



Ebonyi receives the World Bank SFTAS Awards of Excellence.

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SA to the Governor on Media and Strategy

The Ebonyi State Government shone like a million stars in an award ceremony packaged by the World Bank, the Federal Government of Nigeria, with other partners on November 14, 2022. The award, which was held in the Congress Hall at the Transcorp Hilton in Abuja, was the result of the evaluation of the implementation of the States' Fiscal Transparency, Accountability, and Sustainability (SFTAS) program across the 36 States.

The Government of Ebonyi State received a total of five awards for excellence in the following areas:

- A. fiscal transparency and accountability;
- B. increased domestic revenue mobilization;
- C. Efficiency of Public Expenditure;
- D. Debt Sustainability; and
- E. Overall in all SFTAS Direct Link Indicators.

After receiving the Five Awards, an elated Governor Umahi noted that the state had a well-thought-out fiscal plan with an appropriate implementation framework that had aided very high budget performances. He stated that the state also made sure the debt repayment plans were followed judiciously, thereby achieving a consistent rating of the state as the least indebted in the SouthEast and the second least indebted in the country.

The Honourable Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development, Orlando Okechukwu Nweze, who also serves as the Chairman of the Ebonyi State SFTAS Steering Committee, was full of appreciation for the Governor, who has consistently given attention to the processes of implementing policies and allowing for institutional best practices, which has given room for these SFTAS performances. He also recalled the State Ministry of Finance's 2021 goal, which was based on attaining excellent heights in the performance of all nine original SFTAS DLIs and the AF DLIs.

In the recent past, the State Government has received reports of ratings done by leading public finance organisations such as Budget's State of States rating for 2021. In this report, the Ebonyi State Government was rated second in fiscal performance, second in the States' Fiscal Sustainability Index, fourth place in internal resource mobilisation and lots more. It is very obvious that His Excellency, Engr. David Umahi, has recorded astronomical milestones in the development of Ebonyi State, and Eboyanians are grateful to him.