

# Edo govt 'll restore *The Nigerian Observer* to original State —Commissioner

The Edo State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to restoring The Observer newspaper

to its original status as a public-interest media outfit. Mr Oboh told the commissioner that the newspaper

outfit was bedevilled by lots of challenges which hinder optimal operations for the newspaper to bounce back

fully. He identified such challenges to include, shortage of manpower, access to the com-

pany's printing press, operational vehicles, funding and computers. He pleaded with the

commissioner to intervene soon so that the newspapers will return to its flagship status.

# The Nigerian Observer



...that the people may know

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**Edo SUBEB evaluates fire damage at Okaro Pri School**

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# Planned electricity price hike is rate adjustment —FG

The Federal Government has said it spends N200bn to subsidise electricity monthly.

According to the government, this amount benefits the wealthiest 25 per cent of Nigerians, rather than those who truly need assistance.

The Special Adviser to President Bola Tinubu on Energy, Olu Verheijen, stated this in a statement on Monday.

Verheijen is reacting to reports quoting her as stating that the electricity tariff would soon be jerked up by two-thirds in order to strengthen the power sector.

The special adviser did not

deny the looming tariff hike, she however maintained that she did not say the tariff would be raised by 65 per cent.

"It has become necessary to clarify media reports suggesting an imminent 65 per cent increase in electricity tariffs.

"This is a misrepresentation of what I actually said in a recent press interview. I highlighted the fact that, following the increase in Band A tariffs in 2024, current tariffs now cover approximately 65 per cent of the actual cost of supplying electricity, with the Federal Government continuing to subsidise the difference," she said. Verheijen noted that while

the government was indeed committed to ensuring fairer pricing over the long term, the immediate focus is on taking decisive action to deliver more electricity to Nigerians, ensure fewer outages and guarantee the protection of the poorest and most vulnerable Nigerians.

In line with these, she disclosed that the Federal Government's power sector priorities include working towards a targeted subsidy system to ensure that low-income households receive the most support.

"Today, the Federal Govern-

ment spends over ₦200 billion per month on electricity subsidies, but much of this support benefits the wealthiest 25 per cent of Nigerians rather than those who truly need assistance.

"To address this, the Federal Government is working towards a targeted subsidy system to ensure that low-income households receive the most support. This approach will make electricity more affordable and accessible for millions of hard-working families," she stated.

On the fear that unmetered customers would be made to pay

for services not enjoyed if the tariff is increased now, she stressed that the Federal Government would address this through the Presidential Metering Initiative.

"One of the most significant steps in this reform is the Presidential Metering Initiative, which is accelerating the nationwide rollout of 7 million prepaid meters, starting this year.

"This will finally put an end to the practice of estimated billing, giving consumers confidence in what they are paying for and ensuring transparency in electricity charges.

"Metering will also improve revenue collection across the sector and will attract the investments needed to strengthen Nigeria's power infrastructure," she explained.

He revealed that the Federal Government is addressing one of the major roadblocks to improved service: the mounting debts owed to power generation companies.

"For years, these debts have prevented investments in new infrastructure and hampered

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## EDSG debunks claim of delay in payment of LG workers salary

JOY ODOR

The Edo State Government has dismissed rumors alleging that some local government workers are being owed salaries due to a purported crisis in the councils.

In a press statement issued in Benin City, the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Fred Itua, described the claims as false, misleading, and intended to create unnecessary panic.

He urged the public to disregard such misinformation, attributing it to mischief-makers envious of Governor Monday Okpebholo's administration's achievements since assuming office in November 2024.

Reaffirming the governor's commitment to workers' welfare, Itua clarified that all government

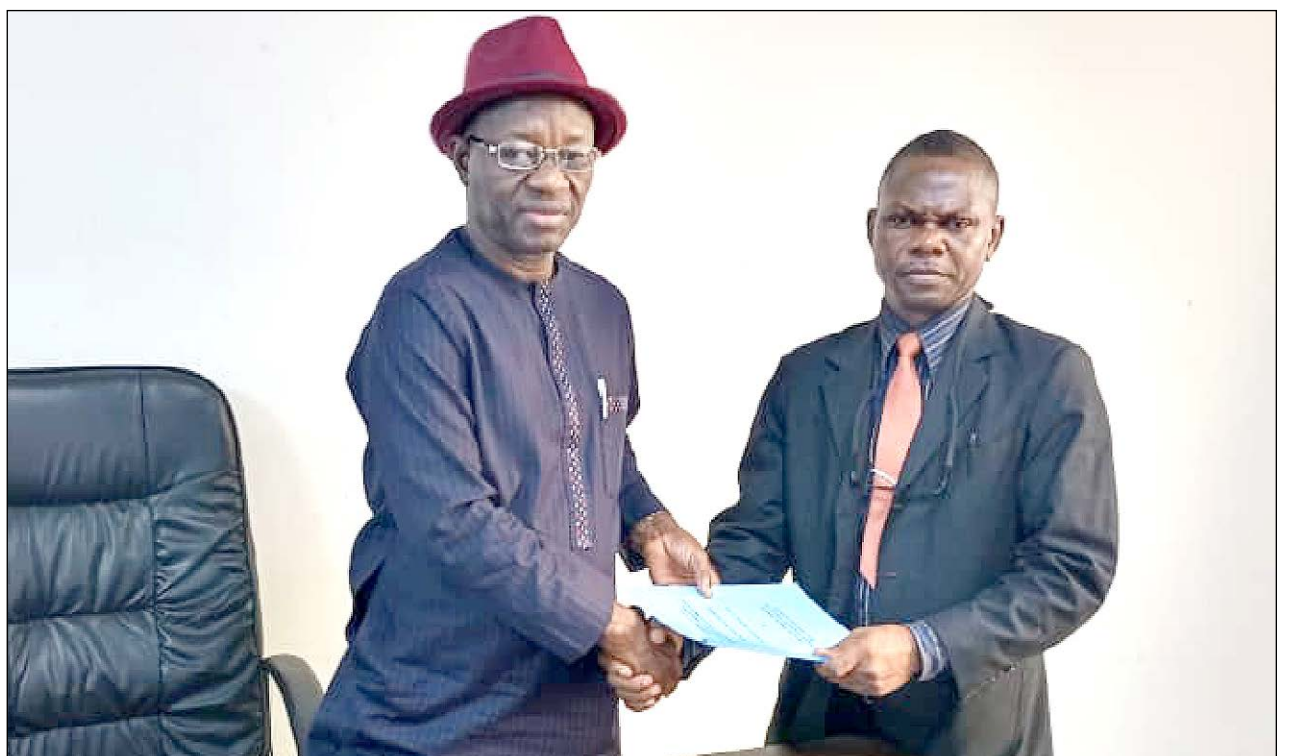
employees, including local government workers, have received their salaries without delay.

He emphasized that the January 2025 salaries had already been paid, despite financial challenges arising from the ongoing legal disputes between the state and embattled local government chairmen.

"Since taking office, Governor Okpebholo has remained dedicated to ensuring timely salary payments for all Edo workers, despite setbacks in allocation payments.

His proactive leadership underscores his unwavering commitment to workers' welfare," Itua stated.

The government reassures residents that salary payments will continue uninterrupted and urges the public to ignore unfounded rumors.



### POSITION PAPER:

The Acting General Manager, Bendel Newspapers Company Limited, publishers of the *Observer* titles, Mr Sylvester Oboh (right), presenting a position paper on the state of the company to the Edo State Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Paul Ohunbamu, when the management staff of the company visited the commissioner on Monday.

**Supply local refineries or lose export permits, NUPRC warns oil firms**

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**Alleged cybercrime: Court orders interim forfeiture of digital assets worth \$222,729**

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# Edo SUBEB evaluates fire damage at Okaro Pri School

## ● Pledges Support

Following a fire outbreak on Saturday, February 1st Okaro Primary School, Urhonigbe in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State, the state Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), led by Chairman Barrister Mrs. Onomen Briggs, dispatched a team to assess the extent of the damage. The delegation, headed by

Mrs. Angela Okpamen, Board Member for Edo South, included senior officials such as Mrs. Beatrice Ada Oloku, Director of Shared Services; Mr. Austin Otas Osegbe, Director in Charge of Schools; and Mr. Austin Ighodaro, Director of Social Mobilisation.

Upon arrival, the team was received by the school's head-

master, Mr. Augustine Edowandagbon, and the Chairman of the School-Based Management Committee (SBMC), Mr. Obasa Victor, who briefed them on the incident.

Reports indicated that the fire began around 6 PM, with the headmaster notified an hour later.

The blaze destroyed a block of three classrooms, including the headmaster's office, result-

ing in the loss of school registers and learning materials.

Fortunately, academic activities remain uninterrupted as students continue lessons in alternative classrooms.

During the visit, SUBEB officials emphasized the need for increased community awareness on fire prevention.

Mrs. Angela Okpamen also donated 15 sets of school uniforms to affected pupils.

While the cause of the fire remains under investigation, residents have called for swift government intervention to rebuild the damaged facilities.

Edo SUBEB has assured the community of its commitment to restoring normalcy and implementing both immediate and long-term solutions.



**COLLAPSED DAM:**

Officials of EDOSEMA during their visit to the site of the collapsed dam.

## Supply local refineries or lose export permits, NUPRC warns oil firms

The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission has directed exploration and production companies to strictly adhere to the Crude Oil Supply Obligations for local refineries.

The commission also warned that it would deny export permits for crude oil cargoes intended for domestic refining if oil companies fail to meet their local crude supply commitments.

In a circular issued by its Public Affairs Unit on Monday, the regulatory body stressed that any changes to cargoes designated for domestic refining must receive express approval from the Commission's Chief Executive.

This directive follows complaints from local refiners, including the Dangote Refinery, over difficulties in securing adequate crude supplies, raising concerns about Nigeria's energy self-sufficiency.

According to NUPRC data, the Dangote Refinery is expected to process 550,000 barrels per day and 17.05 million

barrels per month in the first half of the year.

However, sources at the refinery claim the government has not met this demand, with suppliers requesting partial payment in US dollars.

In a letter dated February 2, 2025, addressed to exploration and production companies and their equity partners, the Commission Chief Executive, Gbenga Komolafe, reiterated that diverting crude oil meant for local refineries violates the law.

Citing Section 109 of the Petroleum Industry Act 2021, which ensures a stable supply of crude oil to domestic refineries and strengthens national energy security, Komolafe stated that NUPRC will now strictly enforce the policy and penalise defaulters.

He noted that the commission has already taken significant regulatory actions to enforce compliance with the Domestic Crude Supply Obligation. These include developing and signing the Production Curtailment and

Domestic Crude Oil Supply Obligation Regulation 2023, as well as creating the DCSO framework and procedure guide for implementation.

"Kindly note that the diversion of crude cargo designated for domestic refineries is a violation of the law, and the Commission will henceforth disallow export permits for such cargoes.

"All cargoes designated for domestic refining can only be altered with the express approval of the Commission Chief Executive. The above is for your strict compliance," the letter read.

Our correspondent gathered that, as part of efforts to resolve the issue, a stakeholder meeting attended by more than 50 key industry players was held last weekend.

At the meeting, both refiners and producers blamed each other for inconsistencies in implementing the Domestic Crude Supply Obligation policy.

Refiners claimed that producers were failing to meet supply terms and instead preferred to

sell crude abroad, forcing them to seek alternative sources of feedstock. Conversely, producers argued that refiners rarely met commercial and operational terms, compelling them to explore other markets to avoid operational bottlenecks.

However, both sides acknowledged that the regulator has implemented appropriate measures to ensure compliance.

The commission cautioned against further breaches from either party.

It advised refiners to adhere to international best practices in procurement and operational matters and reminded producers that any variation of the DCSO policy conditions requires express approval from the CCE before selling crude outside the agreed framework. This, it said, is to prevent abuse.

The CCE warned that it would no longer tolerate violations of domestic crude supply regulations, stressing that non-compliance threatens Nigeria's energy security.

## Akoko-Edo to partner investors for economic growth —Oshionogue

The Acting Chairman of Akoko-Edo Local Government, Rt. Hon. Alabi Bliss Oshionogue, has disclosed plans to engage both foreign and local investors in collaborative efforts aimed at fostering development in the area.

Speaking during a meeting with staff from the Okpemerri extraction at the Council Secretariat, Oshionogue expressed gratitude for their loyalty and commitment to his administration.

He emphasized that the Council's activities align with the renewed hope agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the five-point agenda of Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State.

Highlighting the abundant mineral resources in Akoko-Edo, the Chairman stressed the need for full exploration to enhance the area's economic prospects. He acknowledged Okpemerri's untapped potential and

longstanding neglect, vowing to bridge the developmental gaps and tackle existing challenges.

Addressing concerns about the shortage of teachers in public schools, Oshionogue assured that the Council would prioritize improving the educational system and creating a more conducive learning environment.

He also reaffirmed his commitment to a functional local government system, appreciating the continued support from Akoko-Edo North and South constituencies. He promised to clear all outstanding salary arrears left by the previous administration.

Earlier, Comrade Mayaki Ade, spokesperson of the group and Branch Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), expressed their support for the Chairman.

He called for collaboration among the executive, staff, and stakeholders to build a more effective local government system.

## Anyanwu defies PDP governors, resumes office amid leadership crisis

The embattled National Secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Senator Samuel Anyanwu, has resumed duties at the party's National Headquarters despite the PDP Governors' Forum endorsing Sunday Ude-Okoye as his replacement.

On Friday, the PDP Governors' Forum, led by Bauchi State Governor Bala Mohammed, affirmed Ude-Okoye as the party's National Secretary. Citing a recent Court of Appeal ruling, they directed the National Working Committee (NWC) to implement the judgment.

However, at around 12 noon, Anyanwu, dressed in white, arrived at the PDP National Headquarters at Wadata Plaza and proceeded directly to his office to oversee party affairs.

The PDP has been grappling with internal conflicts both be-

fore and after the 2023 general elections, leading to a prolonged leadership crisis. Party members have increasingly criticized Acting National Chairman Umar Damagum, blaming him for failing to resolve the party's challenges. Damagum took over from former Chairman Iyorchia Ayu, who was removed by the court for failing to implement crucial reforms.

The latest power struggle centers around the position of National Secretary. In 2023, the PDP's South East zone nominated Ude-Okoye, a former National Youth Leader, to replace Anyanwu, who had been selected as the party's candidate for the Imo State governorship election. This nomination deepened divisions, with the South East faction insisting that Anyanwu vacate the role due to his new political commitments.

## Planned electricity price hike...

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efforts to improve electricity supply.

"By clearing these outstanding obligations, the government is ensuring that power companies can reinvest in better service delivery, stronger infrastructure, and a more stable electricity supply for all Nigerians," she said.

Verheijen added that through a range of fiscal incentives, including Value Added Tax and Customs Duty Waivers, the Federal Government is working to lower the cost of alternative power sources such as Compressed Natural Gas and Liquefied Petroleum Gas.

She added, "The government fully understands the economic realities facing citizens and is committed to ensuring that reforms in the power sector lead to tangible improvements in people's daily lives.

"Every policy is designed with the Nigerian people in mind — eliminating unfair estimated billing, ensuring that subsidies benefit the right people, and creating the conditions for stable, affordable electricity.

"These reforms are laying the foundation for better service delivery, expanded access to electricity for homes and businesses, and unlocking prosperity for all Nigerians."

## EFCC arraigns ex-NHIS boss Usman Yusuf on fraud allegation

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arraigned a former Executive Secretary of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), Usman Yusuf, on a five-count amended charge, bordering on alleged fraud.

Usman Yusuf was arraigned

before Justice Chinyere Nwecheonwu of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Kuje, Abuja.

The defendant pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to him.

Counsel to the defendant, O.I. Habeeb, thereafter requested that his client be re-

manded in the custody of the EFCC pending the hearing of the bail application.

The trial judge, Justice Chinyere Nwecheonwu, however, pointed out that once the defendant was arraigned, he ceased to be in the custody of the EFCC.

She subsequently adjourned

the case to February 12, 2025, and ordered that Yusuf be remanded in the Kuje Correctional Centre, Abuja, pending the hearing of his bail application.

The former NHIS Executive Secretary is being accused of using his office to confer undue advantages to himself between 2016 and 2017.

## NEWS

# EDSG pledges swift action as dam collapse devastates Ekeke-Erah community

EDENIYERE OSOSE

The Edo State Government, through the Edo State Emergency Management Agency (EDOSEMA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Works, has carried out an on-the-spot assessment of the failed Emaudo Dam, assuring the affected residents of Ekeke-Erah community in Owan East LGA of a prompt response to mitigate the impact of the disaster.

The dam collapse has caused severe damage to farmlands and produce while also cutting off access roads to neighbour-

ing communities.

Leading the government delegation, the Executive Secretary of EDOSEMA, Honourable Jerry Idahosa, expressed deep concern over the situation and urged the community to remain calm and law-abiding. He reassured them of the state government's commitment, to addressing the damage and restore normalcy.

"I am here today on the directive of Mr. Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, to assess the situation firsthand," Hon. Idahosa stated. "Accompanying me are engineers from the Ministry of Works and the Zonal Coordinators for Edo North and

Edo Central. Their assessments will guide the necessary actions to be taken by the government."

He emphasized the governor's deep concern over the incident, acknowledging the devastation caused by the dam's failure. However, he assured residents that their plight has not gone unnoticed and that the government will intervene swiftly.

"I want you to be rest assured that the governor is a listening leader who will respond promptly. The most important thing is that no life was lost, as the disaster occurred at night. Please bear with us and the Edo State Government. We received

the information two days ago, and we are here today—this is the swift response we are committed to because emergencies require immediate attention," he stated.

Hon. Idahosa further encouraged residents to make use of the state's emergency hotline, 739, for prompt reporting and assistance in future situations, reaffirming the government's awareness of their predicament.

The assessment team proceeded to inspect the collapsed dam, which had reportedly failed for the second time, to evaluate the extent of the damage and recommend long-term solutions.

Meanwhile, Honourable Fred Enaikhe Aleghoro, President of the Owan General Assembly, commended the state government for its swift response and urged further actions to alleviate the suffering of the affected residents.

"I am pleased that the Executive Secretary has come with his team for an on-the-spot assessment. This demonstrates that the governor is responsive to community needs. The community is in dire need, and we would appreciate it if the governor expedites action, as he has already begun, so that we can rebuild our lives," he stated.

Similarly, Chief Yakubu, the Ezomo of Ekeke-Erah, appreciated the state government for its concern and swift response but lamented the extensive damage caused by the disaster, particularly to farmlands and market produce.

"This is an unfortunate incident that has dealt a significant blow to me and my community, especially to our farm crops. Many things have been washed away—cassava, yams, and other produce we had gathered for the market. It was a market day, and all the goods we had prepared for sale were swept away," he recounted.

## Edo council plans collaboration with investors to foster devt.

Akoko-Edo Local Government Ag Chairman, Rt. Hon. Alabi Bliss Oshionogue, has disclosed plans by the council to interface with foreign and local investors with the sole purpose of ensuring collaboration which would bring development to the Area.

Making this disclosure during a meeting with staff of the Okpemeiri extraction of the local government at the council secretariat, Rt. Hon. Oshionogue appreciated their commitment and unalloyed loyalty to his administration. He pointed out that the activities of the council were in tandem with the renewed hope agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as well as the 5-point agenda of Governor Monday Okpebholo in the State.

He further described the Local Government Area as one highly blessed with mineral resources which were capable of enhancing the economic standing of the area, hence the need to have them fully explored.

"Okpemeiri as an integral part of the Local Government Area has a lot of potentials just like other communities but has suf-

fered prolonged neglect. We are going to bridge these gaps and address the challenges head-on as a people". He said.

The Council Boss however expressed displeasure over the shortage of teachers in public schools in the Local Government Area, assuring that the Council would do all it could to ensure an improved educational system that supports quality teaching and learning for the benefit of the people.

Rt. Hon. Oshionogue who described Akoko-Edo North and South constituencies as critical stakeholders in the actualization a people oriented administration in the LGA, appreciated their support in times past, assuring that all salary arrears owed by the previous administration would be promptly paid.

Earlier in his remark, the spokesperson of the group and Branch Chairman of the NLC, Comrade Mayaki Ade, disclosed that they were with the Chairman to identify with him, while seeking the collaboration of the Executive, staff and other stakeholders to engender a mutually beneficial administration in the council area.

## Alleged cybercrime: Court orders interim forfeiture of digital assets worth \$222,729

Federal High Court sitting in Lagos has ordered the interim forfeiture of digital assets valued at \$222,729.86 and linked to the unlawful activities of the 193 foreigners and 599 Nigerians who were arrested last December, in one fell swoop by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Those arrested totaling 792 were said to have been involved in various offenses bordering on cryptocurrency investment fraud and romance scams.

Justice Alexander Owoye made the order of temporary forfeiture following an exparte application filed and moved by EFCC.

The EFCC's application moved by its counsel, Zeenat

Atiku, was brought pursuant to Section 44 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution and Section 17 of the Advance Fee Fraud Act 2006.

After granting the order, the judge also directed the EFCC to publish it in a national newspaper, to allow anyone with an interest in the assets to appear before the court within 14 days to show cause why the assets should not be permanently forfeited to the Federal Government.

The order reads, "An interim forfeiture order of this Honourable Court forfeiting to the Federal Government of Nigeria digital assets listed in the schedule hereunder, which proceeds were traced and reasonably suspected to be proceeds of unlawful activities."



SWEARING IN:

President Bola Tinubu (standing right), during the swearing in of newly appointed Federal Commissioners of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission; Federal Character Commission; National Population Commission and Permanent Secretaries at the State House.

## Mother, 19 and many children evacuated from Asaba streets

AJUWA VICTOR

The Delta State Government says over a dozen homeless children, including a 19-year-old mother and her three-month-old baby have been evacuated from public places.

The Commissioner for Women Affairs, Community and Social Development, Mrs. Pat Ajudua, made this known while briefing journalists shortly after a raid on strategic locations in Asaba and environs.

The said mother named Regi-

na Albert from Onitsha in Anambra State, who alleged she had cancer, had taken her baby to the popular Summit Junction in Asaba, in the early hours of the day to seek alms, before they were evacuated by officials of the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community and Social Development.

She narrated "I sat down begging to secure the needed fund to have an operation, when the officials came and arrested me."

The Commissioner for Women Affairs Mrs Pat Ajudua, said the exercise was aimed at taking children off the streets, where

they would be profiled before they are reunited with their parents or caregivers.

"Delta State does not encourage street hawking; we don't encourage little children, or even women sleeping under the bridge.

"They constitute nuisance, and as the days go by, they end up becoming criminals that will pose security risks to the state."

Also apprehended was a fatherless twin Clinton and Henry, who were caught alongside other children loitering in the early hours of the day.

However, Somto Ifekanma,

decried his arrest by personnel of the ministry, stating he was a sachet water vendor, who had spent the night on the streets, because he could not secure an accommodation.

He pleaded "You won't see me in Summit (Junction) again. It was because of what happened last night that I went there."

The capital city of Delta State had experienced the challenge of influx of people from neighboring and distant states, who besiege the streets to beg for alms, while some have been reported to be involved in criminal activities.

## Council boss inaugurates 2025 revenue committee members

AJUWA VICTOR

The Chairman of Oshimili South Local Government (LG) Council, Hon. Ezenyili Kelvin Obi, PhD, has officially inaugurated the Oshimili South 2025 Revenue Committee, comprising nine dedicated members.

The newly formed com-

mittee, designed to enhance revenue generation and management for the council, is chaired by Hon. Ogbueshi Brendan Iyeh, with Chief Nnamdi Egonu serving as the vice chairman amongst others.

During the ceremony, Chairman Hon Obi outlined the responsibilities of the committee, emphasizing their criti-

cal role in bolstering the local government's financial capacity and ensuring the effective collection of revenues.

This initiative is seen as a strategic move toward reinforcing the council's financial health, thereby making more resources available for community development projects.

In his acceptance speech

on behalf of other members Hon. Ogbueshi Brendan Iyeh expressed gratitude for the opportunity to function in the important committee.

He emphasized the collective efforts required to achieve their goals and underscored the significance of transparency and accountability in their operations.

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**Foreign**

**News**

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# Sports

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# OPINION

## Understanding the new law prohibiting secret cults and related activities

DR. DESMOND AGBAMA

The rise in violent activities linked to secret cults in Edo State has become a growing concern, with frequent killings and lawlessness spreading across different parts of the state. No responsible government can afford to remain silent while the lives of its citizens are threatened by a few unruly individuals.

In response to this menace, Governor Monday Okpebholo recently signed into law the Secret Cult and Similar Activities Prohibition Law 2025. This legislation is designed to eradicate cultism and related violent activities, marking a crucial step toward ensuring public safety and restoring moral order in society.

Secret cults have long been associated with clandestine activities that often result in violence, intimidation, oppression, and even murder. Many members engage in drug abuse and organised crime, creating an atmosphere of fear and distrust among the general public. Rivalries between cult groups frequently escalate into deadly clashes,



further destabilising communities.

If properly enforced, the new law has the potential to significantly enhance peace and security in Edo State. It will not only protect vulnerable youths from being drawn into cult-related violence but also offer existing

members a pathway to renounce their affiliations without fear of persecution. The law ensures that those willing to leave cult groups receive protection and rehabilitation support.

Governor Okpebholo's administration is committed to engaging and em-

powering the youth through meaningful programs that redirect their focus from crime and violence to productive ventures. By doing so, the government aims to dismantle the structures that sustain cult-related activities.

A critical feature of the new legislation is its empowerment of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to take decisive action against offenders while safeguarding individuals who wish to abandon cultism. However, investigations reveal that many of these secret cults, also known as confraternities, are formally registered organisations with structured leadership. Some of their leaders hold influential positions in religious, traditional, and corporate circles.

Given this reality, engaging these leaders in meaningful dialogue and collaboration could prove beneficial. They are key stakeholders in the fight against cult violence and can play a role in educating their members on the need to renounce criminal activities. As the saying goes, "Iron sharpens iron." Cult leaders, if properly engaged, could help curb the excesses of

their members and promote peace.

For the law to be fully effective, support from community leaders, religious organisations, and traditional rulers is essential. Public awareness is equally crucial to ensuring that citizens understand the law's implications and support its enforcement.

Under Section 5 of the law, any individual found to be a member of a secret cult or providing financial support to such groups faces a 21-year jail term. Section 6 stipulates that anyone who accommodates cult members or allows their property—whether a house, hotel, or garden—to be used for cult-related activities will forfeit the property or have it destroyed by the government. Additionally, cult members who engage in murder will face the death penalty.

Governor Okpebholo's bold move signals a clear message: Edo State will no longer tolerate the violence and destruction caused by secret cults. However, enforcing this law effectively will require a collaborative effort from all sectors of society to ensure that the state remains safe, stable, and conducive to growth.

## BOOK REVIEW

### The JOURNEY...

IGBOTAKO NOWINTA

This review was (Presented During The 3rd Award Ceremony/ Honouring Chief Sam Igbe, the Iyase of Benin Kingdom/ Book Launch titled: The Journey...organized by Lebarty Community Health Foundation on Friday, January 31, 2025 @ Moses Hall, Gloria Gardens & Event Centre, 14 Commercial Avenue, GRA, Benin City, Nigeria.)

Author: Pastor, Ovis Enahoro

Number of Pages: 84

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BOOK REVIEWER: IGBOTAKO NOWINTA

(Serial Author/Media/Research Consultant @ Nigeria Good Governance Research Centre NNGRC; PhD Candidate, Glorious Vision University, Oyo, Edo State, Nigeria.)

Foreword by: Chief Sam Igbe, MON D.Litt (Honoris Causa), The Iyase of Benin Kingdom; Patron, Lebarty Community Health Foundation.

The JOURNEY... is a unique book, painstakingly put together by the author to show case the stupendous philanthropic cum medical interventions of a determined, visionary and

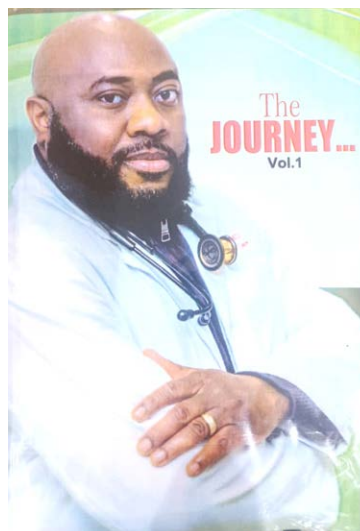
brilliant medical practitioner.

There is no doubt that the author has been able to put together the personality of a marvel, a pragmatic innovative workaholic; a young man grateful to his maker, with a big heart meant to serve the needy. Dr. Nosa Aigbe Lebarty, going by what is written in this book is definitely entrusted by destiny to embark on a great missionary cum medical journey, imbued with ability to build his own empire for service to humanity.

Perhaps an extract from Chief Sam Igbe's foreword would open a door to the subject matter in this documentation when he wrote: "Anyone who has taken the time to follow the journey of this remarkable young man can attest to his extraordinary character. Dr. Lebarty has risen from a humble background to become a distinguished medical doctor with a successful practice in the United States of America. His story is a testament to what can be achieved with hard work, determination, an unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of others".

Readers are going to see a book carefully packaged to put Dr. Nosa Aigbe Lebarty, in his enviable lane of selflessness, as the titles of the chapters speaks volumes about the extraordinary personality and wondrous activities of the subject matter:

Chapter One: The Man



Chapter Two: Humble Beginnings

Chapter Three: Close Shave

Chapter Four: Encomiums

In this book the author dwells essentially on what she enunciated on the preface of the book thus: "The Journey is an attempt to show case Dr. Nosa Aigbe Lebarty's growing up challenges, his good heart, victories and successes. Interestingly, Dr. Nosa has become widely recognised abroad and in Nigeria, Edo State in particular, because of his humanitarian gestures through his foundation, Lebarty Community Health Foundation and his contribution to the health sector...Dr. Nosa has become a beacon of hope to humanity with his philanthropic lifestyle, bringing joy to the homes of many through numerous programmes embarked upon by his foundation'.

In chapter one: "The Man", the author delivered the heart of the matter. According to her:"

Dr. Lebarty received his undergraduate education from Medgar Evers College (Brooklyn) and graduated Cum Laude, at Medgar Evers, he was an engaging student. He participated in both educational and non - educational activities...He is certified through the American Board of Family Medicine. Additionally, Dr. Lebarty has diverse medical background, and he has been working in Hospital Medicine since 2012...Dr. Lebarty is the owner of Telemedicine Platform (Lebarty Medical Telehealth), where he is able to assess patients remotely in Nursing homes. He is the founder and President of Project Health Africa with goal of providing affordable and dependable healthcare to the poorer communities in Africa".

The theme in chapter two: "Humble Beginnings" was graphically rendered as follows:"Growing up in the ancient city of Benin, in the then Bendel State, South - South of Nigeria, Nosa was a lively and interesting young man who began a journey that has been characterised by several achievements, the results of his dogged determination to succeed and fulfil his ambition of offering selfless service to the society".

Chapter three: "Close Shave" was aptly captured by the author in this way:" The Lebarty Community Health Foundation through the presentation of awards annually to appreciate deserving individuals for their contribution to societal development has been in the forefront of promoting excellence

in service. The vision of the foundation is also to help those who cannot help themselves and to honour those who are encouraging others to strive for excellence in their chosen profession as well as those who have paved the path in trying to help other folks"

In chapter four: "Encomiums", the author posited:"Emeritus Prof. Augustine Orhue, a former consultant to the World Health Organisation (WHO), believes that Dr. Nosa Aigbe Lebarty deserves commendation for assisting the health care sector in Nigeria, with the Lebarty Community Health Foundation, and the hospital he is building in Edo State. If wealthy Nigerians can emulate this kind gesture of coming to invest in their country, the escalating mortality rate through deadly diseases would drastically reduce".

The book ends with arrays of distinguished personalities from varied background, pouring profusely heart warming encomiums on Dr. Nosa Aigbe Lebarty, for his deep seated commitments to alleviate the terrible sufferings the underprivileged folks are going through in Nigeria, most especially via provision of adequate medical care.

Written with readable language that drips with the passion and eloquence of an experienced journalist, this Journey is simply captivating.

From the content analysis of this book, it is clear that Dr. Nosa Aigbe Lebarty is an embodiment of steadfastness and doggedness in his chosen career; a medical doctor per excellence; a lover of human dignity and merchant of virtuous humanity.