**Interview with Barr Ikio**

The governor is a friend I have known for several years. I met him when he became commissioner of sport; i think it is from 1996. A lot has been said about him in the formation of INC as he contributed a lot even at a young age before I met him in person. He is very remarkable, his peaceful nature, keeping to his words, he is humble. I have known all these qualities in him before he became governor. When you see him, you don't see that power drunk kind of attitude in him.

**Peace**

Douye Diri is a man of peace. He also believes peace is the only thing that can bring about development in the state. He has also restored peace to the state as governor. During his campaign for governor in nembe, there was a disaster which we still refer to as black wednesday and this happened on the 13th of November.

When he became the governor all he said to us from that extraction in PDP that we should calm down that God is in charge that lets let peace reign. He does not believe in using violence to solve problems. He is a peacemaker. The peace environment we enjoy in Nembe is as a result of his peace resolution. People no longer move with fear anymore. There is now peace and serenity among both PDP and the APC members in the area and also in Bayelsa in general.

There is something about being loud about what you want to do and there is something about being determined to achieve what you want to achieve. The methods may be different. The governor is operating quietly to ensure that peace returns to yenagoa. Yenagoa is more peaceful than before. Even in the creeks, kidnaping and violence has reduced.

**COVID -19 Interventions**

The governor and his team properly handled covid 19. He locked down at the right time and on the whole I think COVID-19 was properly managed in Bayelsa state. Even in the area of funds, the governor managed the available fund prudently. That is why even at the face of the pandemic he was able to pay salaries and some work was going on.

**Urban Renewal**

He is a quiet achiever. Because he is a careful planner that is why he was able to achieve what he achieved in tombia junction. Without building a flyover, the traffic has been managed and the area has also been beautified. If the tempo is sustained, the face of yenagoa will change. I plead to Bayelsans to cooperate with the physical planning board to be able to change the face of yenagoa.

The governor taking the lead and the board following, the next is the corporation of the people. yenagoa need to move away from the tag of a slum capital to a city

**Infrastructure**

Roads are a key thing in development. The governor is taking it head long. He is working on the two major roads in yenagoa, the Igbogene to Ait road and the government house drive from the ecumenical center and these roads are very helpful. Work is also going on in the senatorial roads, Sagbama and Central. Others will abandon works by their predecessors and go to start a new one to get glory for himself but he is not seeking to get any glory. That is why he has continued these projects as he knows the importance of the roads.

The Nembe brass road also is in the pipeline. The governor has also started work at the unity bridge at Nembe. We used to use boats to cross there as a child, the Sylva administration started the road and it was abandoned. But as he came, he started work.

**Pensioners**

It is very commendable for the governor to pay pensioners. Nationally many had died queuing up for their pension but here it is payment made easy. The backlog payments give comfort. He gives comfort to the pensioners. He has also created local government pension boards or commissions to bring pension payment close to the people. It is very commendable to think of the old people.

**Diversification**

I pray the governor to take the issue of agriculture seriously. i also want to thank him and the executive council for their effort in agriculture. we have a good soil for growing yams. we have some non-indigenes growing yams also here. we need to make effort to harness our natural resources which will increase the IGR of the state. if the youths will key into the agricultural plans of the government they will be able to make money for themselve thereby reducing kidnapping and stealing.

**Power**

The government is working on it but yet to be in charge yet.