

Gratitude



PROSPERITY **PILOT** INITIATIVE

SENATOR
DOUYE DIRI
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR
BAYELSA STATE





Prosperity
Administration
IS ON COURSE

Wòkeniwenimo

Let's Join Hands To Move Bayelsa State **Forward**

Contents



04	Vision & Mission
05	Quotes from PPI Executives Barr. Rhodesia M. White Barr. Austin I. Adigio Elder Moses Taribi Nyeny Kuro Matthias Hon Bekekeme E. Dick Hon Lecky Tamama Orusengha P. Enebraye Osaanya B. Osaanya
13	Executive Council
14	PPI Organogram
15	In the beginning
18	Vision of the Prosperity Administration
20	Interviews with Sir Chief (Dr.) Benedict I Guembe Hon. Chief Victor I Sam-Ateki High Chief (Dr.) Williams Apaingolo Hon. Chief Collins Cocodia Barrister Francis Ikio Dr. (Mrs.) Alice Atuwo Elder Adolphus Dede Forcados Hon. Bob Diepreye
36	Projects



Vision

To accelerate and amplify the impact of the prosperity agenda, by creating active PPI cells and empowering vote-raisers in all 105 Electoral Wards in Bayelsa State, using lawful and peaceful means to spread and inspire the gospel of peace and love, preached by His Excellency, Governor Douye Diri, in the minds of all Bayelsans, so that our state will truly become the “glory of all lands”



Mission

To promote and propagate the core values of the prosperity agenda of His Excellency, Governor Douye diri, making disciples of all Bayelsans, and Non-Bayelsans who reside in Bayelsa State, while helping to shape a glorious future by protecting our tradition, spreading factual information, and advocating for equitable and sustainable prosperity.



BARR. RHODESIA M. WHYTE

Chairman, Prosperity Pilot Initiative.

"Basically, the philosophy behind the name, The Prosperity Pilot Initiative is the belief in the Governor's philosophy of prosperity being activated in Bayelsa State to impart on the citizenry positively."

"The Pilot component is designed to help steer the ship of prosperity to reach out to all nooks and crannies from the ward to the Local Government Areas, to the State including the Senatorial constituencies, House of Assembly constituencies and the voting units."

"If there are 5 problems, there are possibly 5 solutions. So, if you want to criticize, we urge you to also offer solutions. That way you are helping not only the governed but also the state to grow in its developmental strides."

"We can sincerely applaud the governor for the projects he

has done because with the various issues, some could have used it as an excuse but not Governor Douye Diri. He is even of the opinion that by the time he sets out to talk about 2nd tenure, it is his projects that will speak for him."

"There are qualities I covet in the governor. One, is openness to everyone irrespective of political party lines. He is the first after his victory to embrace political parties asking them to come together and for the common good of our state. Two, he doesn't hold grudges against anyone even those that openly worked against him, he embraces them. These are admirable qualities."

"Basically, our mission and desire is to see Bayelsa State developed, to see how the dream of the founding fathers of this state is realized so we intend to play the role that will be so advisory."



BARR. AUSTIN I. ADIGIO

Secretary, Prosperity Pilot Initiative.

"The Prosperity Pilot Initiative is a driver, it's the vehicle that is created, call it an SPV if you like, to drive the policy thrust of the Prosperity Agenda to every nook and cranny of the state."

"Our aim is to consciously push out all policies and programmes of government that is geared towards delivering on the Prosperity Mandate. That is our core objective, that is our vision, to take the Prosperity message as proclaimed by the Governor and spread it so the citizenry will believe and support the Governor."

"My concept about prosperity, just like the governor has stated repeatedly, is not that government will give money to everybody but the construction of these major senatorial roads. One major advantage is that it will ease the cost of construction, particularly in the hinterland. Let's say using

water transportation with its hazards will actually increase the amount a regular person from the hinterland will use in completing a building by 300 percent. With the road taken all the way down to the hinterland, you will have enough savings to plough into other things and that is prosperity."

"The task of propagating and engaging the people is so daunting that you do not leave it alone for the government structures to do, we are a story group and we are to assist in disseminating, promoting and engaging the values of this government, their developmental strides and be able to get feedback from every political unit to the ward leading to the state government."

"Basically, what endeared me to the Governor is his vision to evenly develop this state. I saw it in his manifesto and it captured my interest, because what Bayelsans are yearning for is to see development spread across the local government areas. Secondly, he has a large heart to accommodate everyone. For me, this is the hallmark of a leader to accommodate and tolerate and have a focus for even-development in the state."



HON. BEKEKEME E. DICK

Director of Security.

"Since he started there has been relative peace. The unusual and unnecessary protests organized by people are very minimal. He has a listening ear to people with ideas. He has an open-door policy, he is transparent, so I think even the layman can tell that a good government is on-board. It is one of the best."

"The major hindrance to the Federal Polytechnic, Ekeuwe functioning optimally, in terms of students from the upland and other parts of this country is the absence of a motorable road. There is no campus from Edo, Delta, Rivers, Akwa Ibom States, no polytechnic has the kind of campus or equipment it has. If you visit the engineering department you will be amazed with the quality of equipment including the computer Department. Even the structure is amazing

but the major problem is the road, so if the road is up to Oporoma, the dream for the school will come to pass."

"I see him as an objective person and while he was contesting, I was praying for him because he'll give a new face to Bayelsa through God's grace. I have every reason to say he will do better than anyone else and I know at the end of this tenure Bayelsans will beg him to come and contest again for a 2nd term. I love his judgement on issues and I see that he has a big heart for the Ijaw man not only Bayelsans."



ELDER MOSES TARIBI

Director, Information and Strategy

"In fact, available records show that arrears up till 2017 have all been paid, the new aggregate lump being paid right now is between 2018 to 2020. So the government has actually reduced the burden of the elderly in the state and therefore you have no reason not to support this government."

"When there is peace and love and when security is assured, you know that commercial activities will thrive and that is why we are now getting boats coming from Brass to offload fish and is subsequently reducing the cost of living of those in the township."

"A government that tackles the rudiments of the security of lives and property of the people, why will you not support it whichever way you can?"

"When the Prosperity Government was campaigning, they

gave a strong promise that the road will hit Oporoma and Southern Ijaw people are saying that Senator Douye Diri does not need to come and campaign once the road hits Oporoma. As I speak to you the road is now at Angiama just a few kilometres away from Oporoma. That is the extent to which this focused administration has taken their promise."

"Senator Douye Diri is one person I have always yearned for to occupy a higher office in the land. At the time my heart was going for that, I didn't even envisage that governorship was part of the reason I was yearning for him to occupy an enviable office on the land."

"I am in this ship because the guiding philosophy of this group is to encourage him and tell him the truth, because he always says the truth. And he is never offended by the truth and that is one of the many reasons that I will love and support him."

"Someone that forgives; always mark that person. Even if he gets to an exalted position if you offend him even with all the powers, he will forgive you."



ORUSENGHA P. **ENEBRAYE**

Director, Finance

The aim of the Association is to digest activities of government to the grassroot thereby, bridging the gap between the government and the people to ensure that the proper and ideal information is passed across to the grassroots; that truly the governor and his cabinet are working very well.

The Governor, His Excellency Senator Douye Diri, has done very well, especially looking at the economic state of the nation. There were a lot of challenges, including the pandemic of litigations which he got a record highest number of and this distracted him just a little. And after those litigations, we are aware that the corona virus came in and caused a shutdown and also don't forget the dwindling revenue source and that we lost an oil well to

Rivers State which basically brought down our revenue base. But not minding those challenges His Excellency was able to judiciously utilise the slim resources in this State to ensure that most projects that are economic centred are completed.

In the area of youth development and carrying along the youth, the governor has done creditably well I think the present generation of youths, desire a platform to excel and Excellency is trying to build one. I think we have a Centre for Youth Development and I think in no distant time when the Center is rebranded it will launch it's modus operandi in ensuring that the plans of the governor for youths is achieved. Howbeit, let's not forget that the Governor has youths in his cabinet and as members of various key positions, to me I think this governor is youth friendly.



NYENYE KURO MATTHIAS

Director, Non-Indigene Contact

"Under the leadership of Senator Douye Diri we have seen a different kind of politics. Politics of peace and love in fact the governor has redefined the Bayelsa politics especially as regards security, in the area of peace and harmonious living."

"I love his passion for the development of Bayelsa State. Secondly, his fear of God. It is only a man that fears God that has a large heart to accommodate both opposition, supporters and non-supporters, bringing unity and peace. I can also tell you that because of his passion for development, the Nembe Unity Bridge that was abandoned for years, due to his continuation policy, immediately he assumed office he directed for the commencement of construction activities, and today it is almost completed and that is one other key area the Nembe people are happy about."

"By the fear of God, humility and love displayed by the Governor, except you are trying to be wicked, you won't see anything that will stop you from supporting him. He loves in exchange of hate and that has endeared a massive support across the state."

"One of the things we discovered is that government activity is spread across the 8 local governments and sometimes people feign ignorance and claim to oppose government on claims that government is not active in the hope to deceive people. We have to take this message to every corner of Bayelsa. We have 2244 units and every unit must get the message that this is what the government is doing and it's not only by telling but also creating avenues for them to see what government is doing."

"When there is peace, there is progress and all Bayelsans are one. He never uses insults or aggressive words on opposition or other people and this shows a certain level of respect, humility and fear of God."



HON. LECKY TAMAMA

Director, Mobilization

"Talking about the humility of the governor, he just won the hearts of the entire Onopa people, during a protest which resulted in roads being blockaded. The governor told them that we do not want to lose even a soul as long as you are a resident of this state whether the person is an indigene or not. He said he had the power to order security to disperse them but that his government prefers dialogue and peaceful coexistence. He invited the leaders to a dialogue and the issues are being ironed out"

"When he left the community gathered and were amazed at the disposition of the Governor. They said they had never seen this kind of governor before and that he is only one they will support till he rounds up his tenure. This is just to add that Douye Diri is a very unique kind of governor."

"What endeared him to me, when he became a Commissioner for Sports, then I was an active boxer... I know how he changed the entire philosophy of sportsmen in those days. Prior to his commissionership, sportsmen were not encouraged at all but when he came, he gave your dues to you once you win anything. He followed that to the letter. His humble nature also drew me to him. To me the best thing that has happened to Bayelsa, is his election into office."



MR. OSAANYA B. OSAANYA

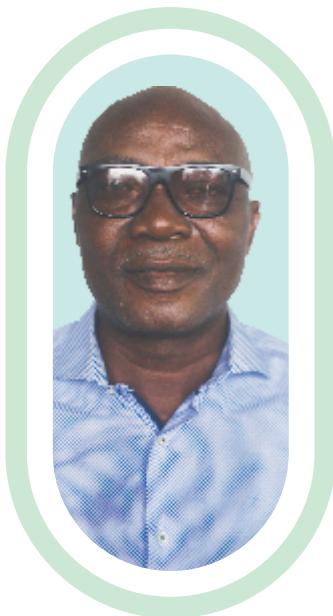
Director, Students & Youths

"When there is a peaceful environment, it will attract investors. The governor has enshrined that mindset of peace in Bayelsa. Overtime the state had a stereotype of being insecure but the governor has made everyone to understand that this state is peaceful and welcomes investment which will improve the economy."

"I'm a young man interested in the youths and how they can be engaged and the Prosperity Government is determined to see how the youths can be engaged."

"The governor in all his interviews and interaction, he put love forward saying, we should love Bayelsa. This is someone we need to support except you are mischievous. I call on Bayelsans to support this peaceful man that God has given to us."

Executive Council



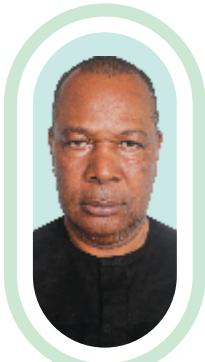
Barr. Rhodesia M. Whyte
Chairman



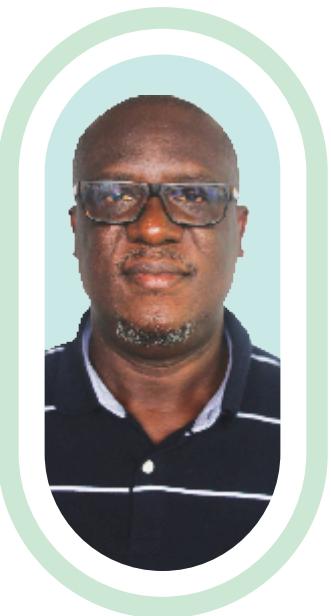
Elder Moses Taribi
Director, Information Strategy



Nyenye Kuro Matthias
Director, Contact & Non-Indigenes



Hon Bekekerme E. Dick
Director, Security



Barr. Austin I. Adigio
Secretary



Hon Lecky Tamama
Director, Mobilization



Orusengha P. Enebraye
Director, Finance



Osaanya B. Osaanya
Director, Students & Youths

Organogram

State Executives

Chairman
Secretary
Director Finance
Director Information & Strategy
Director Contact & Non Indigenes
Director Mobilization
Director Security
Director Students & Youth.

Senatorial Executives

Senatorial Co-ordinator
Co-ordinator Gender Affairs
Assistant Secretary.

Constituency Executives

Const. Leader
Const. Gender Leader
Const. Secretary

Ward Executives

Ward Leader
Asst Leader
Secretary
Youth Leader
Women Leader
Organizing Secretary
Fin. Secretary
Treasurer
Publicity Secretary

LGA EXECUTIVES

Lga Leader
Lga Deputy Leader
Secretary
Finance
Youth Leader
Women Leader
Publicity Secretary
Mobilization Secretary
Auditor
Treasurer
Asst. Secretary
Organizing Secretary
Assit. Publicity Secretary
2 Ex - Offio



Every once in the life of a people, the heavens kiss the earth and there occurs an event that permanently alters the destinies of nations. The 13th day of February, 2020, was one of such days and will forever remain indelible in the thoughts and memories of Bayelsans. On that epochal day, the entire country was left stunned by the miraculous and sudden turnaround in the governorship fortunes of the two leading political parties in Bayelsa State. The Supreme Court aborted what would have amounted to one of the most egregious electoral heists in the annals of the democratic experience of Nigeria.

All of us recall that after the governorship elections in November, in contraindication to the votes and wishes of Bayelsans, another candidate was declared winner. Yet against all expectations and hope, God intervened. This extraordinary reversal produced the "Miracle Governor" and has set Bayelsa State on the course of irreversible growth and progress.

Curiously, in spite of the fact that the government of H.E Sen. Douye Diri, notwithstanding a lean purse, has been adjudged by the preponderance of honest independent observers to have scaled all development indices in the less than two years in office, a small but vociferous clan of naysayers are determined to distract, detract and thwart the work that is being done. It is not surprising, thus that, the bible declares in 1 Corinthians 16:9 (Amplified), "a wide door for effective service has opened to me [a very promising opportunity], and there are many adversaries.".

“We believe this is the first of such a collaborative effort to render factual and unprejudiced support to the government of the day, consequently, we have “Initiative” in our title.”

It is in response to such fringe but strong-minded set of professional rabblerousers, that "Prosperity Pilot Initiative" (PPI) was birthed. PPI is a consortium of intellectuals, politicians, technocrats and Bayelsans from all walks of life. The one thing that aggregates/amalgamates our variegated interests and unites our purpose is our love for Bayelsa State and belief in the Prosperity Agenda of Governor Douye Diri. That basically instructs the philosophy behind the name "Prosperity Pilot Initiative." We share a conviction that the Governor's mandate of prosperity has been activated in Bayelsa State to impact the citizenry and that it has been the driving force behind the projects, policies and programmes, the Government of Senator Douye Diri is embarking on.

The PPI is intended and organized to help steer information regarding the ship of prosperity to reach out to all nooks and crannies from the unit, ward,

In The Beginning



Local Government Area, National Assembly constituencies, through to the entire voting structure of the state.



We are particularly keen to describe His Excellency in his own words, “There is a tide in the affairs of man...” This is a metaphor which means literally that there is an occasion in each man’s life when he must commit himself to a course of action. From humble beginnings, I have come a long way by God’s grace, unstinting industry and commitment to every course I have ever embarked on.”



The association was formed as an outcome of many social interactions and cross ventilating of ideas, and arriving at a consensus that people need to support and promote and propagate the Prosperity Agenda of the Governor. And so, the Pilot is a vehicle that is created, call it a Special Purpose Vehicle, to drive the policy thrust of the divinely installed government and the Prosperity Agenda to the outermost regions of the state.

Our conviction and support for the agenda of the government of His Excellency is solidly founded on empirical and verifiable track record of unexampled achievements. Whereas a few persons will otherwise agree, they are in a clear minority, probably driven by sentiments of malice and envy; this has a biblical parallel in Genesis 26.12 – 14 “Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.”

Fortunately, in 2 Kings 6:16, we are reminded that, “They that are with us, are greater than they that are with them.” Beyond polemics, Senator Douye Diri is enjoying some of the best support you can ever desire for any politician at all level, growing in popularity and building not only very strong physical, but political bridges across the state. So, whereas, remarkably not everyone seems to love such progress, we are merely disappointed but not surprised.

The Prosperity Pilot Initiative is primed to open a new vista of interface with the Bayelsa public to counter the propaganda of the opposition and disabuse their negative rhetoric, because people look at the policies and programs of government from their individual or group perspectives. When they go low, we go high. It is only a fool who argues with infallible proofs.





The remarkable leadership qualities displayed by His Excellency, has not left those who know his pedigree astonished. He is not an accidental leader, but a man groomed and ready for his assignment. It is interesting to take cognizance of the fact that as a young man, H.E, Sen. Douye Diri was part of a select group of patriots who agitated and fought for the birth of a homogeneous Ijaw state, expressed today as Bayelsa State. The vision of our founding fathers was to engender a polity that was careful to provide a platform for inclusive prosperity for all citizens of the enclave. 25 years down the line, by divine providence he has the mantle of leading this state. The Prosperity Agenda is thus providential and divine.

Yet like we have earlier said, our confidence in the Vision is not predicated on religious zealotry or blind loyalty, but on empirical and irrefutable evidence of outstanding performance.

He came into office with a solid track record of unblemished experience. It is rare to find a man with such a tall resume of experience and quality for the position of governor. He has distinguished himself in every assignment that has been entrusted to him. He was elected the First National Organizing Secretary of the foremost pan- Ijaw organization, the Ijaw National Congress (INC) in 1992, a clear testament to his passionate love for his people and desire to fight for the unfreedom.

He was also appointed Executive Secretary, Centre for Youth Development in Bayelsa State between 2000 and 2002 during the tenure of the First Executive Governor of Bayelsa state, Chief D.S.P. Alamieyesigha. He served the state as Commissioner for Youth and Sports during Dr. Goodluck Jonathan's administration as Governor between 2006 and 2007 and was key to the state clinching the male and female Nigerian premier league titles, a feat both remarkable and unprecedented. He became governing Council Board member University of Maiduguri from 2008-2012. In his service to the party, the Senator was appointed Chairman of the People's Democratic Party

(PDP) Disciplinary Council, Bayelsa State in 2012.

Senator Diri was in August 2012, appointed Deputy Chief of Staff, Government House and a year later was appointed Principal Executive Secretary to the Governor, a position he held until 2014 when he contested and won election into the Federal House of Representatives to represent Yenagoa/Kolokuma/ Opokuma Federal Constituency. As the saying goes "one good term, deserves another" and he was in fact elevated and elected as the Senator representing Bayelsa Central Senatorial District in the National Assembly.

Douye Diri is an independent-minded leader with a calm temperament, charismatic speaking skills and a flair for consensus-building. He also possesses a deeply dynamic and introspective mind, capable of seeing all sides of an issue, without compromising the fundamentals.

His values are strongly shaped by his years of teaching and mentoring of the underdog in rural communities, love of sports and by his Christian faith.

Whether addressing large crowds or speaking to individuals, he relates easily with others and ensures that everyone feels a part of the family. He is thus, both respected and admired for being courageous to speak and hear hard truths when necessary.

We are particularly keen to describe His Excellency in his own words, "There is a tide in the affairs of man..." This is a metaphor which means literally that there is an occasion in each man's life when he must commit himself to a course of action. From humble beginnings, I have come a long way by God's grace, unstinting industry and commitment to every course I have ever embarked on."

So our core objective is to propagate and promote the concept of the Prosperity Agenda that the government has come up with and we have an intention to consciously and deliberately publicize and announce all the activities of government to the Bayelsa people irrespective of political divide. Our aim is to consciously push out all policies and programs of government that is geared towards delivering on the Prosperity Mandate. That is our core objective, that is our vision, to take the Prosperity message as proclaimed by the Governor and spread it so the citizenry will believe and support the Governor.

We are confident as the state memory verse says Isaiah 14:21, "For the LORD of hosts has purposed, And who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, And who will turn it back?"

VISION of THE Prosperity Administration



Justification

As you all are aware, a long history of dependency on crude oil sales which can fluctuate in price means that we are held captive by the vagaries and conditions too often outside our control. The Covid 19 pandemic severely underscored the necessity of evolving a system that will not be too easily short-circuited by unfavourable conditions. Furthermore, there are insufficient job opportunities for our young people. The concomitance is that our tax pool is too narrow, because it mostly captures the civil service and we do not take advantage of a large base of our enthusiastic and able population. We can and should widen it by getting more SMEs activated and facilitate direct income contribution to IGR. It is my desire that, prominence will be placed on enhancing the purchasing power of the average Bayelsan and opening up avenues for them to be self-employed as well as becoming employers of labour.

This administration has set forth an ambitious roadmap for Bayelsa to progress as a state towards becoming truly the "Glory of all Lands". The main aim of the Prosperity Agenda (PA) is to provide a decent living standard to all Bayelsans regardless of their

To attain this lofty target, my government has delineated three (3) strategic objectives;



First is by diversifying the economy by weaning it off crude oil dependency from Federal Allocation, so all groups; youths, women, men, skilled and unskilled workers, can participate in at all levels and develop together and be more productive members of society.



Second is to empower and equip the civil service to be responsible and responsive to the evolving socio economic dynamics.



Third and crucially engineer a united and peaceful society. Peace is a fragile commodity that can easily break. Yet it is a sine qua non to any sustainable development. That is why this administration continues to prioritise it. We need to nourish peace by establishing institutions that are responsive, accountable and above all inclusive.

Key Economy Activities



There are 8 proposed key economic activities:



Bayelsa as a smart and high-value agriculture Hub



Digital economy



Coastal and maritime economy



Industrialisation and value added services



Close partnership with BRACED States



Renewable energy

TO ILLUMINATE THE ROUTE
PRINCIPLES AS BELOW:

1.

Distributed economy

2.

Needs-based budgeting approach

3.

Peace & Security

4.

Inclusivity in decision making

5.

Institutional Political Economy

AHEAD, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED 9 GUIDING



6.

Integrity
And Good
Governance



7.

Equitable
Distribution
Of Resources
& Opportunities



8.

Reorientation
Of The Society



9.

ICT Based
Economy



10.

Unity in
Diversity



Centres of
excellence



Bayelsa State as
a Tourism
Hub

AND TO ENABLE THE STATE ADVANCE TOWARDS THIS GOAL, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SEVEN FOCUS POINTS:



Fiscal responsibility
Prudent management of government finance to maximize physical infrastructure and boost investor confidence



Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
Increasing skilled workforce, a consistent learning society and outcome-based education



Sustainability
Eco-friendly development focused on conserving and preserving natural resources



Leveraging on the loans platform of the CBN and Multilateral agencies
To expand businesses through holistic and SME-friendly financing



Effective institutional delivery
Improve implementation of budgetary and policy initiatives



Encouraging reconciliation and healthy criticism
To foster intellectual discussions, experience sharing and empathy



Governance and integrity
Strengthening governance through transparency and accountability to deepen public trust

Progress Indices



The government will fashion six indices to mark its progress and ensure holistic and equitable development for all. They are:



Unity index



Crime prevention index



Health index



Integrity and
anti-corruption index



Environment and
climate change index



Sir Chief(Dr.) Benedict I. Guembe

The Olotu Of Aleibiri Kingdom
& Chairman Of The Council Of Chiefs

Question: How long have you known the governor, Senator Douye Diri?

Answer: I have known the present Governor, His Excellency, Senator Douye Diri as far back as 1993 and we helped to install him as the first National Organising Secretary of INC. Some of us were in the engine room of forming the INC. In fact when the INC was to have its Constitution debated in Kaiama, in 1993, I was the coordinator of that process, so I know Douye Diri and I know he is a very respectful young man. In fact I used to call him my younger brother before now, but he is Governor so he is now our father. He has had that zeal to fight for the betterment of the Ijaw man since from when he assumed that office as the National Organising Secretary. He didn't disappoint us, so when he became Governor we were not surprised, the only thing is paucity of funds otherwise, he will continue to positively surprise us. As far back as October 2020, during my usual 1 hour radio phone-in programme as chairman of Founding Fathers, I told the whole state that if we give this Governor the desired 2 terms, he'll surprise everybody. I know what he is capable of doing in terms of developing this state. He is very nationalistic and patriotic. He will develop this state for us.

Question: So far, how would you rate the Governor's leadership?

Answer: He has met my expectations. The first year we lost it to litigations, he went through tribunals, Appeal Court up to Supreme Court. One year





The on-going construction
of Gloryland Drive

was lost and it was very painful to us the elders and particularly the Founding Fathers of the state. This is the first time one of our members who took part in the struggle to create the state is on the seat, so he knows what to do.

Our development blueprint is with him which we gave to him on the 1st of July when we visited him. If we didn't lose that first year through unnecessary and painful litigations, we would have said two years down the lane because the first year was interrupted too frequently. Since then he has picked up and he is doing fine. For those of us who need it as physical development, the road going to Southern Ijaw is progressing. It has gone beyond Egebiri to Agobiri, it'll soon get to Angiama and finally Oporoma. He made a promise to cross a bridge to Oporoma in his first term. On my side, the road to Ekeremor was very rough, but when I went home last week to receive the management of the Polytechnic, at Aleibiri, the road was very smooth and they have done a lot of the culverts and bridges. They promised that before December we will drive to Ekeremor smoothly. He is trying. The road also going to Brass, after Aleibiri, I'm sure they will do it because it's in his agenda. Mind you these are highly

capital intensive projects and with limited resources. So I feel pained whenever I hear that our resources are dwindling.

Question: What is your advice to Bayelsans?

Answer: I'll say they should be patient because development is a very dynamic concept, it requires time. The person may conceptualise something to do but it'll still take time. Look at the Tombia roundabout. Small things you put in place will bring massive facelift. You need to be here at Tombia Roundabout in the night. Those miscreants that are usually at that area are no there, because the Governor, Douye Diri has illuminated that place. In our address to the Governor on the 1st of July, we make it clear that in all those troublesome places he should put light. I know that Governor Douye Diri will pleasantly surprise us.

Question: What endears him to you?

Answer: I've known him since 92, 93 because of the Ijaw struggle, nationalism and so on. He is a true nationalist, patriot and he is so humble. His title as a governor has not influenced him. He is very simple.



Hon. Chief Victor I. Sam-Ateki

Chairman, Two Brass Council of Chiefs
& Former Deputy Speaker, BSHA

Since independence Nigeria is structured not to our advantage. In the Eastern region development did not come towards this area, also in 1967 River State was created and still this part was not really developed and finally in 1996 Bayelsa was created and that was when attention came here. The place was barred, no roads, no lights, infrastructure was almost non-existent and health-wise we were backwards. So government now had a big responsibility to develop the infrastructure to make it a 21st century State and resources were limited. One can say for now, Bayelsa is lucky to have someone like Senator Douye Diri as Governor of Bayelsa State. He has the right temperament and attitude, he sees Bayelsa as a family and ensures that everyone keys into the development of the state.

That is why even though most times there is rivalry of political parties, it is not obvious, because of the leadership style of the Governor. Everyone sees the government as their own. He sees everyone first as a Bayelsan and that has helped a lot. Even the private people can conduct their affairs in peace irrespective of political leaning. Everybody is living in this state and it is not government alone that can develop a place but the people. So when there is tension and in-fighting development cannot take place.



Gov. Douye Diri, after meeting with the security chiefs
to establish peace and tranquility in Bayelsa State



Completed Imiringi Bridge

Government resources are depleted and ordinarily development should be driven by the private sector so it is when there is peace and harmony that the private sector can come. Then the natives themselves will not be afraid to invest here because if you are with the opposition party and the government in power is hostile, you will not want to invest for fear of the unknown, so he has created the right atmosphere for everybody, irrespective of political leanings to do business here. It is believed that in no distant time we will start seeing the benefits of this attitude we're talking about.

First he has made everybody to feel that we are one and secondly there is no political tension in the state you can move around in this state without fear of being persecuted, based on political divide, except miscreants who tried to give the people a bad image. He has really tried. He came in and changed a lot of things.

Some people because of ego will abandon projects that

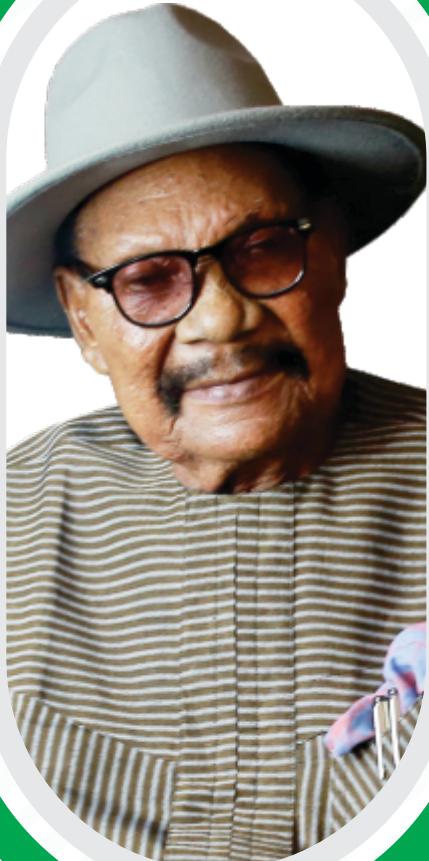
were initiated by their predecessors and want to start something that they would take direct credit for but he is not after personal name but what will benefit Bayelsa state. He has appraised the projects that were ongoing before he was elected and he is funding them those projects that we all know that will touch the lives of Bayelsans. He has not actually talked of new projects except where they are very necessary. He is going with the projects that his predecessor started and that will avoid wastage like in NDDC. We hear of thousands of abandoned projects because when they change government the new people try to initiate their own projects, but in Bayelsa, the governor is avoiding that.



Nembe Unity Bridge

Look at the Nembe Unity Bridge, it was started by governor Silva but he is working on it. The Glory Drive Road he is working on it. He has worked on the airport and also working on the Ring Road. These are commendable feats that he has achieved because we are all one. Today he is Governor, tomorrow another person will take-over that doesn't mean that whatever project that he is not able to finish should be left behind. If the next person continues with his attitude before you know it this state will be developed.

I love His peaceful disposition, and he sees all Bayelsans as one family and he has tried to do his best. I want to commend him for that because in Bayelsa all of us are moving peacefully around.



High Chief(Dr.) Williams **Apaiingolo**

TAKE ON THE PROSPERITY GOVERNMENT

I will like to start by saying, since the creation of Bayelsa State, I've seen Diri as most humble Governor. I have never understood why he should be so humble, both in his home and at occasions. No governor has shook my hands and bowed in respect to me, but Governor Diri did. Diri has always displayed a true sign of an Ijaw man in greeting his elders. When it comes to humility, Diri is humble and he has been the most listening Governor, since the creation of Bayelsa State. Many go to him and make complaints and thereafter see the results.



Gov. Douye Diri during the meeting with the Labour leaders and ensuring the payment of pension and gratuity

Douye Diri wants to serve the people of Bayelsa State and he has us at heart. I don't see him as someone who wants to accumulate wealth for himself and turn his back on his people. I am yet to see a Bayelsan who will say that Diri is a bad Governor. I'm yet to see a Bayelsan who has not seen or appreciated what Diri is doing. The governor has been so keen in uniting Bayelsans.

Diri, so far is a good Governor. Within the first three months in office Governor Douye Diri started paying pensioners and gratuity. Diri called his government Prosperity Government and I am a beneficiary of that prosperity and many Bayelsans can testify to that. I got my retirement in 2007, I never had hope of receiving my gratuity and pension but Diri

made it possible for me and many others.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

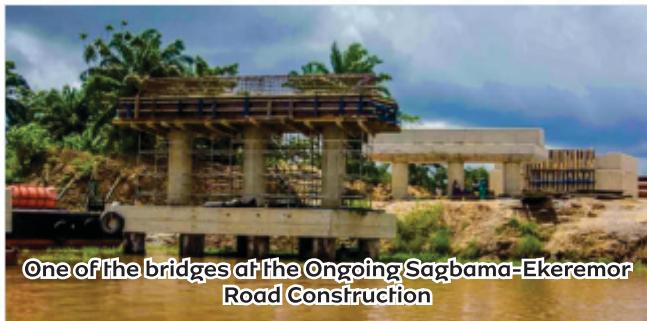
The Yenagoa-Oporoma road has been on the drawing board for many years and we have seen what the Governor has done on that road and that road will give life to people in that region. Before now we follow the waterways but now, we have a road to follow and the cost of transportation has reduced.

ON SECOND TENURE

Come next election, Diri should still be our governor and am going to fight and make anything humanly possible to make him come back for his second tenure.



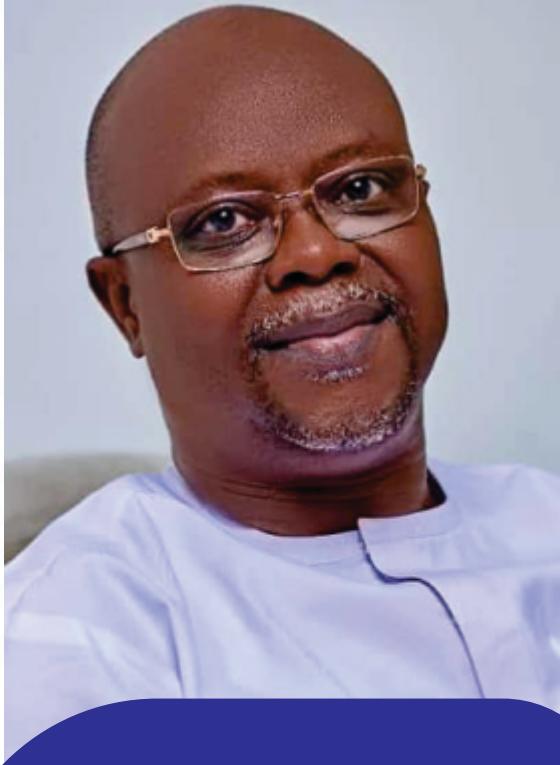
Construction at Yenagoa-Oporoma Road



One of the bridges at the Ongoing Sagbama-Ekeremor Road Construction



Gov Douye Diri with South Korean Ambassador, Kim Young Choe during the display of Agricultural products of Bayelsa Origin



Hon. Chief Collins **Cocodia**

Special Advisor to the Governor on
Political Matters

PROFOUND TRACK RECORD

Firstly, the reason why I supported the governor is based on his track record. I've always followed him right from when he was Principal Secretary to the former governor and also when he got to the House of Representatives and Senate in Abuja. And as a very prayerful person I prayed to God to show me who will succeed the former governor and via revelation I was shown that he was going to succeed the previous governor and that he had a good plan for Bayelsa state.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Well I will say that His Excellency came in very prepared to ensure that there is good governance and there is development in this state but unfortunately, he came at a very trying time. First and foremost nobody expected the virus and also he is one governor that suffered much litigation. He has been taken to court more than any other governor in Nigeria and also he came at a time when the revenue of the state was going down, but in as much as that happened the governor was prepared and he hit the ground running by first identifying projects that will touch the hearts of the people. He also came at the time when Bayelsa was so divided and first thing he did was to ensure that we start talking to the people on how we will not allow project Bayelsa to suffer. So we went round





Gov. Douye Diri during the first commercial flight to Yenagoa

the length and breath of the state talking to our people to come back to support him, to pray for him and to give advice and suggestions where and when necessary. We were able to do that in the first six months despite the fact that he went on with a lot of litigations, but I can tell you that Bayelsans are more united than ever before.

OPEN MINDNESS

Immediately the governor came on board he ensured that work at the Nembe Unity Bridge commenced. He did not change the contractor who was a member of the opposition party, but allowed the same contractor to go on. The governor did not want what happened at Nembe to affect governance and he felt that the first thing to do was to have this reconciliatory thing done and so he reached out to the youths, women and chiefs and as I talk to you everywhere is peaceful.

EMBRACING CRITICISM

That is the beauty of democracy, if you do not have people criticise you when you are in government then you are not ready to rule. For us we listen to all criticisms that come from the citizenry and we try to filter the ones that are fake from the ones that are true. The ones that are not true we try to



Yenagoa-Oporoma Road

explain what is the truth and the ones that are true we try to learn from them, but you know that the opposition is good at criticism, even when they are unjustified.

HIS ENDEARING QUALITIES

Some of the qualities that the governor has is that he is very matured, unassuming and calm. He would listen to you from beginning to the end and he's someone that smiles a lot and that is one thing that makes Bayelsans fall in love with him. He is a man that has seen it all. He started first as a classroom teacher and gradually became the Organising Secretary of the INC. That opportunity made him go round the whole Izon speaking states and after that he gradually moved up to the top so you can see he is a man that is vast and he has all the experiences and that's what has made me very close to him.

On The Prosperity Pilot Initiative:

It's a good initiative and I want them to be encouraged, because it is not easy to see people that would champion this kind of course. I pray for them for God to provide them with the necessary resources and they should use this as a medium to reach out to Bayelsans on what the governor is doing.



Barrister Francis Ikio

WHO IS DIRI

The governor is a friend I have known for several years. I met him when he became Commissioner of Youth and Sports. 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.

PEACEFUL DISPOSITION

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 governorship 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 was that we should calm down, that God is in charge, so let peace reign. He does not believe in using violence to solve problems. He is a peacemaker. The peaceful 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.

Gov Douye Diri being honoured and decorated by the Olympic Silver Medalist, Blessing Oburududu





Some of the Security Vehicles purchased to



Bayelsa Referral Hospital, Kaiama

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 continues in 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 partially 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 funds prudently. That is why even in 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 with Bayelsans, to cooperate with the Physical Planning Board to be able to change the face of Yenagoa.

The governor is taking the lead and the Board is following. The next is the cooperation of the people. Yenagoa needs 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 boats to cross there far back when I was a child. The Sylva



Rice Harvest from Bayelsa School-to-Land Rice Farm

administration started the road and it was abandoned. But as he came, he started work and its almost completed.

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 closer to the people. It is very commendable to think of the old people.

DIVERSIFICATION

I pray the governor continues 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 themselves, thereby reducing antisocial behaviour.



Bayelsa Queens,
after winning 2021 AITEO Cup



Bayelsa United, after winning 2021Aiteo Cup



Dr. (Mrs.) Alice **Atuwo**

Executive Secretary,
Education Devt. Trust
Fund Board,
Bayelsa State.

FUNDING

The Trust Fund is an Interventionist Agency for Educational issues our main goal is to contribute to the general upgrading of Education in the State and it is a contributory Trust Fund from all workers of the State both at the State level and local government levels. Workers are taxed some percentage which comes in every month to our account and we have 5 percent IGR funds that comes in as well. Also we have one percent for every capital payment to the state which is to say that the state contributes one percent of every capital that comes into the state to our account. So what comes in is used for the general upgrading of education in the state. We have taken over the running of the model secondary schools in the state and all the boarding students are on scholarship. We provide the fund for their feeding and the running of the model schools.

CONTINUITY

I know the present Governor to be a teacher by profession, from the day he came in, we as a Board, met him and he welcomed us and supported the continuation of this Board. Often time, in this country a program will start, a new government will come and

that program is put aside. So for us he has done well for continuing this program because this board is supporting five thousand children across the State, with free feeding, three meals per day. And we are turning out quality children from public schools. So we give him kudos.

OUR ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

We have our primary assignment, that is 80 percent of whatever that comes in goes into that and the remaining we spend on the tertiary institutions, like NDU which has benefited from us; Bayelsa Medical University has benefited from us. We aid them for NUC to give them the go ahead of. University of Africa has also benefited from us.

GOVERNOR'S TEACHING BACKGROUND

The teaching background of the Governor has helped him in running the State. Teachers see things differently from others. Teachers have this sense of humanity in them to help the next human and our Governor has that spirit in him.

A LISTENING LEADER

I have known this Governor for a long time though not on a personal level but I knew him before now, and as he became governor, I have had meetings with him, one on one interaction with him and one thing that really stands out for me, is that he is a leader that listens and when he runs a meeting, you will feel that, because he will allow everyone to contribute before he makes his own decisions.

IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION

Education has improved since the inception of this administration. For years we have tried to get schools accredited and today you can call any school in the state and they will tell you thank God for Douye Diri.



Elder Adolphus Dede **Forcados**

Special Adviser to the Governor
on Secondary Education.

POSITIVE MINDSET

I can say the governor is somebody I knew before now. We have worked together in different platforms but there was something I did not know about him until now and that is his positive lifestyle. Ordinarily, somebody at that office will be stressed because of lack of funds but even as at a time when there was no fund and things looked hopeless, he still approached them with a positive lifestyle and that is good for the state and good for his health and good for the government.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

I think that he has done well in the three Senatorial Roads, judging from the financial situation flowing into the state. A lot of people, particularly in my local government were not sure he will continue the road to Oporoma, but as soon as he came into office and things settled down, Oporoma Road was one of the roads he awarded contracts for. Some people were doubting when they discovered the money that was coming in was so small, but since he awarded the road contract people have been working and not only in Southern Ijaw where I come from but three Senatorial Roads, like Sagbama/Ekeremor Road and then in the East. In Yenagoa particularly, at the Express, when you drive, for people like us that find it a little bit difficult seeing at night, it was a problem, but he has put streetlights and the whole place is bright. And there are some other works that they have done like

renovation of schools and judging from the amount coming into the state he has done very well.

RENOVATION OF SCHOOLS

There are some key areas where the need is there and he has done well renovating most of the schools and also the model secondary school which is meant for the downtrodden the lower sector of the society and he has kept the work moving since he came in and the standard has been maintained because as the name implies they are models to other secondary schools and some people don't know that these Model Schools are better than some private schools. This is a place where we have the best qualified teachers and students are fed free and I think that will boost education in the state.

PENSIONS

What the Governor has directed the Pensions Board to do is first to retire, first to be paid. Those people that were retired earlier will be paid first, so those that retired 2019 will still be on the queue. Some money has been apportioned to pay

gratuity and as for monthly pension there is no problem at all. He has been paying promptly from when he became governor and he is not owing anybody all have been settled. In River State pensioners have not been paid for about 7 months but here the governor is not owing any pensions, except the gratuity that is in the process of being paid.

RARE QUALITY

One rare quality the governor has is humility and someone once told me that he was in a meeting with the governor and the governor said no one should retaliate even if they were being abused. That is a very good character that all Christians should emulate. Humility makes him different in such a way that he seeks reconciliation and this reconciliatory attitude that he has, has made it possible for this state to be at peace. So in summary his humility and reconciliatory attitude is what has endeared him to me.

LIFE IS A PROCESS

All stakeholders in this state and then Bayelsans need to





Ongoing construction of Elebele Bridge

exercise some patience. The government is saying that we have come out of a recession and that there is economic crisis all over this country, but life is a process. It's a process we are going through and we will overcome it. We should be patient and when the economy improves due to his character, I believe this state will be transformed in a way that we never imagined.

ENVY

What I think personally is that once you are doing something that I cannot do there will be something that will come into my mind and that is envy. Envy only destroys and it tries to bring the other person down. When I see that a person coming into government will do something more than I did, then envy comes in because when we were in transition people thought he will do worse than the previous administrations. Everybody has weak points and some who have goodwill have acknowledged the actions of the governor but some who don't have goodwill, in spite of what they see will still have issues to trace and attempt to pull him down



Ongoing construction of Yenagoa-Oporoma Road



Hon. Bob **Diepriye**

Former Vice Chairman, Nembe
Local Government Area

A GENTLEMAN

Our Governor Senator Douye Diri is a gentleman and easy going person. He is a man who talks less and works more. Douye Diri in his short period in office has done more work than many administrations could not do in office for years. Even with the slim resources at his disposal he has managed it creditable and his works can speak for him. Not minding the Covid-19 pandemic when he resumed office Douye has done so much for our people both in the Civil service sector, construction and education. I see Douye Diri as a man that can change the fortunes of this State.

PEACE IS GOLDEN

Peace is golden. Governor Douye took the road of peace to resolve all the conflicts during and after the elections. Before now many persons have been on exile for years because of the political conflict particularly in the Nembe community.

His style of leadership is very good, he knows and understands that you can't fight fire with fire but his peaceful approach to resolve the Nembe issues is something that many leaders lack.

I myself, I've been on exile simply because am a PDP card carrier. When Douye Diri assumed office, he didn't take him three months to resolve the crisis and asked us to return using dialogue and peaceful approach and we returned and ever since things have been peaceful both in Nembe and Bayelsa State as a whole. When we speak of security, both in our water ways, Bayelsa State has been peaceful. No kidnapping anymore. Douye Diri has done more and talked less.

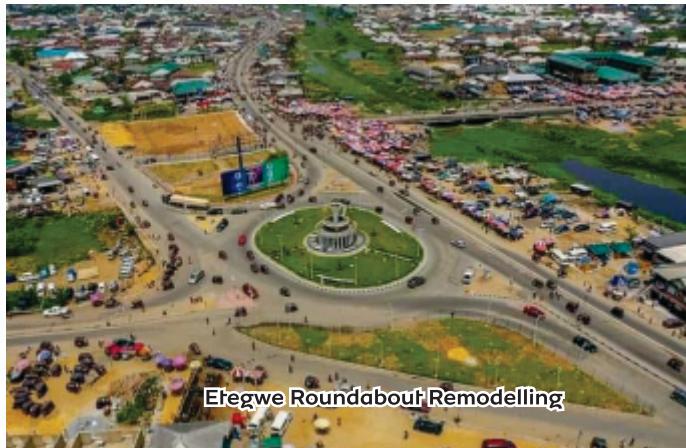
INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

When we talk of infrastructure, the bridge that our governor is building at Elebele links us to the East, between Nembe and Ogbia communities and in no distant time that bridge will be completed. Douye Diri is matching words with action.

And the bridge is so solid that it will take decades for any kind of maintenance to take place.

Diri's facial expressions tell you the kind of man he is, always friendly and smiling.

I like people who talk less but do more and Douye happens to be that kind. On a final note, distribution of projects has been so good that all the local government areas are included in all manner of project and we are happy for that.







A p u b l i c a t i o n o f P r o s p e r i t y P i l o t I n i t i a t i v e

D E S I G N E D & P R I N T E D B Y
Sprinte Media Company
08032162304, 08146000402