

Speech by the Executive Secretary/Chair of NSWG

Courtesy Visit to His Excellency, Dr. Alex Otti, Governor of Abia State

Date: 6th May 2026

Venue: Nvosi, Isialangwa, Abia State

Your Excellency, Dr. Alex Otti, Governor of Abia State,

Members of the Abia State Executive Council,

Distinguished Members of the NEITI National Stakeholders' Working Group (NSWG),

Senior Management and Staff of NEITI,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

We bring you greetings and warm regards from the Board and Management of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI). It is indeed a privilege to be received here today at your beautiful country home in Nvosi, Isialangwa. We thank you for your hospitality and commend the spirit of openness and partnership that defines your leadership.

Your Excellency, this visit is deeply symbolic. The NEITI Board—our National Stakeholders Working Group—and the Secretariat are here in Umuahia for our statutory meeting and strategic retreat. Our decision to hold this important national engagement in Abia State was not accidental. It was a conscious and deliberate choice.

We are here to shine a spotlight on positive governance at the subnational level. We are here to identify and support states that are deploying public resources to uplift citizens, deepen accountability, and lay strong foundations for inclusive development. Abia State under your leadership is fast becoming a reference point.

We have followed with keen interest the transformational reforms you have introduced—reforms that prioritize fiscal discipline, infrastructure renewal, access to quality healthcare, education, urban regeneration, and digital governance. These are not political statements. They are development realities that reflect a new culture of responsible leadership and purposeful governance.

As an agency that promotes transparency and accountability in the extractive industries, NEITI is particularly pleased to note your commitment to fiscal openness and your emphasis on the social contract between government and citizens. This aligns perfectly with the values that NEITI represents—values anchored on prudent resource use, public trust, and sustainable development.

Your Excellency, we are also here to explore areas of collaboration. NEITI is currently expanding its engagement with subnational governments through our EITI-supported “Opening Extractives” and “Subnational Implementation Frameworks.” These initiatives provide platforms for states to disclose resource revenues, improve budget transparency, and develop community-sensitive policies in host communities. We invite Abia State to be part of this next chapter.

We are equally proud that NEITI’s current Executive Secretary and CEO, Dr. Orji Ogbonnaya Orji, a prominent son and a shining ambassador of Abia State who has brought national and international recognition to NEITI through his visionary and principled leadership. His achievements in repositioning NEITI as a global model for resource transparency is a statement on the quality of human capital that Abia is offering to Nigeria.

We also have on our Board, Chief I. I. Ikwuegbu, a retired Director at the CBN, from your Neighbours Imo State, who represents the South East Zone on the NEITI Board.

Let me end by reaffirming that NEITI's commitment to development is non-partisan, evidence-based, and citizen-centered. We believe that when states get it right, the nation prospers. And what we are witnessing in Abia gives us hope.

May I therefore request, Your Excellency, that you continue to keep the door open for dialogue, partnership, and innovation. Together, we can promote a development model that ensures that natural resource wealth truly benefits the people—starting from the grassroots.

Thank you for receiving us so warmly. Thank you for leading with vision. Thank you for making Abia a beacon of hope in the heart of Igbo land and in Nigeria as a whole.

God bless you. God bless Abia State. God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.