



DOUYE DIRI: IN THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE



VOX
POP



Okikia Oyisobo Warmate

Question: What can you say about the Bayelsa State Transport Terminal?

Answer: This Terminal is a good development which will positively affect the community and Bayelsa State. It will create employment for so many youths and make the environment very conducive. It will stop rowdy and illegal parking in the State. We will have very cordial relationship with the government through this park and it will generate enough revenue to our dear State, Bayelsa.

What do you think about the quality of the project?

The project is of good quality and the man handling the project is doing a wonderful job. The work is visibly good and everything there is of a good standard. Right now they are tiling it and it's over 70 per cent completed. If you go inside to inspect it you will know that the man handling the project is doing so with good taste. The man is a Bayelsan and he is trying his best, and it is evident in the work.

What is your take on government policy to relocate all public transport companies to this Terminal?

It is very good because from the start that is what has been lacking in the State. In Bayelsa State we don't have a befitting and standard park that will accommodate all the cars because if you are coming into Yenagoa you will see rowdy parking. Cars are everywhere and we don't have a particular place that can serve as a general park. So my take here is the government has done a lot and it will benefit us in time.

How can you rate the government of Governor Douye Diri after just 2 years in office?

Everyone has his perspective, but to me in the area of infrastructural development and all the rest I'll say he has done a lot but we are praying that he continues if and when he is voted in for a second tenure. That is one of the problems of this State. During the first tenure, some governors will try to showcase their ideas and embarking on some constructions but once they are re-elected they will relax and reduce their pace of work. But if Governor Douye Diri continues like this, I believe that Bayelsa is on a better track.

Do you have any goodwill message for the Governor?

My message to Governor Douye Diri is that he should continue and not relent. Whatever things he wants to do to better the lives of Bayelsans, he should do it. And we Bayelsans are behind him 100 per cent, and we will always support him. He should continue, he is a good man and we are with him.



King Bobo Asomo

What do you think about this Bayelsa State Transport Terminal project?

This Terminal project is very wonderful and it is an indication that the Prosperity Government is working. We, the Bayelsans, we like it. The project will bring enough benefit to the community and to the entire State. The project is very beautiful and we are quite happy with it.

What is the quality of the project?

This project is of high quality. The interior and exterior surface is of good quality and has a high standard. The contractor really put in the best while constructing this Bayelsa State Transport Terminal.

What benefits will this project bring to this community in terms of government policy to relocate all illegal parks to the Transport Terminal in Igbogene?

We are going to gain a lot from it, mostly the community, but Bayelsa State at large. Prior to this Administration, there has been nothing like a state park. What we have are illegal parks that are an eyesore. This Terminal will reduce traffic caused by illegal parks and also lessen the rate of theft carried out on travellers who stop at illegal parks. It will bring a lot of employment to the youth because this place will house all the buses of various transit companies.

What is your goodwill message to Governor Douye Diri?

The governor should continue his good deeds. He should not stop and not deviate from what he is doing. We like him and we are totally behind him.



Felix



Love Odereofieme

What can you say about the Glory Drive?

The road construction is going on well and it is giving Bayelsa State a much-needed facelift, precisely Yenagoa, the state capital.

Do you think this road will relieve some of the burden of other roads in Yenagoa?

Sure, it will. As you can see, this is another good road in Yenagoa. It is a way out. It used to be one way in and one way out when we had just the Mbiamma/Yenagoa Road, but with this one people can easily move in and out of the state capital.

What do you think about the quality of the work done?

Merely looking at it, the road is quite good. I am not an engineer but from the look of the road, including the intermittent drainage system and the roundabout just after the Ecumenical Centre, the road has good quality.

Do you think this road will offer any kind of economic benefit to Bayelsans?

Financially it will benefit commuters and Bayelsans in general. It will help people grow because it will make it easier for traders to bring in goods and it'll also provide a way out for goods made in the State. Accessibility is key to any economy and this road will provide that.

What can you say about Governor Douye Diri's pattern of leadership, bearing in mind that this road was almost abandoned due to litigations surrounding it?

It's big kudos to Governor Douye Diri. He is doing extremely well and I must appreciate him for a job well done. He has truly been remarkable in his drive to improve things for Bayelsans. This project had been abandoned for some time and he came in and almost immediately kick-started the project. He is doing well.

If Governor Douye Diri wants a second tenure, will you support him?

Yes. I don't think I've seen anybody that has done so well. Just because of this road, he has won my heart.

What do you think is the importance of this road?

This road is very very important to Bayelsa State as a whole. It is important to the state university, Niger Delta University, to those going into town, to the airport and other key institutions of government. Many people, especially the government officials, do not need to go through the Mbiamma/Yenagoa Road once this road is fully done.

What is your take on the quality of the road?

The work is ongoing but looking at what I'm seeing it is quite good especially the smoothness. I'm not an engineer but I know when a road is properly done. From the information I'm getting they have another coat to add to this very one to make it smoother but they are doing a good work.

Can you rate the Prosperity Government and what do you think about Governor Douye Diri's leadership?

For me, these two years is more than eight years of former Governor Dickson in terms of road networking.

How do you think this road will economically benefit the community, Yenagoa and Bayelsa as a whole?

This is very important to Bayelsa State, and as you can see, through here you will get to LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas Company). Through here you can get to Tombia and Tombia has one of the biggest markets and also many transport companies. So instead of passing all the way from the other side of the road to get to the market, you can just go through the Gloryland Drive. So it's very useful economically to Bayelsans at large and also the market women going to Zarama Market.

Will you support the Governor's re-election bid following his developmental drive?

I've already given him my vote from what I have seen. If it is twice or ten times, I'll still vote for Governor Douye Diri.



Kent Dickson

What can you say about the Gloryland Drive?

This road is a wonderful project. It breaks my heart that for eight years this road was left until this Government came. I know that there were some issues regarding litigations and all but my joy is that this Governor, Senator Douye Diri, realized the importance of it and solved that problem and here we are. To me this is the most important road in the State because with this road, you don't need a flyover at Tombia Roundabout. This will take you straight from wherever you are coming - Warri or even Port Harcourt - it will take you direct. I know the second phase is still ongoing, but once it's done, from here you can get straight to the State Secretariat. So you don't need to pass through the hold-up on the Mbiam/Yenagoa Road. So this is the most important road for me.

What can you say about the road quality?

The quality is quite good. I'll give it to the Chinese Civil Engineering Company carrying out the project. For me this road can compete favourably with whatever standard of road that is being done in any part of the country. It is up to standard. I'm not an engineer but I know. We've seen roads that the moment they are laying the asphalt the next thing you see are potholes but this is a standard road.

How would you rate the Governor after 2 years in office?

Regarding this road - the cost of constructing roads in this State is very expensive, compared to other states, so we cannot compare his to other states'. For me I'll give him 80 per cent, and in other areas like welfare of civil servants, he has been doing excellently. Pensioners are being paid regularly, which we didn't see in previous governments. Salaries are being paid even on the 24th or 25th. So he has been exceptional.

Will you support a re-election bid by him?

If he continues this style of leadership at this rate, then we'll definitely need to give him some more time to complete the good work that he has started. He deserves a second tenure.



Oko Florence

What is the importance of the Bayelsa State Transport Terminal to you and the community of Igbogene?

The bus terminal is very important to us. This is because as soon as it is done it will benefit all of us. It makes things easier and creates employment for youths.

How will it improve the lives of people around?

It will bring improvement in terms of commerce. It will increase trading in the area and boost the economy. It will bring development to the community and also generate more traction.

What can you say about the project's quality?

The terminal is of good quality. Governor Douye Diri really did a wonderful job and I must say kudos to him.

How can you rate Governor Douye Diri's Administration?

Governor Douye Diri is doing an amazing job and he should keep it up. If he continues like this we will all vote for him for a second tenure.



Deacon Dennis Omos

What do you think of the Bayelsa State Transport Terminal project?

This project originally was initiated by former Governor Timipre Silva but he didn't do much work but since Governor Douye Diri, work on this project has been going on smoothly and that is very good. We are sure that in the nearest future, it will be finished.

How is the quality of the work?

I just took a stroll to the vicinity of the project and after assessing it, I was so impressed at the speed and quality of the work put in. I like it, is very neat and beautiful. Thank God for that.

How do you think it will improve the economy of the area?

Development has come already. It will generate employment. Banks will also be situated within the Terminal and it will reduce the plights of those in the area who have to travel all the way into town to conduct bank transactions.

What is your take on the Governor's Administration after just 2 years?

The Governor is trying, considering some of the challenges he has faced. I must commend him, he is trying. He is using the limited funds judiciously. I think God is using him to develop this State.

Any goodwill message for Governor Diri?

I want to urge him to do more. He should employ the youth, create jobs for them and also continue his good deeds.

The importance of this road is that it has linked a lot of areas. Initially this place was a bush, and there was only a bush part that people followed to their farms but now it has been opened up with a major road which links here to AIT Road, connecting many areas within the State. So the importance of this road is that, economically it will help in boosting the economy of the state and also make movement easier for people. For example, if you are going from here to AIT Road, instead of going through the Yenagoa main town, you just cut across here which is shorter. So that is one of the most important economic benefits of this very road to the state and the masses.

What is the quality of the road in your view?

I believe before the Government gave this contractor this work they must have ascertained that he has the capacity to carry out the project and also to make it solid. Also from the look of things, physically the road is very good and smooth. I think it's in order.

Can you rate the Governor's Administration after 2 years in office?

Since Governor Douye Diri came into power, he has been carrying out infrastructural development with the intention of beautifying the State. For example, look at Tombia Roundabout area, it was an eyesore before but under Governor Douye Diri it has become a very beautiful place. Also looking at this road, even the streetlights and many more, I think the Governor has tried a lot in these 2 years and I believe before he rounds off his first tenure he will do even better than this.

What can you say about the Bayelsa State Transport Terminal?

This Terminal as you can see, apart from boosting the image of the Igbogene community, it will also serve as a point where various transport companies will have their parks here which will make it easier for people to commute from here within and outside the State. Therefore I think that this will help in boosting the economy of Bayelsa State.

Can you explain how it will help the people of Igbogene?

It will positively improve our lives, definitely. It will make transportation easier. We hear that it won't only house the transport companies but there will also be a market here, there will be banks here and so many infrastructure that is only found within the Yenagoa city centre. With this, it will alleviate the pains of people who have to go all the way into the town to access banks. There will also be a market where one can buy anything at all. It is very good.



Haruna Phillips

What do you think is the economic importance of the Igbogene-Okarki road?



Elder Ada George

What is your take on this Igbogene-Okarki Road?

We are extremely happy for the road. It makes it easy for us to go to Okarki or go to our farms especially the farmers; they are benefitting from it because it is easier for them to access their farms with tricycles or motorcycles.

How was the ordeal before the construction of the road?

Before they created this road, we used to suffer. We used to trek very long distances to get to our farm and carry heavy loads all the way back to town. Transporting farm produce was difficult but now it is quite easy.

What can you say about the Governor after 2 years in office?

For Governor Douye Diri to make this type of road in under 2 years says a lot about him. We thank him so much and I expect more before the end of his first tenure. And I will definitely vote for him if he wants a second tenure.

Any goodwill message for Governor Douye Diri?

God should strengthen him, give him long life, the ideas and funds to continue in his good deeds. I hope that he generates jobs that can employ the youth.

pedestrian lane so the wide median will help pedestrians walking along this area. The quality is quite good.

What are the economic benefits of this road to the people around and the State?

When they began construction of the road, a lot of the indigenes were mobilised and employed to work and participate in the construction. Also the C.L.O is an indigene of the host community so I think that is a way of creating employment thereby boosting the economy.

How can you rate the Governor's 2 years in office?

Governor Douye Diri is hard-working and creative, he is good. If you look at this community you will see a lot of infrastructure. He is making a lot of difference in the whole State.

Do you have any goodwill message?

Kudos to Governor Douye Diri. Please keep working hard and I'm sure you will win a second tenure.



John Ekpebu



Timipah Johnathan Daniel

What is the importance of this road?

As you can see, this road links Igbogene community to AIT axis and it is also a short cut for commuters from Mbiam to AIT area. Also for the people working or living in Okarki, this will be a short way for them instead of going through town. The road is very important.

Can you tell us about the quality of the road?

As you can see, the median is very wide and it is very important for pedestrians because they have not created a pedestrian lane so the wide median will help pedestrians

What is your view of government building the Bayelsa State Transport Terminal at Igbogene?

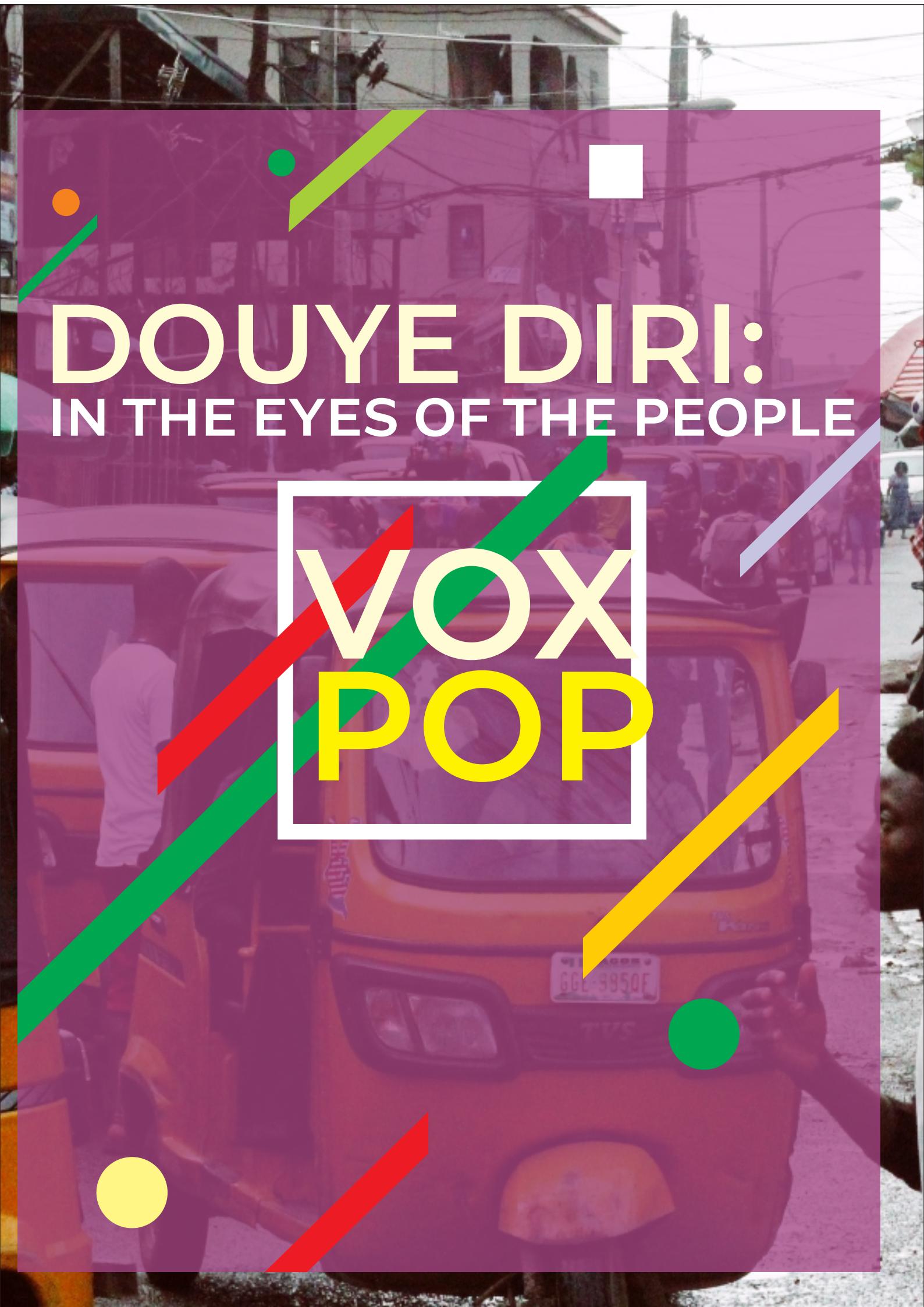
That project is for the development of the State. It will increase the economic benefits for the State. To ensure that citizens of this State get the best, so I believe it will massively benefit us. It's a good project if the right people will benefit from it.

How can you rate the Governor's style of leadership after 2 years in office?

Presently he has done admirably. For 2 years he has been able to show capacity in governance and for that he deserves a second tenure.

Any goodwill message?

Governor Douye Diri should keep on the good work. Let him continue doing what he knows best, second tenure is guaranteed.



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ADA GARZA

When we didn't have this Governor (Senator Douye Diri), Sampou had been suffering. Like our road was not good. We had to paddle our canoes through it whenever it got flooded, but when the Governor came in, he built the shore guard to stop water from entering the community. He is also doing many projects. For instance, we used to trek to Kaiama but now we have a road we take - we do not need to walk, rather we drive, which is very good.



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JOHNSON TIMINIBIFE



My name is Johnson Timinibife. Am from Angiama Kingdom in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area. I feel so happy because the road has gotten to us here in Angiama. Before now, going to Yenagoa was very difficult and some times some people spend days on the road from Angiama to Yenagoa, and we paid over N1,500. But now we pay N800, and we believe after now we will be paying as little as N300. My message is that the Governor should please continue this great work as we pray for him.

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PROMISE AMBAOWEI AZU

My name is Promise Ambaowei Azu. Am from Angiama Kingdom in Oporoma community in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. It is really difficult to express how I feel about the ongoing (Yenagoa-Oporoma-Ukubie) road project and the about-to-start bridge project to Oporoma town.

When you are overwhelmed or happy, some persons will think that you are praising the Governor too much but we are not praising him more than he deserves.

You know that when you are from a good home, it is your parents' responsibility to feed you and take care of your basic necessities, but you still need to thank them for that. So, it's on that note we say thank you to Douye Diri. I have cause to call him 'My Governor'



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You can see that the people are overwhelmed and that is why a lot of people find it difficult to express their gratitude to Senator Douye Diri, the Governor of Bayelsa State.

because since the inception of democracy, I haven't seen this kind of leader coming to our village.

We had to go through difficulties because no access road, but now you can just travel to the village. And such a person, what we owe him is to say thank you and encourage him for continuity.

You can see that the people are overwhelmed and that is why a lot of people find it difficult to express their gratitude to Senator Douye Diri, the Governor of Bayelsa State.

This road will facilitate development, it will enhance economic activities and by so doing the lives of my people will improve drastically. So, I want to say to my Governor, "Thank you so much for what you are doing; looking at you, you are a true democrat and you are a man that is sensitive to the needs of your people." And like I said earlier, we need to encourage him and pray that God guide him for continuity.

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NOAH BUOPELE

I am Noah Buopele, the deputy ruler of Angiama kingdom. This road was started by His Excellency (Chief Melford) Okilo (of blessed memory) but was abandoned after he left office, and this was in old Rivers State. The feeling of the people is so enormous because the social life of the people has improved. We have been suffering for long; from Angiama to Ayama, we were paying N1,200 but now we are paying N500 to N600 to Yenagoa. So, the social life and every other thing has changed; the benefits are enormous.

So, we are saying thank you to Governor Douye Diri. If at all you can see the feelings of our people, they are so happy for what our Governor is doing and some of us are waiting to see him and welcome him and show appreciation



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for what he has done. And we expect more from him. When I say more, you know that road network is the major development, other amenities like light, water, and what have you. Like in Angiama community, our secondary school is nowhere - just like a death trap. So, we want our Governor, who is a project Governor, to do more for us.

The performance level of our Governor, I can tell you, is over 95% and the quality of the road is solid. And the company is trying. I am expecting our good Governor to extend this road to other communities. And this bridge should be called Angiama-Oporoma Bridge or Angiama Bridge.



PEREMIYA GRAY BENSON

My name is Peremiya Gray Benson, from Angiama Kingdom in Oporoma clan, Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. We thank the Governor so much. When they told us about democracy in Nigeria for over four decades since the time of Melford Okilo, they started promising us that this road will get to Angiama and to Oporoma. Today, it amazes us, what Governor Douye Diri is doing. And that is why you can drive down here to interview us. Before now, here was a thick forest. And we are happy and we pray that he should continue this good work and let him not stop here but let him continue this road to Oporoma, our local government headquarters and beyond.



As long as Governor Douye Diri is concerned, we don't want to hear any other name: it is only Douye Diri .

We don't have any problem with the quality of this road; the contractors are doing a great job, the road is solid and we are happy with that. My message to the Governor: "You are too much." We, the people of Angiama, are thanking him so much for this work that he is doing.

And we pray that the good Lord will keep him alive. As long as Governor Douye Diri is concerned, we don't want to hear any other name: it is only Douye Diri that we know and we will thank him so much when the road gets to where it is going, which is Oporoma Kingdom.

EBIKEFE PEREKIRI

Governor Douye Diri has done wonderfully in KOLGA (Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area), especially in the construction of a shore guard. This has prevented water from entering into the area like it used to before and it's a very good thing. Before now during flood, water flowed into the town and people in the community usually packed out.

People who buy and sell in this community could not drive their vehicles in to carry their goods or to move them out, but now they can drive in and out transacting business without obstruction.



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I am convinced that he is ready to develop the State and I will support him to come again for second term, so he can complete all he has started.

Ever since Douye Diri became Governor, he has done several projects in such a way that people who have left the community for a long time, when they come, they always notice the massive changes taking place.

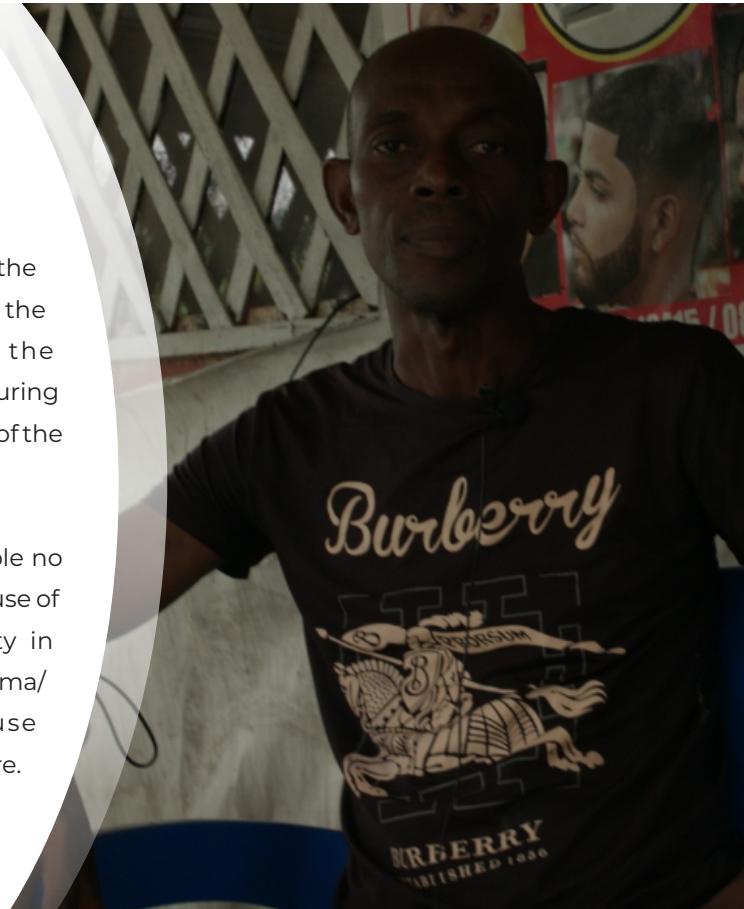
Considering the rate at which he is carrying out projects in every corner of the community, I am convinced that he is ready to develop the State and I will support him to come again for second term, so he can complete all he has started.

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ENGINEER ENOCH SAMUEL

I am an engineer; I came to Sampou because of the development taking place here. Because of the terrain in Sampou, when there is flood, the community normally gets submerged, and during that period most of the villagers usually travel out of the town and return when the flood goes.

But after the shore guard was constructed people no longer have to travel out of the community because of flood, and this has impacted the community in several ways. People are coming into Kolokuma/Opokuma for business and also because construction works are taking place everywhere.



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KENNEDY ELEYA

Governor Douye Diri has solved the challenge of flood in Kolokuma/Opokuma with the construction of shore guard to prevent flood from entering into the communities. People now come in and build their houses. The people are very happy about the shore guard project. Aside from the shore guard, there are still several projects scattered in every corner of KOLGA, and it is good.





PETI AYANMA

The Prosperity Administration led by Senator Douye Diri has done a lot in Kolokuma/Opokuma. He has built a school of health, a grammar school, primary schools and also a pavilion for town meeting and many more.

Now because of the shore guard that was done across all the communities in KOLGA (Kolokuma Opokuma Local Government Area), we no longer face flood challenges here. If am to rate him for his work on a scale of 1 to 100 I will rate him 90 and even vote for him for second term.



TIMIPA DIYEFA

I am a media aide to his Excellency, Senator Douye Diri. Since he became Governor of Bayelsa State, flood-induced sufferings of Sampou and neighbouring communities have ceased. He has done the shore guard project which has helped prevent the communities from flooding like it used to be, and a lot of other projects are ongoing in the area. We have the school of midwifery, vocational centre, Mopol (Mobile Police) base, close to the market, for officers of the Navy, Fire Service and the Police. As I speak a pavilion project is ongoing.



When the shore protection was not done, way back 2012-2013, the people always felt devastated because then we had to relocate to other places and then we used to pull boats along all the roads. This shore protection project is not only done in Kolokuma /Opokuma, it is all around communities in all local governments in the State.



LARRY PREGHAFI

RETIRED BANKER

This time we are privileged to have a governor from the core Ijaw, in the sense that Isaac Adaka Boro, who was from KOLGA (Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area), sacrificed his life, and I think at this time that we are having a governor from this part of the world is very interesting. Douye Diri becoming a governor is purely a miracle because we knew that the APC (All Progressives Congress) had already won the election, whether by any other means, but as God would have it, He decided to say it is KOLGA's turn through Douye Diri.

Douye Diri came to power at a time the economy was bad all over the world and not only the economy, an ailment known as Corona Virus came that the whole world stood still. No right-thinking man was able to do anything reasonable even if he wanted to; you were compelled to stay home. Almost a year plus, it was not easy for movement and really proper planning to execute them, but Douye Diri actually started in such a manner to prove that administrators don't leave a vacuum.

He started with projects of Seriake Dickson (his immediate predecessor) and with that he has touched some key areas. And the major issue over which I can say that we give kudos to Douye Diri is the real peace we have. Because at the time before he came in, movement was becoming almost impossible. These criminals were hijacking young ladies

hijacking young ladies that were moving, including men, even vandalizing cars. But he had the courage to take the bull by the horn in terms of security. Since he grew up a son of the soil, he knew all the nooks and crannies.

He started as a youth here, schooled and grew up, worked, served as INC (official), as commissioner, and all that. What makes a leader is exposure; when you are exposed, it is like good soup you cook. When you blend it so much with so many ingredients, the flavour and the taste become palatable. I think he is well built.

One of the key things I will advise is that those that are around him should not look at the distinguished Senator's humility; he is somebody that likes hard work and he doesn't want to toy with people who work hard.

I think he has done quite well but there is still a lot more to do because we are in the 21st century and a growing state. So if we say he has done well, I mean it is not something to praise him about. He will continue to do more because Bayelsa State is the least developed State in Nigeria; so the more you do the more we expect you to do. So let nobody think that he has overdone or he has not.

The greatest thing about a leader is managing human beings and resources. Douye Diri, who grew up from this part of the world knew that the most important thing to do is to make sure that those who are retired are not being punished because that is the prayer of everybody to grow old and be pensioned. If anybody in the past has not taken that gratuity issue as a priority I think it was wrong advice from anywhere. ►

It is when human beings are happy before development can come. What are you developing for, are you not developing for human beings? So whatever thing you do that does not benefit the people first is not development.

If you build all the skyscrapers, build all the best seven star hotels and everybody is living in affluence and those who have served creditably are not well taken care of, you have not done anything well at all. You are not a manager because the human resources are your concern. It is when the people are happy you are happy. If you are a manager in a company and your workers are not happy, you think you are going to buy new machinery to equip the company? You will definitely break and fall.

It is only a happy man that can give you the best action, so that was the spirit of wisdom that came onto him to appease the elderly, whose prayers are working for him now because the prayers of the elders mean much to God. They say the elders have wisdom, not all elders but elders with vision. So Douye Diri has done quite well on that and we pray God will continue to help him out.

When a man is well brought up from a good background, the tendency to exhibit those fatherly and motherly virtues is always strong, no matter the level you are. Douye Diri's appearance is always being humble and smiling, you can hardly assess him on the next step to take. I like him for being humble. I have not seen that arrogance in him and that is what makes a leader.

The Governor has done several projects. Take the Tombia roundabout, for instance; it has given a facelift to Yenagoa. I attended my secondary school in BDGS (Bishop Dimeari Grammar School); we had just one road, and before Douye Diri came in, Yenagoa still remained like the 1970s. I knew but just a small facelift; that small is like somebody who has not taken his bath and has just gone to change. So if you had never been to Yenagoa, and you just come in newly, you will find out the place is a little bit beautiful. It is not what it used to be, like a slum

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that the service he is rendering is from God unto man.***

just gone to change. So if you had never been to Yenagoa, and you just come in newly, you will find out the place is a little bit beautiful. It is not what it used to be, like a slum where you see every dick and harry struggling in one small street and a lot of traffic jam you can't even find in Lagos, because of mismanagement. But now that he did that small beautification, it has made the place to look like a small township, that is the key.

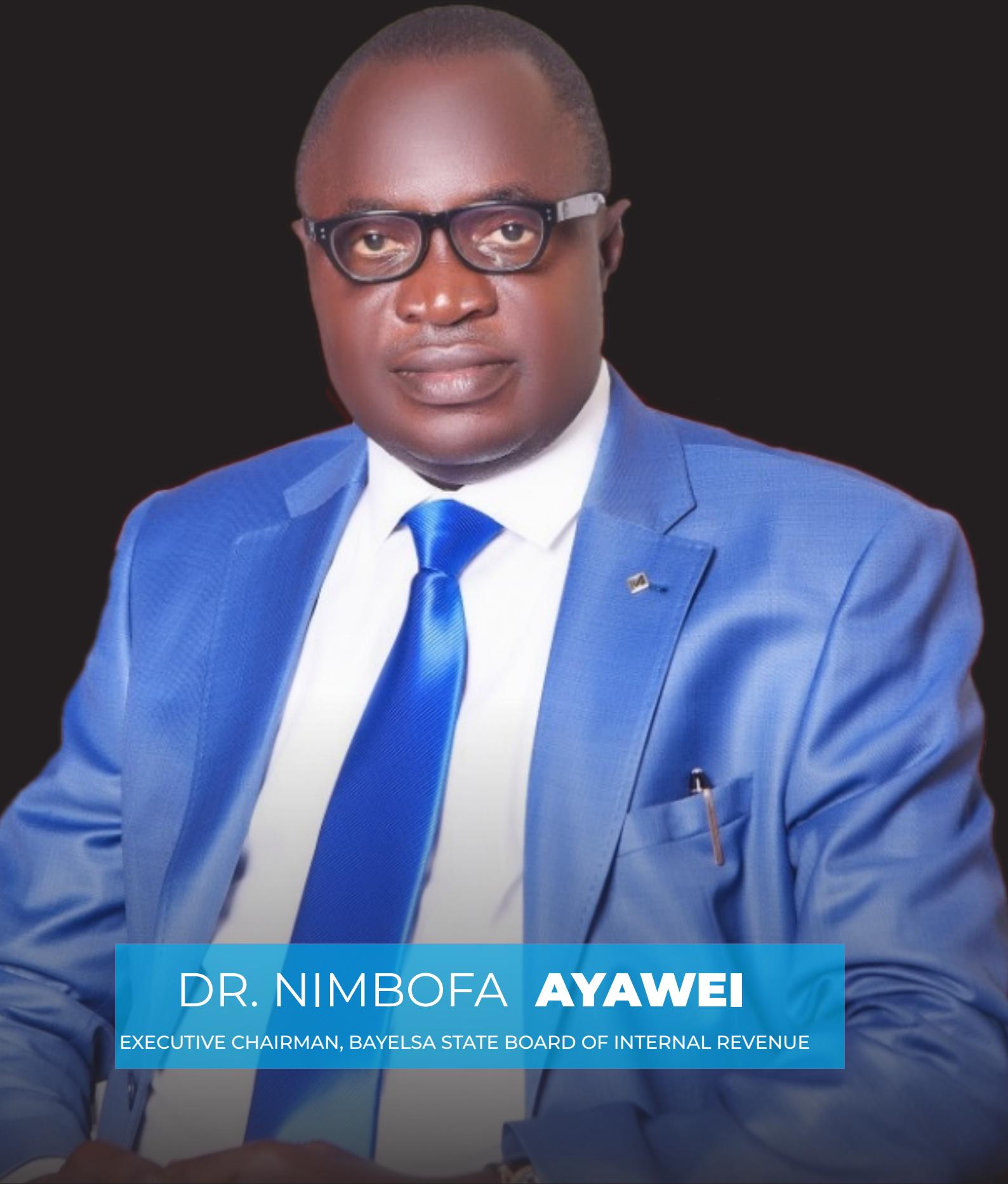
I wouldn't want to go into other developmental projects because the Governor's duty is to bring up development on day-to-day basis. It is not a company that is expecting profit; his own is service to the people and we pray that all he is doing, he should be able to complete them for the benefit of the people. That is what I need to advise him.

If I am privileged to advise him, I would want Douye Diri to be focused, to understand that the service he is rendering is from God unto man; he should not listen much to human consent. He must always know that

whatever position you are kept in authority, according to the Bible (Romans 13 vs 1 downwards), it is by the wish of God. And if you go back to Hosea 8 vs 4, you will understand that there are people who may be in the government to advise him for their personal benefit that will be detrimental to his calling. So most of the time, let him always seek the voice of the Lord in all he is doing. And since we call him a Miracle Governor, if he sticks by that, God will continue to speak to him for his benefit, because most of the people around him are loafers, sycophants, people that are now in politics for their benefit. So a man might have a very good vision but at the end of implementation most people might not give him that because of what will go into their stomach, what is known as belle kingdom. ↗

Interview

BAYELSA STATE BOARD OF INTERNAL REVENUE



DR. NIMBOFA AYWEI

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, BAYELSA STATE BOARD OF INTERNAL REVENUE

G

overnor Douye Diri came at a time when there was paucity of funds in the State and the nation at large, but he has performed to his best. It is difficult to compare what is coming into the State to the level of infrastructural development we are getting.

Sometimes we get as low as N6.5 billion from the Federation Account, we use N4.5 billion to pay salaries and to pay for other things, and in the end sometimes the Governor has only N500 million for projects. What can he do?

First, it is understanding the environment. Take, for instance, Abia: They spend N2.2 billion as wage bill but Bayelsa is about N4.5 billion, and this is because there are no other sources of income for the State. He has been managing resources far better than most could have done. The night life has improved drastically because of certain security infrastructure that has been initiated by the present Governor. Look at the lights that have brought beauty to our streets. I must commend his drive to construct roads to the senatorial districts.that were moving, including men, even vandalizing cars. But he had the courage to take the bull by the horn in terms of security. Since he grew up a son of the soil, he knew all the nooks and crannies.

Although, we earn more than a lot of states, we must put it into perspective. The amount used to construct a road in Sokoto or Osun or Enugu, Bayelsa will use 4 times the amount to construct that same kilometre of road. This is because Bayelsa State's terrain is very peculiar.

To do a road in Sokoto you just need to grade it and start putting asphalt, but to do a road in Yenagoa you need to extract the top soil, and put at least 10 metres of sand-filling, grade it before putting asphalt. This means that if Sokoto is earning N500 million and Bayelsa is earning N1 billion, the projects will be more impactful in Sokoto because their terrain helps for cost-effective projects.

Once there is road, development follows it, so constructing roads will improve the entire State in terms of infrastructure and the economy. It will help boost agriculture in areas that we have comparative advantage. If we look at aquaculture, we have a lot of mud flats and intertidal flats and you don't have to dig to get ponds.

I love that the Governor listens a lot. He does not interject you, whether you are saying what he does not like or not

but he will listen and understand your point. A listening governor is a good leader. He is also very humble.

The Nembe-Brass Road is one of the important projects to the Bayelsa people. This is because Brass is the headquarters of the swamp area operations of Agip. Most vessels that work in Bayelsa's offshore oil facilities are docked in either Port Harcourt or Warri, and this is a lot of revenues lost to other states that are supposed to accrue to Bayelsa State.

If the road is connected then there would be a lot of youths engaged in the sector. In the central Niger Delta, Bayelsa has about 70 per cent of the total offshore oil operations, meaning presently we have about 70 vessels managing the offshore oil industry off the coast of Bayelsa and all of them are coming from outside the State. It takes over 4 hours from those ports to get to of Bayelsa and all of them are coming from outside the State. It takes over 4 hours from those ports to get to Bayelsa so if we had the (Nembe-Brass) Road, you can get to the location in less than 30 minutes. So since we are more deltaic than Delta State and more riverine than Rivers State, the whole truth is blue economy is everything. Looking at the deep sea as the basis for your growth if these vessels are all berthing in Brass, you will see the multiplier effect. ↗

I love that the Governor listens a lot. He does not interject you, whether you are saying what he does not like or not but he will listen and understand your point. A listening governor is a good leader. He is also very humble .



HRH. SIR BARR.
**SERENA
DOKUBO-SPIIFF**

AMADABO OF ADAMA
SPIIFF TOWN IN
TWON-BRASS KINGDOM

The partnership between Bayelsa State International Airport and Ibom Air symbolises a vision and a dream that had been worked on for a long time and has finally come to fruition. The runway of this airport is longer than any in the Eastern Region and it will open up Bayelsa to the world and vice versa. It will accelerate commerce, business, education, tourism and agriculture in the State. There will be facility for the evacuation of agricultural produce quickly. The runway is so long that it can take any kind of plane in the entire world. We should be very proud.

In other places you have the land to build on but here in Bayelsa State most of the time the terrain is so waterlogged that you must first create the land upon which to build the structure. It has been achieved. The ordinary businessman can now fly from here in a shorter time to Lagos, Abuja and other parts instead of having to travel all the way to Port Harcourt or Warri to catch a flight.

Governor Douye Diri has achieved a lot infrastructurally within the limit of very scarce resources. Etegwe Roundabout is a major indicator of this. The first phase of the Gloryland Drive is also almost completed and a lot of

investors are scrambling to purchase land. We can talk about a lot of projects underway but more important to me than infrastructure is the stability that he has enshrined in our polity.

In one fell swoop he has eliminated the bitterness that was the aftermath of the previous elections because he has reached out to everyone regardless of political affiliation and regardless of faith and so on. And that's why many people are returning to the State because it is right and appropriate that we come back together, eschew bitterness and divisiveness and pursue those things that are of common interest to all indigenes of Bayelsa State and the Ijaw Nation. Governor Douye Diri has engendered significant peace and harmony and that's a big plus for him. 🎉

Governor Douye Diri has achieved a lot infrastructurally within the limit of very scarce resources.

PRESENTATION

AGRICULTURE



MR. DAVID ALAGOA

HONORABLE COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE, BAYELSA STATE

PRESNTATION AT SYMPOSIUM ON SECOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Your Excellency, the Governor of Bayelsa State, Your Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State. Please permit me to stand on already existing protocol.

If I had to paraphrase my topic, it would be "HOW WILL THE GREEN ECONOMY, HOW WILL AGRICULTURE, BETTER THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITY IN BAYELSA STATE?"

From many literatures you will see anywhere in Agriculture, it will have this type of statistics: one out of seven people will go to bed hungry every day. And this is not only in Africa. Ninety-eight per cent of these people will be living in a developing world of which we are one; 65 per cent of the world's hungry will be in just seven countries and sub-Saharan Africa, which we are in, and these are all the hunger-related statistics.

Let's look at F.A.O. (Food and Agriculture Organisation), maybe, that will be more friendly. Nigeria is characterized as a country that has suffered chronic food base security. Nigeria is a major importer of foods: between 2004 and 2006 9.1 million Nigerians were under hungry initiative but a decade after, that figure became 25.6 million. And Nigeria's population is growing at an incredible rate of 3.1 per cent. So what that means is that by 2050, as prediction goes, we will be 200 million people and we will be all this statistics will be going down and down and so we are likely to die of starvation very painful for Nigerian.

But we need to work with His Excellency and he will instantly tell you that this is not his vision, that this is not what influences his drive; his drive on the other hand is to turn what is impossible to possible. And so whenever we are in a meeting with His Excellency what motivates him is not what is, but what can be. So, His Excellency has as a matter of preference and priority made agriculture the base of his administration and he has stated indeed that that is what will take us to the next level, that is going to make us industrialized. He has a very different vision and a very different motivation - and I will tell you what he thinks of these other international data he starts of, "we rather see the positive in every situation."

His Excellency does not see all these data, what he sees is that Bayelsa has immense natural resources, that Bayelsa has the longest coastline in West Africa, that Bayelsa has the largest delta in the world, 63% of Bayelsans are of working age, 29% of them are men, 27% of the people are farmers and indeed we have a youth population that are energetic, strong with possible possibilities, so we need a prosperity agenda. So, that is what has driven us into agriculture. We are not looking at their statistics, we are looking at our own reality.

And so, His Excellency has adopted a two-pronged strategy. Forget the past; in the Prosperity Agenda we have a two-pronged strategy: firstly is to increase food security. And how do we do that? By basically empowering individual farmers and indeed subsistence farmers. And it is also true, and even going by their statistics, that 20% of the subsistence farmers produce 80% of the food that we eat. So, if you empower subsistence farmers, indeed they will produce more food in the long run. So, that is what the Ministry of Agriculture is all about. ►





BAYELSA AGRIC PRODUCE

We have the Aquaculture Development Program, the A.D.P, we have the school-to-land, and these are all agencies that are there as avenues for entrepreneurship for these farmers. It is true also that they have huge challenges, and we are not saying that we don't know, because in the process of empowering, there are certain structures that have come from the past into the present, and one of them, for example, just to give you an idea: His Excellency adopted an eight-local government structure in terms of agriculture and he has directed that we should change those structures to 24-constituency structure. So, what that means is that, every farmer should be close to every input that comes from government and to the extension that comes from government.

It is also true that we are in the process of training more extension workers and our extension workers are about 26, but by the time we are through with our training we will have 130 extension workers and the reach will be

Basically, His Excellency, the Ministry is out to reach as many people as possible. There are also projects that we have embarked upon to empower farmers. One of them is a recent programme which is A.A.D.C Loan scheme from Central Bank, which was directed straight to the farmers. Other of such projects is Life N.D. Project, which is an initiative targeted at unemployed and underdeveloped youth 353 for them has been touched. Also, we have the Rural Access and Marketing Collect Planet, which His Excellency signed about two weeks ago, which was to improve road access to farmers. And with time all these things will unfold; also, we are encouraging all individuals to go into farming. Second approach to agriculture by His Excellency is mechanized agriculture. It is important that we should encourage commercial and mechanized agriculture.



DR. TIMIPA OGOU RICHARD

HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN ANATOMY, BAYELSA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

We want to appreciate the Governor of Bayelsa State, Senator Douye Diri, for making it possible for us to have this building. This building contains the whole Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, consisting of Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry. We have several laboratories embedded in the building.

We have offices, conveniences, and other spaces meant for learning like lecture halls and the rest. We want to thank the Governor because as a university that is starting these are key things you need, basically the laboratories.

It is very conducive now for students to learn. In fact we are very happy because, you know, without the laboratories the medical school is nothing to talk about. If you just go a few minutes from here you will see the Gross Anatomy Lab, where students do their sections, and if you move forward again, you will see the Histology, where students study the microscopic anatomy then the biochemical component and the functional component.

So I want to thank the Governor and the Management of this University and I also pray that the Governor does more for the University because this is one in all. Thank you and God bless you. statistics, that 20% of the subsistence farmers produce 80% of the food that we eat. So, if you empower subsistence farmers, indeed they

will produce more food in the long run. So, that is what the Ministry of Agriculture is all about.

Before the completion of this building, not just students but also parents were feeling, are you sure this medical university will work? But to the surprise of all, when this building was commissioned, in fact goodwill messages came because what they did not expect was what they saw. That's why I said I want to give kudos to the Governor for him to have listened to the counsel and request from the university to ensure we have this faculty established within the university.

Going forward as a growing university you need more manpower, more funding and establishment of more faculties. We are just Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, which is the lead or the breeding ground for the medical doctors. We train them and by the time they get to Three Hundred Level they will now proceed for the clinical

It's like you just knowing the theoretical aspect; if you don't understand the practical aspect it's always complex in medical field. You always combine both the theory and the practical to make a whole. We can see that their performance now is good, and we also encourage their parents to also know that their children have come here to study medicine and it's complex and it requires funding. Funding will enable the child to be steadfast, read and understand. For instance, if a child



has not eaten and they're exposed to medical courses they will not concentrate because it's not like other conventional courses that you will be on your bed and say, let me read and go and take this exam. It's not that way. Here you look at the practical aspects, and we have well-trained doctors, academics and laboratory technicians that are in the university manning the various courses at the practical halls. So I bet you, we will produce one of the best set of students in this country. Thank you for this opportunity to speak. The Governor, Senator Douye Diri, is our governor, and I stand to say that he has done well both in the educational sector and infrastructure.

We have offices, conveniences, and other spaces meant for learning like lecture halls and the rest. We want to thank the Governor because as a university that is starting these are key things you need, basically the laboratories.

Interview

BAYELSA ELECTRICITY COMPANY



ENGR. OLICE KEMENANABO MANAGING DIRECTOR, BAYELSA ELECTRICITY COMPANY

The action of the community youth was that, quoting me directly, that I was arranging with Shell so that bills would be paid to my company. They were doing this to prevent us from implementing commercial power but I am not Shell Petroleum Development Company.

Shell supplies the gas, then what about the maintenance of the network? So if you have a broken cross harm will you still go back to Shell to go and replace that broken cross harm? It is only necessary and fair that at least a token should place within the community not to the State Government or to anybody, so when they have any maintenance issue they can leverage on that little fund that they have to clear those faults and then maintain the system so that we can sustainably drive power.

So the major challenge is the fact that we are not willing to accept the fact that this power is generated by investors who will also want to recoup their cost. And so the investors will also not want to give power to the State, particularly Bayelsa State that has been declared as the worst performing component of the Port Harcourt Electricity Distribution Company.

But since the Governor came in we have ramped up collection from 17% to about 62% because of his disposition. And I believe if we put in these measures of bulk metering for rural communities and then individual

metering for semi- and urban communities we are sure that at least we will have a minimum of 22 hours per day, provided we are paying. So that is the basic challenge.

No it is a bulk transmission sub-station from where distribution feeders will radiate to various parts of Southern Ijaw, not Oporoma; Oporoma is only the location of the transmission sub-station like we have here in Gbarain.

Gbarain is hosting a 95 MVA transmission sub-station. It is from that Gbarain transmission sub-station that we supply Yenagoa and its environs. But because we have only one it became very difficult for us to extend the network to Southern Ijaw and other areas. That is why we went into proper discussion with the Transmission Company of Nigeria, which hitherto had awarded this contract over ten years ago but they were not willing to fund.

The Governor's disposition has made it possible for them to fund both local and foreign components, that is to say, offshore and onshore components to the tune of 80%. So funds are already made available for the projects. Once that is done we have opened a gateway for communities in Southern Ijaw and its environ to have the same type of supply we are having in Yenagoa without depending on their generator for independent source of supply.

The main project I want the Governor to ➤

prioritise is for us to synergise with the power sector nationwide, state-wide and locally for the provision of energy meters that will enable us to enjoy the facilities that we already have. We have a round table conference on Monday, 9th of May, in Abuja, to discuss rural electrification in the nation. His Excellency (Governor Douye Diri) is going to attend and probably may even deliver a keynote address. Then at the break of that session he is going to come up with specific projects that will improve the lot in Bayelsa State.

Outside this, we have gas available to us but we are not utilizing the gas because Bayelsa State is only a transition location for gas transportation to LNG. While we push out this amount of gas to LNG we don't have a single

domestic obligation to this gas. What we have agreed to do, going forward, is to ensure that we create what we refer to as a domestic gas grid, where companies who are interested in industrialisation, using gas as a catalyst, can also come to our industrial park and plug in their equipment and then have power supply unhindered. That is the second project that will industrialize Bayelsa State. So I think those are the two projects I would like him to prioritise.👉



DR. DOKUBO FELIX

PRESIDENT OF RIVERS INDIGENES IN BAYELSA STATE AND
PRESIDENT-GENERAL OF SOUTH-SOUTH INDIGENES

The first two years of Governor Douye Diri have been very productive. He has initiated many laudable programmes. His leadership style is very unique. He is a free person. He entertains any good idea that will develop the State and it is the major reason many programmes have been carried out. His Government takes anything pertaining to civil servants' welfare seriously: they are paid their salaries from the 28th of each month; he releases funds to offset pensioners' gratuities, which is N200 million monthly.

He has done well in education by providing writing materials; he trained and retrains staff in the State education sector. The schools have been made in such a way that they are open to everyone, regardless of their status in the society, by providing equipment and building modern infrastructure.

In the agricultural sector, he provided grants to both indigenes and non-indigenes for cultivating food and livestock. He has trained many young individuals on fish farming.

What thrills me in his Administration is the area of infrastructural development. He has been awarding and re-awarding contracts. In Yenagoa city he has been rehabilitating roads that were

He has demonstrated his political will by appointing over 20 non-indigenes, which is laudable in the health sector, through the leadership of Dr. Pabara Igwele (Hon. Commissioner for Health), the Bayelsa Health Summit was conducted to develop current health trends in the State. He has also metered for semi- and urban communities we are sure that at least we will have a minimum of 22 hours per day, provided we are paying. So that is the basic challenge.

extended the Bayelsa Health Insurance Scheme to non-indigenes for easy access to quality health services. And Bayelsa State, among other states, is the first State to do that aside from the Federal Government. The Governor takes health serious. He has also taken medical outreach to various local governments. He also has developed infrastructure that will further promote growth in the health sector of Bayelsa State. ↗

What thrills me in his Administration is the area of infrastructural development. He has been awarding and re-awarding contracts. In Yenagoa city he has been rehabilitating roads that were.



DR. MARIE TEIBOWEI

PRO/AG. DIRECTOR, IFL-BT, BAYELSA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

TI'm the Director of Public Relations in the University, and have been functioning from the time the vice chancellor brought us in, that was in 2018, when the university started. And it's been a wonderful journey.

The University started with a solid team, which was put in place by Professor Ebitimi Tulagha Nicholas Etebor, who is the vice chancellor who started with a very strong vision because he's a man who has vision. And he is what you can call a square peg in a square hole because he is a professor of medicine, he is a pathologist, and for him to start a medical university was a great thing. And the medical institution is a specialized institution so a specialist was brought to help the institution.

And he didn't just do that alone because as a leader, for you to succeed, you have to have a very strong team by your side, and that's exactly what the vice chancellor did. He brought in people in that field, specific fields. We have professors in surgery, gynaecology, physiology, and all the branches of medicine and allied medical fields. This team has worked together from the beginning to make sure that the Bayelsa Medical University starts strong, because every pioneering effort is usually tedious and laborious. And if we didn't have this crop of people to start the University, with all what it took for us to start this university, it wouldn't have been easy.

The University is growing and it's very rare to see a university that has been existing only two years to have the successes that the Medical University has recorded both in the State, nationally and internationally - just two years! I mean it is not easy: you can find out from other universities, and for a special medical university the way we have I think it is a success story.

We also want to say that the Government of the day, which is headed by His Excellency, Distinguished Senator Douye Diri, has also made things very easy for the University to grow. I remember that the Governor came on board just at the time when the University was kicking off and irrespective of all the speculations that the University was not going to stand and all of that, His Excellency made sure that the project that was initiated by the previous Administration was sustained. He actually kept to that word of continuity because the past Administration started a project and the current Administration picked it up from where they left, and the University is growing.

So for us as members of Management, those in charge of running the affairs of the University, we are very pleased with the progress so far and we also know that student population is increasing. We started with barely two hundred students, but as we speak now we have gone to over five hundred or six hundred students, because, you remember, it is a specialized institution; it is not about the numbers. Other universities will have thousands but

this being a core specialized institution it is not about the numbers but it is about the quality.

We admit students here to do the MBBS programme, medicine, surgery, pharmacy, nursing, physiology and anatomy. These are specific and specialized areas where it is not about the numbers but about the quality, that is why even the selection process is very tough. We don't just take students because they have their JAMB; we take the best from that crew. So even as that is, we have an increase in the number of students, and the university is waxing very strong.

The Governor of Bayelsa State, His Excellency, Distinguished Senator Douye Diri, we want to congratulate him because two years in office it is a time worthwhile, it is a time well spent. We are not politicians in the University but we are academics and we are very focused, but we have also seen that in terms of education he has done well. 



1

Senator **Henry**

Seriake Dickson

Bayelsa-West

I Senator Henry Seriake Dickson, and my beloved family gladly felicitate with our beloved brother and Governor, His Excellency, Senator Douye Diri on your second anniversary as Executive Governor of Bayelsa State.

"I also salute our Deputy Governor, an amiable man of substance, His Excellency Senator Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo. Your Excellencies, we are confident that your administration will respect traditional institutions, accelerate the development of rural communities, create jobs for our teeming unemployed youths and foster peace and cordial relationship amongst all.

I pray God to protect you as you diligently serve the people Bayelsa State.

Congratulations Your Excellencies.

2

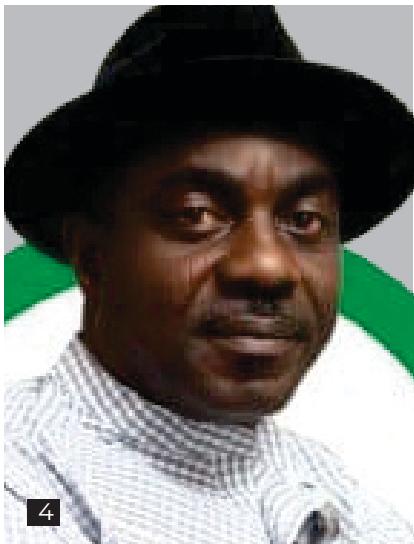
Senator

Moses Cleopas

Bayelsa-Central

Your Excellency, the Executive Governor of Bayelsa State, you have remained an ever-reliable and dependable leader; never retreating in any situation. Be assured of our support at all times. My humble self, and my family greet you on your historic second anniversary in office as the Executive Governor of our dear State. Congratulations, Your Excellency. diligently serve the people Bayelsa State.

Congratulations Your Excellencies.



4

**Hon. Frederick
Yeitiemone Agbedi**
Member, Federal House of Rep.
Sagbama/Ekeremor
Federal Constituency

Your Excellency, we are confident that you will at all times thread the path of honour, integrity and civility as you administer the affairs of our people. We are also convinced that you will transform the land of Bayelsa State with viable projects and direct bearing on the people's need. May God almighty grant you good health, wisdom, courage and the grace to serve the state. Congratulations on your second year anniversary.



5

**Hon. (Prof)
Steve Azaiki**
Member, Federal House
of Rep. Yenagoa/Kolokuma-
Opokuma Federal Constituency

I write on behalf of my family and the good people of Bayelsa State to congratulate Your Excellency Senator Douye Diri and the Deputy Governor, His Excellency Senator Lawrence Ewrudjakpo on your resounding second anniversary in office. May the good God in his infinite mercy continue to direct and guide your decisions in the governance of our dear state. Congratulations Your Excellencies...



6

**Hon.
Azibapu Fred Obua**

Member, Federal House of
Rep. Ogbia Federal Constituency

On behalf of the good people of Bayelsa State, I Hon. Azibapu Fred Obua and my entire family heartily congratulate Our Dynamic and Visionary Leader, His Excellency Senator Douye Diri and Senator Lawrence Ewrudjakpo on your second anniversary as Governor and Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State. I know that the almighty God that has brought you at his time to direct the affairs of our great State will give you the enabling Grace to take our state not just to another level, but a level that will be the envy of not just our country Nigeria but the entire world. Once again I say bravo.



7

Hon.

BIRIYAI DAMBO

Attorney General and

Commissioner for Justice

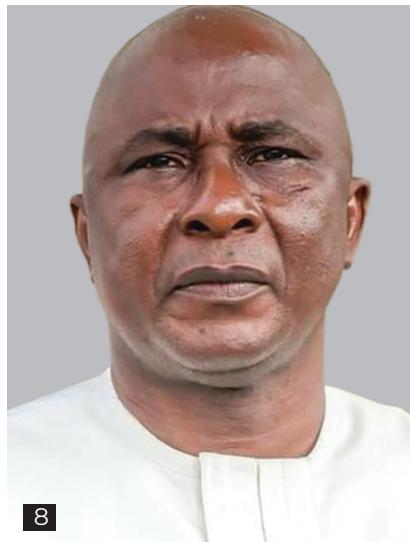
I and my entire family heartily congratulate His Excellencies, Senator Douye Diri and Senator Lawrence Ewrujakpo as Governor and Deputy Governor as you mark your two years office.

Your Excellencies, we extol your virtues as our God-given, charismatic, visionary and purposeful leaders.

We hail Your Excellencies avowed commitment to the delivery of qualitative dividend of democracy to the good people of Bayelsa State. We pray the Almighty God to rich bestow Your Excellencies with His Grace, wisdom and divine enablement to fulfil your electoral promises, to Bayelsans to the peak of her greatness and excel your governance.

The people of Bayelsa will remain committed and supportive of government in your dogged determination to transform Bayelsa State.

Con gratulation once again, Your Excellencies...



8

8

Hon.

Ayibaina Duba

Commissioner for Information and Orientation

On behalf of the management and staff of the Ministry of Information, orientation and Strategy, I and my family happily congratulate the prosperity Government ably led by His Excellency, Senator Douye Diri and his Deputy, Senator Lawrence Ewrujakpo on your two years in office. It can be said that you are God sent at a time like this. your passion for the progress of the state is next to none. Our prayer is that God will continue to use you to better the lot of Bayelsans.



9

9

Hon.

Maxwell Ebibai

Commissioner for Finance

On this special occasion of your second Anniversary, I, my family and Ministry say Congratulations to His Excellency Senator Douye Diri the Executive Governor and Senator Lawrence Ewrujakpo the Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State, we rejoice with you and congratulate you and the good people of Bayelsa State as you pilot the affairs of this administration to the glory of God-Almighty.