

SECTORAL PEEP INTO HE. DR. OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION



ABIA STATE DUE PROCESS: THE UNTOLD STORY OF GREAT STRIDES.



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Prior to the inauguration of Dr. Alex Otti as the Governor of Abia State on May 29th 2023, the Due Process office in Abia was only mentioned in passing. Most public procurement procedures were arbitrarily conducted with majority of it being centralized at the table of the Governor. The same situation was also true with the payment systems. Such arbitrariness encouraged a great deal of corruption within the State Public Sector with the general public holding the short end of the stick. This system was in vogue despite the fact that the Due Process Office was established about eleven years ago after passing through all the crucibles of law making in the Abia State House of Assembly. Actually the bill establishing the

office was passed into Law and signed by the then incumbent Governor as the Abia State Public Procurement Law 2012.

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ensuring that government resourced are Judiciously utilized in the best interest of the public.

Again the emphasis on Due Process is projected to have positive impact on government revenue by curbing wastes and leakages. The government can optimize its financial resources thereby leading to an increase in its revenue base.

The revenue growth as a result of such savings could then be redirected towards infrastructural development and other essential areas ultimately benefiting the citizens of the State. In a nutshell, Due Process in public procurement serves as a mechanism for fostering economic responsibility and contributing to the overall ...

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state.

The commitment to due process is anticipated to result in a system that is not only more transparent, but also more efficient and highly productive in all the ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government in the state.

It is expected that by adhering to Due Process in procurement, the government will minimize opportunities for wastages and leakages in the economy through the effective management of its resources.

The implication of this development is that public funds will be allotted and utilized in a manner that maximizes value and reduce the likelihood of mismanagement.

It is also expected that the overall efficiency of the public sector procurement will improve through the operation of the Due Process office thereby



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development and well beings of the state and its citizenry.

Some of the objectives of Due Process includes achieving openness, competitiveness, efficiency and professionalism within the state system and to align current government policies and procedures related to public procurement, to guarantee integrity, responsibility and openness throughout the procurement procedures as well as set pricing norms and reference points.

Due process mechanism also promotes the use of equitable, competitive transparent and cost effective standards and methods in the acquisition and divestment of public assets.

Inspite of this noble motive that informed the establishment of the Due Process Office, nothing much was known about the office as much of the rules in its provisions were observed in breach until the inauguration of Dr. Alex Otti into office in May 29th.

Prior to his coming into office, Dr. Alex Otti had during the campaign period promised that his Labour Party Government will instill public transparency, accountability and due process in public procurement through the revitalization and strengthen of the Due Process Office, if elected.

Since assumption of office, His Excellency, Dr. Alex Otti has walked his talk through ensuring that the Due Process Office is re-organized and strengthened in other to ensure that Public Procurement in the State is done procedurally within the laid down rules and with a great deal of transparency and openness.

Gov.Otti has achieved this feat through the

appointment of an experienced, vibrant brilliant and trusted professional in the person of Dr. Oluebube Amarauche Chukwu who is also very versatile with government procedures to drive the process.

Since his assumption of office in June 2023 Dr Oluebube Chukwu has done all within his reach to ensure that the Governor's ambitions about the Due Process Office is realized.

Some of the achievements of Dr Chukwu as the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Due Process within these few months interval includes the following:

- Ensuring that all government contract awards follows the Due Process thus giving room to call for tenders and competitive bidding.

- Also, indicated documents for the Governor's decisions are reviewed accordingly.

- The Due Process office has ensured quality and cost savings

in government contracts through competitive bidding process.

- The Due Process office has guaranteed revenue generation through administrative fees.

- The office has developed an assessment tool for assessing Procurement Procedures.

- It has also created a legend for Contractors' registration in Abia state, as well as generated Contractor Classification with corresponding rates.

- The Due Process Office has expanded from two rooms office block to occupying a full duplex, with the building completely renovated together with the computerization of the entire office, while the Bureau Offices have been furnished with ultra modern office

equipment and furniture.

- In other to add greater impetus and strengthen its activities, the Due Process Office, through the Legal Department, commenced the process of amending the law to change its name from the Bureau of Public Procurement to Due Process and Public Procurement Bureau.

- The Due Process Office, has established collaboration with the national office of the Bureau for Public Procurement, and the results are massive.

- In a bid to let the public be acquainted with its programs and the achievements of the present administration, the Office have ensured regular media appearances in both the print and electronic media, and that has helped raising awareness about issues of Due Process and Public Procurement in the public domain.

- The Bureau has further developed a Monitoring and Evaluation Tracking Tool for its Monitoring and Evaluation unit

- The Office has also initiated an online service integration with the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the benefits can not be overemphasized.

- In order to prepare the staff of Due Process for maximum productivity which is part of its goals, the Head of the Bureau had engaged in Human Capacity Training for key staff as well assembled the right team in various departments for Procurement in Abia state.

Worthy of note is the spirited efforts of the Management of Due Process Office to developed eight Departments and some Units within the Bureau, and there is no gainsaying the fact that all that have been achieved so far are due to the spirited efforts of the Staff of the Departments, and they are still pushing ahead by interfacing with other government agencies to ensure that the manifesto of Governor Alex Otti is roundly actualized.



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THE PROFILE OF DR OLUEBUBE AMARAUCHE CHUKWU- SENIOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR ON DUE PROCESS



The Abia Due Process Office is headed by Dr Oluebube Amarauche Chukwu who was appointed as the Senior Special Assistant on Due Process and Procurement in June 2023 by the Executive Governor of Abia state, Dr Alex Otti within one month of his inauguration in office.

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modernization agenda for the state.

A quick glance at Dr Oluebube Chukwu's academic and professional background will attest to this assertion.

Dr Chukwu hails from Isuochi, Umunneochi Local Government Area of the State. He is the second of the five children born to Prof Amarauche Chukwu, a renowned Pharmacist and Scholar, and Mrs. Chinomso Amarauche Chukwu.

Dr Chukwu was nurtured at the serene University town of Nsukka where he achieved most of his educational career. He attended the University of Nigeria Secondary School and Nigeria's first indigenous University, all in Nsukka for his academic pursuits. He acquired his Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication in 2011 and the Masters of Arts in 2015. His Doctor of Philosophy with Specialization in Public Relations and Advertising was achieved in 2018.

He is also a licensed Project Manager and business consultant.

Following his graduation in 2012, Oluebube fulfilled his National Youth Service programme commitment by

teaching at St Luke's Grammar School, Ibadan, Oyo State. While pursuing his Post graduate degree programme, he worked as a consultant for ByteWorks Technology Solution in Enugu in Enugu state and Songhai Nigeria Partnership Initiative (GTE) in Abia state.

After obtaining his Doctorate, Oluebube returned to UNN and served as a senior lecturer in the Department of Mass Communication from 2019 to 2022.

He was appointed the Senior Special Assistant to Abia state Governor, Dr Alex Otti in June 2023. Aside heading the Due Process Office, Dr Oluebube is involved several top Policy Initiatives of the State Government. Such notable initiatives include facilitating the subsidized CAC business registration and overseeing waste management bids. He also made robust contribution to such policy initiatives such as Umuahia Catholic Church Investment Project, Bid Review committee, Pension Reform and Civil Service Reform committees.

Dr. Oluebube holds membership of several esteemed Organisations that includes the International Association of World Peace Advocates (IAWPA) 2019, Nigeria Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) 2019, Police Community Public Relations Committee (PCPRC) 2018, African Council fo Communication Education (ACCE) 2012, Project Management Professional, 2014, Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM) 2012, Institute of Business Advisers, 2012, Project Management Professional Institute, 2012 and many more.

All these and many more showcases Dr. Oluebube Chukwu's commitment to Professional Development and Engagement.

Dr Chukwu's robust profile no doubt symbolizes Dr Alex Otti's preference for very brilliant and experienced professionals assisting him to build a New Abia State.



Dr. Chukwu in a management meeting with senior staff