment.

"We are grateful for the trust and support reposed in the Speaker's leadership, and we assure the people of Delta State that our Boss will continue to work tirelessly to deliver effective representation and legislation that benefits all Deltans.

"This Vote of confidence is a morale booster, and the Speaker is committed to sustaining the tempo of progress and development in Delta State.

"Mr Speaker appreciates the legislative aides for their hard work and dedication to the service of the House and the people of Delta State", Nwaeke stated.



Curbing menace of touting in Nigeria

Touting, in its most damaging form, refers to the forceful extraction of money from commercial drivers by faceless individuals, often without providing any tangible service in return. This lawless practice has become a common feature in many Nigerian cities, with touts operating with impunity, claiming to act on behalf of invisible powers, while making life miserable for commercial drivers and ordinary citizens alike.

The recent announcement by the Rivers State Ministry of Transport to ban all taskforces in the state was initially seen as a ray of hope. Many Nigerians hoped it would lead to a reduction in touting and other forms of lawlessness.

However, much to the disappointment of the public, the ban did not bring the expected relief. Instead, it seemed to embolden the touts, who became even more brazen and more entrenched in their illegal activities,

with no regard for the law.

From Asaba to Lagos, Port Harcourt to Kaduna, and from Uyo to Sokoto, the situation is the same. Touts armed with dangerous weapons like pipes and machetes, continue to terrorize commercial drivers, extorting money at will from them, with no recourse to justice.

These criminal elements show no fear of the law, and the question remains: who do these individuals work for? There are no answers, and this uncertainty breeds fear and helplessness among the general public.

Touts are notorious for damaging vehicles, ripping off side mirrors, traffic lights, and looting vehicle boots, often without any provocation. Passengers, too, are not spared from the rampage, with many losing their personal belongings to these thugs. This state of lawlessness, where citizens are left at the mercy of criminal elements, is a far cry from the peaceful, orderly society that Nigerians deserve.

No civilized society would allow such rampant criminality to flourish unchecked. The damage these touts cause is not just physical, but economic as well. Every day, man-hours are wasted on the roads as commercial drivers are forced to navigate a hostile environment, constantly looking over their shoulders for fear of being extorted or attacked.

The ban on taskforces was a step in the right direction, as it sought to separate the official law enforcement bodies from the touts. However, this well-meaning initiative has been undermined by the sheer audacity and impunity of the touts. Rather than curbing their activities, the absence of taskforces has only allowed these criminals to operate unchecked, turning once vibrant cities into chaotic, unsafe environments.

It is widely acknowledged that a large proportion of the petty crimes that plague our streets are directly linked to the activities of touts. From pickpocketing to more violent crimes, these individuals are often at the center of it all. As night falls, they transform from mere nuisance makers into full-fledged criminals, targeting vulnerable citizens, especially women, for their phones, handbags, and wallets.

The situation demands urgent action from governments across the country.

If Nigerian leaders are unsure of

how to combat the menace of touting, they need look no further than the example set by Abia State under the leadership of Governor Dr. Alex Otti. Upon taking office, Governor Otti took decisive action to rid the state of touts, and to this day, Abia remains largely free of this scourge. The success of this initiative should serve as a blueprint for other states across Nigeria to follow.

Here in Delta State, touts terrorise motorists especially at the entry and exit points of Asaba - Onitsha road by the bridge head and Ughelli-Port Harcourt Road by Patani. The Oborvewori administration must take adequate steps to curb the activities of these touts who masquerade as revenue agents.

The Nigerian government, led by President Bola Tinubu, has shown commitment to addressing the nation's numerous challenges through people-oriented policies. However, the persistence of touting on Nigerian roads undermines these efforts, casting a shadow over the administration's achievements.

No responsible government can allow such a social ill to persist.

For the government, the solution may lie in focusing on notorious hotspots for touting. These include bus terminals, busy roads, and intersections in cities such as Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Asaba, Uyo, Kano, Kaduna etc where the presence of touts is most prominent.

Addressing the issue in these high-traffic areas would go a long way in restoring order and peace to our streets, while ensuring the safety of both commercial drivers and the general public.

Nigerians have long endured the lawlessness that touts have brought to our roads. The government must act now to curb this menace, not just for the sake of commercial drivers, but for the sake of public safety and national order. We, as a nation, cannot afford to allow this chaos to persist any longer. The government must take bold action, or risk the continued erosion of our social fabric.

As the saying goes, "A stitch in time saves nine." It is time for the Nigerian government and all sub-nationals to take decisive action against touting and the lawlessness that comes with it. The people are watching, and their patience is wearing thin. It is now or never.

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Abraka and the Dennis Osadebay University, Asaba. These universities are fully funded by the state government.

Delta State has the highest number of technical colleges in the federation with some others still under construction. The state has two polytechnics; one at Ogwashi-Uku, another at Otefe-Oghara. The state also operates two colleges of education at Warri and Mosogar.

The state has 1,130 public nursery/ primary schools and 462 public secondary schools.

HEALTH

The state is upgrading and re-equipping about 150 Primary Health Centres and 64 General Hospitals, all funded by the state government. The state's contributory Health Insurance Scheme has over two million enrollees. The state maintains a school of health technology at Ufoma Ughelli and the another one approved by the Oborevwoiri administration at Ovrode in Isoko North LGA.

Delta State maintains schools of nursing and midwifery at Agbor, Eku, Warri, Asaba and Sapele.

Delta State has a specialist hospital in Asaba and another (Central Hospital) in Warri. These two hospitals are well equipped with modern CT Scan machines and dialysis machines.

The contributory insurance health scheme in Delta State guarantees free health care for pregnant women and under five children in its government hospitals.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

Delta State under Governor Oborevwoiri is a huge construction site. The state government is undertaking the construction of multiple bridges and road expansion projects across the 25 LGAs.

The administration has undertaken over 513 road projects covering more than 1,500 kilometers and accompanying drainage systems spanning 950 kilometers.

The Oborevwoiri administration inherited some projects which are being vigorously executed. Some of these projects are the 146 kilometers Asaba - Ughelli Expressway, the Trans Warri - Ode Itsekiri Road and 19 bridges, Kwale - Beneku Bridge, the Ayakoromo bridge, the Orere - Ewu bridge amongst others. Also ongoing are huge storm water projects at Warri, Effurun, Ugolo and Owa Alero and its surrounding areas.

The administration completed and commissioned the six-storey High Court Complex with six well furnished court rooms in Asaba. The Oborevwoiri administration has completed and commissioned the Phase One of the Emevor - Orogun Road (awarded the Phase Two of the road) and completed the construction of the Ibusa-Okpanam by-pass.

In an unprecedented move, the Oborevwoiri administration recently approved projects worth N275 billion to be accompanied with 40 percent mobilization to contractors at a single EXCO meeting.

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT



FAAC allocation Where the r

Governor Oborevwoiri supports Delta State students in tertiary institutions through the Students Special Assistance Scheme (Bursary awards). In November 2024, he approved N713 million for the 2024 bursary, benefiting 32,038 students across various public and private institutions. Earlier in March 2024, the state government disbursed over N674 million for the 2022/2023 bursary assisting 30,116 students nationwide.

Also the state government under Oborevwoiri's watch has given assistance to Deltans in Nigerian law schools. Government has also paid the sum of N3.55 billion as counterpart funding for the 2024 Universal Basic Education (UBE) and would continue to do so. The D-CARES programme has been expanded from 36,000 to over 250,000 in less than two years. This is in addition to programmes like the MORE Grant scheme, the MORE Biz up, WESAP (Women

Empowerment Skill Acquisition Programme) which has so far empowered women and persons living with disabilities. All these programmes gulp billions of Naira of state funds.

Government has also provided 6,000 farmers with inputs and financial assistance just as government is aiming at raising 50,000 agropreneurs in collaboration with ADP-NEPAD partnership programme for agricultural development.

STATE CIVIL SERVICE

Delta State government maintains a civil service of about 50,000 personnel with its workforce on a minimum wage of N77,500 per month. Delta State civil servants are among the most motivated in the country.

As at September 2024, Governor Sheriff Oborevwoiri had disbursed over N14.5 billion to fulfill various pension obligations to state retirees. In addition, the administration has settled approximately N5.5 billion in promotion arrears for state civil servants.

OTHER AREAS



“The Oborevwoiri administration inherited some projects which are being vigorously executed. Some of these projects are the 146 kilometers Asaba - Ughelli Expressway, the Trans Warri - Ode Itsekiri Road and 19 bridges, Kwale - Beneku Bridge, the Ayakoromo bridge, the Orere - Ewu bridge amongst others. Also ongoing are huge storm water projects at Warri, Effurun, Ugolo and Owa Alero and its surrounding ar-



tion to Delta: money goes

The state government spends a lot of money on sports development by providing equipment and training that makes Delta athletes always coming tops in National Championships and sports festivals.

The state government also commits money to Arts and Culture and also in providing succour to widows, the aged and persons living with disabilities. Government maintains a fully equipped Delta State Traffic Management Authority (DESTMA). We must not also forget that Governor Oborevwoiri recently donated 31 new operational vehicles to the Police and other security agencies to strengthen their operations.

CONCLUSION

The administration of Oborevwoiri has been roundly applauded for prudence and transparency in government

spending. The Governor has achieved milestones without borrowing a kobo to finance his projects. The Governor has established a policy of fairness to all local government areas by ensuring that N2.1 billion worth of internal road projects are allocated to the 25 local government areas without prejudice to the global project distribution in the 2025 state budget

With all these glaring evidences how can someone in his right senses, especially one aspiring to govern Delta State in future now pretend that he does not know what the Oborevwoiri administration is doing with monies from the Federation Account?

**Fred Akpewe, Wilberforce Arinze & Grace Akaighe are administrators of DELTA FRESH VISION*

“ The administration of Oborevwoiri has been roundly applauded for prudence and transparency in government spending. The Governor has achieved milestones without borrowing a kobo to finance his projects. The Governor has established a policy of fairness to all local government areas by ensuring that N2.1 billion worth of internal road projects are allocated to the 25 local government areas without prejudice to the global project distribution in the 2025 state budget **”**



1,000 Deltans to benefit from online certificate courses in 107 subjects, says SSA on Diaspora duties

NO fewer than 1,000 Deltans are to benefit from scholarship extended to indigenes of the state to study certificate courses online. It is part of the Diaspora initiative of the Governor Sheriff Oborevwori administration in support of the administration's M.O.R.E. Agenda.

Dr. Victory Odize, the Senior Special Assistant (SSA)

to the governor on Diaspora special duties, dropped the hint recently while addressing a press conference in Asaba.

The SSA's office is currently interfacing with organisations abroad for the purpose of communicating the vast investment opportunities that abound in Delta State and striking deals for them to come and engage in

meaningful partnership with the government in support of the M.O.R.E. Agenda.

The interface, according to Dr. Odize covers all areas of business initiatives, education, etc that will culminate in meaningful partnership. It is also an initiative that promises to make well educated and skilled Deltans in the United States to want to come home and engage in meaningful partnerships for the purpose of promoting entrepreneurship and imparting knowledge to Deltans at home.

Dr. Odize said: "Diaspora Deltans in the United States of America see Governor Oborevwori as an infrastructure governor, and are pleased to see him causing infrastructure development to spring up across Delta State."

Responding to a question, he said he would advise that the state government and the Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission, DESOPADEC should reach out to brilliant and well skilled Deltans in

Diaspora and leverage on their expertise to come and impart skills on the younger generations of Deltans.

Dr. Odize announced that already a total of 1,000 scholarships has been secured for Deltans in partnership with the office of the Delta State webmaster Hon. Louis Zuokumor Osiobe.

The scholarship will cost \$2,000 per person to study certificate courses online covering no fewer than 107 categories including: cyber security, information technology and software development, business & entrepreneurship, creative arts and design, data science & analytics and education and training.

Others are: finance and accounting, health care & medical, human resources and management, legal, marketing and sales, personal development and productivity, as well as project management.

The scholarship is being sponsored by Up Graded Era, in the United States, which also have office in Nigeria.



Oborevwori's sterling performance, major reply to critics —Aniagwu

By Nelson Egware

Delta State Government, Thursday, said the giant strides of the Governor Sheriff Oborevwori's administration was a major reply to critics and opposition in the state.

The State Commissioner for Works (Rural Roads) and Public Information, Mr. Charles Aniagwu, disclosed this while speaking on AIT's "Democracy Today" monitored in Asaba.

He said that Governor Oborevwori was concentrating on delivering on his four-point agenda and would not be distracted by those seeking to play politics with developments in the state.

He said, "Governor Oborevwori is concentrating on governance and the people of Delta are seeing it and little wonder they were clear that Oborevwori dey show workings, nor be chor, chor, chor."

"So if there are individuals who think that governance is about talking here and talking there and raising issues, Oborevwori says come and see what we are doing."

"Now we have challenged anybody, irrespective of the local government, we are no longer talking about come and let us show you what we are doing in Delta."

"We are pinning down to local governments and the way we are proceeding, in the not too distant time, we are going to pin it down to political wards, in which case we bring it closer to the people."

"There is no local government, mention it, of the 25 local government areas, we will tell you what Oborevwori is doing."

"In the education sector, in the housing sector, in the road infrastructure sector and in the health sector, there is something that is being done across the 25 local government areas."

"And so, when those who want to begin to play politics are playing politics, Oborevwori says, I have not even exhausted the mandate given to me to add value to Delta, let alone getting involved in political talks."

"So his performance is the major reply and so we are not disturbed by those who may have decided to pitch tents with different political groups, but let me also tell you that a number of persons have also come to pitch tent with Oborevwori because they are quite happy about the development in Delta."

"Any time, any day, we can take on anybody by showing them what Oborevwori is doing. So that when they tow the part of chor-chor-chor, we tow the part of showing them what we have been doing."

The Commissioner further said Governor Oborevwori was uniting ethnic groups in the state with massive development and life-changing empower-

ment.

"We have agreed to continue to live and cohabit as brothers and sisters. Just recently the Governor resolved the age-long crisis between Aladja/Ogbe-Ijoh communities."

"That was an area where we had an intractable crisis for a very long time. The same way he also did with respect to some of the challenges around Ogwashi-Uku, where they had some issues in terms of both kingship, the Okwabane's, as well as challenges between them and their neighbouring communities."

"The governor moved swiftly to set up a commission of inquiry that has been able to examine the issues and since that time there have been some element of calmness even before pronouncement or the issuance of the white paper."

"So all these things come together to promote the harmonious coexistence which by the way is the fourth plank of the governor's four-point agenda."

"Governor Oborevwori is running an agenda that is anchored on meaningful development, opportunities for all as well as realistic reforms and not forgetting his desire to also enhance peace and security."

"So he is using all aspects of the agenda to be able to drive this

harmonious coexistence that has characterized our different communities."

On security in the state, Aniagwu said, "We are quite mindful of the fact that there are pockets of insecurity by way of kidnapping which of course has become prevalent across the 36 states of the federation."

"But we are also doing something about it. Not long ago, Governor Oborevwori made available as much as 30 brand-new Hilux vehicles and it was the Inspector General of Police, IGP Kayode Egbetokun that came around to inaugurate those vehicles."

"But that's not all, we have, before that time, given up to about another 30. So it means not fewer than 60 vehicles extended to security operatives, all with the view to enhancing their mobility."

"We are also doing that in addition to enhancing their ability to gather intelligence by improving their ability to communicate with their colleagues and indeed reduce also some form of anti-agency rivalry."

"So in general, in Delta, Governor Oborevwori is leading us quite profoundly and we are happy with how he has been able to manage our resources such that we are making appreciable progress across the state."



Age falsification: Panic in Delta as Oborevwori warns civil servants

● **Top directors voluntarily retire out of fear**

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your real age so that people can grow in the system. When you are old, please allow the young ones to take over.

"I thank you for the love you people have shown to this administration. Let us continue to work together for the growth and development of the state," the Governor added.

Continuing, he said: "Today's dinner is in fulfilment of the promise I made during our meeting of January 29, this year. We have come to interact and share experiences."

"I think it is important I update you on some of the matters arising from our last meeting where a lot of issues were raised. First is the issue of poor telephone network in the Prof. Chike Edozien State Secretariat Complex among others," he said.

As part of deliberate effort to mitigate the issue of poor telephone network at the new state secretariat, the Governor said he had directed the Commissioner for Science and Technology and his Special Duties counterpart to ensure that the issue was nipped in the bud before the end of March, 2025.

"We are looking at the suggestions that you people made during our meeting of January 29, this year, with a view to seeing how we can implement some of the suggestions that are useful to the effective running of the state civil service," he said.

While saying that the state had a workforce of over 60,000 with a monthly wage bill of over N16 billion monthly, the Governor appealed to Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Extra Ministerial Departments, Directors and Deputy Directors to continue to discharge their duties diligently and professionally.

Governor Oborevwori said; "we will follow due process in appointing a new Head of Service when the time comes, and, in due course, more Per-

manent Secretaries will be appointed," stressing that the appointment of Permanent Secretaries was by merit and vacancy.

The Governor, who disclosed that the state government was not owing any of its contractors, said, "recently, we did 40 per cent mobilisation to our contractors. The problem we are having is not the multinationals; it is our local contractors."

"The local contractors cannot shortchange the state, if the site supervising engineers are doing their work. If the site supervising engineers are doing their work well, there will be no point for me to go to site for project supervision."

"I am going to go round the 25 local government areas to inspect various projects being executed by the state government. If you are praying that I should not come, you are deceiving yourself. Any contractor who is doing a bad work will refund the money paid to him."

While reiterating that his administration had not borrowed since it came on board, he said a lot had been achieved in the socio-economic growth and development of the state.

Checks by Delta Revealed indicate that at least top four directors have hurriedly submitted their letters of retirement as a result of the threat by the Governor, with hints that many more may follow.

Although it was not clear whether the four directors who submitted letters for voluntary retirement are above 60 years, which is the prescribed age for exit from the service, our source claimed that they may have reached the border of 35 years, which is the other requirement for leaving the system.

Meanwhile, a lot of junior and middle level civil servants were said to be happy with Governor Oborevwori's stand on age falsification, stressing that the policy will pave way for rapid upward promotion and create room for intake of new staff into the civil service.

Delta to real estate operators: You must make housing more affordable

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that had propelled the PWAN from its humble beginnings in 2012 to become a key player in Africa's real estate sector, adding that the commitment, integrity and innovation of the Chairman had been pivotal to the company's continued success and industry leadership. The Governor stated that the theme of the celebration: 'Greater Heights', perfectly encapsulated PWAN's journey towards striving for new milestones, pushing boundaries and setting new standards.

Oborevwori remarked that the company's evolution was a testament to what could be achieved with vision, determination and hard work, noting that PWAN had not only expanded its market presence but also redefined excellence in the real estate sector. In a welcome address, Chairman of the occasion, Dr. Okonkwo Afamefuna, stated that the 13th anniversary of the group was a profound milestone reflecting the success achieved over the years.

He added that the group was deeply committed to providing empowerment and entrepreneurship to individuals, which would foster enhanced economic growth for the state.

Earlier, the Founding Chairman, PWAN Group, Sir Augustine Onwumere, expressed gratitude to all who joined to celebrate the milestone, guaranteeing cash rewards to proficient and steadfast employees.

Ogedegbe inaugurates PDP unit executives in Ward 5 Ovu, welcomes defectors from opposition party

The Executive Chairman of Ethiope East Local Government Council, Hon. (Chief) Augustine Ogedegbe, has reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening grassroots governance and political mobilization.

He officially inaugurated the PDP unit executives in Ward 5 Ovu, a move aimed at ensuring 100% mobilization and victory for the party in the forthcoming elections.

The inauguration ceremony, which took place at Ovorie-Ovu, witnessed a significant political shift as scores of members from the opposition party defected to the PDP.

The decampers were warmly received by Chief Midwest Iboytietie, the Ethiope East

PDP Chairman.

Hon. Ogedegbe charged the newly inaugurated executives to intensify political mobilization and ensure the PDP gains total control of the grassroots before the 2027 elections. "The end of one election is the beginning of another. We must not relent," he declared.

The event was attended by notable political leaders and stakeholders, including Chief M. O. Adiotomre, Hon. Lovette Edirin Idisi, and Chief Julius Ogbevre.

The successful inauguration and mass defection have consolidated the PDP's dominance in Ethiope East, setting the pace for a formidable political structure ahead of 2027.



Ogorugba inaugurates road task force, warns offenders will face heavy fines, punishment

The Executive Chairman of Isoko North Local Government, Hon. (Elder) Prince Godwin Ogorugba, yesterday, March 13, 2025, inaugurated a Road Task Force Committee to apprehend, fine, and penalize offenders driving against traffic (one-way).

Elder Ogorugba strongly condemned the reckless attitude of motorcycles (Okada) riders and motorists who persistently violate traffic

laws simply because they are in a hurry.

"We have lost too many lives due to this reckless one-way driving. It pains me deeply, especially as we recently buried one of my cousins who died as a result of this," he said.

He emphasized that the committee's mandate is to support existing government agencies in ensuring road safety, not to extort money from residents.

Speaking further, the Chairman highlighted the growing concern in the Iyede axis, where traders have taken over the main road, creating a serious risk to lives and property.

"If anything happens there, it will be a tragedy we won't easily recover from. We must address this issue now before it escalates beyond control," he warned.

The committee will be chaired by Chief Emmanuel

Akukwata, who will also oversee the Ozoro axis, alongside Mr. Isagba Gabriel (Otor Owhe), Hon. Lucky Okeremu (Emevor), and Hon. Festus Onwah (Iyede), with other members managing their respective areas. Representatives from the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and traffic officers from Ozoro Division A and Otor Owhe Division B will also be part of the task force.

Speaking at the event, FRSC Unit Commander Mukoro O. I. commended the Chairman for taking this proactive step, noting that the rising number of accidents and casualties made the committee's formation timely.

On behalf of the committee, Chief Akukwata Emmanuel expressed gratitude to the Chairman for entrusting them with the responsibility and assured that they would carry out their duties effectively in line with his vision.

Also present at the inauguration were the Vice Chairman, Barr. Evelyn Aluta, Secretary to the Council, Sir Vote Umu-koro, Supervisors, and Security Chiefs.



Warri North agog as council chairman, house member set to re-allocate shops in Ogheye Floating Market.

The Ancient City of Ogheye Dumigun community in Warri North Local Government Council was thrown into widespread jubilation recently as the local government Council Chairman Hon. Festus Ani Ashima and the member representing Warri North at the State House of Assembly Hon. Fred Martins stormed the community in their resolved to allocate shops in the previously closed Ogheye Floating Market.

The Duo was received by the Olare-Aja of the community (Oldest man) Pa.Fregene Moses Oritsetsundede who expressed fulfillment in the mission of the worthy sons of the Council.

While explaining the purpose of their visit, Hon. Festus Ashima said, "We are here for the re-opening of the Ultra Moden Ogheye Floating market to boost Economic activities in the community and to tackle idleness and jobless-

ness. Markets are catalyst for socio economic transformation and provide opportunities as a meeting point for both the high and low.

According to the chairman, the re-opening of the market is historic and shops would be pre-allocated to those who were doing business in the market before now and others who are currently trading in the community irrespective of ethnic or religious background.

He however warned that any idle shop that is not put into immediate use will be re-allocated to those who are ready to use them immediately.

He thanked the Delta State Government for the gigantic project and commended the former local Government Council Chairman, Dr. Godwin Ebosa for his uncommon leadership and vision in ensuring that the project was completed in record time.

On his part, the member rep-

resenting Warri North State Constituency at the House of Assembly Hon. Fred Martins described the market project as a major eyemark dividend of democracy assure the people of more of government presence that will make life worth living for the common man.

While appreciating the effort of government, the Warri North PDP chairman, Hon. Victor Dudu and the Olare-Aja and elders in council thanked the Council Chairman and the House of Assembly member for their collaborative efforts in making life worth living for the people. They said the market will help to change the fortune of the Ogheye community through job creation as a rallying point for commercial activities.

The council Chairman was accompany by Mr Silver Green aka Ayon who is also a worthy son of the community and community leader. The hon. councillor representing the

ward Hon. Dolu Moses and Hon.Misan Omatsuli was in attendance, hon Tene Tsetse past councillor and other community and opinion leaders where in attendance.



Chukwunwike showcases completed projects, pledges to enhance infrastructure devt

Aniocha South council chairman, Hon. Pastor Jude Chukwunwike, has reaffirmed his commitment to driving growth and transformative change in the council, aligning with the MORE Agenda of the governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori.

Pastor Chukwunwike made this pledge while showcasing completed and ongoing developmental projects to his counterparts from Delta North, emphasizing his dedication to the mandate given to him by the people of Aniocha South.

The council chairmen who accompanied Pastor Chukwunwike on the inspection visit were impressed by the leadership imprints they witnessed, acknowledging that his legacies will have a lasting impact on the communities.

Some of the notable projects showcased include the new Legislative Building, Traditional Rulers' office, council premises, council chapel, completed Afor Market, and the ongoing Ubulu Uku police divisional station building.

The visit culminated in a resolve to collaborate with Governor Oborevwori in actualizing his vision for the state and expressing unwavering confidence in the party, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Some of the council chairmen that visited include: Ndokwa East chairman, Hon. Vincent Osilonya; Ndokwa West, Hon. Goddy Obi Nzete; Oshimili South, Hon. Obi Kelvin Ezenyili as well as Ika North East council boss, Hon. Monday Odinigie.



Delta Governor receives appreciation for Udu harbour market project

The Executive Chairman of Udu Local Government Council, Olorogun Vincent Ogheneruemu Oyibode, has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Delta State Governor, Sheriff Oborevwori, for the ongoing construction of the Harbour Market in Udu. The project, scheduled to be completed in April 2025, will provide a modern marketplace for the community.

During a recent meeting with stakeholders from the Ovwian Community, Oyibode issued an eviction notice to individuals and groups who have unlawfully occupied the market land. He warned that any structures built on the site will be demolished, emphasizing the need for immediate

vacation.

In addition to the market project, Oyibode announced that the site for the proposed Federal Medical Center (FMC) has been identified. The FMC will initially operate from the Otor-Udu General Hospital before moving to its permanent site at Ovwian upon completion.

Oyibode reassured the Ovwian Community delegation that revenue sharing from the new market will be carried out fairly, in accordance with constitutional provisions. Both the Ovwian people and the local government will receive their rightful portions, and Oyibode urged the delegation to disregard any rumors to the contrary.



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ON THE MOVE:

IMAGES FROM DINNER ORGANISED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE COLLEGE OF PERMANENT SECRETARIES LED BY THE STATE HEAD OF SERVICE, MR. REGINALD BAYOKO; HEADS OF EXTRA MINISTERIAL DEPARTMENTS; DIRECTORS AND DEPUTY DIRECTORS IN THE STATE CIVIL SERVICE WHICH WAS HELD AT THE EVENT CENTRE, ASABA, TUESDAY. PHOTOS BY DONATUS OJI



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