

**GOVERNMENT OF IMO STATE – NIGERIA  
THE YEAR 2011 BUDGET SPEECH**

BY

**His Excellency, Chief Ikedi Ohakim**  
Governor of Imo State

**Mr. Speaker,**

Honourable Members of the Imo State House of Assembly.

It is with great pleasure that I once more stand before you today to present the 2011 Budget of Imo state, the fourth in by this administration. This Budget proposal can rightly be regarded as the icing on the cake of the transformation agenda of the New Face of Imo which we embarked on almost four years ago. As I look back today, Mr Speaker, Honourable members of this award-winning House, I feel very proud of what we have achieved for our people in the last eventful years. And let me quickly add that our achievements would not have been easy but for the partnership, cooperation, patriotism and political sagacity of this Honourable House. I thank you, Mr Speaker, Hon members, on behalf of Imo people.

**THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CHALLENGES**

Our journey so far has not been easy given the challenges we faced both internally and externally. We achieved tremendous strides because we were proactive in taking cost-cutting measures. If you recall, Mr Speaker, Hon members, in my address to this House during the presentation of the previous budgets, I alerted on the external challenges that were to adversely affect our Budget proposals, especially the global economic meltdown. In the 2008 Budget, for example, I projected that the effect would be with us for a long time. As you are aware, the effect of the global economic meltdown is still taking its toll in Europe. Greece has gone down, Ireland has followed and Portugal is on the firing line. It is still not clear when and how devastating the effect will be on Africa.

**STATE OF THE NATION**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, this Budget presentation I believe, is a very auspicious moment to remind ourselves of where we are coming from in 2007 and the macro-economic environment as well as the micro-economic variables that had informed where we are today. As I mentioned earlier, the economic meltdown that set-in in mid- 2008 is yet to be reversed. All over the world, jobs are being lost following the closure of factories, industries, service establishments etc. Of course Nigeria is not an island and consequently became a victim of this global economic trend. The oil price fell from a whopping 147 dollars per barrel to 38 dollars per barrel. The greatest internal challenge that affected Nigeria's economy was the militancy in the Niger Delta. The production level dropped from over 2.5 million barrels a day to less than 800,000 barrels per day. The situation has remained the same until recently when the amnesty programme of the Federal Government came into place. The resultant effect is that the ambition of my administration for a complete economic transformation of Imo State got stagnated before we could even take-off. All the programmes packaged for Imo State Economic Development suddenly started moving at snail-speed as funding became the greatest challenge. Although the Amnesty of the Federal Government is bringing peace in the Niger Delta and our oil receipts have improved, we must not relent on our determination to stand on our feet, especially as it concerns Internally Generated Revenue. And 2011 being election year, it calls for hard work, vigilance and prudence.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, even with the global economic meltdown and the effect on the Nigerian polity, the case of the states in the South-East was made worse than other states of the Federation. The annual statutory revenue accruing to the States plummeted. Between 2008 and 2009 our annual statutory revenue hovered between N28 billion and N38 Billion for each State in the South-East. These figures were what some states in the South-South zone were collecting in two months. This is in spite of the fact that there are no comparative basis on various socio- economic indicators such as population, school enrolment, number of hospital beds etc.

The economic climate in the private sector was not better owing to the near complete absence of Federal Government presence either by way of industries or solid infrastructures at the inception of this administration. This further dampened our performance in the area of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). While some States are making tens of billions of naira as Internally Generated Revenue monthly, the south eastern states including Imo State are making do with pittance-less than N5 billion naira per annum. All these aggravated the poverty situations we found ourselves on assumption of office. But we were determined to transform Imo state under the New Face of Imo. On assumption of office we declared a paradigm shift from old thoughts and old mindset. This was not easy. As Nicolo Machiavelli, in one of his postulations once said:

***“There is nothing more difficult to handle or more Doubtful of success and more dangerous to carry through than initiating change. The innovator makes enemies of those who prospered under the old order and only lukewarm support is forthcoming from those who will prosper under the new. Men are generally incredulous, never really trusting new things unless they have tasted them by experience”***

It is obvious that in our rebuilding task which no doubt is daunting, a lot of new things, new ideas and new strategies have been introduced and at the stage we are, they are being tested by experience and adjudged acceptable.

### **IMO STATE 2007 TO DATE**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Imo State we met in 2007 lacked basic laws, institutions and structures to address even the basic developmental issues. Consequently, we were faced with providing the enabling laws, institutions and necessary environment required to lay the proper foundation for the much needed economic transformation.

Upon assumption of office in 2007, Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, what we met on ground if I may refresh our memory included but not limited to:

1. A decadent environment with mountains of refuse that had stayed for years as well as blocked drainages leading to the flooding of over 75% of the metropolis and a horrible stench from refuse around the State.
2. A people disenchanted with governance, with betrayed hopes
3. Estranged relationship between Abuja based and home based politicians
4. Complete absence of physical infrastructures, motorable roads, electricity, dysfunctional water schemes, dilapidated educational, health institutions and moribund industries etc
5. Outstanding/Unpaid salary wage bill of teachers, pensions and gratuities of civil servants which stood at N4.7 Billion
6. A demoralized and ageing civil service with average age of 50 years.
7. Over 70% of unemployment of our employable graduates
8. A chaotic transport system dominated by motor cycle riding youths called 'Okada' or 'Inaga' with its attendant insecurity and health hazard
9. Dis-accreditation of several courses in our tertiary institutions.
10. Striking workers in our local government administration and our rural areas trapped with food crops that cannot be evacuated owing to poor road networks.
11. Judgement debts stood at over N4b

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, a statistical survey we commissioned in 2007 on the state of affairs of our infrastructural facilities made a startling revelation. The following facts were revealed:

- 1. Over 480 Electricity transformers were lying uninstalled in different parts of the State.**
- 2. Over 65% of existing water schemes were dysfunctional for very minor and flimsy excuses.**
- 3. Dilapidated school blocks in over 1000 primary and secondary schools.**

#### **4. Health centres overgrown with weeds and without drugs and adequate staff.**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members the above scenario captures the situation in Imo State when this administration came into being. In essence, judging or appraising our performance, one would want to ask how much of these situations in 2007 have been reversed and upon which transformation can be judged. Mr. Speaker, Hon Member, an appraisal therefore of this administration in the last 43 months should ask and if possible verify the level of implementation of these programmes as enshrined in our development pathway.

You will recall that within 100 days in office, we addressed the problems of education by establishing in every local government a model classroom block. Subsequently, we installed and energized the Electricity transformers that were lying idle in the local government areas. We rehabilitated over 400 water schemes and constructed another 200. We established 11 security surveillance spots in the State and designed and equipped 32 Police formations with communication gadgets. In fact we can congratulate ourselves that we have reversed the situation we found on ground. We paid all arrears of salaries and installed an institutionalized way of paying pensions and gratuities. The transport system changed from motorcycle to tricycle and municipal bus service. Over 250 buses were introduced by the newly established Imo Municipal Transport Service (IMTS) within the municipality. The Imo Transport Company Ltd injected over 200 vehicles in its fleet.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, in the last 43 months, we have introduced over 41 bills to this Honourable House. You have passed 22 of this bills into Law while 18 are receiving attention. We introduced systems and institutions, governing sensitive areas like environment; the ENTRACO bill to check environmental degradation and protect the metropolis from flooding and erosion. Apart from environment, we are implementing the law you passed on kidnapping and other vices. To ensure good governance, this honourable House passed the bill on Due Process which is guiding our transparent procurement systems and services. The IROMA bill has been passed into law enabling IROMA to move in starting with opening more than 700 roads in

our rural communities. We have adopted the Child Rights Act and domesticated other laws on global best practices.

We have conducted biometric staff audit in the local governments, primary and secondary schools as well as the civil service proper and have smoked out all ghost workers, over aged as well as the unproductive ones. At the local government level alone, the audit revealed that out of 14,600 Staff drawing salaries from the local govt. administration, only a little above 8,000 were genuinely employed. At the primary and secondary school exercise it was discovered that some teachers got their School Certificates at the age of two while others have fake NCE and degree certificates. This exercise led to the disengagement of over 1,000 teachers and created job openings for our unemployed youths. We have been able to clean/sanitize the system.

Mr Speaker, Hon. members this administration has further addressed the unemployment challenges in the state from other areas of our programmes. The massive infrastructural development of over 50 new roads and rehabilitation of another 40 have its multiplier effect on the economy of State. Today, out of a total of 800 water schemes in the State, 620 are functional. Consequently, these had created jobs for the technicians that maintain them. The ongoing rehabilitation of over 1,500 primary and secondary schools in all the 305 INEC wards at a whopping cost of ₦6billion has also provided jobs to contractors, traders, youths and artisans of various sorts in all the Local Governments Areas.

Following our new strategy of engaging the Federal Government, the following projects have been attracted to the State:

1. The Greenfield Refinery and Petrochemical complex is now a partnership between the State and NNPC.
2. The Naval Base at Oguta
3. The Dredging of Oguta Lake
4. The Small Town Development at Umuagwo
5. Onshore Protection Projects and the Owerri–Omanelu Road project

6. The Joint Power Project at Egbema has attained over 85% completion.
7. New Port at Oguta
8. 3 No. electricity sub power stations
9. Strategic silos at Okigwe, etc.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our on-going zero pot-hole programme in the State which was flag off on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December has engaged many of our youths. The Clean and Green Initiative is responsible for the boom in tourism and hospitality industry in the State.

The ENTRACO programme has created over 500 employment opportunities for women and youths, contractors and transporters. Apart from employment generation we have taken pains to address issues concerning education in Imo State.

## **EDUCATION**

Apart from the re-accreditation of de-accredited programmes and courses in our tertiary and technical institutions, we have also instituted the Imo State Children Educational Fund (ICEF) to raise ~~N~~50bn in two years which will in turn address the challenges of infrastructure decay in our educational sector. We have handed 44 Secondary schools over to their original owners, specifically the faith based organizations and Government has undertaken to pay the teachers' salaries in these schools for two years to allow the new owners to muster enough resources to assume full responsibility thereafter. Special subvention shall also be provided to the schools handed over to the faith based institutions. In spite of our lean resources, we have also provided for scholarship and bursary awards for our physically handicapped students and over 400 students of Imo State Origin in the Nigerian Law School. The Law School bursary has been upgraded from N15,000 to N50,000 per student and we have paid for the current year. Our electricity problem is being given a three pronged attack comprising of the joint power plant project with the Federal Government, the south Eastern States agreement with Geometric Power Ltd and Federal Government Coal-Turbine Driven Initiative.

## **SECURITY CHALLENGES**

The security challenges which are the outcome of the complete economic emasculation of the South Eastern States are being addressed. The level of sophistication of crime now requires a digital confrontation by our security outfits. Specifically, an entirely new outfit has been set up to tackle kidnapping.

## **HEALTH**

The health issues have been seriously addressed by the combined programmes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Public Health Systems Development Plan and other national programmes, including our foreign visiting medical missions who are currently in Imo State.

As I address you today, poverty eradication which is at the base of all the challenges is being addressed head on. The poverty index in Imo State in 1996 was 56% but today it has dropped drastically to 48% according to the United Nations Human Development Index Report and this is clearly above the Federal Government index of 72%.The reduction of our poverty level stems from the opportunities created by our massive investments in infrastructure, micro-credit as well as Human Capital Development. The establishment of a Poverty Alleviation Bureau has tackled poverty in a multifaceted manner, from skills acquisition to transportation as well as micro-credit schemes Recently, a committee was set up to fish out the poorest of the poor in Imo State for proper documentation and adequate empowerment in 2011.

The Imo job centre now liaises between our unemployed youths and prospective employers and in the last 42 months, professionals of different cadre have been employed in oil companies and other industries.

Our food security challenges are being handled through our Commercial Farming Programmes. We have received the sum of N1bn for on-lending to genuine farmers at a single digit interest rate of 7%. We have provided fertilizer at a subsidized rate of 50%. Our Micro-credit Scheme which commenced in 2010 has been a source of poverty alleviation. Apart from that, the

FADAMA III programme is on course and the silos at Okigwe is almost nearing completion to avoid post-harvest wastes in Imo State. Our fish project at Umunna Okigwe and Songhai farms Nekede are being run in collaboration with Agro-Nova of South Africa.

Justice administration in Imo State has been adjudged the best in the country as our court environment is now New Face Compliant. In other words with a very healthy court environment and with the high court judges and magistrates equipped with brand new vehicles, standby generators and laptops, there is no other obstacle facing justice administration in Imo State.

On transportation, our 250 municipal buses and taxis are plying the nooks and crannies of the metropolis at subsidized rates.

On service delivery, today our ageing civil service has been rejuvenated with very young digital graduates from our 10,000 job placement programme. Training and re-training especially on information and communication technology has become the order of the day.

You may recall Mr. Speaker, that since 1983 this is the first time ever the state government has come out to recruit openly. With all these revolutions, in human and infrastructural development proper necessary and sufficient conditions have been laid for our economy to grow and develop. These foundations have also provided an opportunity for investors to come to Imo State. The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) is now in Owerri and the Imo Investment Promotion Agency (ISIPA), a-one-stop shop for investors is now ready to render services to the people of Imo State.

The infrastructural base, including urban and intra-city roads have received a face lift. The inner and outer ring roads construction valued at over 12 billion naira are on course. The entrance roads into Owerri municipality have been dualized and their street lights are now on. The pedestrian walk ways are being developed alongside the land scape of the environment. All necessary infrastructural, legal and institutionalized framework for growing our internally

generated revenue are in place. With all the above Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, in the last three and half years we have laid the foundation for social and economic development necessary for good governance and the expected take off for economic development.

## **REVIEW OF 2010 BUDGET**

Mr. Speaker, Hon Members, Gentlemen of the press, Ladies & Gentlemen, the 2010 budget christened “Budget of Renewal” anchored on eight point policy directions. The policy directions are, in all intents and purposes, targeted at the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (**MDGs**), the Seven Point Agenda of the Federal Government, and the fourteen thematic areas in the Policy Thrust Document of New Face of Imo.

In spite of daunting challenges posed by the threat of the spiral down turn of crude oil prices arising from the global economic melt-down experienced up to the first quarter of 2010 fiscal year and the State lean resources, remarkable progress critical to the enhanced living standards of our people were recorded during the period under review.

During the 2010 fiscal year, the State Government approved a total budget of **₦127, 260,577,253** with the following details:

- Revenue: **₦70,705,678,311** or **55.5%** of the total budget.
- Capital Receipt: **₦56,554,898,942** or **44.4%** of the total budget.
- Recurrent Expenditure: **₦52,962,600,572** or **41.6%** of the total budget.
- Capital Expenditure: **₦74,297,976,681** or **58.3%** of the total budget.

The 2010 budget figure is higher than the 2009 budget by **₦1,182,100,246. ; or 0.93%** . It is pertinent to observe that the provision for capital expenditure has been higher than the recurrent expenditure in the past two years.

## **FISCAL PERFORMANCE OF 2010 BUDGET**

### **RECURRENT REVENUE:**

The actual Recurrent Revenue performance as at September 30, 2010 stood at **₦ 35,382,969,061** representing 50.04% of the total projected Recurrent Revenue of **₦70, 705,678,311** for the period under review. The details are as follows:

* Internally Generated Revenue:	<b><del>N</del> 4,754,297,658</b>
* Share of the Federation Account:	<b><del>N</del>16,491,149,992</b>
* Value Added Tax:	<b><del>N</del>4,229,721,053</b>
* Excess Crude:	<b><del>N</del>6,142,832,482</b>
* 13% Derivation:	<b><del>N</del>3,764,967,876</b>
* Ecological Fund:	-
* Refund on Rural Electrification:	-
* NDDC Refund:	-
<b>Total</b>	<b><u><u><del>N</del> 35,382,969,061</u></u></b>

The 2010 Recurrent Revenue performance was higher by **~~N~~2,107,399,288** in absolute terms than the 2009 figure because of our sustained efforts to block all revenue leakages and the improved allocation from Excess Crude.

#### **RECURRENT EXPENDITURE:**

The actual Recurrent Expenditure as at September 30, 2010 was **~~N~~30,112,485,118** or 56.8% of the total projected Recurrent Expenditure of **~~N~~52,962,600,572** for the period under review. The details are as below.

Personnel Cost:	<b><del>N</del>6,726,459,997</b> as against <b><del>N</del>6,434,172,064</b>
Subvention Cost:	<b><del>N</del>7,786,221,429</b> as against <b><del>N</del>11,266,024,000</b>
Overhead Cost:	<b><del>N</del>10,562,869,721</b> as against <b><del>N</del>21,166,613,255</b>
Consolidated Revenue	
Fund charges:	<b><del>N</del> 5,036,933,971</b> as against <b><del>N</del>14,095,791,253</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u><u><del>N</del>30,112,485,118</u></u></b> <b><u><u><del>N</del>52,962,600,572</u></u></b>

**Transfer to Capital Fund was ~~N~~17,743,077,739 for 2010**

#### **CAPITAL RECEIPTS:**

The actual Capital Receipt recorded for the period ended September 30, 2010 was **~~N~~18,581,787,844** against the projected sum of **~~N~~ 56,554,898,942** for the period.

The details are as shown below:

• Internal Loans:		<b>₦12,500,000,000</b>
• Development Partner's Intervention:		<b>₦527,627,898</b>
• Grants		<b>₦ 5,035,358,797</b>
• Direct funding (F.G)	-	
• Miscellaneous:		<b>₦ 518,801,149</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>₦ 18,581,787,844</b>

### **CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

Total Capital Expenditure performance as at September 30, 2010 was **₦ 36,324,865,583** representing 48.8% of total Capital Expenditure projection of **₦ 74,297,976,681** during the period under review.

### **SECTORAL REVIEW OF 2010 BUDGET:**

#### **RECURRENT REVENUE:**

The State received a total statutory allocation of **₦16,491,149,992** from the Federation Account for the period January to September 30, 2010. This, in absolute terms, is lower by **₦1,886,290,157** compared with **₦18,377,440,149** for the corresponding period in 2009 and **₦18,272,713,701** lower than the approved sum of **₦34,763,863,697** expected for the period in 2010 .

#### **FINANCE**

Low Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) remained the greatest challenge, with the current average monthly Internally Generated Revenue level of **₦480, 254, 937**.

The State's IGR has been at this level since 2009 and new strategies are being devised to increase it. Within the period January – September 30, 2010, the internally generated revenue stood at **₦4,742,039,493** against the sum of **₦4, 178,338,068** generated during the same period in 2009 showing a 13.8% increase of 2010 IGR over that of 2009.

Imo State undertook the Domestic Data Reconstruction exercise conducted by the Debt Management Officer (**DMO**), Abuja. Imo State is listed to serve as the pilot State for the South East Geo-Political Zone. From January, to August, 2010, the State received dividend totaling **₦46,255,474.75** from its various investments.

## AGRICULTURE

In order to create credible pathway to sustainable Food Security in the State, this Administration repositioned the Ministry of Agriculture for greater efficiency.

The Fadama 111 Project has been launched in the State and it is fully on course in the 20 (**twenty**) qualified Local Government Areas of the State. Government made a total Cash Counterpart Contribution of **₦115, 857,672** for the State, Local Government and Communities. Eighty Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) were formed with a total of 1,272 Fadama User Groups and membership strength of 15,563 farmers. The sum of **₦ 53,294,621** in loans were disbursed to 22 (**twenty two**) Fadama Community Associations with 224 Fadama User Groups of 2,240 farmers, for general agric development covering cash crops, livestock, fishery, oil mill, provision of infrastructural facilities and acquisition of farm assets. One hundred (100) rural infrastructural investments are at various stages of completion. The administration has demonstrated consistency in its commitment to the success of Fadama 111 Project in the State.

Similarly, the State has entered into an Agreement with Agro Nova Management for the lease of Umuna Fish Culture Station at Okigwe, the Songhai Farm, Nekede, and the Oguta Indoor Fish Hatchery for 5 (**five**) years in the first instance. Government has released fully its equity investment of **₦87.5m** representing its share holding of 25% in the project. The success recorded so far on the project has made remarkable impact in the sector, especially in food production, processing, marketing and the attendant job creation in the State.

In our effort to ensure sustainable Food security and increased agricultural production in the State, this Administration approved the procurement and distribution of 25,000 metric tons of fertilizer at the cost of **₦2.86** billion to our farmers at subsidized rate of 50%.

Government also approved the involvement of all stakeholders in Agriculture in the distribution of the fertilizer to reach all farmers for increased food production in the State.

The State has concluded actions with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to access the **₦1billion** Agric On-Lending loan to Imo famers. No-Objection letter from CBN has been received while the State House of Assembly has passed the concurrent resolution on the subject loan.

Two thousand (2000) applications on “Expression of Interest” (EOI) have been received from individual farmers, Co-operative Societies and Agro-based cottage processing industries with a total value of **₦5.3 billion**.

## EDUCATION

As part of the efforts to ensure the realization of functional and qualitative education in the State, Government released the sum of N18m for the procurement of Science Equipment, Chemicals and re-agents for the 2010 May/June NECO and SSCE practical examinations for 31No public secondary schools in the State.

Furthermore, Government has released the sum of N150m out of the N250m approved for the accreditation of all the courses in the College of Engineering, of Evan Enwerem University.

Consultants are currently working on two identified sites to assist government in making a decision for the permanent site for the re-location of Evan Enwerem University, Owerri.

The Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education Owerri has been taken over by the Federal Government of Nigeria.

During the period under review, Government provided all the facilities and enabling environment that led to the successful re-accreditation of more than 70 courses in the four (4) Technical Colleges in the State by the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), namely:

- Government Technical College (GTC), Owerri
- Okporo Technical College, Orlu
- Osu Technical College, Osu, Isiala Mbano
- Ahiara Technical College, Ahiazu Mbaise

Also, during the year under review, the sum of ~~N2,596,000~~ **N2,596,000** was released for bursaries and scholarships to 237 handicapped students in both Secondary and tertiary institutions in the 2009/2010 academic session. Similarly Government released the sum of ~~N15,800,000~~ **N15,800,000** for the payment of bursary award to 316 Imo indigenes at the Nigerian Law School campuses for the 2009/2010 academic session. Each Law Student was paid N50,000 against the former N15,000.

Government has successfully returned (**forty-five**) 45 Secondary Schools to the Missions while discussions are on-going with Voluntary Agencies/Private Proprietors that have indicated interest to take back their schools.

The State government has instituted a Special Overseas Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme for Imo indigenes. Candidates with first class or second class upper

degrees would be encouraged to enroll in the Ivy League Universities in the World. The purpose is to produce well-trained first class graduates who would be future leaders of the State and are well equipped to play leadership roles.

## **PETROLEUM AND ENVIRONMENT**

In pursuit of the objectives of the Clean and Green Initiative of this administration, Government carried out a Solid Waste Survey to determine the volume of refuse generated in Owerri, the Capital City of the State. The result of the survey has aided in the completion of the Integrated Waste Management Plan.

The immense contribution of the State government regarding the success of UNIDO - Centre of Excellence in the State, is noteworthy. The Centre is designed to serve as a Regional Centre for Environmental Pollution Management in the 16 **(sixteen)** Countries of West and Central Africa and Guinea Bissau.

Preliminary actions have been completed to tackle numerous erosion problems in the State. **Seventy five** (75) of the 460 identified erosion sites across the 27 Local Government Areas of the State have been studied, detailed designs completed with associated costs, They are ready to go to tenders board for awards to be made to competent contractors.

## **WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The welfare of women and children, the destitute and physically challenged, the elderly and less privileged, the orphan and the vulnerable in the State remained one of the major concerns of this Administration. During the year under review, this Administration recorded the following achievements:

- Empowered 200 Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- Sponsored three Executive members of Imo State Children's Parliament to the National Children's Parliament held in Abuja in May and June 2010 respectively
- Resuscitated the Garri Processing machine at the State Remand Home, Logara to empower the in – mates
- Mounted awareness creation on the ills of illegal adoption
- Resettled Lunatics and Destitutes repatriated from other States
- Strengthened strategies for the promotion of gender equality and the welfare of widows in the State.

Empowered indigent widows during the 2010 Armed Force Day Celebration with cash, hair dryer, and clothing

Compiled data on Women Co-operative Societies in the State

Used the 2010 Women's August Meeting in collaboration with the Office of Her Excellency, Barr. Lady Chioma Ohakim to sensitize women on issues affecting them and families  
Handled/Treated 52 cases of illegal adoption  
Accredited Motherless Babies Homes were inspected to ensure that best practices are in place.

## **LANDS AND SURVEY.**

During the period under review, the Imo Geographic Information Service (IGIS) commenced the long awaited re-certification of our Lands Records System. This landmark in electronic land records register would get the required boost once the Bill to merge the Ground Rent and Tenement Rates to produce Land-Use-Charge which is before this Honorable House is passed. The said bill once passed into law, would create a single database of records of landed property in the State. It also has tremendous potential to enhance the revenue base of the State. Let me confirm to this House that the engineering designs for the construction of the Civic Centre Layout and Ekwema GRA have been completed, and the Consultants paid their pre-contract professional fees.

Government has also made available the total sum of **₦57,384,087.04 for compensation** to the original Land owners of Otamiri South Extension, Orji Town Layout (Annex), Part of Ekwema GRA, and the Oguta Motel/Holiday Resort site. Work on the opening of roads and the electrification of Otamiri South Extension Layout, and Housing Area G, B & F are on-going. Construction of a 200,000 Litres capacity (50,000 gallons) Overhead Water Tank and ancillary works, reticulation, construction of Plant House and Installation of 60 KVA generating set at Otamiri South Extension Layout have reached 90% completion.

Clearing and Parcellation of Ekwema GRA, Arugo Layout, Housing Areas R, New D, K, W and a modern market have commenced. Allotees of plots of land in these areas and Otamiri South Extension Layout have been advised to commence development process of their plots immediately to avoid forfeiture of such allocation.

## **SANITATION AND TRANSPORT**

At the inception of this Administration in 2007, Government initiated the Clean and Green Program to constantly remind our people of the need to keep our immediate environment clean. In pursuit of the objective of this Initiative, the State Government introduced the following measures during the period under review to give impetus to the program:

- Establishment of Sanitation Court for the trial of offenders with a view to inculcating the culture of maintaining a clean environment in our people.
- Re-Introduction of the Monthly clean up exercise to reduce the heaps of refuse seen at some strategic areas of the State.
- Sweeping of major streets and roads in the capital city of Owerri on daily basis.
- Demolition of illegal structures to restore the original master plan of the Capital city.
- De-silting of drains (gutters) to ensure free flow of storm water in the drains during rainfall.
- Establishment of Taskforce to complement the newly installed Electronic Traffic Controls (Traffic Lights) to ensure free flow of traffic in the major roads in the State capital.
- Engagement of consultants to ensure effective Waste Management and possible conversion of waste to wealth through re-cycling.
- Beautification/landscaping of State Capital by planting of ornamental trees and flowers, provision of pedestrian walkways and garden parks

#### **EW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)**

NEPAD represents the hallmark of partnerships, having aligned its program fully with the Africa Union (AU). In the period under review, the State Government initiated and concluded discussion with Shayaz Group on the Industrial Development of Imo State under the PPP Initiative.

#### **HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

During the year under review, the Bureau for Housing was raised to a full fledged ministry with a Commissioner sworn into office. This was done to give Housing and Urban Development adequate status and facility to tackle government policy and determination to provide the platform for the growth and development of the State through construction of new building types and renovation of existing ones to meet various and diverse needs of our people. To this end, the following housing projects were realized during the period.

- Renovation and Furnishing of Governor's Lodge, Asokoro, Abuja.
- Payment of Compensation to original land owners for Obinze – Avu Layout
- Selection of Developers' for Nekede Exclusive Gardens Estate II
- Clearing of site for Nekede Exclusive Garden II and completion of Perimeter and Parcellation surveys.

- Signing of Development Lease Agreements with Developer for NEG II
- Upgrade of the New Government House Multipurpose Building to full Conference Centre (Ahiajioku Convention Centre) This edifice has been substantially completed, which of course, made it practicable to host the Ahiajioku Lecture of 2010.
- Construction and commissioning of a new state of art Governor's Office, by Mr. President, His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, Commander-in-Chief, Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

### **PUBLIC UTILITIES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Between January and September, 2010, Government constructed and completed street lighting in the following localities in the State:

- Dualized Owerri – Umuahia Road
- Dualized Owerri – Orlu Road
- Dualized Owerri – Okigwe Road
- Uzoho Ezihe – Umunuma Okohia Road
- Umaru Musa Yar'Adua – New Owerri Road

Also, during the period, Government donated transformers and generators to the underlisted communities in the State:

- Naze Small Scale Industrial Cluster (500 KVA; 11/0.415 KV).
- Assumpta Cathedral Church (300 KVA; 11/0.415 KV).
- Commissioners Quarters (500KVA Generator).

The following transformers were installed and energized during the period under review:

- 300 KVA, 11/0.415 KV transformer substation with Extension Line from Police Headquarters to Nigerian Prison, Owerri.
- 50 KVA Transformer substation at the General Hospital, Owerri.
- 300 KVA, 33/0.415 KV Transformer substation at Uratta East Layout Neighbourhood Trans Egbu, Owerri.
- 20 Nos 300 KVA Transformer during the quick Win Project implementation in various Communities in the State.

Government extended electricity to Lord's Chosen Revival Movement Retreat Ground, Mgbidi, Oru West. Electricity power extension to CRM International Secondary School, Mgbirichi in Ohaji/Egbema, Umunchoko, Ndiewerre Umunkwo, Umuolu, and Umezike Ikpa Communities are on-going.

Government Installed PHCN/Generator power (conversional) traffic signal light at Wetheral/Okigwe Road cross Junction, Imo State University and Mbaise/Wetheral (Fire Service) Road junctions, and Assumpta Avenue/Orlu Road T-Junction.

## **WATER SUPPLY**

This Administration is committed to the provision of accessible and portable drinking water for every rural community in Imo State. To this end, Government embarked on the execution/rehabilitation of the following Water Schemes across the State:

- Four (4) Small Town Water Schemes located at Orji and Egbeada in Owerri North LGA, Eluama/Oleme and Iyiechu in Orlu and Okigwe LGA, respectively.
- Six (6) Motorized Water schemes located at Akabo, Ahiara in Ahiazu Mbaise LGAs, Atta in Ikeduru LGA, Umuakagu Nsu and Umuelemai in Ehime and Isiala Mbanu LGAs, Dikenafai and Amiri in Ideato South and Oru East LGAs, respectively.
- Conversion of 35 old water Schemes to Solar powered Schemes, and the construction of 32 New Solar powered Water Schemes located in various communities of the State.

During the period under review, Government completed the provision of solar powered water schemes for:

1. Ekeukwu Owerri Main Market
2. Nworie Lane Industrial Market, Owerri
3. Owerri New Market, and Relief Market, Owerri

Also, Government rehabilitated a total of nine rural Water Schemes located in various LGAs of the State through the Quick Win Projects. Data in aid of prequalification of consultants (Company profile) of companies towards construction of hydro-dam at Okigwe and Owerri have been collated and forwarded to Federal Ministry of Water Resources in Abuja for approval and funding.

The Dam and Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Public Utilities and Rural Development has been re-positioned to conduct feasibility studies with engineering designs for six new proposed dam sites, and request for funding is being awaited.

Government, through the Ministry of Public Utilities and Rural Development inspected 135 self-projects in the State valued at **₦369,773,692.**

Data for all water schemes in all communities in the State are being updated to establish the spread and status of water schemes in the State. This is aimed at capturing specifics of all communities in water service delivery scheme and to ensure adequate representation in future water scheme projects.

### WORKS AND TRANSPORT

One of the greatest legacies this Administration will bequeath to the good people of the State is the 150 km Interconnectivity Multi-Lane Freeway popularly known as the Imo Boulevard and the 9 km Inner Ring Roads with three (3No) Flyovers which are currently ongoing. In addition, a total of 204.34km representing 72% of 283.115km length of roads contracts awarded across the three zones of the State during the period have been asphalted and completed. This is summarized in the table below.

S/N	ZONES	LENGTH OF ROAD AWARDED	LENGTH OF ROAD ASPHALTED
1	OWERRI	100.21KM	70.91KM
2	OKIGWE	76.2KM	60.725KM
3	ORLU	106.7KM	73.2KM
	TOTAL	283.115KM	204.84KM

In our effort to ensure the safety of property in Imo State, relevant fire fighting equipment were procured during the period to strengthen Fire Service delivery in the State.

### HEALTH

The health sector recorded impressive achievements in the 2010 fiscal year. These include:

- Private Sector involvement in the planning and implementation of health programs in the State. This is evidenced in the development of Imo State Strategic Health Development Plans (SSHDP).
- A total of 170 surgeries and 6,212 patients were treated of various ailments in the first phase of the Free Medical Treatment held in April, 2010 in collaboration with Medical Experts from the U.S.A.
- **2999** patients from Imo State and other neighboring States of South South, South East, and South West were treated of various eye diseases under the partnership program with **Tulsi - Chanrai Foundation of India**. Also **4050** patients of Imo State received free eye treatment in the first phase of Free Eye Treatment/Outreach conducted by the State Ministry of Health while 567 patients were referred to **Tulsi - Chanrai Foundation** for surgery.

- As a result of improved and sustained Immunization Program, the State recorded a low infant mortality rate of **114/1000** live birth above the National average of **157/1000** live births. With this improvement and sustained efforts, the State will achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) target of **75/1000** live births by the year 2015.
- Similarly, the 13-man Taskforce on the Midwives Service Scheme (MSS) inaugurated in the State early this year has taken off and recorded appreciable progress as the present Maternal Mortality rate for the State has dropped to **400/100,000** against the National average of **545/100,000**. It is hoped that the State will meet the MDG target of **136/100,000** by the year 2015.
- The State has continued to sustain its Guinea Worm and Polio free situation since 2003 and 2005 respectively.
- The Imo State College of Health Sciences and Technology has secured accreditation for the department of Pharmacy Technicians. The Institution is the only one of such status in the State. Government through the support of the World Bank procured and supplied a Coaster Bus and a **100KVA** Generating Plant to the school. The State Taskforce on Counterfeit/ fake drugs and unwholesome products have been reconstituted and is making progress.
- Traditional Medicine Practitioners in the State have been unified under National Association of Nigerian Traditional Medicine Practitioners (NANTMP). Imo State is the first in the whole Federation to achieve this feat. The Bill to facilitate the establishment of Imo State Chapter of NANTMP Board is before this Honorable House of Assembly.
- The State distributed a total of **249,000** doses of Acetemenin Combination Therapy (ACT) drugs supplied through **Global Fund** for the treatment of malaria in all ages, and **68,214** doses of Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) drugs for pregnant women. Also, **1,839,700** units of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) were procured with the support of **Global Fund** for universal distribution campaign.
- Imo State Strategic Health Development Plan incorporating the Health Plans of the 27 LGAs was finalized and adopted in March, 2010 by the National Council on Health.
- Presently, Imo State is offering Free Maternal and Under - 5 Health Care Services in the three (3) LGAs of Aboh Mbaise , Orlu and Isiala Mbano covering a total number of **56,315** children and **11,256** pregnant women. Three additional LGAs – Mbaitoli, Orsu and

Obowo have been identified for inclusion into the programme. Registration is on-going at the newly selected LGAs.

- To check the Spread of HIV/AIDS in the State, an Anti-Retroviral Treatment Centre was constructed and commissioned at Imo State University Teaching Hospital, Orlu. Also, the HIV/AIDS unit of the State Ministry of Health delivered services from the 6 HIV Counseling and Testing Centres. 300 packets of HIV testing kits were procured and supplied to Service Delivery Points (**SDPs**). 70 Health Care Workers were trained on HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing, and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (**PMTCT**)
- Extensive renovation of the OPD, Emergency, Pharmacy, Male, Female and Special Wards including Perimeter fencing is on-going at the General Hospital, Awo-Omamma. Government has approved the sum of **₦ 110,000, 641.64** for the installation of Radiology Equipment at Imo State University Teaching Hospital.
- In order to strengthen the health care and improve the three-way referral system, of care, Government through the support of the World Bank procured and distributed the following to the Health Centres and Emergency Obstetric Health Care Centres in the State:
  - 8 no (eight) Ambulances
  - 10 no. (ten) twenty (20) KVA Generating Plants
  - Cold Boxes
  - Motor- Cycles
  - Solar Refrigerators, etc.
- Free drugs were distributed to Sickle Cell patients at the Sickle Cell Clinic of the General Hospital, Owerri.

## **YOUTH AND SPORTS**

A total of 15 youth organization were registered while the sum of N8.80m subvention was released for Youth Programs during the period under review.

In sports development, Imo State clinched the Gold Trophy in the Handball League competition held at Abuja, while a total of (**six**) 6 medals made up of one gold, four silver and one bronze medals were won in other sporting activities held across the continent. Also Dan Anyiam received facelift as all illegal structures were demolished and evacuated during the period. The management of Heart Land F.C. was restructured and top class coach Mr. Samson Siasia was engaged.

## **CULTURE AND TOURISM**

One of the achievements of this Administration in the Culture and Tourism sector during the year under review is the institutionalization of the State Annual Ahiajioku Lecture Festival. This is part of the drive to truly project and protect our rich cultural values. Plans have been initiated towards the production of Imo State Tourism Mater Plan.

## **JUDICIARY**

The Judiciary has been strengthened with the creation of seven new Customary Courts at Umuohiagu in Ngor Okpalla, Amuzi Mbaise in Ahiazu Mbaise, Amanator in Ideato South, Eziachi Orlu, Ihitte in Ihitte Uboma, Ezi /west in Ife Aboh Mbaise, and Ubulu in Oru West LGAs. Seven (7) new Lawyers and twenty five (25) new members made up of Lawyers and retired Civil Servants of proven integrity were appointed Chairmen and members respectively, of Imo State Customary Courts. These appointments are all in the efforts of this administration to ensure efficient and effective justice delivery system at the grassroots.

We have completed the renovating of all court in Imo State and procured generating sets for all the judges quarters in the State and procured Laptops for all the judges in the State.

## **GOVERNMENT HOUSE**

Within the Period January – September 2010, Government House and its annexed agencies recorded significant achievements in the following programmes:

### ***General Administration:***

## **INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY (ICT)**

The ICT unit of Government House recorded significant achievements during the period in line with the e-governance component of the 14 Point Agenda of the present administration.

The unit sustained the internet bandwidth installed in the facility. This is aimed at enhancing the internet speed that conduces to research, e-mailing and various internet related practices.

Government successfully maintained and sustained installed equipment and wireless internet gadgets which linked the Court of Appeal and the High Court to their respective counterparts across the globe. The aim is to facilitate connectivity

between these courts with their contemporaries the world over especially, in areas of research, e-mailing and general networking.

#### ***IMO STATE GOVERNMENT WEBSITE:***

The State ICT website has continued to focus on the leadership to enable the authentication of information on the profile and achievements of the administration including giant strides he has made in the leadership of Imo State.

#### **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)**

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has made remarkable impact in Health, Water and Sanitation, Youth Empowerment and Agriculture in the State. Imo State Government has consistently paid the annual counterpart fund in the order of N1.2b. These projects are targeted at empowering the poor and improving the fortunes of the less privileged in the society.

The projects implemented include but not limited to the following:

- Renovation of 45 Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCS)
- Procurement and Upgrading of (3) three existing Schools of Nursing and Midwifery
- Re-activation and Conversion of existing Water Schemes to Solar-powered Pumps.
- Rehabilitation of (4) Four Small Town Water Schemes.
- Operationalization of 36 Adult Literacy Centres
- Training on basic technical skill for 260 Imo Youths.

#### **POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

One of the policy directions of the 2010 budget is focused on the prevailing challenges in the State's poverty reduction strategy. During the period, Government trained and empowered 193 Women/Youths in computer studies, fifty (50) Cassava Farmers Co-operative Societies selected from the 27 LGAs of the State on Cassava cultivation, and Twenty (20) groups of five each, on soap production.

Substantial numbers of the poorest of the poor were empowered during the period under review. The Bureau is currently working out a program with the State Committee on the Eradication of Extreme Poverty aka (Search & Rescue of Severely Malnourished Children), to assist parents of such children being resuscitated in specialist units of the designated medical facilities in the State from the stream of extreme poverty through training or economic empowerment.

During the coming year a 9-member Committee would be set up in every Local Government Area. The State Committee is being coordinated by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development.

### **THE 2011 BUDGET:**

My Speaker, Hon. Members of the State Assembly, the 2011 budget will be governed by the basic Macro-economic assumptions:

- Prudent Management of the State resources.
- Sustained improvement in the State's Monthly Internally Generated Revenue (IGR).
- A benchmark price of US **\$63** per barrel of crude oil.
- Sustained peace in the Niger Delta and oil production level of 2.2m barrels per day.
- Exchange rate of ~~N~~**150** to US Dollar.
- 10 percent inflation rate and 15 percent interest rate.

### **FEATURES AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2011 BUDGET**

The 2011 budget christened "***BUDGET OF CONSOLIDATION AND CONTINUITY***" is presented in a clear and analytical manner to ensure easy comparison and proper understanding of the budgeting procedures and is anchored on the following 8 – point policy direction.

- Embargo on new projects.
- Scaling down, continuation and/or completion of on-going projects.
- Massive road rehabilitation in the 27 Local Governments of the State.
- Good governance, transparency, accountability, efficiency and training in the teaching and civil service and total automation of processes.
- Total confrontation of the security problem in the State.
- Job creation/mass recruitment into government service, Enhanced Internally Generated Revenue.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE 2011 BUDGET/POLICY DIRECTION**

1. Extreme Poverty
2. Education
3. Job Creation

The 2011 Budget will extensively address the problem of extreme poverty which has continued to ravage our people. As you are aware, when this administration

came into office in 2007, what was on ground can best be described as zero foundation. This challenging situation was characterized by absence of the relevant systems that foster good governance.

There was no system of contract administration, there were no laws relevant for the pursuit of government activities, there was no defined system/approach for attracting investment, the Education system was a disaster as our own university and secondary schools were made to function without direction many contracts that failed in the past are being addressed.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state that the three and half years we have so far operated in Imo State have been very challenging and rewarding. Challenging because of the zero foundation we met on ground as captured above and at the same time rewarding because from every indication, this administration has recorded very remarkable achievements to reverse the trend. I am happy to state that no contract has failed since the inception of this administration.

Although the global economy has been in bad shape and Imo State being a part of Nigeria is not insulated from the poor state of affairs, this administration has continued to weather the storm and take giant strides to leverage the State's economy from all angles.

**SUMMARY OF 2011 BUDGET**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, a budget size **₦124,475,132,834** is proposed for the 2011 fiscal year with the total recurrent revenue as **₦72,148,781,892** and total recurrent expenditure as **₦60,675,238,007**. The details are as follows:

**RECURRENT REVENUE:**

**The total projected Recurrent Revenue for 2011 from all sources is ₦72,148,782,892 made up of:**

S/N	DETAIL	2011	2010	% DIFFERENCE
1	Internally Generated Revenue	24,200,000,000	17,152,669,451	17.8%
2	State Share of Federation Account	26,803,354,582	34,763,863,697	-30.4%
3	Value Added Tax (VAT)	6,656,381,292	5,573,817,564	13.6%

4	Excess Crude Fund	-	5,745,341,415	
5	13% Derivation Fund	6,789,046,018	5,069,986,184	13.2%
6	Ecological Fund	-	600,000,000	-
7	Refund on Rural Electrification	4,000,000,000	1,800,000,000	122.2%
8	NDDC Refund	2,800,000,000	-	-
9	Interest on Bond Transfer	900,000,000	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>72,148,782,892</b>	<b>70,705,676,311</b>	-

The Total Recurrent Expenditure Projection is **₦60,675,238,007** made up of:

S/N	DETAILS	2011	2010	% DIFFERENCE
1	Personnel Cost	7,758,455,284	6,875,739,466	12.8%
2	Subvention Cost	12,126,955,058	11,238,191,372	7.9%
3	Overhead Cost	23,488,056,875	20,741,392,405	3.8%
4	Consolidation Revenue Fund Charges	17,301,770,789	14,517,943,119	18.4%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60,675,238,007</b>	<b>53,373,266,361</b>	

Estimated Transfer to Capital Fund is **₦11,473,543,885** or 15.9% of the total budget

#### CAPITAL RECEIPTS

The Total Projected Capital Receipt is **₦52,326,350,942** made up as follows:

S/N	DETAILS	2011	2010	% DIFFERENCE
1	Internal Loans	28,430,000,000	30,500,000,000	-19.9%
2	Development Partners Intervention	4,493,500,000	927,450,000	384.5%
3	Grants	5,690,850,942	8,235,448,942	-30.9%

4	Direct Funding (FG)	13,712,000,000	16,292,000,000	-15.8%
5	Miscellaneous	-	600,000,000	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>52,326,350,942</b>	<b>56,554,898,942</b>	

#### SECTORIAL ALLOCATION OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

S/N	DETAILS	2011	2010	% DIFFERENCE
1	Economic Sector	32,715,208,197	35,830,818,885	-08.70
2	Social Services Sector	6,381,180,000	9,486,171,126	-32.73
3.	General Administration	7,731,165,609	19,796,536,442	-60.95
4.	Government Counterpart Cash Contribution (GCCC)	4,782,955,456	4,906,036,442	-02.51
5	ISOPADEC Capital Projects	1,673,165,209	1,278,413,786	30.88
6	NDDC	10,516,220,356	3,000,000,000	250.54
	<b>Total</b>	<b>63,799,894,827</b>	<b>74,297,976,681</b>	

#### MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2011 BUDGETECONOMIC SECTOR:

The Economic Sector consists of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Works, Transport, Housing, Petroleum and Environment, Public Utilities and Rural Development. The total allocation to this sector is **₦32,715,208,197** representing **53.6%** of the capital budget.

#### AGRICULTURE:

In pursuit of the 14 points Agenda of the New Face of Imo, this Administration will take bold steps to ensure that the actualization of sustainable Food Security in Imo State.

Government will procure high breed palm nuts from NIFOR to raise over 500,000 seedlings for distribution to our farmers in 2011 at a subsidized rate in addition to another 500,000 seedlings to be raised from the State. Agricultural Development Program will continue to deliver its agriculture extension services to our farmers in 2011.

The ADP extension services will be given renewed impetus in 2011 through the injection of agricultural personnel and inputs into the field. The rapid impact of the Agro Nova projects, especially in food production, processing, marketing and job creation across the state will be sustained in 2011 for accelerated development of

commercial and value – added agriculture in Imo State. The State will increase its annual rice, maize and cassava production by increasing the hectares under cultivation in 2011. The Silos Project at Ezinnachi in Okigwe will be functional for our farmers in the 2011 fiscal year.

### **WORKS AND TRANSPORT**

Since our assumption of office in 2007, this administration has awarded over 50 road projects covering 283.115kms in length. This excludes the 150km Interconnectivity Multi-Lane Freeway and the 9km Inner Ring Road which are actively on-going. The target of this administration is to increase the number of all season's motor-able roads and improving this performance in the provision of other infrastructural facilities from 52.4% this year to 85% in 2011. Urgent attention will be given to the procurement of more new road construction equipment, repair and maintenance of existing ones, as well as hiring out of such plant and equipment to players in the construction industry to boost the State internal revenue generation.

The Public Partnership Initiative with Banks, including Donor Agencies in the provision of infrastructural facilities needed for the enhancement of the economic, social and environmental development of the state will be vigorously pursued in 2011.

### **PUBLIC UTILITIES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

In 2011 fiscal year, Government will extend electricity supply to 150 communities in the State in line with the Policy Thrust of this Administration. More transformers, conductors (cables), feeder pillars and accessories will be donated to more communities in the State while the on-going extension of electricity to Orji Mechanic Village and Umuonyeali Timber Market will be completed.

New Street lights on 15 roads/streets in the three major towns of the State will be installed and provided with generators during the period. Solar powered street lights will be extended to Ikenegbu Layout, Aladinma, Egbeada Federal and Umuguma Housing Estates while 10 new conventional traffic lights will be installed at cross roads and T. Junctions in the Capital City of Owerri.

Government will procure more generators ranging from 25KVA to 100 KVA to power the street lights, the Water Schemes, the NYSC Camp Umudi and other government agencies in the 2011 fiscal year.

In 2011 fiscal year, Government will rehabilitate the Otamiri Water Scheme, complete the feasibility study for dualization of Imo/Umuahia (Umungwa) Regional Water Scheme, and procure water treatment chemicals. The rolling-plan to implement and complete the construction of hydro dams in the State from 2011 to 2013 will be prepared while the broken down dams at various parts of Imo

State will be rehabilitated to enhance irrigation and agricultural activities in the State in 2011. Laboratory and Studio for soil and material tests will be set-up. Reliable hydrological/hydro-geological data bank will be established in 2011.

### **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

Government will partner with private investors for the resuscitation of the abandoned Imo-Guangdong Free Trade Zone. The Project will be renamed “Imo Free Trade Zone Ngor-Okpala, and will be flagged off on or before the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2011.

Construction work on abandoned International Electrical Electronics and Automobile market (INTEEAMARK) will commence next year under public private partnership (PPP) arrangement.

On completion of the project, all dealers on electrical, electronics and auto-parts in Owerri will be moved to the site.

As a way to decongest the old Owerri Township of street trading and hawking in un-authorized places, Government has concluded plans to develop a new ultra Modern International General Goods market at New Owerri under a PPP arrangement. Forms for allocation of stores at the market are already on sale at UBA plc. Construction work in the proposed site of the market will start in the next few weeks.

The State has entered into partnership with an Italian Company for the resuscitation of the NSU Tiles Industry in Ehime-Mbano. Production is expected to commence at the factory before the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2011.

It is the policy of this administration to reactivate all viable Government owned industries under the Public Private Partnership framework. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Imo State Investment Promotion Agency (ISIPA) are working out the details for outright privatization of such companies. I am happy to state that the Owerri Shoe Industry has since been reactivated and re-opened for production of goods.

### **ENTERPRISE ZONES IN OWERRI, ORLU AND OKIGWE**

Government will as from 2011, commence the development of sites in the three zones of the State as enterprise zone, in partnership with NDDC, Bank of Industry, SMEDAN and a selected Commercial Bank. All artisans, small scale enterprises operating on the streets and un-authorized places especially in the three major townships in the State are to be located in these sites.

Already Government is making efforts to complete the road network leading into and around Egbu/Naze timber and Allied Industrial market which is recognized as an enterprise Zone. The market is now being fully transferred to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for effective management and administration.

### **IMO STATE INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY (ISIPA)**

Attracting investment is a key developmental objective of the administration. For this reason, the Imo State Investment Promotion Agency (ISIPA) has been set up and empowered to market Imo to investors and investment influencers. Already the organization's efforts are yielding fruits with the Imo Investment summit held in June 2010 and built to attract investment heavyweights from across the globe. The Agency had a very major and indeed successful outing this year in promotion of the first of its kind an International Investment Summit. It is currently pursuing a program of project 27 to attract at least one industry per Local Government Area.

### **IMO REFINERY AND PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT**

The NNPC has approved to partner with Imo State in the Imo Refinery and Petrochemical projects. Both parties are fully committed to develop and integrate projects consisting of an upstream element and in partnership with the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC) and a downstream refinery and petrochemical element in partnership with NNPC. A consortium of international upstream operators and refiners with proven track record are being identified as technical and funding partners to the project.

### **LANDS AND SURVEY**

The Administration will continue the implementation of the Capital City Master Plans through the provision of infrastructure to enhance the living standards of the people. To this effect, roads will be opened and asphalted and electricity provided in the layouts.

Also, payment of compensations to Land Owners in Owerri, Okigwe and Orlu, as well as the development of Open Space and Play Grounds will be pursued in the 2011 fiscal year with a view to beautifying and improving the environment.

### **PETROLEUM AND ENVIRONMENT**

During the 2011 fiscal year, efforts will be intensified to stabilize gully erosion sites in the state, restore amenable and abandoned erosion sites and enforce management practices geared towards preventing /minimizing the incidence of erosion.

Improved Organic Fertilizer Plant in line with the Waste to Wealth Program of this administration will be established.

Sanitary Land fill in the three (3) geo-political zones of the State for the final disposal of Municipal Solid Waste in Imo State will be located. This will facilitate the realization of the Millennium Development Goals on environmental sustainability.

## **HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

In the year 2011, this Administration will sustain its policy of providing the platform for the infrastructural services in the area of housing and urban development. To this effect Government will vigorously pursue the completion of 26 on –ongoing housing projects located across the State. Government will involve the participation of Private Sector and Financial Institutions in the provision of housing needs to Imo populace.

## **SOCIAL SERVICE SECTOR:**

The Social Service Sector consists of Education, Health, Information, Women Affairs, Youth and Sports, and Re-orientation. This sector has a total budget allocation of **₦ 6,381,180,000** or about **10%** of the total capital budget.

## **EDUCATION**

The State will continue to reform the education sector by putting the following in place:

- Declaration of a State of Emergency on education. These will be signposted by the launching of Imo Children Education Fund (ICEF) targeted at raising the sum of N50b.
- Handing over of more schools to the voluntary agencies
- Completion of the college of Engineering, Evan Enwerem University
- Construction of 3 model secondary schools
- Renovation/completion of all on-going projects in the education sector
- A school for the Blind has been approved at Ehime Mbanjo
- While the Special Education Centre at Orodo will be renovated and rehabilitated during the period.
- Relocation of Evan Enwerem University to a permanent site will commence in earnest.

## **HEALTH**

Government will endeavour to consolidate on the achievement of 2010 through further involvement of the private sector and aggressive public enlightenment and health education programs. All program activities will be geared towards the implementation of the State Strategic Health Development Plan (SSHDP) and the health MDGs. To this end, the under listed programmes/projects and activities will be pursued in 2011.

- Aggressive public enlightenment and awareness creation on prevention and control of diseases.
- Completion of all outstanding projects at IMSUTH.
- Completion of all contracts awarded at Awo-Omamma General Hospital and Commencement of renovation of

Okigwe General Hospital in the second phase of the government owned hospitals in the state.

- Relocation of the present School of Nursing to give way to the establishment of School of Nursing by the Federal Medical Centre at the site.
- Re-accreditation of the School of Nursing, Owerri and the School of Basic Midwifery Aboh Mbaise which lost the accreditation in 2006 and 2008 respectively.
- Sustain the Polio-free and Guinea Worm free status of Imo State and increase the routine immunization coverage to ensue the realization of the MDGs targets by 2015.
- Implement the Bi-annual Maternal, New Born and Child Health Week in May and November, 2011.
- Pursue new home grown strategy for the prevention and control of malaria and breeding of mosquitoes.
- National measles campaign.
- Scale-up the Midwives Services Scheme to reduce maternal and infant mortality rate and included more health facilities in rural areas.
- Intensify efforts to reverse the increasing trend of HIV/AIDS prevalence in the State from 4.6% to 2.0%.
- Procure and distribute 300 packets of HIV/test Kits to service delivery points as well as establish five additional PMTCT Centres in the State.
- Procure and distribute additional 400 doses of ACT drugs, 915,000 LLINs and 80,000 doses of IPTs for the prevention and control of Malaria.
- The Free Medical Surgery and Eye Treatment Programmes to be more frequent in 2011.
- Kick off the sensitization and free treatment of under-5 children and pregnant women in the Free Maternal and Child Health Care under the MDG Conditional Grant Scheme for Mbaitoli, Orsu and Obowo LGAs.

## **YOUTH AND SPORTS**

In 2011 fiscal year, Government will continue to improve our sporting facilities. Sports outreach to create sports awareness to the grassroots will be carried out. Imo Youth Sports Camp and Youth Empowerment and outreach programs will be organized in 2011 fiscal year.

## **WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

In 2011, Government will intensify efforts to clear the major Streets of the State capital of hawkers. The children's Parliament will be inaugurated in the remaining 17 LGAs of Imo State during the year. Child Right Club will be established in selected schools in the State.

Government will apply Global Fund to treat reported cases of child abuse while a step down training on advocacy, communication and leadership will be conducted for members of the State Children's Parliament.

Government will also conduct a Workshop on Capacity Building for members of the Child protection Network in the State while The Day of the Right of the Child, and the National Festival for Arts and Culture (NACHIEST) will be organized in the State during the period.

Government will continue to empower the physically challenged in the State with mobility aid. The yearly Women August meetings will continue to receive patronage from the State Government. The Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) will be organized while one hundred (100) Women entrepreneurs will be assisted with revolving loan to enable start a business during the period.

## **GOVERNMENT HOUSE**

### *GENERAL ADMINISTRATION*

A total of ~~₦~~**7,731,165,609** representing **9.8%** of the total budget is allocated to this sector.

A fire fighting building with necessary gadgets/facilities will be erected in Government House in 2011. This is aimed at protecting Government property and lives at the seat of power. Government will also tackle the reconstruction/renovation of the Government House Banquet Hall, the Executive Council Chambers and the Multi-purpose Hall.

In furtherance to Government's determination to provide effective and efficient mobility for its VIPs/Guests, more vehicles will be purchased in 2011. Also, the 16 Number Government Guest Houses will be renovated/reconstructed during the period.

## **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)**

For overall improvement in service delivery via efficient job performance, Government will purchase new computer systems with modern ICT gadgets/facilities and peripheral in 2011. Also, Government will embark on the

construction of a new Government Studio installed with modern facilities for improved information gathering and effective management and dissemination on government policies and programmers in the 2011 fiscal year.

#### **IMO WONDER LAKE RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTRE:**

Tourism development which is a flagship project of this administration is receiving great boost. The completion of the Imo Wonder Lake resort and Conference Centre would readily confer on the State the title of preferred destination for tourism and conferencing an Africa. The ground breaking event of this projection fixed for January 2011. All approved/Engineering investigations have been completed. The contracts are being awarded and full blown construction will commence in January 2011.

#### **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

To achieve greater success of this all important project, Government will fund a greater percentage of this project from the State Treasury. The sum of N1.5B is budgeted for it in the 2011 fiscal year.

#### **POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

Government will continue to intensify efforts towards empowering Imo indigenes especially the Youths and the Women through training and financial empowerment.

#### **NIGER DELTA AFFAIRS**

In our bid to reduce the incidence of militancy among our youths to the barest minimum, this Administration will set up a Bureau for Niger Delta Affairs in the 2011 fiscal year to train our youths and empower them thereafter.

#### **IMO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

The Legislature adds beauty to democratic governance. This Administration is committed to the enhancement of the performance of this Honorable House through improvement of its facilities and provision of adequate support.

Government will intensify efforts in the execution and realization of all on-going projects of the House of Assembly in 2011. The capital projects of the Assembly including its constituency projects are allocated the sum of N470m in the 2011 fiscal year.

## **LAW, JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW**

The Judiciary is the last hope of the common man., In 2011, more Judges for the High Courts will be appointed. Also, appointment of new members of the Customary Courts to replace those whose tenures will expire in 2011 will be carried out. More Magistrates will be appointed to enhance the quality of dispensing justice at the grassroots. Computerization of Courts and enhanced welfare of the judiciary will be pursued.

## **SECURITY**

In 2011, Government will strengthen the security apparatus of the State. More Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) and other security equipment will be acquired. A Committee on Terrorism and kidnapping have been put in place. The Imo Vigilante and the Anti-terrorist Squad (ATS) will be strengthened to combat the menace of armed robbery and kidnapping in the State.

## **PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Government will continue to strengthen this ministry which is the engine room of economic activities in the State. The implementation and execution of the Imo Vision 20:2020 will be pursued with vigor in 2011. Efforts will be intensified to attract more donor assisted programs to the State. Government has since signed the commitment agreement with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) regarding the UNDAF 11 United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2009 -2012, during this period, all the (17) seventeen UN Agencies will be working in the State as the focal State representing the South East Zone.

Government has allocated a stand-alone building to house the newly created Imo State Statistical Agency (ISSA). It is in this regard that the World Bank donated a 100kva generating set to assist in the early commencement of the Agency. In line with the agreement reached at the National Economic Council, the State shall be carrying out a comprehensive Resource Audit (base line survey) in collaboration with the National Planning Commission as being facilitated by the National Bureau of Statistics.

The envisaged study shall focus on the Ward in the local government area as the yard stick; when completed, it would make performance measurement quicker and project monitoring a lot easier, as the major outcome of the study would be the establishment of firm benchmarks, duly defined in concrete terms to show where we are now, so that future accomplishments could be added on with precision. Another benefit would be putting in place a database to facilitate work on the Infrastructure Master Plan for the state.

Furthermore, the State has been admitted into the National Infrastructure Master Plan, through the National Planning Commission, based on three (3) key economic drivers namely:

- TRANSPORTATION
- PUBLIC UTILITIES
- AGRICULTURE.

Given the rather high population density of our dear State, considerable thought is being expended regarding the need for an enabling law to create agricultural land reserves in most of the local government areas in the State; to ensure sustainability in food production and a firm guarantee for food security.

### **RIGHTSIZING SUBVENTIONS TO PARASTATALS**

The usual practice of allocating subventions to Parastatals to cover salaries and overhead costs was critically reviewed in the 2011 budget. Some Parastatals were found to have taken advantage of being provided with all their requirements by Government to reeduce their zeal and challenge to explore and exploit internal revenue source in their areas of operation. Such Parastatals and government agencies will in 2011 be given subventions commensurate to their needs and in line with their revenue potentials.

Furthermore, Government will depress expenditure heads that have been found non-performing over the years. Some of these expenditure heads exist only as toxic elements to the budget but in terms of performance, low ratings and in some cases zero performance.

### **CONCLUSION**

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, we are at the threshold of history. In our quest to create an economy for our State, reverse the migration and bequeath to the state a system that works and that which would usher in an era of robust economic activities, social cohesion and fire the spirit of enterprise, we are not unmindful of the sacrifices our great people have made. These sacrifices are necessary if we must sow for the future because one cannot make omelet without breaking eggs.

The vision that drives this administration is not founded on wishful optimism but draws from the finest elements of contemporary value adding policies and programmes with great potentials defining opportunities and possibilities.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable members of the Imo State House of Assembly, the years ahead would be action packed. We have laid a good foundation to drive real development unencumbered by lack of institutional, structural or legal frame work to interpret the vision of this government.

We are strongly encouraged that all the indices point to the fact that the platform to exert capacity has been erected and we can make projections and draw time lines without draw backs.

I would not fail to remind you, Mr. Speaker, Honorable members that we still have few outstanding bills before you which if expeditiously passed would fully arm us to optimally exert our capacities in achieving set goals.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, Distinguished gentlemen of the press, Ladies and Gentlemen, the 2011 budget is structured on strict financial and fiscal prudence aimed at eliminating wastes in the management of the State lean resources. As a result, all hitherto government establishments whose activities do not add value to the state economy will be disaggregated to leverage resources for other priority sectors critical to the overall development of the state.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members of this House, I wish to express my profound gratitude to you for distinguishing yourselves as the most peaceful legislative House in the Federal Republic of Nigeria since your inauguration in 2007. The constructive engagement between the Executive and the Legislature in the State has become a national reference point in defining cordiality in governance.

I salute this great House, I salute your uncommon courage to stand firm in your convictions and commitment to serve the people and not persons. I salute your resolve as a team to stand together in the face of extreme provocations. But above all, I salute the good people of Imo State.

It is my sincere hope that the good people of Imo State will in fullness of time extend reciprocity to you all for the good deeds you have done. The stability of the legislature and by extension the administration in the state which of course, owes these virtues to the mature and courageous leadership you collectively established. The State is very proud of your exemplary and extraordinary performance.

I have no doubts in my mind that this Honorable House will quicken the passage of this budget to enable us commence early implementation of the programs, knowing that, as always, Imo is in the hands of God.

Thank you, Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year to you all.

Ikedi Ohakim  
Governor, Imo State  
**December 2010.**