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Nigeria - India Partnership: A Boost To African Economy

...A fertile Ground for AIEF ■



■ President Tinubu



■ PM Modi

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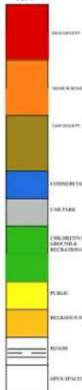
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ORJIAKO SAM ORJIAKO (JP)
CEO/Editor-In-Chief

Editorial

Nigeria-India Partnership: A Catalyst for African Economic Growth
The 2025 Nigeria-India partnership represents a landmark moment in international diplomacy, reinforcing economic ties between two strategic nations. Driven by the visionary leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this collaboration extends beyond bilateral relations, positioning Nigeria as a gateway for economic transformation across Africa.

Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, stands to gain significantly from this reinforced alliance. With India being Nigeria's largest trading partner, the establishment of a local currency settlement system will further facilitate trade, reducing reliance on foreign exchange and enhancing economic stability. The \$14 billion investment commitments from Indian companies in steel, energy, and infrastructure signal a new era of industrial expansion, job creation, and

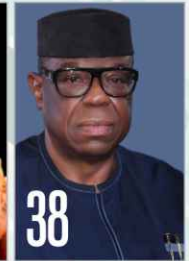


economic diversification.

Beyond trade and investment, the partnership also fosters cooperation in security, education, and technology. Nigeria's collaboration with India on maritime security and counter-terrorism will enhance regional stability, a crucial factor for sustained economic growth. Likewise, knowledge exchange in pharmaceuticals and technology will boost Nigeria's self-sufficiency and innovation.

This partnership exemplifies South-South cooperation at its finest. By strengthening economic, security, and developmental ties, Nigeria and India are not only securing their mutual prosperity but also shaping a more integrated and economically resilient African continent.

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08064631946



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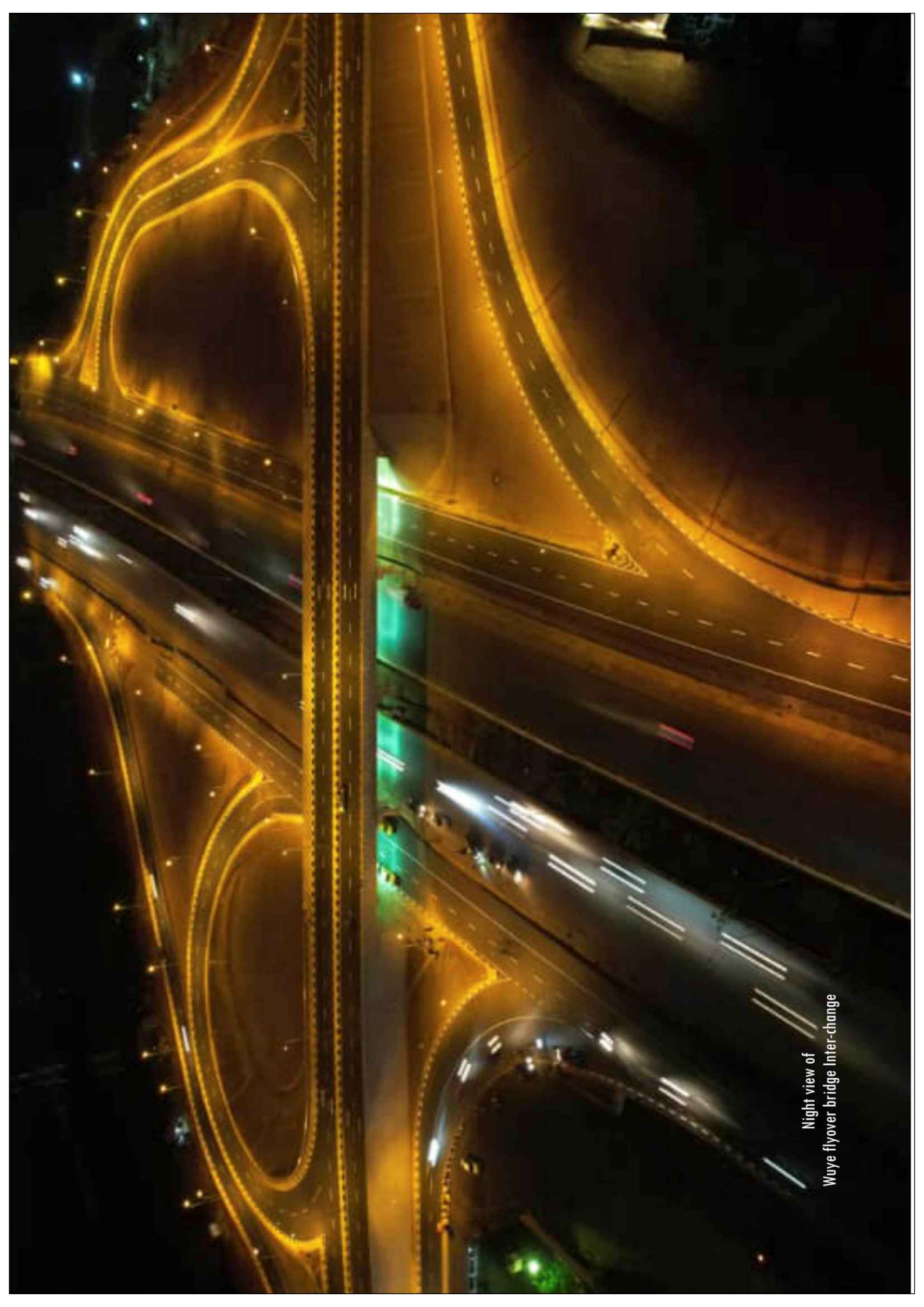
WIKE

The Guiding Light

Nyesom Wike's leadership as the FCT Minister has marked a transformative period for Abuja, fostering rapid infrastructural progress and significantly enhancing governance. His initiatives, like the completion of the long-overdue Abuja Rail Mass Transit and major road projects, such as the Outer Southern Expressway, underscore his commitment to developing the city's landscape efficiently. Additionally, his reforms in FCT civil service and inclusivity measures—appointing indigenous leaders and establishing new gender and youth development secretariats—highlight his role as a Godsend for the FCT.



■ **Nyesom Wike**
Minister, Federal Capital Territory (FCT)



Night view of
Wuye flyover bridge Inter-change



Wike's Bold Moves:

A New Era for Abuja's Infrastructure, Urban Planning

Minister Nyesom Wike's administration has embarked on a transformative journey to reshape Abuja, aligning the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) with global urban standards. With President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's support, Wike has launched a series of high-impact infrastructure projects that prioritize sustainable urban development, transportation improvements, and modernization of critical facilities. These initiatives reflect Wike's commitment to making Abuja a model city for efficiency, safety, and livability.

Transportation Overhaul and Safety Measures

One of Wike's main priorities has been to address Abuja's transportation needs comprehensively. His administration is introducing a new road transport system featuring three strategically located transport terminals. This move aims to streamline commuter flows while mitigating security risks, particularly the notorious "one chance" incidents

that have plagued the city. These terminals will improve connectivity and ensure that the public transport system is secure and dependable for all residents.

Furthermore, the Abuja Rail Mass Transit (ART) project, a long-awaited initiative nearing completion, promises to significantly enhance the city's connectivity. By providing efficient rail alternatives, this project is expected to reduce road congestion, foster economic growth, and improve the daily commute for thousands of residents.

Revitalization of Iconic Facilities

Wike's vision for Abuja includes bringing the city's iconic infrastructure up to par with international standards. A notable example is the extensive renovation of the International Conference Centre (ICC). The ICC, long overdue for an upgrade, will undergo a complete facelift under the guidance of Julius Berger Nigeria Plc. This initiative will transform the facility into a premier venue for international events, restoring its prestige and aligning it with Abuja's image as Nigeria's political and diplomatic heart.

The ICC project demonstrates Wike's strategic approach to fast-tracking development. Recognizing the potential setbacks of bureaucratic delays, Wike opted to avoid inquiries into past mismanagement, focusing instead on ensuring that the facility would meet global standards promptly. With plans to unveil the revamped ICC in April 2025, Wike has shown a commitment to reshaping Abuja's urban landscape with a sense of urgency and





President inaugurating bridges and roads in FCT



President Tinubu and Minister of FCT, Nyesom Wike in a hand shake

accountability.

Strategic Road Network Development

Wike's administration is addressing longstanding road infrastructure issues across the FCT. With various projects, including interchanges, flyovers, and road extensions, Wike aims to improve traffic flow, accessibility, and road safety. These projects range from the construction of major interchanges in high-traffic areas to the resurfacing of arterial roads in key districts like Wuse, Maitama, and Asokoro.

.These road projects are part of a larger urban planning strategy that also incorporates sustainable development practices. Wike's team has adopted eco-friendly construction methods and green infrastructure elements in many projects, a move that aligns with global trends in sustainable urban development. This focus on

sustainability ensures that the road infrastructure is not only functional and modern but also environmentally responsible.

A Commitment to Inclusivity and Community Development

Wike's administration has shown a strong commitment to involving local communities in the development process. For instance, in Life Camp, where construction affects residential areas, Wike has emphasized the importance of cooperating with affected communities. By providing compensation and relocation assistance as needed, his administration has set a precedent for addressing local concerns while advancing the city's development goals.

In addition, the administration's commitment to timely project completion has instilled a renewed sense of confidence among Abuja's residents. With strict timelines and transparent oversight, Wike has ensured that contractors adhere to schedules, reducing disruptions and maximizing the benefits of each project for the public?

Economic Impact and Future Prospects

Wike's ambitious projects,

under the "Renewed Hope Agenda," are also expected to stimulate economic growth in the FCT. By transforming Abuja into a dynamic construction hub, Wike is creating job opportunities and fostering a more business-friendly environment. These developments will likely attract both local and foreign investments, reinforcing Abuja's position as a critical economic center in Nigeria?

As Abuja gears up for the grand unveiling of these projects during President Tinubu's second-year anniversary in office, it is evident that Wike's vision is ushering in a new era for the city. His emphasis on accountability, efficient management, and sustainable urban planning stands as a model for other Nigerian cities.

In summary, Wike's bold moves in Abuja are set to redefine the FCT's infrastructure and urban planning landscape. Through his leadership, Abuja is evolving from an administrative capital to a thriving hub of business, culture, and innovation, providing an inspiring example of what can be achieved through visionary governance.



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OPEC-Africa Energy Dialogue Strengthens Cooperation, Highlights Africa's Energy Potential

By Orjiako Sam

The 4th High Level Meeting of OPEC-Africa Energy Dialogue took place on the sidelines of the Nigeria International Energy Summit 2025.

The meeting, held in Abuja, was chaired by His Excellency Haitham Al Ghais, Secretary General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), alongside His Excellency Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim, Secretary General of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO), and Mr. Anibor Kragha, Executive Secretary of the African Refiners and Distributors Association (ARDA).

HE Al Ghais emphasized the critical role of cooperation and dialogue among energy stakeholders, asserting that in an era of evolving global energy dynamics, collaboration is essential for addressing common challenges. He underscored Africa's immense energy potential, citing its 120 billion barrels of proven oil reserves and 18 trillion standard cubic meters of natural gas as pivotal to meeting future global energy demand. However, he stressed that unlocking this potential would require strategic investments and policy coordination.

"Africa will play a crucial role in our energy future," Al Ghais stated. "The world will

need more of this oil, and attracting necessary investments will be key to harnessing this great potential."

Delivering a keynote address at the summit, HE Al Ghais reaffirmed OPEC's commitment to Africa's energy sector, highlighting the need for pragmatic policies over arbitrary deadlines that could stifle the continent's development. He cautioned against misguided energy transition policies that overlook Africa's realities, advocating for a balanced approach that ensures energy security, economic growth, and environmental sustainability.

HE Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim, APPO's Secretary General, also played a crucial role in the discussions, reinforcing Africa's position as a global

HE Al Ghais reaffirmed OPEC's commitment to Africa's energy sector, highlighting the need for pragmatic policies over arbitrary deadlines that could stifle the continent's development



His Excellency Haitham Al Ghais, speaking at The Nigeria Energy Summit 2025



His Excellency Haitham Al Ghais, Secretary General, OPEC

energy hub. Under his leadership, APPO has been instrumental in fostering regional collaboration and advocating for policies that support sustainable energy development. His firm commitment to advancing Africa's energy agenda has positioned the continent as a key player in the global energy transition.

The summit's theme, 'Bridging Continents: Connecting Investors with Africa's Energy Potential', provided a

strategic platform for fostering cross-continental investments. HE Al Ghais commended Nigeria's role in

OPEC and expressed gratitude to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for hosting the event. He encouraged investors to explore Nigeria's oil and gas sector, citing the nation's consistent contributions to OPEC's success.

With HE Haitham Al Ghais' visionary leadership at OPEC and HE Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim's steadfast commitment at APPO, Africa's energy sector stands poised for a transformative future—one that prioritizes investment, sustainability, and economic prosperity for the continent.

With HE Haitham Al Ghais' visionary leadership at OPEC and HE Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim's steadfast commitment at APPO, Africa's energy sector stands poised for a transformative future



His Excellency Haitham Al Ghais, HE Dr. Umar Farouk Ibrahim in a group picture with OPEC staff and others at end of The Nigeria Energy Summit 2025 in Abuja, Nigeria



President Tinubu confers GCON on Indian PM Modi

Nigeria - India Partnership: A Boost To African Economy

...A fertile Ground for AIEF



Nigeria-India Economic Roundtable



President Tinubu honours PM Modi with the second highest national award, Grand Commander of the Order of Niger (GCON)

The 2025 Nigeria-India partnership marks a transformative milestone in international relations. Bolstered by the visionary leadership of President Tinubu and Prime Minister Modi, this collaboration promises significant economic growth for Nigeria and Africa at large. From trade and investment to energy, technology, and security, the partnership underscores a commitment to mutual advancement. With strategic initiatives like local currency settlements and energy cooperation, Nigeria is poised for sustained development, setting a benchmark for South-South cooperation.

In 2025, the strategic partnership between Nigeria and India is poised to significantly bolster Nigeria's economy, the largest in Africa, and contribute to the economic advancement of the entire continent. This collaboration, strengthened by the rapport between President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlights a shared commitment to mutual growth and development.

Nigeria and India have enjoyed a robust relationship since establishing diplomatic ties in 1958. Over the years, this bond has evolved into a strategic partnership encompassing trade, investment, defense, and cultural exchanges. In 2024, this partnership reached new heights with reciprocal state visits by both leaders.

In September 2024, President Tinubu visited India, where he secured nearly \$14 billion in investment pledges from Indian investors, including a \$3 billion

commitment from Jindal Steel and Power to develop Nigeria's steel sector.

This visit also facilitated discussions on an economic cooperation pact aimed at enhancing bilateral trade and investment.

In November 2024, Prime Minister Modi made a historic visit to Nigeria, the first by an Indian premier in 17 years. During this visit, both leaders pledged to deepen their strategic partnership, focusing on areas such as defense, energy, technology, trade, and development. They also agreed to enhance cooperation in maritime security, intelligence sharing, and counter-terrorism efforts,



President Tinubu meets India PM Modi at G20 Summit

Nigeria and India have enjoyed a robust relationship since establishing diplomatic ties in 1958. Over the years, this bond has evolved into a strategic partnership encompassing trade, investment, defense, and cultural exchanges.



particularly in the Gulf of Guinea and the Indian Ocean.

The economic implications of this relationship for Nigeria is that the reinforced partnership between the two countries is set to yield substantial economic benefits for Nigeria.

First will be trade enhancement considering India as Nigeria's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade estimated at \$14.9 billion in 2022.

However, establishment of a local currency settlement system, allowing transactions in Nigerian Naira and Indian Rupee, is expected to further boost trade by reducing dependency on foreign exchange



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, speaking during the India G20 Summit



A Nigerian student receiving an award from Indian Government

and lowering transaction costs.

Secondly, the Investment Inflow of the \$14 billion in investment pledges from Indian companies are directed towards critical sectors such as steel, power, renewable energy, and agriculture. These investments are anticipated to create jobs, enhance industrial capacity, and stimulate economic growth.

Thirdly, Energy Cooperation, Nigeria being rich in crude oil and natural gas, supplies over 8% of India's crude oil imports, making energy a cornerstone of both countries economic relations. Collaborations in this sector are expected to lead to technological transfers, infrastructure development, and increased revenue for Nigeria.

Pharmaceutical Industry Development: India's expertise in pharmaceuticals presents an opportunity for Nigeria to develop its local pharmaceutical industry. The Nigerian government aims to achieve 75% local manufacturing of essential medicines by 2025, reducing dependency on imports and improving healthcare outcomes.

Fourthly, Infrastructure Development, with Nigeria's



Defense Co-operation: Nigeria-India to strengthen ties

construction sector projected to grow annually by 3.2% between 2022 and 2025, Indian investments in infrastructure projects, including roads, railways, and housing, are expected to play a significant role in this expansion.

While in education and technological collaboration, the partnership includes initiatives in education and technology, with many Nigerian students studying in

The Nigerian government aims to achieve 75% local manufacturing of essential medicines by 2025, reducing dependency on imports and improving healthcare outcomes



India and Nigeria plan joint Naval exercise to boost GOC security



Nigeria Custom seals mutual administrative pacts with India's IRS

India and collaborations between universities. This exchange is poised to enhance Nigeria's human capital development, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Nigeria-India partnership extends its benefits beyond Nigeria, positively influencing the broader African continent, as Africa's largest economy, Nigeria's economic advancement has a ripple effect across the continent.

The united stance can influence international policies in favour of the Global South, promoting equitable economic development.

Enhanced trade and investment between Nigeria and India can stimulate regional markets, promote economic integration, and attract further foreign direct investment into Africa.

While the collaboration in maritime security and counter-terrorism sets a precedent for

regional security initiatives, contributing to the stability necessary for economic development in West Africa and beyond. Infact, both nations have committed to amplifying the concerns of developing countries on the global stage. The united stance can influence international policies in favour of the Global South, promoting equitable economic development.

It is worthy of note that the proactive engagement between President Tinubu and Prime Minister Modi has been instrumental in revitalizing the Nigeria-India partnership. Their mutual visits and the agreements forged demonstrate a shared vision for economic prosperity and development. President Tinubu's efforts to attract foreign investment and diversify Nigeria's economy, coupled with Prime Minister Modi's



Nigeria's minister of Defense, Dr. Muhammed Bello Matawalle, MON, presenting a gift to the India Perm Sec., Mr. Anurag Bajpai

commitment to strengthening ties with African nations, exemplify leadership dedicated to mutual advancement.

The 2025 Nigeria-India partnership represents a significant milestone in international relations, with the potential to transform Nigeria's economy and contribute to Africa's economic landscape. Through strategic collaboration in trade, investment, security, and development, both nations are poised to achieve shared prosperity, setting a benchmark for South-South cooperation in the 21st century.

PM Modi's Visit to Nigeria



▲ PM Modi addressing Indian community in Nigeria

PM Modi with Indian community in Nigeria ▼





What Nigeria Can Gain Partnering AIEF

Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF) is an Institutional Mechanism established to integrate and develop close business links between the private sectors and MSME entities of Africa and India.

AIEF is a secure platform for the Africa and India entrepreneurs to collaborate and create mutually sustainable and beneficial businesses in Africa. AIEF, through its network, will develop business-to-business interactions and enable successful partnerships and promote cross-border and international Business Synergies.

The Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF) will stand as a valuable ally for Nigeria in its journey toward sustainable economic development. Established to drive partnerships between African countries and India, AIEF facilitates critical connections between the public and private sectors, fostering trade, technology transfer, investment, and skill development. For Nigeria, which seeks economic transformation and diversification, the strategic alliance with AIEF presents vast opportunities for growth across key sectors.

Nigeria's collaboration with AIEF can be a game-changer in areas such as agriculture, manufacturing, information technology, and infrastructure development. Given AIEF's focus on empowering Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and supporting major sectors in Africa, the foundation can help Nigerian MSMEs access international markets, establish partnerships, and integrate advanced Indian technologies into their operations. This

would not only boost local businesses but also create job opportunities, helping to reduce unemployment and stimulate local economies.

Additionally, AIEF has established a framework for skill development programs that could significantly benefit Nigeria's youth. These initiatives could support President Bola Tinubu's administration in addressing youth unemployment by providing skills aligned with current industry demands. Through workshops, exchange programs, and on-the-ground training, AIEF can enhance Nigeria's human capital, creating a skilled workforce prepared to tackle challenges in a modern economy.

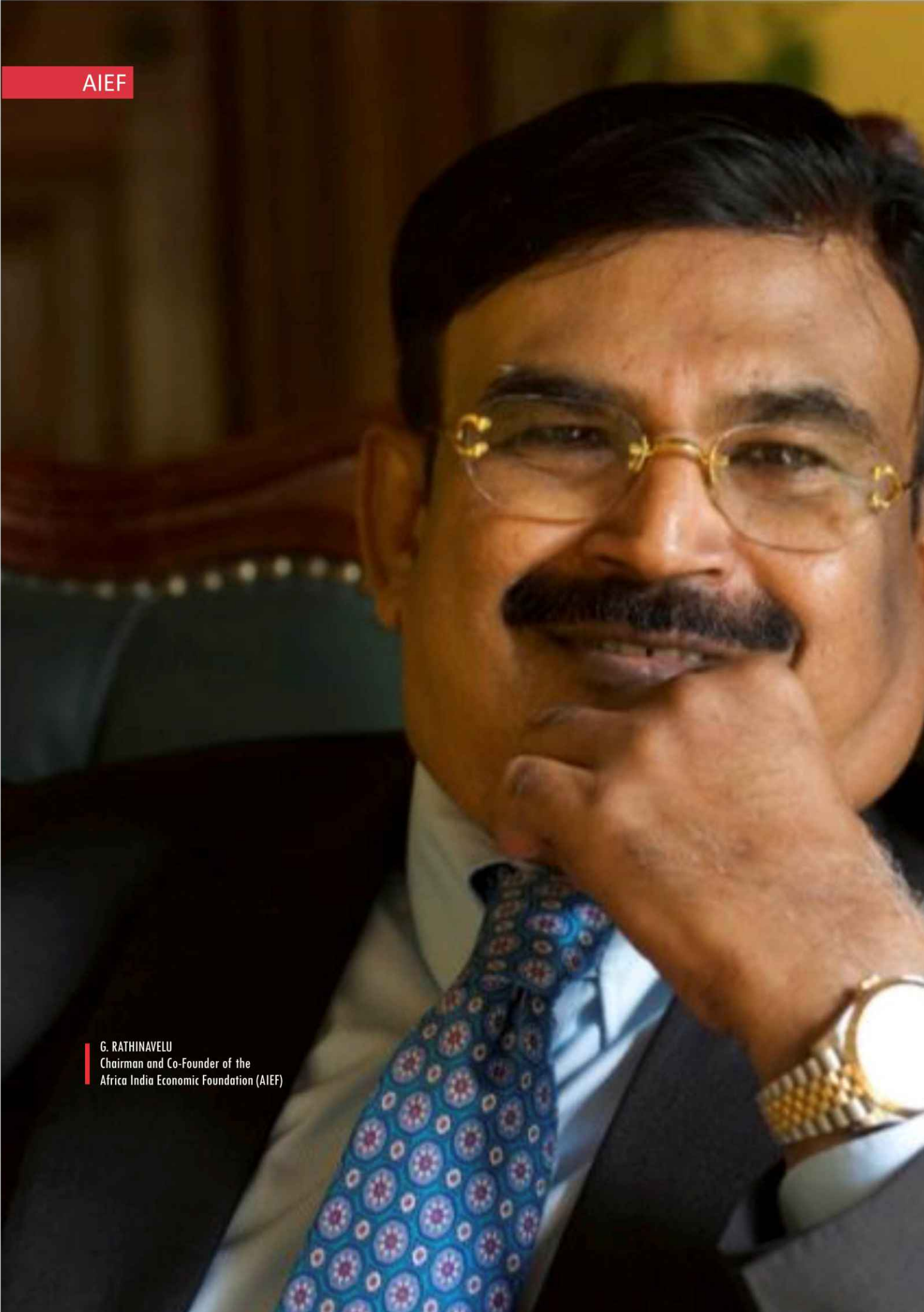
A critical component of AIEF's approach is its commitment to technology transfer, particularly for sustainable development. By incorporating Indian expertise in sustainable energy, Nigeria could advance in sectors such as solar power, green construction, and efficient farming technologies.

Given Nigeria's push to expand its energy sector and increase access to electricity, especially in rural areas, AIEF's experience in sustainable solutions offers viable paths to meet these goals. For instance, AIEF's partnership with the African Union includes an agenda for the Joint Action Plan for Economic Development, which outlines measures for sustainable business growth and investment across Africa.

To leverage the full potential of AIEF, it is essential that Nigeria's government takes a proactive approach in engaging with the foundation's leadership. President Tinubu is advised to liaise directly with G. Rathinavelu, Chairman of AIEF, to discuss specific areas for collaboration, aligning Nigeria's economic objectives with AIEF's development programmes.

AIEF

G. RATHINAVELU
Chairman and Co-Founder of the
Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF)





Africa India Economic Foundation

AFRICA ECONOMY

G. Rathinavelu:

Bridging continents for shared prosperity as AIEF Chairman

G. Rathinavelu, Chairman and Co-Founder of the Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF), is a visionary leader dedicated to fostering economic growth and collaboration between Africa and India. With a strategic focus on sustainable development, he has been instrumental in creating platforms that facilitate trade, investment, and innovation. Rathinavelu's deep commitment to economic empowerment across Africa highlights his devotion to advancing humanity by bridging economic divides and nurturing opportunities for shared prosperity. His tireless efforts and strategic acumen continue to drive impactful partnerships, positioning AIEF as a catalyst for transformative growth on the global stage.



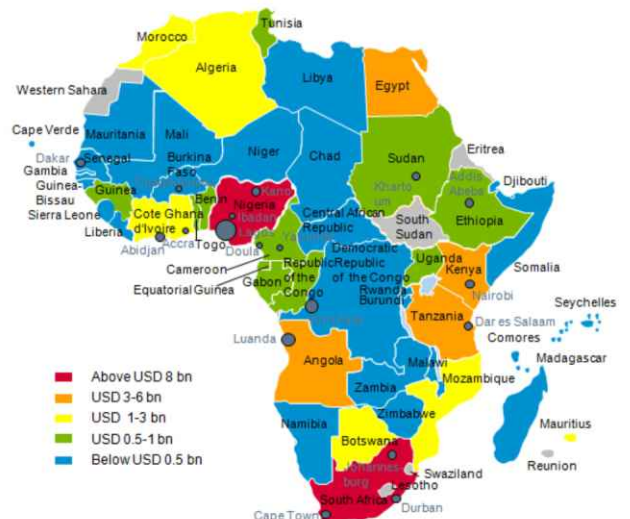
G. Rathinavelu, the Chairman and Co-Founder of AIEF with Dr. Abdullah Shahid, UN General Assembly President

Africa India Economic Foundation: A Catalyst for Africa's Economic Revival and Sustainability

The AIEF's strategic economic transformation agenda is positioned as a vital path for Africa's economic empowerment, focusing on boosting private sector growth, youth entrepreneurship, and infrastructure development. By leveraging local resources and attracting private investments, Africa can aim for sustainable development and economic resilience, closing the global economic gap. Key initiatives include support for digital infrastructure, which enhances competitiveness and prepares African economies for the future?



Africa-India bilateral trade volume
USD bn



The formation of the Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF) marks a significant milestone in bolstering Africa's economic revival and sustainability, especially for nations such as Nigeria, Ghana, the Republic of Niger, and the Republic of Benin amongst others. Led by a global acclaimed visionary leader G. Rathinavelu, the Chairman and Co-Founder of AIEF, the foundation aims to build a robust partnership between African nations and India to stimulate economic growth, enhance trade, and foster technology transfer.

At the heart of AIEF is the goal of creating strong economic ties between Africa and India by leveraging each region's unique strengths. AIEF is designed to synergize knowledge, technology, and investment to support both public and private sectors, with a focus on the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

This framework of collaboration provides African nations with critical tools for addressing economic challenges such as unemployment, underdevelopment, and inadequate industrialization

Through its partnerships, AIEF seeks to uplift African economies by enabling access to Indian technology, markets, and expertise. This framework of collaboration provides African nations with critical tools for addressing economic challenges such as unemployment,



Dr. Levi Uche Madueke receiving Gandhi Mandela Leadership Award for a sterling performance as the African Union Commissioner General for EXPO 2020 Dubai from United Arab Emirates EXPO Official

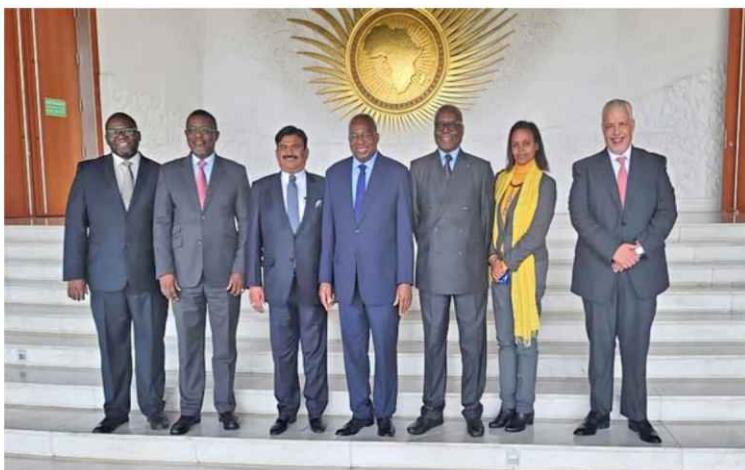
underdevelopment, and inadequate industrialization. A key focus of AIEF is to build long-term, sustainable partnerships. This includes establishing new market opportunities for African products in India and beyond, supporting technological advancements in agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare, and fostering innovation-driven development across sectors.

The administrative competence of G. Rathinavelu has been pivotal to the success and direction of AIEF. As the driving force behind this visionary initiative, Rathinavelu's efforts have been focused on creating an institutional mechanism that can effectively channel billions of dollars worth of trade and investment into Africa's growing economies. His leadership, alongside Co-Founder Dr. Pierre Atepa Goudiaby, has ensured that AIEF becomes a key player in advancing Africa's economic future.

Under Rathinavelu's stewardship, Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF) has already seen landmark achievements, as it has actively pursued the African Union's participation in the G20, reflecting its commitment to fostering deeper global partnerships. This significant development underlines AIEF's commitment to empowering African voices within the global business ecosystem and enhancing Africa's footprint in international trade.

Rathinavelu's commitment to strengthening economic ties with Africa is a reflection of his broader belief in Africa's potential as a major economic hub. His efforts should be commended for not only fostering economic partnerships but also for driving a shared vision of sustainable development that benefits both continents.

The benefits of AIEF's partnerships are multi-faceted, with African nations standing to gain significantly from increased investment, trade opportunities, and knowledge sharing. By facilitating collaboration between Indian and African MSMEs, AIEF ensures that African businesses are empowered to grow,



G. Rathinavelu, the Chairman and Co-Founder of AIEF with other African Leaders at the Landmark MoU signing between AIEF and African Union

Focus on AIEF

access new markets, and adopt modern technologies that can revolutionize their industries.

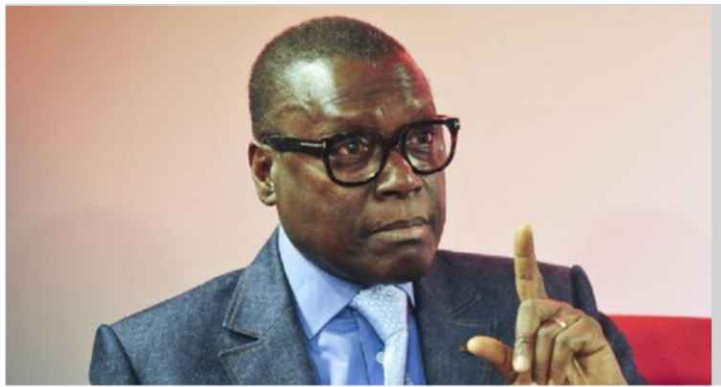
Trade and Investment: AIEF's core mission is to stimulate trade

between African countries and India. For countries like Nigeria, Ghana and other African countries, this means opening up new markets for exports and tapping into Indian investment, particularly in key sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, and manufacturing.

The AIEF provides African leaders with a unique opportunity to capitalize on strategic partnerships that can fast-track their national economic agendas. African Heads of State are encouraged to fully engage with the AIEF platform to unlock these numerous benefits.

One of the key elements of AIEF's strategy is to support African nations in accessing cutting-edge technologies from India, which can be applied in various sectors, from renewable energy to healthcare. This will enable African countries to modernize their infrastructure, improve productivity, and enhance their competitiveness in global markets.

AIEF offers training programmes and skill-building initiatives designed to empower African professionals and entrepreneurs. These programmes ensure that Africa can harness its human capital more effectively, positioning it to drive innovation and foster economic development. Through partnerships aimed at industrial growth and environmental sustainability, AIEF supports Africa's transition to a more sustainable economic model. This is crucial for nations like Niger and Benin, where economic growth must be balanced with environmental preservation.



Mr. Pierre Atepa Goudiaby

By investing in MSMEs and fostering collaboration between African and Indian businesses, AIEF is contributing to job creation across multiple sectors. This is particularly

beneficial for countries with high unemployment rates, such as Nigeria, where youth unemployment remains a critical issue.

The AIEF provides African leaders with a unique opportunity to capitalize on strategic partnerships that can fast-track their national economic agendas. African Heads of State are encouraged to fully engage with the AIEF platform to unlock these numerous benefits. The organization's focus on sustainable economic development, technological innovation, and trade collaboration aligns with many African countries' goals to diversify their economies, reduce reliance on raw material exports, and build resilient industrial sectors.

Given the challenges faced by African economies in the wake of global economic disruptions, the collaborative efforts championed by AIEF can act as a significant driver of recovery. By partnering with India, African countries can access vital resources, expertise, and funding necessary for addressing some of the continent's most pressing development challenges. Leaders who choose to engage with AIEF will be positioning their countries at the forefront of Africa's economic transformation.

The Africa-India Economic Foundation, under the leadership of G. Rathinavelu, is an exemplary initiative that promises to reshape the economic landscape of African countries like Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, Niger and other African countries. AIEF's efforts to create a platform for mutual growth, driven by trade, technology, and investment, offer African nations the tools they need for sustainable development and economic independence.

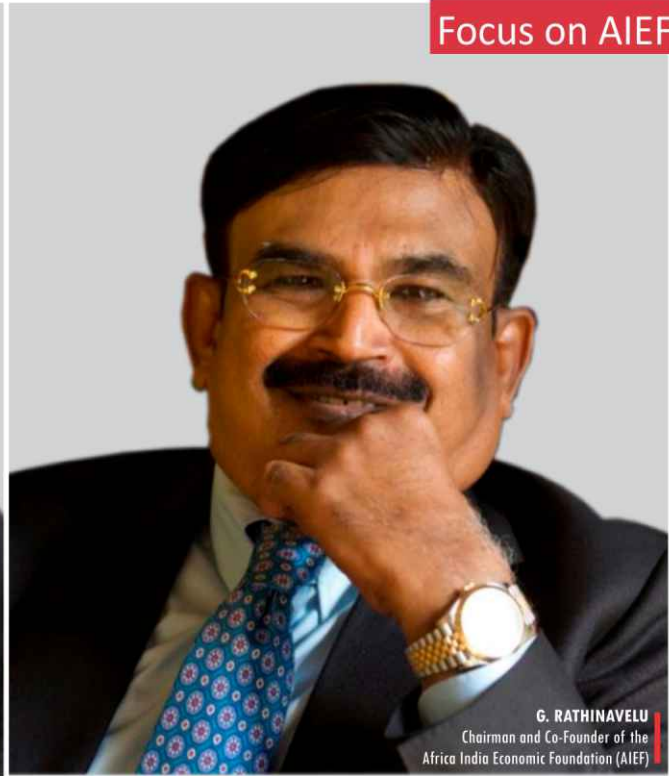
By capitalizing on these opportunities, African leaders can ensure that their countries benefit from increased trade, technological advancement, and investment, creating a brighter and more prosperous future for all. G. Rathinavelu deserves commendation for his forward-thinking vision and leadership in bringing this initiative to fruition, and it is imperative that African nations embrace this partnership wholeheartedly to maximize its potential.



G. Rathinavelu, the Chairman and Co-Founder of AIEF in a handshake with Dr. Levi Uche Madueke, Commissioner General of AU at Dubai EXPO 2020



ALIKO DANGOTE
Founder/CEO
Dangote Group



G. RATHINAVELU
Chairman and Co-Founder of the
Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF)



Should Dangote Partner with Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF)?

Strategic Collaboration:

Dangote Group and AIEF for Africa's Growth

By: Orjiako Sam Orjiako

A potential partnership between Dangote Group and the Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF) promises transformative economic growth for Africa. Combining Dangote's industrial expertise with AIEF's \$6.3 billion investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, and education could revolutionize the continent's economic landscape.

This alliance would bolster Africa's manufacturing sector, enhance trade, and

reduce logistical bottlenecks, fostering regional integration. AIEF's initiatives in renewable energy, IT, and vocational training further align with Dangote's expansion goals.

With India-Africa trade surpassing \$90 billion, this partnership presents a unique opportunity to tackle Africa's challenges while advancing global competitiveness. Leaders must prioritize this strategic collaboration.



Dangote Refinery

The prospect of a partnership between Dangote Group and the Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF) presents a massive transformative opportunity for the African continent, particularly in the wake of Dangote's expansion into exporting petroleum products across Africa and beyond. This collaboration if achieved has the potential to significantly enhance economic vibrancy across Africa by combining the strengths of a leading African conglomerate with the expertise and resources of an organization (AIEF) dedicated to fostering India-Africa cooperation.



G. Rathinavelu

The benefits of such partnership could be unimaginable, first, it will enhance trade and industrial growth as AIEF has facilitated critical investments in Africa, including \$6.3 billion in concessional lines of credit for infrastructure, manufacturing, and education. Partnering with AIEF would enable Dangote to access these resources, expanding its operations while contributing to Africa's industrialization? Secondly, it will strengthen Africa's manufacturing sector as AIEF's focus on capacity building and industrialization aligns with Dangote's expertise in industries such as cement, agriculture, and oil refining. By working together, they could strengthen Africa's manufacturing capabilities, addressing the continent's low contribution (2%) to global trade in manufactured goods? Thirdly, it will boost regional economic integration as Dangote expands its petroleum exports, leveraging AIEF's trade facilitation and infrastructure development initiatives could reduce logistical bottlenecks, making African

exports more competitive globally. AIEF's work in establishing trade hubs and training centers across Africa can further support this endeavour?

It is worthy to note that AIEF has spearheaded numerous



Aliko Dangote

projects, including the establishment of IT centers, vocational training institutions, and healthcare facilities across Africa. The organization has also played a pivotal role in

promoting renewable energy and bridging the digital divide through initiatives like the e-VidyaBharati and e-ArogyaBharati Network, which provide education and medical consultancy to African nations?

India's growing trade with Africa, which surpassed \$90 billion in 2023, underscores its commitment to the continent's development. With Africa becoming a member of the G20 under India's presidency, the stage is set for deeper cooperation. Aligning with India's economic vision through initiatives like AIEF can provide Africa with a robust framework to overcome challenges such as youth unemployment, infrastructure deficits, and food insecurity. ?

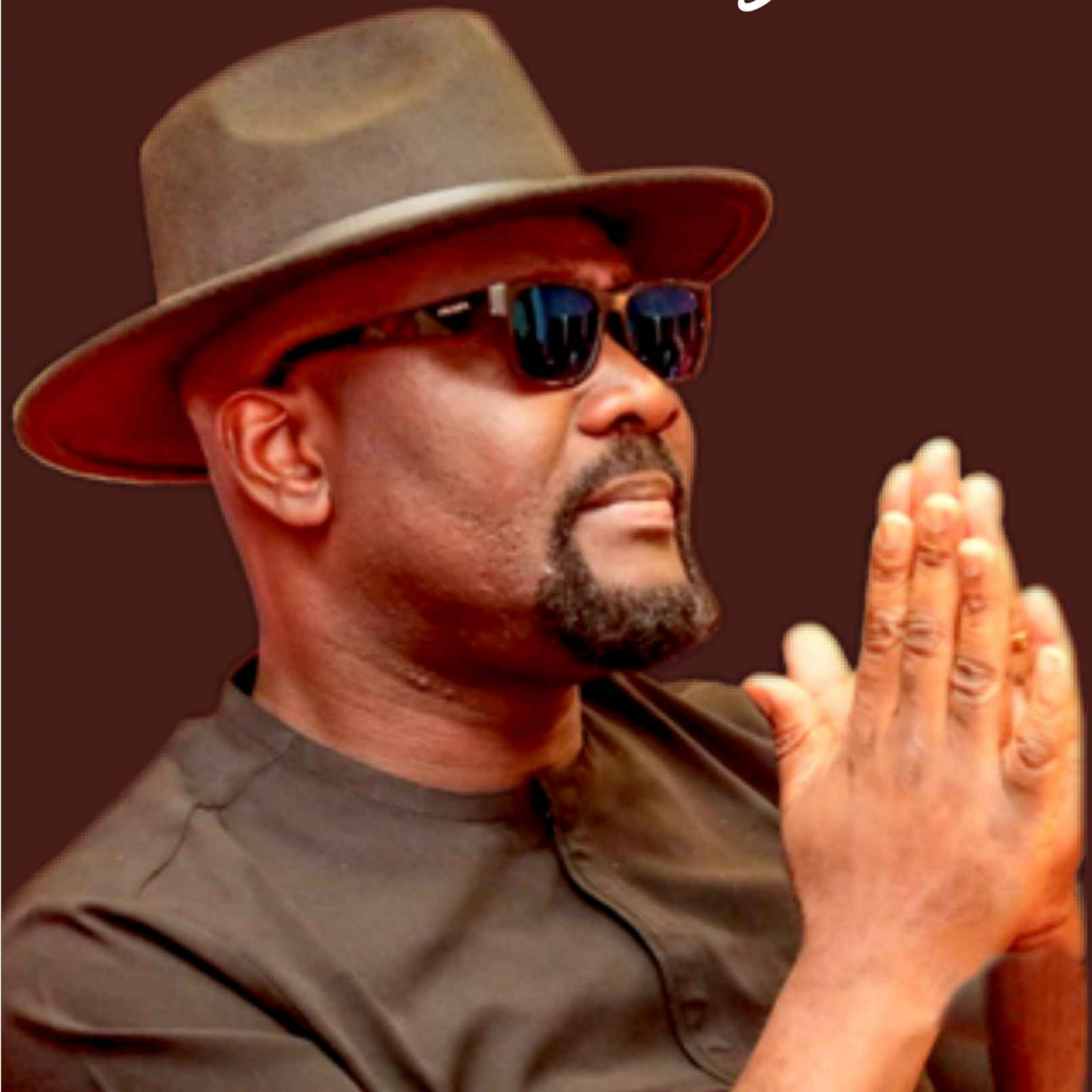
A partnership between Dangote and AIEF could herald a new era of economic growth for Africa, creating jobs, fostering industrialization, and enhancing global trade competitiveness.

African leaders must seize this opportunity to accelerate development, leveraging AIEF's expertise to realize the continent's full potential. The Indian Prime Minister's recent engagement with Nigeria serves as a reminder of the immense possibilities such collaborations can unlock for Africa and India alike.



PM Narendra Modi, visits Nigeria, receives Nigeria's second highest award

Distinguished
Senator Osita
Ngwu



Visionary,
Impactful,
People-Centered,
and Transformative

Senator

■ **Senator Osita Ngwu**
Representing Enugu West
Senatorial District



Senator Osita Ngwu:

A Paragon of Leadership and Service in Enugu West

In the dynamic landscape of Nigerian politics, certain individuals distinguish themselves through unwavering commitment to public service, visionary leadership, and tangible contributions to societal development. Senator Osita Ngwu, representing Enugu West Senatorial District, epitomizes these qualities. His multifaceted career as an engineer, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and politician has significantly impacted his constituents and set a benchmark for legislative excellence.

Born on February 2, 1978, Senator Ngwu's journey began with a solid educational foundation. He earned a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Enugu State University of Science and Technology in 2001, followed by a

Master of Science from the Business School at the University of Roehampton, London, in 2016. His professional affiliations include membership in the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), the Nigerian Mechanical Engineers Association (NMEA), and registration with the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN).

Senator Ngwu's career in the oil and gas industry spanned 15 years, during which he ascended from a trainee engineer to the position of Executive Director. His tenure was marked by involvement in significant projects, such as the OML Phase 1 O.U.R 42" X 45Km Gas Pipeline Project and Shell Petroleum Development Company's Tank Upgrade initiatives. In 2016, he transitioned into entrepreneurship, establishing a multi-billion Naira enterprise that has

Leadership

provided employment to over 500 individuals.

Senator Ngwu's foray into politics commenced in 2018 with an aspiration to represent Udi/Ezeagu in the House of Representatives. Although he withdrew in favor of the incumbent, his dedication to the People's Democratic Party (PDP) remained steadfast. In 2023, he secured the PDP's ticket for Enugu West Senatorial District and was elected to the Senate, succeeding Senator Ike Ekweremadu, who had served for two decades.

In the Senate, Senator Ngwu has been entrusted with pivotal roles, including Chairman of the Senate Committee on Solid Minerals, Steel Development, and Metallurgy, and Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Drugs and Narcotics. His peers further honored him with the position of Senate Minority Whip, a testament to his leadership acumen and the respect he commands within the legislative assembly.

A staunch advocate for education, Senator Ngwu has initiated several programs to enhance educational opportunities in Enugu West. Notably, he launched the JAMB Academy, offering seven-month free preparatory lessons and computer-based tests to both indigenes and non-indigenes, thereby promoting inclusivity and academic excellence.

In June 2024, he awarded scholarships totaling N81 million to exceptional students from his



Sen. Osita Ngwu speaks on wealth creation through vast solid minerals in the nation resources

constituency, underscoring his belief that education is the bedrock of any nation's development. Additionally, he unveiled the "Kit a School Child" initiative, providing uniforms, bags, sandals, socks, and books to 20,000 primary school children across over 200 schools in Enugu West, further demonstrating his commitment to nurturing the educational foundation of young learners.

Senator Ngwu's tenure is marked by a plethora of infrastructural projects aimed at improving the quality of life for his constituents. These include the construction of the Ihe-Ogugu-Ogbaku link road in Awgu Local Government Area, provision of solar-powered boreholes in various communities, and the establishment of a community produce market and agro-processing center in Aninri Local Government Area. His efforts extend to the rehabilitation of roads, construction of town halls, and implementation of water schemes, all tailored to address the specific needs of the communities he serves.

Demonstrating a deep sense of empathy and social responsibility, Senator Ngwu has reached out to individuals facing illness, hunger, or bereavement, providing financial support and relief materials. His establishment of the Humanitarian Initiative for the Needy in Enugu West (HIF NIEW) reflects his unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for the most vulnerable members of his constituency.



Sen. Osita Ngwu awarded scholarship valued at eighty-one million naira to 18 students with exceptional Kamb results and 1 PhD student



Some of the primary 6 pupils sponsored for National Unity Colleges common entrance by Sen. Osita Ngwu

Recognizing the unifying and empowering potential of sports, Senator Ngwu initiated and funded the Enugu West Annual Soccer Tournament. This event features 20 teams drawn from the 20 Development Centers of Enugu West, fostering camaraderie, talent development, and providing a constructive outlet for youth engagement.



Sen. Osita Ngwu on inspection of 200 million naira mega Junior Secondary School project he is embarking on

infrastructure, humanitarian aid, and legislative advocacy serves as a model for other senators and political leaders. By prioritizing the needs of his constituents and implementing sustainable development projects, he has demonstrated that effective leadership is both attainable and impactful.

In his legislative capacity, Senator Ngwu has sponsored multiple bills and petitions, reflecting his proactive approach to governance and policy development. His representation extends beyond national borders, having represented Nigeria at the International Parliamentary Union and serving as a member of the ECOWAS Parliament. These roles enable him to contribute to regional dialogues and decisions that impact not only his constituents but the broader West African community.

As Nigeria continues to navigate its socio-political landscape, the nation would benefit immensely from more leaders who embody the principles and practices that Senator Ngwu exemplifies.



Sen. Ngwu's road projects are massive and people oriented



Sen. Osita handing over uniforms to pupils under his programme "Kit the school children"



Commissioning on of the solar powered boreholes constructed by Sen. Osita

PHOTO SPEAKS

*Showcasing Distinguished
Osita Ngwu in some of his activities*



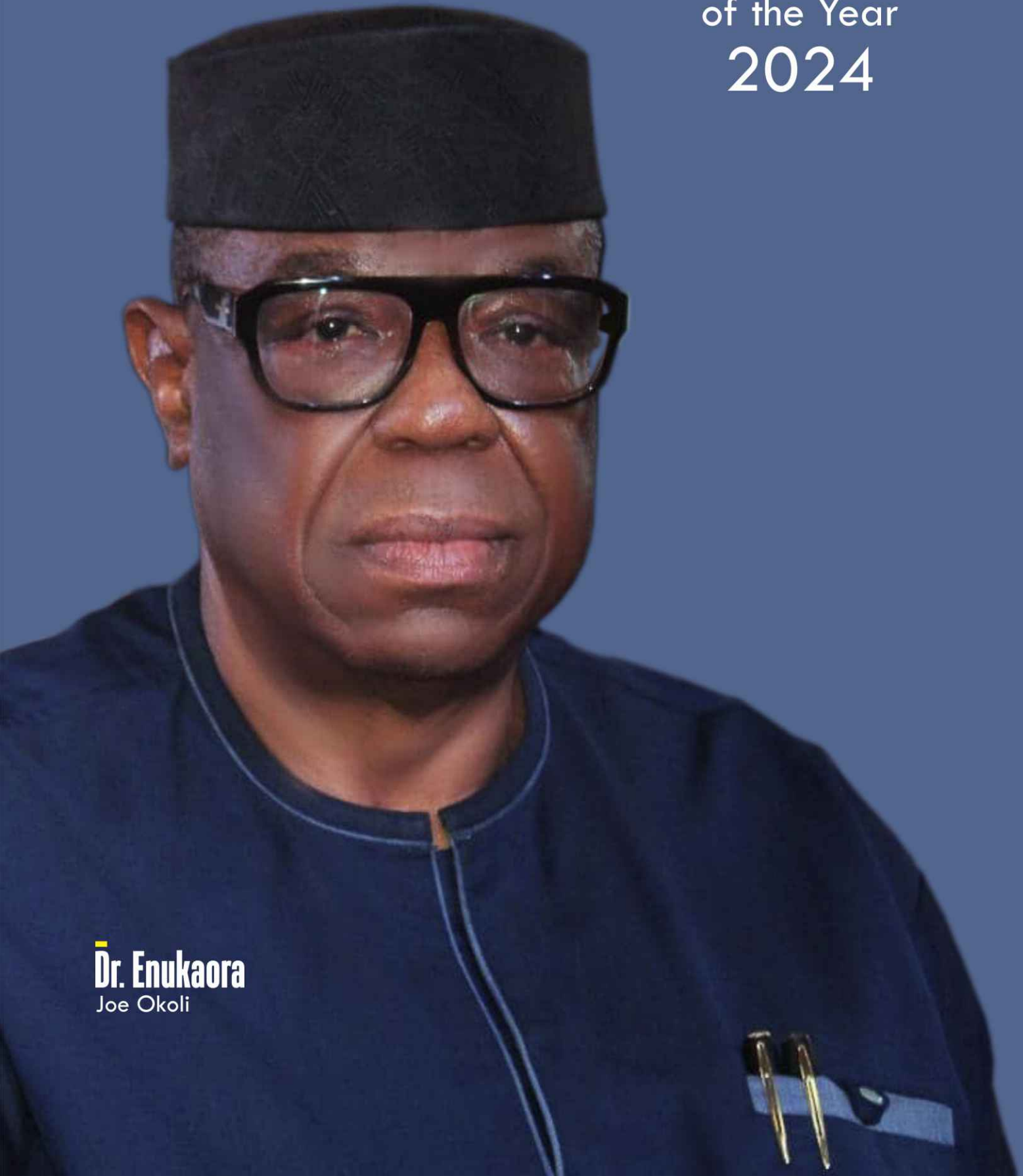
PHOTO SPEAKS

*Showcasing Distinguished
Osita Ngwu in some of his activities*



AN NGO PUBLICATION
NewsGlobal

Outstanding
ADMINISTRATOR
of the Year
2024



Dr. Eukaora
Joe Okoli



Dr. Enukaora Joe Okoli

A Titan of Administration and Nation-Building



Dr. Enukaora Joe Okoli is undeniably one of the finest administrators Nigeria has today—an astute leader whose integrity, expertise, and vision have left an indelible mark on national development. His sterling academic credentials, including a doctorate in Public Policy and Administration, and his Fellowships with top-tier professional bodies, emphasize his unparalleled competence in governance and institutional management.

With over 25 years in executive roles in the UK, Dr. Okoli returned to Nigeria in 2005 to lead a revolution in social security. As Chairman and later MD/CEO of NSITF, he spearheaded transformative reforms, convened the first-ever National Conference on Social Security, and played a pivotal role in the enactment of the Employees Compensation Act—creating over 7,000 jobs and securing billions for infrastructural growth.

His visionary leadership also birthed ProHealth HMO, expanding primary healthcare access nationwide. A man of deep philanthropy, Dr. Okoli has significantly uplifted his community.

Nigeria cannot afford to overlook such a seasoned reformer. Dr. Okoli is a national asset—his wealth of experience, strategic brilliance, and resolute dedication make him indispensable to the country's future.

His sterling academic credentials, including a doctorate in Public Policy and Administration, and his Fellowships with top-tier professional bodies, emphasize his unparalleled competence in governance and institutional management.

Unlock the Future of Africa:

A Must-Read for Leaders and Entrepreneurs

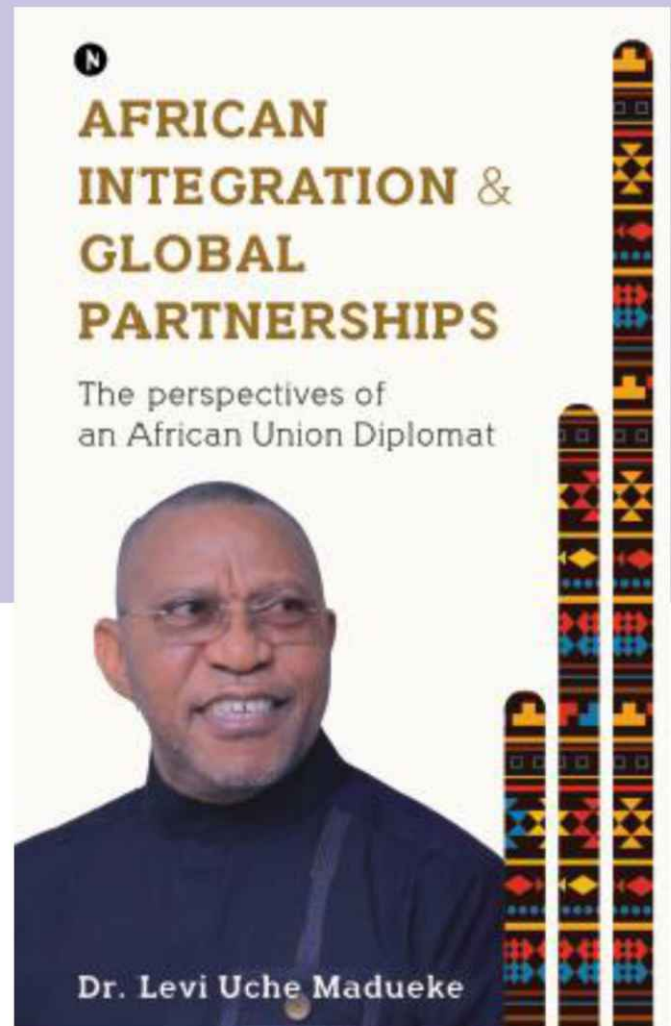
African Integration and Global Partnerships – The Perspectives of an African Union Diplomat is now available on Amazon.com and Amazon.uk. This seminal work offers an insider's view into the challenges and opportunities facing Africa today.

Why This Book Matters:

- **Confronting Dependency:** The book critically examines Africa's reliance on foreign aid, culture, and language, challenging the misconceptions that have perpetuated a narrative of inferiority.
- **Role of the African Union:** Drawing from firsthand experience within the African Union Commission, the author sheds light on the AU's efforts to promote unity, defend human rights, and stimulate sustainable development. These insights are particularly relevant as the AU strives to strengthen continental integration.
- **Shaping the Narrative:** Amid ongoing discussions about African integration and global partnerships, this book emphasizes the importance of African voices in redefining the continent's future.

Empowerment Through Knowledge:

By engaging with the perspectives presented,



readers will gain a deeper understanding of Africa's position in the global polity. The discourse encourages Africans to take pride in their heritage and work collectively towards the aspirations outlined in the AU's Agenda 2063.

Join the Movement:

This publication is a call to action for leaders, entrepreneurs, and global citizens to engage in critical conversations about Africa's future. By sharing this work within your networks, you contribute to the collective effort to achieve the Africa we all envision.

African Integration and Global Partnerships is available on Amazon platforms worldwide. Secure your copy today and be part of Africa's transformative journey.

Aguocha

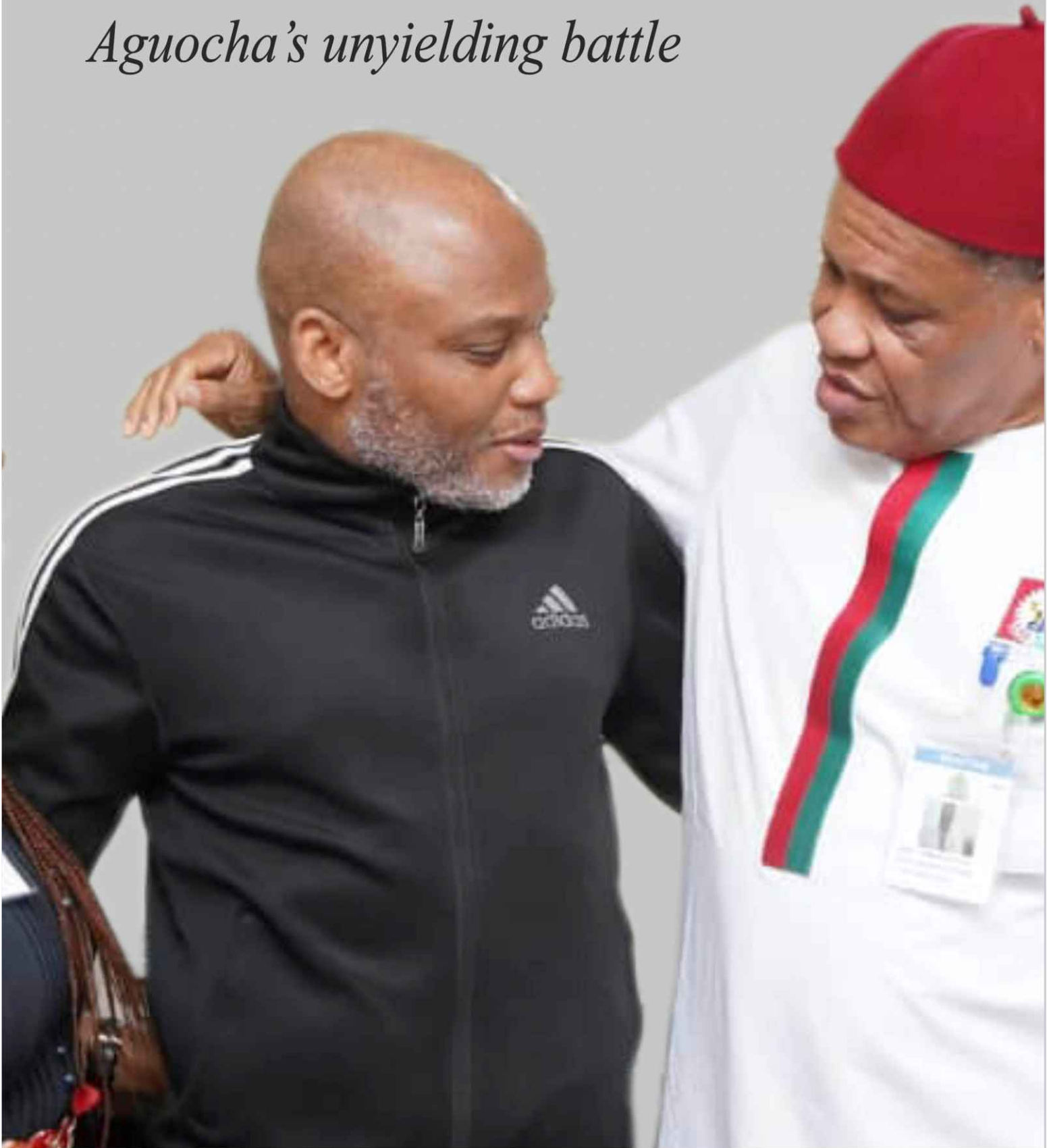
*An Unrelenting Fighter
For the Release of
Mazi Nnamdi Kanu*



High Chief Obinna Aguocha
Member, Representing Ikwuano, Umuahia North,
and Umuahia South Federal Constituency

Nnamdi's Freedom:

Aguocha's unyielding battle





Aguocha's Push For Nnamdi Kanu's Freedom Gains Momentum

Hon. Obi Aguocha's Bold Move Secures Mazi Nnamdi Kanu's Rights and Access in a Landmark Visit

Hon. Obi Aguocha's recent visit to Mazi Nnamdi Kanu has once again highlighted his untiring commitment to justice, securing vital rights and healthcare access for Mazi Nnamdi Kanu.

His bold advocacy strengthens constitutional values in Nigeria as Orjiako Sam Orjiako writes

In a powerful demonstration of his commitment to justice and representation, High Chief Obinna Aguocha, the member representing Ikwuano, Umuahia North, and Umuahia South Federal Constituency, recently paid a significant visit to Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). The visit was on October 24, 2024, and the visit was catalyzed by appeals from Kanu's legal team, highlighted the pressing issues surrounding Kanu's detention and lack of access to his lawyers, further established Aguocha as a champion for civil rights and the rule of law in Nigeria.



Hon. Obinna Aguocha, Ms. Ezioma Stella Ikpo and Mazi Nnamdi Kanu

Aguocha's meeting Mazi Nnamdi Kanu was a reassurance to Kanu's supporters and family members that his rights were being acknowledged and upheld. During their conversation, Kanu appeared to be in good health and was reportedly strong and resilient.

The journey leading to this moment began when Kanu's legal representatives expressed frustration at the prolonged hurdles they faced in securing access to their client. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Hon. Obinna Aguocha acted swiftly, reaching out to the Department of State Services (DSS) and Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas PhD, Speaker of the 10th House of Representatives, to advocate for Kanu's rights.

Aguocha's intervention was instrumental in bringing clarity to the situation, as the DSS explained that recent delays were attributed to a legal request by Kanu's lawyers for a judge to recuse herself, necessitating additional legal steps. Aguocha's dedication to transparency and justice led him to brief Kanu personally on the legal circumstances, ensuring Kanu was informed of the latest developments.

Accompanied by Kanu's family member, Ms. Ezioma Stella Ikpo, Aguocha's meeting was a reassurance to Kanu's supporters and family members that his rights were being acknowledged and upheld. During their conversation, Kanu appeared to be in good health and was reportedly strong and resilient. The visit also allowed Aguocha to advocate for Kanu's healthcare needs, commending the DSS's new leadership for their commendable response in attending to Kanu's medical requirements, including authorizing private medical care—a request that had been recently fulfilled earlier in October.

In addition to securing access for Kanu's legal team, Hon. Aguocha's actions emphasized his strong belief in upholding constitutional rights. The Nigerian Constitution of 1999, along with various United



Mazi Nnamdi Kanu and his legal team

Hon. Aguocha's actions reflect a profound empathy and respect for due process, distinguishing him as a visionary leader unafraid to address complex issues within the legal and political frameworks of Nigeria



Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas PhD
Speaker, House of Representatives

Nations statutes, guarantees fundamental human rights to all individuals, including those in detention.

Aguocha's efforts highlight his commitment to ensuring these rights are respected, regardless of



With this intervention, Hon. Aguocha emerges as a courageous and pragmatic leader willing to bridge the gap between justice and political sensitivities. His actions have drawn commendation from various quarters, reinforcing his growing reputation as an advocate for justice, peace, and constitutional rights.



political sensitivities surrounding Kanu's case. His advocacy aligns with a broader call from various stakeholders who urge for a political solution that respects human rights and promotes stability in the South East.

Hon. Aguocha's actions reflect a profound empathy and respect for due process, distinguishing him as a visionary leader unafraid to address complex issues within the legal and political frameworks of Nigeria. His collaboration with the Speaker of the House, Dr.




This decisive step by Hon. Aguocha stands as a proof to his firm commitment to his constituents and his dedication to human rights



Abbas, was instrumental, underlining a shared commitment to upholding justice and the rule of law. By taking these actions, Aguocha not only addressed immediate concerns regarding Kanu's access but also underlined his dedication to finding a peaceful, political resolution that could pave the way for long-term peace and stability in the South East.

With this intervention, Hon. Aguocha emerges as a courageous and pragmatic leader willing to bridge the gap between justice and political sensitivities. His actions have drawn commendation from various quarters, reinforcing his growing reputation as an advocate for justice, peace, and constitutional rights. As Nigeria continues to navigate complex challenges, leaders like Aguocha serve as beacons of hope, signaling the possibility of a future where the rights of all citizens are upheld with integrity and respect.

This decisive step by Hon. Aguocha stands as a ptoof to his firm commitment to his constituents and his dedication to human rights, positioning him as a crucial voice for peaceful and equitable governance in Nigeria. 



Hon. Obinna Aguocha, Ms. Ezioma Stella Ikpo on a visit to Mazi Nnamdi Kanu

LEVO:

*The Exceptional
African Diplomat*



Diplomat

Dr. Levi Uche Madueke

A Visionary Diplomat Championing Africa's Integration and Global Partnerships

Dr. Levi Uche Madueke exemplifies exceptional leadership and resolute dedication to Africa's progress. From advancing AU partnerships to showcasing Africa's potential globally, his strategic vision has elevated the continent's integration and global standing. As a diplomat, author, and advisor, Levo's enduring legacy inspires a united and prosperous Africa.

Dr. Levi Uche Madueke, affectionately known as "Levo," stands as a distinguished Nigerian diplomat whose career has been marked by significant contributions to African integration and the establishment of strategic global partnerships. His unwavering commitment to the African Union's (AU) vision and his adeptness in fostering international collaborations have positioned him as a pivotal figure in advancing Africa's developmental agenda.

Born in Nigeria, Dr. Madueke's formative years were characterized by a profound dedication to academic excellence and a passion for leadership. He pursued higher education with vigor, earning a Bachelor of Science degree, followed by a Master of Business

Administration (MBA) in Banking and Finance from Enugu State University of Technology, Nigeria. His quest for knowledge led him to obtain a Doctorate in Business Administration from the Swiss Management Centre University in Switzerland, equipping him with a robust foundation in organizational management and strategic planning.

Dr. Madueke's professional journey is a proof to his expertise in establishing and managing strategic partnerships. His tenure at the African Union was marked by

several senior positions, notably serving as the Head of Africa's Strategic Partnerships from 2015 to 2021. In this capacity, he played a crucial role in rejuvenating and elevating the AU's strategic partnerships, ensuring they were action-

By

Orjiako
Sam Orjiako



Dr. Madueke receiving the Gandhi- Mandela Leadership Award in Dubai, UAE for his sterling performance at the Expo Dubai



Dr. Levi Madueke and wife, Mrs. Rose Madueke

▲
Dr. Madueke received a Chieftaincy title of 'Obataobie' bestowed upon him by HRM IgweAmb. Agubuzu- Eze Ogbunehendo of Ezema, Olo Kingdom

oriented, mutually beneficial, and aligned with the objectives of Agenda 2063 the AU's blueprint for Africa's sustainable development.

In 2019, Dr. Madueke was appointed as the African Union Commissioner General for Expo 2020 Dubai. Under his leadership, the AU's participation at the Expo was meticulously coordinated, showcasing Africa's potential and the opportunities available within the continent. He championed the drive to present the AU Agenda 2063 to a global audience, sensitizing the world to the secure investment opportunities that exist in Africa.

Throughout his career, Dr. Madueke has been instrumental in building relationships between the

African Union and the international community. He promoted greater linkage with the African private sector, Pan African financial institutions, and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), bringing dynamism and professionalism to these collaborations.

An accomplished author, Dr. Madueke has published multiple articles and books that reflect his insights into leadership and African integration. His notable works include "Epistle on Leadership" and "African Integration and Global Partnerships: The Perspectives of an African Union Diplomat." In these publications, he offers key insights into the strategic approaches needed to unlock Africa's hidden potentials and reshape its future.

Dr. Madueke's contributions have been recognized through various awards,

including the Gandhi Mandela Leadership Award from the Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF). This accolade highlights his commitment to leadership excellence and his efforts in fostering international partnerships that benefit Africa.

Following his retirement from the African Union, Dr. Madueke continues to leverage his wealth of experience in advisory roles. He serves as the Chairman at Firstbase Business Partners Ltd and is a Senior Advisor at Botho Emerging Markets Group, where he provides guidance to both public and private sector organizations on partnerships and policy-related matters.

Dr. Levi Uche Madueke's illustrious career reflects a steadfast dedication to Africa's integration and its positioning in the global arena. His strategic vision, leadership acumen, and commitment to fostering mutually beneficial partnerships have significantly contributed to advancing the African Union's mission and the broader developmental aspirations of the continent. As we celebrate Dr. Madueke, we honour a diplomat whose life's work continues to inspire progress and unity across Africa.



Dr. Madueke with Professor Phil Noble- the Founder of World Class Scholars. USA



Dr. Madueke with Ms Hind Alowais of UAE during the EXPO Dubai



Dr. Madueke on a visit to Moscow



Dr. Madueke exchanging thoughts with H.E. Mr. Oleg Ozerov - a Russian diplomat and Head of the Secretariat of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum

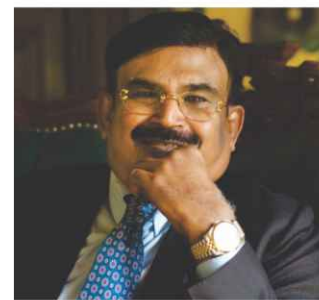


Africa @ A Glance Series
To be unveiled Soon!!!



Embracing 'Africa @ A Glance': A Blueprint for Economic Empowerment

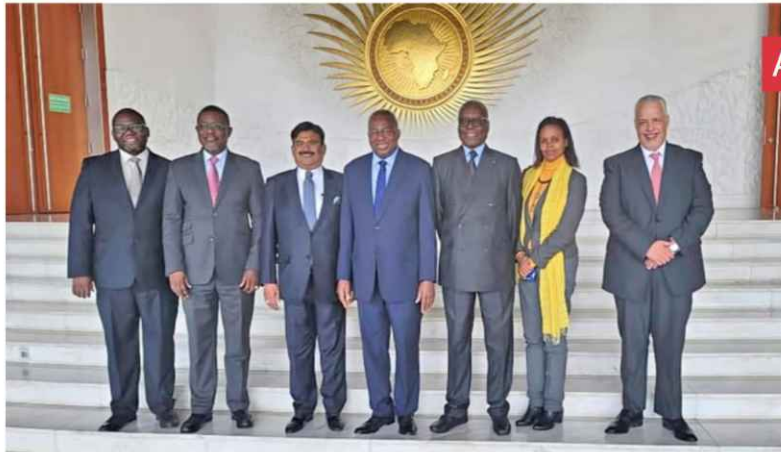
By Orjiako Sam Orjiako



G. Rathinavelu
Chairman and Co-Founder,
Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF)

The Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF), with a mission to foster economic collaborations between Africa and India, is poised to launch an enlightening series titled 'Africa @ A Glance'. This five-volume collection aims to provide an in-depth exploration of the economic landscape of African countries, offering valuable insights into each country's vast potential and opportunities. 'Africa @ A Glance' is divided into five volumes based on the five African regions: Eastern, Western, Northern,

Central and Southern Africa thereby not only covering the countries within it but also providing insights into the regional economic dynamics. From detailed analyses of emerging markets and investment prospects to comprehensive overviews of sector-specific developments, these books serve as valuable resources for stakeholders seeking to engage with Africa's dynamic economies. Through a carefully curated presentation of information, the series offers a broad perspective that



L-R: (3rd) Chairman and Co-Founder, Africa India Economic Foundation G.Rathinavelu, (4th) HE, Amb. Albert M. Muchanga, Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry, Minerals (ETTİM Department of the African Union and others in a group picture

acknowledges both achievements and challenges, enabling readers to develop a well-rounded understanding for informed decision-making.

The economic significance of this literary endeavor cannot be overstated. Africa is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, with 19 out of the top 20 rapidly expanding nations located on the continent.

For African leaders, embracing the 'Africa @ A Glance' initiative is a strategic imperative. The series serves as a proof to the continent's commitment to transparency, knowledge sharing, and proactive engagement with global partners.

This growth trajectory is complemented by a youthful demographic, as 60% of Africa's population is projected to be under 24 by 2025. Furthermore, the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is set to create a single continental market for goods and services, amplifying intra-African trade and investment

opportunities. By delving into these developments, 'Africa @ A Glance' positions itself as a catalyst for economic empowerment, encouraging both local and international investors to harness the continent's potential.

For African leaders, embracing the 'Africa @ A Glance'

initiative is a strategic imperative. The series serves as a testament to the continent's commitment to transparency, knowledge sharing, and proactive engagement with global partners. By endorsing this initiative, leaders signal their dedication to fostering an environment conducive to sustainable development and inclusive growth. Moreover, the collaboration with AIEF underscores the importance of South-South cooperation, leveraging India's expertise and experience to bolster Africa's industrial and MSME sectors. Such partnerships are instrumental in building a resilient economic framework that can withstand global shocks and drive long-term prosperity.

The AIEF's track record further accentuates the credibility of this initiative. Starting with the TEAM 9 initiative, the AIEF founders brought together India and 8 West African countries for collaboration on multiple B2B projects. The success of TEAM 9 initiative gave birth to a larger vision that extends to the whole of Africa. The AIEF initiative was welcomed and supported by the African leadership in the African Union Summit 2020 at Addis Ababa in February 2020 followed by an MOU signing between AIEF and AU in March 2023.

This milestone reflects AIEF's firm commitment to strengthening economic ties and promoting mutual growth. By aligning with AIEF's vision, African nations can tap into a wealth of resources, including technology transfer programs, skill development initiatives, and access to international value chains, all of which are pivotal for economic advancement.

'Africa @ A Glance' is more



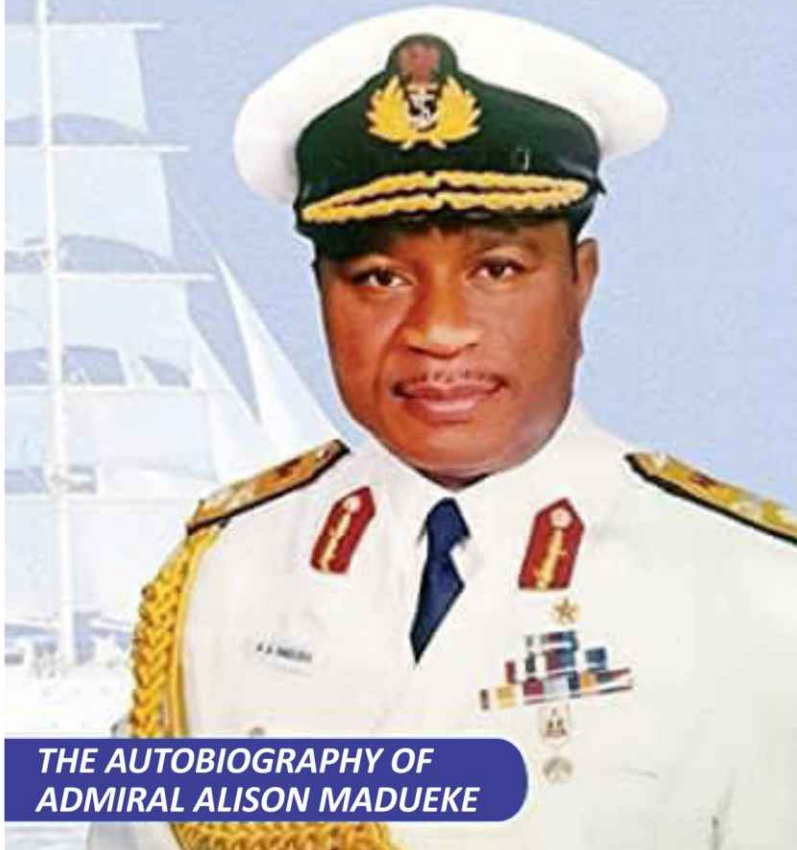
PM Modi and Nigerian President, Tinubu discuss ways to further boost ties



Ethiopian Indian leaders agree to strengthen political and economic cooperation

RIDING THE STORMS

WITH GOD IN MY SAILS



THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF
ADMIRAL ALISON MADUEKE

...A Must Read

A NARROW ESCAPE: [30 July 1966] — Alison Madueke

In July 1966, Admiral Alison Madueke was due to begin a training programme at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, UK, when the Ironsi regime was overthrown. In the following excerpt, he recounts his narrow escape from the massacres that occurred during the 1966 counter-coup:

I

“After breakfast, Midshipmen Obianwu, Mohammed and I were taken in two Nigerian Navy staff cars to the Ikeja Airport, to catch our flight for London after obtaining the clearance of the Captain. Out of the Naval Base, we noticed a very scanty

Lagos traffic for that time of the morning. As soon as we got to the airport, the atmosphere got more eerie. I was assailed by some uneasiness and suspicion, so I went up to the desk and asked about our flight to London, receiving confirmation that it would operate. I then wanted to confirm that my name was on the list.”

II

“On going through the manifest which was at the check-in-counter, I noticed that my name, that of George Obianwu and a certain Mrs. Ike were asterisked. I made a mental calculation and decided there was something fishy. The asterisked names were those

of Ndigbo, so what was the matter? As I was still trying to make sense of this development, I noticed a policeman standing near the check-in counter. I called him and asked him: 'What is going on here?' 'Ah, Oga, soldiers are in control here o', he replied. 'I hear they are killing Igbo Officers o! . . .’

III

"[After boarding the flight] the aircraft started taxiing in readiness for takeoff. But midway, as it gathered speed, the attempt was aborted. The aircraft came to stand still for sometime before returning to where we had embarked. The pilot's voice came through the intercom. 'This is the Captain speaking. Will the three Naval officers flying to London please alight. They are wanted by the military authorities.' I felt a knot in the pit of my stomach, I felt like someone in a daze. The message was repeated. At that point, of course, I thought the game was up.”

IV

“We got down from the aircraft. Ibrahim Mohammed was first on the gangway: I was following him and lo and behold, two armored vehicles and over 20 soldiers in full Battle Order were afoot awaiting us. Ibrahim was the first to alight, he pulled out his passport and asked the soldiers, "Me, too?" Passports in those days usually had the owner's name boldly displayed on the cover.”

On going through the manifest which was at the check-in-counter, I noticed that my name, that of George Obianwu and a certain Mrs. Ike were asterisked. I made a mental calculation and decided there was something fishy. The asterisked names were those of Ndigbo, so what was the matter?



When I faced our interrogator, he started asking questions that were rather obvious in their implications. 'Where were two of you on the 15 of January this year?' That was the day of the first Military coup, a coup that was now lagged an Igbo coup which left casualties of mostly Northern origin. 'We were in Kaduna.' I responded.

V

“The soldier replied, “No, you go back.” He did as he was ordered. When I came down, the soldier ordered I should enter a jeep parked nearby. Obianwu came down and was handed the same order. So I asked the soldier that gave the instruction, “What of my luggage?” For an answer, I got hit on my shoulder with the butt of his gun. “You still de think of your luggage,” he sneered as he struck me again. “Enter jeep!” he yelled at me. It was now obvious that we were in deep trouble. We climbed into the open Land Rover and four soldiers armed with machine guns sat on either side of George and I. The soldiers drove us to a building at the fringe of the airport, the command post and coordination centre for all their operations.”

VI

“Inside the office sat a white man behind an executive office desk, a man who I was later told was a lecturer at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, a Mr. Boyd. We were herded to his table for an instant interview. Meanwhile, armed soldiers milled around the whole place, a lot of them drunk and looking fierce with their bloodshot eyes. When I faced our interrogator, he started asking questions that were rather obvious in their implications. ‘Where were two of you on the 15 of January this year?’ That was the day of the first Military coup, a coup that was now lagged an Igbo coup which left casualties of mostly Northern origin. ‘We were in Kaduna.’ I responded.”

VII

“Once I said that, [Mr Boyd] turned

round to the officers and men surrounding him and emphasized, ‘You see?’ Turning back to me he continued. ‘How many of you Cadets joined the Navy?’ ‘Five.’ ‘How many are from the North?’ ‘One.’ He turned round again to the soldiers. ‘You see?’ Facing me again he ordered that we should walk out and into the courtyard. That meant ‘Go out and be shot’. I thought the man was too presumptuous. ‘No. Not on your life’, I retorted. ‘I am not going out there. Why do you think I should go out there?’ ‘Because I said you should go out there’, he said with a note of finality.”

VIII

“I had now become very angry and ready to damn any consequences, knowing what going out there portended. ‘By the way who are you?’ I asked. ‘What right have you got to question me in my country? Are you a Nigerian? You cannot order me around my friend. I am a commissioned officer of this country and I am staying here, yes here will I stay!’ It was [Mr Boyd’s] turn to get angry. He asked the soldiers to push us out. Immediately, as they made for us, I called out to Dickson who was at the other end of the room but within earshot of the exchanges. ‘Major Dickson, you are here and this kind of thing is happening.’ Dickson was taken aback. He didn’t know who I was.”

IX

“He turned to me. ‘Yes, who are you?’ he asked. ‘I am Alison Madueke.’ ‘Which Madueke?’ ‘The Madueke in Otukpo. My elder sister, Cordelia, was your classmate at Methodist Central School.’ For some moments Dickson stood transfixed, his armed men waiting for direction on what next to do. ‘Do you know Mr. Oniya?’ asked Dickson. ‘Yes, Mr. Oniya is the owner of Niger Hotel, Otukpo. He lives right opposite

your house.’ ‘Apo Idoma?’, he asked in his native Idoma language, meaning, ‘Do you speak Idoma?’ ‘Mpoligi.’ ‘Yes, a little.’ And that did it. I remembered vaguely too that there was a time my father’s and his uncle’s vehicles had some problems. They had torn the tarpaulin of my father’s vehicle and when the matter was brought to my father’s notice, he ordered the driver to forget the damage. That was an event I remembered and quickly mentioned to identify my family. Dickson remembered.”

X

“Meanwhile George Obianwu had become very jittery and frightened by our plight and started to cry. I told him in Igbo language to cut the tears because it was not a crying matter but a matter of our living or getting killed. Dickson thought for a while, turned to his men and asked them to let us stay for the time being. We were asked to resume our seats and later re-seated in an adjoining section of the hall. We did so as the white man [Mr Boyd] watched us, fuming like a cat whose prey had been snatched.”

XI

“After a while, Dickson left the room to confer with his troops because, frankly, the way they were eyeing us suggested that they could start firing at us through the window if not assuaged one way or another. What Dickson told his men was that we were not Nigerians, that we were Ghanaian students; there had been a terrible mistake. Thank God they were not privy to the exchanges in the room.”

An extract from the book, RIDING THE STORMS WITH GOD IN MY SAILS written by Rtd. Admiral Alison Madueke

...to be continued

Charles Awuzie

As He Thinks

... Thinking of A Liberated and Economically Vibrant Africa

There are people you hang out with and you will see new opportunities
- Dr. Charles Awuzie



Dr. Charles Awuzie

“When we sat down to have some cold drink after the inspection, ideas started flooding... First, it was the fact that State Governments in Nigeria can sponsor at least 10 young people to us in South Africa to train at **SUBSIDIZED COST**. While in the meeting, I placed a call to someone close to a Nigerian State Government and asked that the State Government considers sending us 10 young Abians at very subsidized cost. You won't find this price anywhere in the aviation training sector. Price includes accommodation, visas to SA and feeding. Get in touch with me if you want to sponsor a student to train with us. Then Rudolf and Louis told me they are creating a Foundation that will award scholarship to bright students from poor backgrounds across Africa to

pursue a career in aviation. I was really happy to hear that and I'll commit to contribute to its success. Great job guys. We also explored the possibility of setting up an aviation maintenance company in Lagos. And if you are interested in learning how to fix Light Sport Aircrafts, there's an opportunity for you.

Aviation is a capital intensive industry - but I got into the industry with the least capital because of strategic partnerships like this.

Please understand that some of these trainings cost tens of thousands of dollars. You may need a sponsor before you DM me.

Aviation is a capital intensive industry - but I got into the industry with the least capital because of strategic partnerships like this. To establish partnership, you must bring something to the table - I bring my name, my network, my social influence, my technological expertise and my money. This is note to those who want to discuss partnership without bringing anything to the table”.

My name is Charles Awuzie and I'm creating a bridge between the advanced South African aviation industry and the massive Nigerian aviation market.



Dr. Charles Awuzie (middle)



Big Brain Naija: Dr. Charles Awuzie's Vision for Intellectual Liberation and Innovation

Dr. Charles Awuzie, renowned entrepreneur and CEO of Gemsbok Group, is spearheading a revolution in African entertainment with Big Brain Naija, a reality TV show focused on intellectual excellence, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Announced during the Evolve X Conference at Tinapa, Calabar, this initiative is a bold response to the dominance of entertainment-driven shows that often lack educational value.

Awuzie emphasized that Big Brain Naija seeks to celebrate and empower Nigeria's brightest minds, fostering a culture of creativity and critical thinking. Unlike traditional reality TV, the show will engage 36 contestants aged 18-55 from across Nigeria in tasks designed to address societal challenges. The winner will receive ₦50 million to transform their solutions into impactful ventures.



The official unveiling of Big Brain Naija TV show



L-R: Dr Charles Awuzie, Sen. Osita Izunaso and Ossai Ilome

Dr. Awuzie's mission aligns with his broader commitment to liberating Africans from mental stagnation and poverty, propelling them into a future defined by science and technology-driven entrepreneurship.

Commending the project, Senator Osita Izunaso, chairman of the Board of Directors, described it as a platform to nurture intellectual brilliance and inspire innovative solutions. The show has also gained significant backing from notable figures, including Governor Bassey Otu of Cross River State, who promised automatic employment for the show's runner-ups.

Dr. Awuzie's mission aligns with his broader commitment to liberating Africans from mental stagnation and poverty, propelling them into a future defined by science and technology-driven entrepreneurship. He noted that this initiative is not a competition with existing shows like Big Brother Naija but an alternative that promotes intellectualism and societal progress.

The Big Brain Naija reality TV show is a call to action for Nigerians to value and invest in knowledge, with corporate sponsors such as Zenith Bank already stepping up to support this transformative project?.



■ Hon. Engr. Anayo B. Onwuegbu, FNSE, Chairman House Committee on Lake Chad Basin, member representing Aninri/Awgu/Oji River Federal Constituency

Transformative Leadership: Hon. Engr. Anayo Onwuegbu FNSE's Impactful Tenure in the 10th Assembly



Hon. Engr. Anayo B. Onwuegbu, FNSE, at the National Assembly

In the 10th Assembly of the Nigerian House of Representatives, Hon. Engr. Anayo Onwuegbu FNSE has distinguished himself as a paragon of effective representation, bringing transformative changes to the Aninri/Awgu/Oji River Federal Constituency. His tenure is marked by impactful legislative initiatives and tangible constituency projects that collectively enhance the quality of life for his constituents.

A cornerstone of Hon. Onwuegbu's legislative agenda is the advancement of healthcare infrastructure. Demonstrating a deep commitment to improving medical services, he

sponsored a bill to upgrade the Achi Joint Hospital to a Federal Medical Centre. This bill, which passed its second reading on July 18, 2024, aims to provide accessible, high-quality healthcare not only to his constituents but also to neighboring communities in Abia and Imo states. Hon. Onwuegbu emphasized that Enugu State, despite its status as a regional hub, lacks a Federal Medical Centre, making this upgrade both timely and essential. The proposed centre is strategically positioned to serve various federal institutions in the area, including the Oji River Correctional Services Centre and the Federal University of Dental Technology and Therapy, thereby enhancing medical training and

A cornerstone of Hon. Onwuegbu's legislative agenda is the advancement of healthcare infrastructure. Demonstrating a deep commitment to improving medical services, he sponsored a bill to upgrade the Achi Joint Hospital to a Federal Medical Centre.



services in the region.

In the realm of education, Hon. Onwuegbu has been instrumental in fostering academic growth. He collaborated with the National Teachers' Institute (NTI) to launch a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) and Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) training programme. This initiative, which held its inaugural matriculation ceremony at the Awgu Local Government Headquarters, provides scholarships to hundreds of students from disadvantaged backgrounds across Aninri, Awgu, and Oji River local government areas. By enhancing access to quality education, this programme aims to bridge educational gaps and empower the rural populace.

Beyond legislative efforts, Hon. Onwuegbu has actively pursued infrastructure development within his constituency. In collaboration with Senator OsitaNgwu and Hon. Sunday Umeha, he has facilitated the inclusion of 14 road construction projects in the 2024 budget appropriation, with three specifically targeted within the Oji River local government area. This initiative aims to improve connectivity, stimulate economic activities, and enhance the overall standard of living for residents.

Recognizing the critical importance of healthcare at the grassroots level, Hon. Onwuegbu has advocated for the establishment of primary healthcare centres in every ward of the constituency. This strategy ensures that essential medical services are accessible to all constituents, thereby promoting preventive care and reducing the burden on tertiary health institutions.

Hon. Onwuegbu's commitment to education extends beyond formal academics. He has launched a sports development programme, donating equipment to ten primary schools, including Central School Awgu and Central School Ugwueme. The donations encompass volleyballs, jerseys, and other sporting materials, aiming to promote physical education and holistic development among students. This initiative aligns with his broader agenda of youth empowerment and highlights the role of sports in fostering teamwork and discipline.

Understanding the key role of agriculture in his constituency's economy, Hon. Onwuegbu has implemented programmes to support local farmers. By providing fertilizers and other essential farming inputs, he aims to boost agricultural productivity, enhance food security, and improve the livelihoods of farming communities. This support not only empowers individual farmers but also contributes to the overall economic development of the region.

In a bid to improve security and extend economic activities into the evening hours, Hon. Onwuegbu has overseen the

installation of street lights across various communities. This project enhances safety, encourages local businesses to operate longer, and fosters a sense of community well-being. The provision of reliable street lighting is a proof to his dedication to creating a conducive environment for social and economic interactions.



Hon. Engr. Anayo Onwuegbu, FNSE and Engr. Prof. Joseph Teriumun Utsey, Hon. Minister, Water Resources and Sanitation

Hon. Onwuegbu's legislative and constituency efforts stand in stark contrast to the perfunctory motions and bills often observed in legislative assemblies. While some members may introduce motions for the sake of formality, lacking tangible impact, Hon. Onwuegbu's initiatives are characterized by their direct relevance and substantial benefits to his constituents. The bill to establish a Federal Medical Centre in Achi addresses a critical healthcare gap, promising to deliver specialized medical services and serve as a training ground for medical professionals. Similarly, his educational initiatives are not merely ceremonial but are designed to provide long-term benefits by empowering individuals with knowledge and skills.

Hon. Engr. Anayo Onwuegbu FNSE's tenure in the 10th Assembly exemplifies the profound impact that dedicated and thoughtful representation can have on a constituency. Through strategic legislative actions and comprehensive constituency projects, he has addressed fundamental needs in healthcare, education, infrastructure, and community development. His approach serves as a benchmark for effective legislative practice, demonstrating that when representatives prioritize the genuine needs of their constituents, transformative development ensues.



Hon. Engr. Anayo B. Onwuegbu, FNSE with Lucy Pearson, Country Director of the British Council



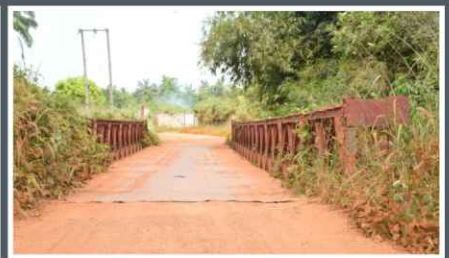
A group picture with Lucy Pearson and other participants



Hon. Engr. Anayo B. Onwuegbu, FNSE, Chairman House Committee on Lake Chad Basin played host to his constituents from Mpu town, who visited him at the National Assembly

PHOTO SPEAKS

Some projects carried out by Hon. Engr, Anayo Onwuegbu, FNSE,
Chairman House Committee on Lake Chad Basin



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