



Federal Ministry of
**INFORMATION &
NATIONAL ORIENTATION**
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Regional Citizens' Engagement Series

South-East Geo-Political Zone



Enugu,
14th August,
2025



Ebonyi,
15th August,
2025

Project Inspection Tour

Town Hall Meetings

#NCTSouthEastTour

#HMINOTour

September 2025 Publication Of The Information And Insights Unit



Introduction

At the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, our work is anchored on five critical pillars:



Since I assumed office as Minister in August 2023, I have been guided by these goals, and we will continue to work hard to implement them and live up to the high expectations of the Nigerian people.

Our Town Hall Meetings, also known as Citizen Engagement Series, fall within the first and second pillars of our agenda. They are designed to create platforms for us to meet, engage with and listen to the people of Nigeria, across the six geopolitical zones.

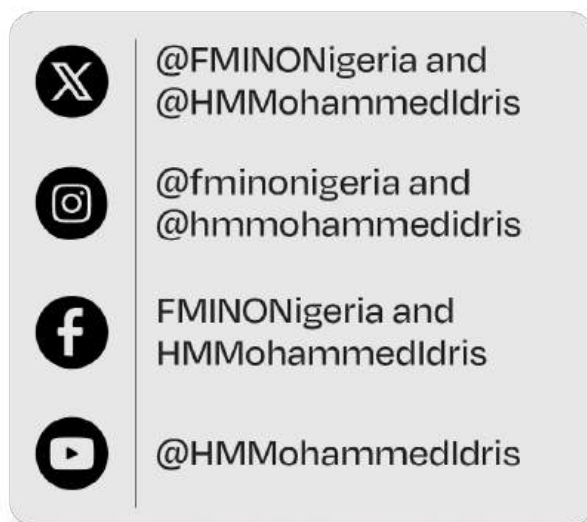
We hold these engagements under the umbrella of the National Communications Team (NCT), which I lead, and which brings together the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, its agencies, and presidential aides with a communications mandate.

As part of these citizen engagements, we also tour infrastructure projects by the Federal and State governments, highlighting the dividends of democratic governance and showing the people how their commonwealth is being put to work on their behalf.

We ensure that we fully carry the subnational governments along, in line with President Tinubu's commitment to ensuring synergy across all tiers of government, for the good of the people of Nigeria.

Enjoy these updates from our Citizen Engagement Series in the South East of Nigeria, held in August 2025.

We encourage you to engage with us on our social media platforms:



Mohammed Idris
Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation
Abuja, Nigeria
September 2025

South East Citizens' Engagement Itinerary

Enugu State



Courtesy Visit to The Governor, H.E. Peter Mbah, at Lion Building, Enugu State Government House

Tour of recently-commissioned Command and Control Centre, Enugu Government House

Inspection of ongoing reconstruction of Enugu - Portharcourt Expressway (Section III & IV)

Inspection of ongoing reconstruction of Enugu - Abakaliki- Ogoja Highway

Inspection of recently-commissioned Oncology Centre, at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka Teaching Hospital.

Inspection of reconstruction work on Abakpa Road.

Town Hall Meeting with Stakeholders at International Conference Centre, Enugu

Inspection of ongoing reconstruction of Enugu - Abakaliki - Ogoja Highway (Abakaliki end)

Courtesy Visit to The Governor, H.E. Francis Nwifuru, at the Executive Council Chamber, Ebonyi State Government House

Inspection of ongoing construction of Civil Servant Reward Estate, Ebonyi

Visit and Media Appearance on Enugu Broadcasting Corporation, Salt TV

Inspection of ongoing construction of Vanco Flyover Abakaliki

Inspection of ongoing construction of Trans-Saharan Highway (Ebonyi Section)

Inspection of ongoing reconstruction of Abakaliki - Oferekpe Road

Inspection of ongoing reconstruction of Abakaliki - Oferekpe Road

Inspection of ongoing construction of ICT University, Oferekpe

Town Hall Meeting with Stakeholders at Ecumenical Centre, Abakaliki

Meeting with the Minister of Works, Dave Umahi

Ebonyi State



Speech by the Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, FNIPR, at a Town Hall Meeting Held at the International Conference Centre, Enugu State, on Thursday, August 14, 2025



Mohammed Idris, fnipr
Honorable Minister of Information
and National Orientation

Protocol

I am delighted to be in Enugu, the historic heart of the South-East, for this important town hall meeting. I thank His Excellency, Governor Peter Mbah, and his cabinet for their warm hospitality.

This engagement, like the recent one in Kaduna, is part of our efforts at the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, in collaboration with the National Communication Team, to connect directly with Nigerians on the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR. Our goal is simple — to bridge the communication gap between government and citizens, block the spread of misinformation, and strengthen participatory democracy through open dialogue.

President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, anchored on eight pillars, is about reforming the economy, securing the nation, and ensuring prosperity for all Nigerians, boost agriculture to achieve food security, unlock energy and natural resources for sustainable development, enhance infrastructure and transportation, focus on

education, health, and social investment, accelerate diversification through industrialization, digitization, creative arts, manufacturing, and innovation, and also, improve governance for effective service delivery.

From the outset, the President took bold steps: removing fuel subsidy to end decades of cronyism and unify exchange rates to bring transparency. While these reforms brought initial hardship, targeted interventions such as wage awards, higher minimum wage, cash transfers, food security programmes, and cheaper Compressed Natural Gas for transport, are cushioning the impact. More funds are now available to states and LGs for infrastructure and human capital development.

In the South-East, these funds are delivering tangible impact, such as the laudable infrastructure projects we inspected earlier today across Enugu State, some of which were Federal Government projects, and scores of others by the Government of Enugu State. By all means His Excellency Governor Peter Mbah is defining the sort

of harmony required by the centre and the states for national development.

The Eastern Railway Corridor from Port Harcourt through Aba and Enugu to Maiduguri is a presidential priority, with \$3bn recently sought for modernization. Over 1,000 primary healthcare centres have been rehabilitated nationwide, including in the South-East. Only weeks ago, we commissioned a world-class oncology and cancer centre here in Enugu.

In a historic move, President Tinubu established new development commissions for all previously uncovered zones, ensuring no region is left behind. His inclusive governance style is evident in balanced appointments and equitable distribution of benefits.

On security, the administration has invested in modern equipment, more personnel, and better intelligence gathering, weakening criminal networks. For our youth, unprecedented opportunities have been created, with more young people in the Federal Executive Council and agency leadership than ever before.

Through the Nigeria Education Loan Fund, about 450,000 students have accessed loans, and nearly 90,000 Nigerians have benefited from the Consumer Credit Scheme. Recognizing the South-East's industrial strength, the government has created three key business funds totalling 200bn: the Presidential Conditional Grant Scheme (PCGS); the FGN MSME Intervention Fund, and the FGN Manufacturing Sector Fund

I want to call on entrepreneurs to take advantage of these funds and embrace the "Nigeria First" policy that promotes patronage of locally made products.

It's delightful to see that Enugu and Imo states are among the 11 states that have received regulatory autonomy to oversee the electricity market in their states, from generation to distribution, thanks to the Electricity Act signed into law by President Tinubu at the inception of this administration. We expect other states of the region to key into this policy as soon as possible.

Indeed, economic stability is returning; food prices are easing, forex markets stabilizing, and global rating agencies are optimistic about our trajectory toward a \$1 trillion economy by 2030. While challenges remain, the progress is real.

By the end of President Tinubu's first term, the benefits of reforms will be clearer, as the federal government remains committed to transparency, accountability, and delivering the dividends of democracy to all Nigerians. The South-East is at the heart of this vision, not its periphery.

We look forward to a frank and genial engagement with the good citizens of Enugu State.

Thank you for your kind attention.

May God bless Enugu State.

May God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Speech by the Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, FNIPR, at a Citizens' Engagement Forum Held at the Government House, Ebonyi State, on Friday, August 15, 2025



Mohammed Idris, fnipr
Honorable Minister of Information
and National Orientation

Protocols

I'm delighted to be here today in Ebonyi, the Salt of the Nation, in continuation of our two-day South East geo-political zone citizens' engagement series, an initiative of the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, specially designed to engage directly with Nigerians across the six geo-political zones.

I bring you greetings from His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, and the Federal Executive Council. As you are aware, the commitment of Mr. President to the socio-economic development of Ebonyi State and the entire South-East is unwavering.

He is right on track to transform and move the region forward, as promised when he came here to campaign in November 2022.

First and foremost, this event is not a mere talk shop. We are here to present our scorecard, give our report of stewardship, take feedback and recommendations, and interact directly with the good people of the state.

This is consistent with the mission of the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation to reenact trust in public communication by deepening the social contract between government and citizens, and restoring public confidence in governance.

Two years ago, through the mandate and support of the people, President Tinubu embarked on what

has become the most audacious economic reform undertaken by any previous government. In our pursuit to breathe life into our ailing economy, we waded into uncharted territories and took the road never travelled.

By leaps and bounds, we tamed the beasts that had brought our country to its knees and held our economic development hostage. We removed fuel subsidy, unified the foreign exchange market, and began the sweeping restructuring of critical organs of our national existence.

Since this new dispensation of economic revitalization, allocation to state and local governments has more than doubled, providing the required resources for the initiation of new projects and the completion of abandoned projects.

We are witnessing an unprecedented explosion of infrastructure projects across most states of the country, financed by funds made available through subsidy removal and other economic policies of the President Tinubu-led government.

We promised to let the poor breathe, and to prove it, our new tax law now excludes minimum wage earners from paying tax. We pledged to make tertiary education accessible to all. In just a year, about 450,000 students are now beneficiaries of our game-changing Student Loan initiative. We have also not recorded any ASUU strike since we took office. Payment of N70,000 minimum wage and N77,000 NYSC stipends has commenced. We

have not only matched words with actions, but also acted with sheer dedication and responsibility.

On security, we are leaving no stone unturned in decimating criminals, bandits, and terrorists threatening the peace and sovereignty of our country, from South to North, East to West. In the last two years, we have neutralized over 12,000 criminals and rescued over 9,000 hostages across the country. We have recorded great success in making the South East safe and rendering the sit-at-home orders by secessionists ineffective.

In fulfilling the pledge of equitable regional development and inclusion by our party, the federal government has created 5 new regional development commissions and the Ministry of Regional Development.

It is gratifying to note that the South East Development Commission has hit the ground running in its pursuit to build a \$200 billion economy for the region by 2035.

Furthermore, Mr President has graciously approved the establishment of the South East Investment Corporation, tasked with mobilizing private capital, boosting industrialization, and driving inclusive growth, with a projected capital base of N150 billion.

We are not just moving the needle on infrastructure, we are turning the tide. Port Harcourt – Aba railway project has been completed, delivered, and is in operation.

The Federal Executive Council has also approved the allocation of \$3billion for the completion of the 2,044km Eastern Rail Line, projected to unlock N50billion for the region in annual trade while connecting economic hubs in this region to markets in the Northern part of the country.

Also, \$508million has been earmarked for the upgrade and modernization of Eastern Port infrastructure. We have also inaugurated 118.85km of the Ebonyi section of the Calabar – Abuja Super Highway.

The Federal Government, in April 2025, flagged

off the Cancer Centre of Excellence at the David Umahi Federal University of Health Sciences, Uburu. Just about three weeks ago, I was also in Enugu alongside Ministers of Health and Finance to commission a world-class Oncology Centre at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Nsukka.

As part of efforts to cushion the effect of fuel subsidy removal on nano, micro, and small businesses, the Federal Government, through the Bank of Industry, injected about N200billion into this critical sector of the economy in the form of grants and loans, benefitting over 900,000 business owners.

Also, in October 2024, Vice President Kashim Shettima commissioned Nigeria's largest Ultra-Modern Fashion and Garment Hub, launched the 5th MSME Clinic in the South-East, and disbursed N150,000 grant to business owners.

Thanks to the Electricity Act signed by President Tinubu at the inception of his administration, 11 states have received regulatory autonomy to oversee the electricity market in their states, from generation to distribution. Two of the 11 states are from the South East. We are delighted that more states, including Ebonyi, are making all the necessary efforts to leverage the provisions of the Electricity Act.

Indeed, we are not resting on our oars. President Tinubu's vision is to build a \$1 trillion economy, reverse the infrastructure deficit gap, achieve food security, improve the living conditions of the masses, and bequeath a prosperous nation to future generations. With your support, this vision will become a reality.

Finally, I commend our host, His Excellency Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru, for the massive infrastructural projects he has completed and initiated since May 2023. His success across all sectors of the state is a testament to what is possible when state and federal governments work in synergy to deliver dividends of democracy to the people.

May God bless Ebonyi State
May God bless the South East
May God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Picture Gallery Enugu

Courtesy Visit to the State Governor



Project Inspection Tour - Abakpa Road



Project Inspection Tour - Enugu Command and Control Center



Project Inspection Tour - Enugu - Portharcourt Road Section 3 and 4



Project Inspection Tour - Enugu - Abakaliki Expressway



Project Inspection Tour - UNTH Oncology Center



Town Hall Meeting



Picture Gallery Ebonyi

Courtesy Visit to the Governor



Joint Press Address with the Minister of Works



Project Inspection - Abakaliki - Enugu Highway



Project Inspection - Civil Servant Reward Estate



Project Inspection – Construction of University of ICT



Media Appearance - Ebonyi Broadcasting Corporation, Salt TV



Project Inspection - Oferekpe Road



Project Inspection - Trans Saharan Highway (Ebonyi Section)



Project Inspection - Vanco Fly Over, Abakaliki



Townhall Meeting



