



# ARISE

## NEWS WEEKLY



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# Gov Eno Declares State of Emergency on Health Sector

• *Constitutes Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee for implementation*



Executive Council meeting, held at Government House, Uyo, which he presided over as Chairman of Council.

Announcing immediate directives under the emergency, Governor Eno ordered further upgrade of medical facilities across the State, reopening of the recruitment portal and engagement of

**G**overnor Umo Eno, has declared a State of Emergency in the health sector, as part of sweeping reforms, aimed at repositioning healthcare delivery in the State.

The Governor made the declaration on Friday, September 12, during the State



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2,000 healthcare workers, with the VIN requirement waived for applicants.

He also directed the upgrading of health training institutions, enrollment and training of more health professionals, and the engagement of retired but willing medical personnel on contract basis.

To ensure effective coordination and execution, the Governor constituted an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee, chaired by the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Ekem Emmanuel John.

Other members include, the Commissioner for Science and Digital Economy, Dr. Frank Ekpenyong; Commissioner for Information, Rt. Hon. Aniekan Umanah; Head of Civil Service, Elder Effiong Essien; Commissioner for Budget, Planning and Economic Development, Dr. Nsikan Nkan; and

Commissioner for Youth Development, Dr. Ekerette Ekanem.

Also on the committee are, the Commissioner for Education, Prof. Ubong Umoh; Commissioner for Labour and Manpower Planning, Hon. Ikoedem Ekong; Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Welfare, Hon. Inibehe Etukudo; Special Adviser on Labour, Rt. Hon. Udo Kerian Akpan; PPG/SSA on Medicals, Dr. Usenobong Morgan; and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr. Pat Essiet.

Governor Eno charged the committee to demonstrate greater commitment and drive in ensuring the full realisation of the ARISE Agenda, for the overall development and wellbeing of the people.



# New Power Era Unfolds in A'lbom as Gov Eno Signs MoU with REA

• Invites investors to partner in renewable energy



**G**overnor Umo Eno, has declared that electricity remains the single most important driver of the State's development agenda, assuring that the era of energy insecurity is over.

Speaking at the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and Akwa Ibom State Strategic Roundtable in Abuja, on Wednesday, September 10, the Governor said the State was moving from policy formulation to practical implementation of electricity solutions that will transform lives and power industries.

Governor Eno highlighted milestones already achieved, including the delivery of the Akwa Ibom State Electricity Policy (2024), the enactment of the Electricity Law (2025), and the establishment of regulatory frameworks for effective implementation. He emphasised that electricity is central to the ARISE Agenda, driving agriculture, industry, education, healthcare, digital innovation, women-led enterprises, and job creation.

Reassuring investors of government's readiness to provide land, expedite permits, ensure regulatory clarity, and facilitate financing, the Governor, urged Renewable Energy Service Companies (RESCOs) and private sector partners to move from concepts to concrete projects within 15–18 months. He added that Akwa Ibom would leverage its natural gas and small hydro resources, while promoting renewable energy to achieve a sustainable energy transition.

In her welcome remarks, the Deputy Governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, described the roundtable as a "critical milestone" in the State's journey towards universal electricity access, stressing that off-grid deployment is essential for reaching unserved and underserved communities.

The Managing Director of REA, Aliyu Baba, commended Governor Eno's commitment to rural development, noting that

the State's ARISE Agenda aligns with the national electrification initiative. He pledged continued collaboration with states to attract private investors and provide affordable electricity to rural dwellers.

Presenting investment opportunities in the State's electricity market, the Commissioner for Power, Rt. Hon. Iniobong Nnamso, highlighted prospects in solar, hydro, and gas-to-power projects. He disclosed that the State has created a conducive environment for investors through policies designed to ensure viability and sustainability of projects.

The roundtable also featured an overview of the REA Community Mapping Tool by the Technical Adviser of the Nigerian Electrification Program (NEP), and the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Akwa Ibom State Government and REA to deepen collaboration.

Governor Eno was accompanied by the Secretary to the State Government, Prince Enobong Uwah; Executive Assistant and Chief Delivery Advisor, Mr. Aniefiok Johnson; Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Uko Udom, SAN; Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Frank Archibong; Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Emem Bob; Commissioner for Information, Rt. Hon. Aniekan Umanah; and the Special Adviser, Bureau of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Rt. Hon. Alice Ekpenyong.



# Gov Eno Closes 2025 Sports Festival with Millions Splash on Medalists

• *Pledges continuous grooming of athletes*

**T**he 2025 Akwa Ibom Sports Festival, flagged off on Monday, September 8, with the theme, “Nurturing Talents, Promoting Tourism,” officially ended on Saturday, September 13.

Declaring the festival closed, Governor Eno described the event as a resounding success and commended stakeholders for organisation. He assured that his administration will continue to invest in the State’s fast-growing sports industry, describing it as a multi-million-naira sector with immense potential for talent development and tourism promotion.

In keeping with his promise, the Governor rolled out cash rewards for outstanding performances. Gold medalists each received N500,000, silver medalists N250,000, and bronze medalists N150,000. Local government contingents were also handsomely rewarded, with Itu LGA, the overall best performer with 70 trophies, receiving N15 million. Uyo LGA, which came second with 47 trophies, received N10 million, while Nsit Atai, in third place with 39 trophies, got N5 million. All other participating LGAs were presented with N2.5 million each.

Further incentives included N200,000 for sports supervisors across the 31 LGAs. The Governor emphasised that sports tourism will henceforth assume a prominent position in the State’s annual calendar, assuring that identified talents will be groomed at the State Sports Academy in Eket for greater exploits.

Governor Eno also recalled the recent outstanding



performance of Team Akwa Ibom at the 9th National Youth Games in Asaba, Delta State, where the contingent won 11 gold, 9 silver, and 10 bronze medals. To reward the feat, the Governor approved N500,000 for each gold medalist, N250,000 for silver medalists, and N150,000 for bronze medalists, while team managers received N5 million.

He reiterated that sports is more than mere entertainment, describing it as a viable industry and an empowerment tool for young people. According to him, his administration remains determined to support athletes to reach both national and international stardom.

The Governor further urged organizers of the festival to collaborate with the Ministry of Education to revive inter-house sports and inter-school football competitions, noting that many of Nigeria’s renowned athletes were discovered through such platforms.

The 2025 Akwa Ibom Sports Festival featured 18 sporting activities, with over 3,600 athletes in participation. At the close of competition, a total of 156 gold, 156 silver, and 198 bronze medals were awarded to contingents drawn from the 31 local government areas of the State.



## First Lady's Office, Rotary Int'l Collaborate on Humanitarian Service

**T**he Office of the First Lady of Akwa Ibom State, has expressed readiness to collaborate with Rotary International, District 9142, in advancing humanitarian services to the vulnerable.

The Coordinator, Lady Helen Obareki, gave the assurance on Monday, September 8, when she received the District Governor of Rotary International 9142, Kelechi Anyanwu, alongside other Rotarians, in her office at Government House, Uyo, who visited to seek partnership on future projects.

Lady Obareki noted that the Golden Initiative For All (GIFA), the First Lady's pet project, shares several thematic areas with Rotary, making collaboration seamless. She disclosed that GIFA, under its Literacy and Learning thematic area, is organising a back-to-school programme to provide children with essential learning materials.

"Some of the thematic areas of GIFA align with what Rotary does. What you do aligns with what we do, so you are supporting us and we are also supporting you. The bottom line is to bring greater good and impact to the lives of the less privileged. As schools resume, we will be partnering with you



on our back-to-school programme," she stated.

In his remarks, District 9142 Governor, Kelechi Anyanwu, said Rotary is leveraging its 2025 theme, "Unite for Good," to collaborate with government and private organisations to drive impact in basic education and literacy, maternal and child care, as well as the provision of essential services and starter packs for vulnerable persons. He explained that his visit to Akwa Ibom formed part of the district-wide tour of clubs.

The Assistant Governor of Rotary Club, Zone 9, Rotarian Onoriode Obareki, commended Lady Obareki for her effective balance of family, work, and State duties, praising her commitment to community impact.

Also speaking, the District Governor Nominee, Adesegun Tijani, President Patricia Obot, and President Amanam Hanson, applauded the initiatives of the First Lady's office, noting their alignment with Rotary's mission of poverty alleviation and social upliftment.

Rotary International is a global community-based network of over 1.4 million business and professional leaders, dedicated to providing humanitarian service and improving lives worldwide.





## Info Ministry Partners INEC on Sensitisation of Continuous Voter Registration

**T**he Ministry of Information, and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Akwa Ibom State, are set to partner on sensitisation to boost participation in the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise.

The Commissioner for Information, Rt. Hon. Aniekan Umanah, announced the collaboration on Tuesday, September 9, during a courtesy visit by an INEC delegation to his office, where he described voter registration as the heartbeat of democracy, and stressed the need for citizens to embrace their civic responsibility.



Umanah revealed that the ministry had already commenced awareness campaigns through social media platforms, flyers, and radio programmes on various stations to mobilise residents for the exercise, adding that town criers were also being engaged across the 2,282 gazetted villages in the State to complement the effort.

The Commissioner further identified religious organisations and political groups as strategic channels for grassroots mobilisation, assuring INEC of the ministry's full support in driving participation in the exercise.

Earlier, the leader of the INEC delegation and Head of Voter Education and Publicity in Akwa Ibom State,

Bukola Ojeme, explained that the visit was to seek the ministry's partnership in enhancing publicity. He noted that the collaboration would cover a roadshow across the three senatorial districts, the airing of jingles, and campus outreach programmes.

Ojeme emphasised the importance of online pre-registration via the platform [cvr.inecnig.org](http://cvr.inecnig.org), noting that it would help reduce overcrowding at registration centres. He also clarified that those seeking to replace lost or damaged voter cards could also complete the process online without visiting registration venues.

The ongoing voter registration, which commenced on August 25, is open to persons who have attained 18 years but have never registered, as well as those

who need card replacement, wish to change polling units, or update their details. INEC reiterated that obtaining a Permanent Voter Card (PVC) remains the gateway to effective participation in elections and a means of contributing to decision-making for a better future.





## Pastor Eno Approves N695 Billion Supplementary Budget, Amends MTEF

**P**astor Umo Eno, has approved a supplementary budget of ₦695 billion for the 2025 fiscal year, bringing the total budget size to ₦1.65 trillion.

The approval, which followed a presentation by the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning during the State Executive Council meeting on Friday, September 12, at Government House, Uyo, was aimed at realigning government priorities and addressing emerging expenditure demands.

The supplementary budget provides for the implementation of the new minimum wage, personnel emoluments, and allowances for National Youth Service Corps members serving within the State, and Corps members of Akwa Ibom origin.

It also makes provisions for emergency flood and erosion control, the completion of ongoing projects affected by inflation, the acquisition of Ibom CNG mass transit buses, operational support for newly created ministries and agencies, the construction of new housing estates, renovation of the House of Assembly complex, the acquisition of new aircraft and the development of the ARISE Shopping City.

In addition, approval was given for the amendment of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, raising it from ₦980 billion to ₦1.7 trillion in line with the State's Fiscal Responsibility Law.

The forthcoming launch of the Treasury Single



Account, designed to improve internally generated revenue, block leakages and strengthen fiscal transparency, as well as the Akwa Ibom Geographic Information System, which will digitize land management processes and enable instant issuance of Certificates of Occupancy were also disclosed.

The meeting, presided over by Governor Eno, had in attendance the Deputy Governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, the Secretary to the State Government, the Head of the Civil Service, the Executive Assistant and Chief Delivery Advisor, Honourable Commissioners and Special Advisers.





## British High Commission Lauds Gov Eno on Infrastructural Devt, Tourism

**T**he State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno, has received commendation from the British Deputy High Commissioner in Lagos, Mr. Jonny Baxter, for his visionary and impactful leadership anchored on the ARISE Agenda.

Governor Eno, while welcoming the team, on Thursday, September 11, at Government House, Uyo, appreciated Nigeria's longstanding historical ties with the United Kingdom, noting that the relationship has been extended to sub-nationals like Akwa Ibom. He disclosed that his administration is already working with the Tony Blair Institute in strategic areas, particularly tourism development, and commended the Institute's partnership with the State.

Highlighting educational opportunities, the Governor explained that the State Government recently sponsored students to the United Kingdom on a strategic educational tour. According to him, the initiative was designed to broaden the students' horizons, encourage discipline, and inspire them to aim high regardless of their background. He added that a second trip is being planned and expressed interest in collaborating with the commission for its success.

Governor Eno also revealed ongoing economic development projects, including the Liberty Oil and Gas Free Trade Zones, Ibom Industrial City, and the Itam Industrial Park in Uyo, stressing that his administration is seeking investors to provide off-grid power for the Park, thereby ensuring uninterrupted electricity for industries operating there.

On agriculture and commerce, he listed priority projects such as the Tree Crop Revolution, the Ikot Ekpene International Market, and the State's Rural Electrification Project. He further announced that Akwa Ibom is the first sub-national in Nigeria to create an Aviation Ecosystem, which includes Ibom Air, a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility nearing completion, and a new terminal building.

The Governor spoke extensively on the ARISE Resort, a flagship project scheduled for commissioning by December, and assured that the resort will serve as a major tourism hub in Nigeria, with ripple effects across the hospitality and service sectors.

In his response, Mr. Baxter expressed delight with the



ambience of Akwa Ibom State, describing its infrastructure, especially the road network, as indicators of quality leadership. He also commended Ibom Air, describing it as one of the best airlines in the region, and a strong driver for tourism and investment.

The envoy noted that the lush and green environment of Akwa Ibom underscores its huge agricultural potential. He disclosed that the British High Commission in Lagos, maintains a commercial focus on Southern Nigeria, and assured of readiness to partner with the State in business, trade, and investments, with a promise of duty-free trade assurances.

Impressed by a documentary presentation of the Governor's two-year achievements, Mr. Baxter undertook a tour of key facilities, including the ARISE Resort, which he described as an impressive transformation of a 70-hectare erosion-ravaged site. He reaffirmed the United Kingdom's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Akwa Ibom State.

Accompanying Mr. Baxter were the Country Director, Department for Business and Trade, Lagos, Mr. Mark Smithson; Senior Political Adviser and Head, British High Commission South-South Office, Dr. Fortune Alfred; and Senior Political Adviser, British High Commission, Lagos, Mr. Wale Adebajo, while the Governor was joined by the Secretary to the State Government, Prince Enobong Uwah; his Chief Delivery Adviser, Mr. Aniefiok Johnson; members of the State Executive Council; and other top government officials in receiving the team.



# Ikot Ekpene: Nkom Cautions Public on Prolonged Exposure to Technological Devices



**T**he Chairman of Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area, Hon. Aniefiok Nkom, has cautioned the public on prolonged use of technology devices.

Giving the charge on Wednesday, September 3, at Ikot Ekpene Town Hall, during a Seminar presentation by Vicony's Global Success World Limited, the Chairman urged staff to disseminate the awareness to their families and communities to prevent health complications linked to electromagnetic exposure.

Represented by the Council Secretary, Mr. Unyime Akpan, Hon. Nkom stressed that while the benefits of modern devices are enormous, the negative effects of overexposure to electromagnetic radiation are deadly to human health.

In his presentation on, "The Effects of Magnetic Field and Reflexology," the resource person, Prince Ogaba James, from Vicony's Global Success World Limited, said the event was initiated to create public awareness on the health risks

associated with electromagnetic radiation.

According to Prince James, the programme aims at educating civil servants, political office holders, and Ikot Ekpene residents on the dangers of prolonged exposure to magnetic fields generated by common electronic devices.

He warned that overexposure to electromagnetic radiation could lead to conditions such as skin cancer, memory loss, and disruptions in metabolic functions, and encouraged staff to purchase a device called Pyramid Energy

Mat to counter the effects of electromagnetic radiation.

The campaign, which is supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Standards Organization of Nigeria, featured a presentation of the Pyramid Energy Mat to the Council Chairman and a live demonstration on the usage of the device, allowing participants to understand the effects of magnetic fields and how to mitigate the associated risks.





## Urue Offong/Oruko: Uno Unveils N100M Annual Empowerment Initiative



In addition, he commended the Head of Service, heads of departments, Divisional Police Officer (DPO), and religious leaders for their contributions in ensuring peace in the area.

Earlier, Rev. Emmanuel Isangedighi, delivering the homily on the theme: "The Man the King Delights to Honour," emphasised the eternal values of selflessness, service and reward. Drawing inspiration from Esther 6:6-14, he highlighted how divine recognition is often given to those who serve with humility and consistency.

Rev. Isangedighi remarked, "Selflessness fosters growth, peace and love. A leader must create opportunities for others to rise because life and service should focus on uplifting others rather than solely on oneself."

In addition, he urged stakeholders and community leaders to embrace generosity, be contented, and support those in need, reminding the congregation that divine reward comes in God's time.

Furthermore, he explained that Mordecai's reward from the king symbolised elevation, provision and responsibility, and urged the council boss to remain a listening leader.

The event concluded with intercessory prayers for peace and development in Urue Offong/ Oruko, the successful implementation of the ARISE Agenda and the growth of Nigeria.

**T**he Chairman of Urue Offong/Oruko Local Government Area, Rt. Hon. Uno Etim Uno has revealed plans to send a supplementary budget to the legislature for an annual empowerment initiative of N100 Million. This will provide N1,000,000 to each beneficiary in the area.

The Chairman, who made the assertion on Thursday, September 4, during the monthly solemn assembly held at the council hall, further explained that the initiative aims to raise at least two millionaires per village in the first year, while boosting entrepreneurship and discouraging misappropriation of funds.

Expressing gratitude to God and relevant stakeholders for the sustenance of the monthly covenant service, Rt. Hon. Uno averred that the gathering had become a spiritual pillar for peace, unity, and progress in Urue Offong/ Oruko.

Expanding on the theme, "The true King of kings is the Almighty God," the Chairman said, "While we as leaders serve as councilors, supervisors, and administrators, our strength and success come only when we put our trust in Him."

The council boss, who appreciated his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Uno, for initiating the monthly Women's Prayer Summit/Empowerment, directed that three members from the choir be included in the women's empowerment scheme.





## Pastor Eno Commiserates Sir Michael Udofia Over Wife's Demise

**P**astor Umo Eno, commiserated a former Deputy Governor of the State, His Honour, Sir Michael Udofia, on the demise of his wife, Lady Akon Udofia.

Represented by his Deputy, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, Governor Eno conveyed his condolences during the funeral service of the deceased, held at the Ikot Ekpene Township Stadium on Friday, September 5.



Describing the death of a spouse as a painful and emotional loss, the Governor noted that Lady Udofia was a devoted wife and partner who stood by her husband during his service to the State, and urged the family to take solace in the legacy she left behind.

“As difficult as this moment may be for you and the entire family, I urge you to take solace in the knowledge that she was a devoted partner and dutiful wife in every sense of the word, who lent her support and prayers during your service to our State as Deputy Governor,” the Governor stated.

Praying God to grant Sir Udofia and his family the fortitude to bear the loss, while assuring them of his continued prayers, Governor Eno stressed, “Mma has finished her race and has gone to be with her Father. The most important lesson for us, the living, is to ensure that we hold firmly to God’s word and live by it, so that when our own call comes, we will be assured of eternity with our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Preaching on the theme, “Life continues beyond the present,” drawn from Ecclesiastes 3:11, His Grace, Most Rev. Etim Ekong of the Methodist Church, Ikot Ekpene Diocese, stressed that life does not end on earth, but continues eternally, urging believers to live purposefully in line with God’s word.



The service was attended by dignitaries including former Governor, Arc. (Obong) Victor Attah; immediate past Deputy Governor, Mr. Moses Ekpo; Speaker of the House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Udemé Otong; members of the National Assembly; State Executive Council members; Local Government Chairmen; and numerous sympathizers.



# Urue Offong/ Oruko: Uno Backs Strategic Security Project as Army, State Officials Inspect Proposed Barracks Site

**T**he Chairman of Urue Offong/Oruko Local Government Area, Rt. Hon. Uno Etim Uno has expressed delight with the choice of the area as host for the proposed site of a new military barracks in the Oron Zone, while pledging full support from the host community.

Rt. Hon. Uno gave the commitment on Friday, September 5, when he received a high-powered delegation from the Akwa Ibom State Government and the Nigerian Army on an inspection of the proposed site.



“This project transcends bricks and mortar,” the Chairman said. “It represents security, opportunity, and advancement for our people. On behalf of Urue Offong/Oruko, I assure you of our maximum cooperation.”

In his remarks, the Commissioner for Internal Security and Waterways, General Koko Essien (Rtd), described the location as ideal and confirmed that the inspection was part of the preliminary steps required before an official approval by the Nigerian Army and State government. He stated that a detailed report would be presented to the Governor, followed by early-stage work such as access road construction and power supply, pending Army confirmation and land verification by the Surveyor General.

The State delegation included the Commissioner for Lands, Dr. Ubong Inyang; Surveyor General of the State, Mrs. Emem Isang; and the Brigade Commander, 2 Brigade, Nigerian Army, Brig. Gen. N.E. Okoloagu. The team inspected an 80-hectare parcel of land along the Eyulor–Uboro Road, designated for the project, which is expected to enhance regional security, stimulate economic activities, and support infrastructural development.

On her part, Mrs. Emem Isang, assured that surveying activities would commence once the Governor grants approval and appealed for cooperation from the host community to ensure smooth execution of the project.



Chief Uno was joined by the Local Government’s Town Planning Officer, Mr. Ime Ating, along with the Supervisors for Works and Information. The inspection marked a significant step towards boosting security, unlocking economic potential, and transforming the Oron Zone.



## Nsit Ibom: Aaron Receives Medical Equipment from Rotary Club



**T**he Chairman of Nsit Ibom Local Government Area, Rt. Hon. Otobong Aaron, has received a donation of essential medical equipment from Rotary Club Uyo Metropolis, in collaboration with Rotary Ambassador, Prof. Nsikak Udokang, the Medical Director of Premier Health Services.

The presentation, which took place on Thursday, September 5, at the Primary Health Centre, Afaha Offiong, had the Chairman expressing deep appreciation to the Rotary leadership, describing the gesture as a significant boost to the local health sector.

Represented by the Vice Chairman, Hon. Philip Udeme, the council boss stated her administration's commitment to a health-focused agenda, and the rehabilitation and re-equipping of primary healthcare facilities across the area.

The President of Rotary Club, Uyo Metropolis, Rotarian Uyai Francis, who stated that the club's mission is to help reduce the impact of medical emergencies, announced that Nsit Ibom is the third local

government area to benefit from the ongoing initiative, with seven more LGAs scheduled to receive similar support soon.

Commending the health centre for exceptional cleanliness and efficiency, the Prof. Udokang, described it as a model of functional healthcare delivery, and pledged to sponsor advanced training for two maternal nurses from the centre at his medical facility, so that they will in return, train other healthcare workers across the area.

The Director of Health Mrs. Grace Orok, thanked Rotary Club Uyo and Prof. Udokang for the donation, assuring that the medical equipment would be put to effective use and properly maintained to serve the community.

Items donated include a sphygmomanometer, fetal doppler, delivery tray, rectangular holder with cover, artery forceps, episiotomy scissors, tissue forceps, gallipot with cover, needle holder, digital thermometer, pedal suction machine, and stethoscope.

Other dignitaries present at the event included were the Councillor representing Mbiaso 6 and Chairman of the House Committee on Health, Hon. Unwongo Umoh; Supervisor for Health Services, Mrs. Ekaette Ossom; Director of Administration, Mrs. Idorenyin Nyong, and several health officials and staff.





# Ikot Ekpene: Construction of International Market Set to Begin



development.

Urging leaders and residents of host communities to maintain peace and cooperate fully with contractors for smooth and timely execution, the Chairman revealed that plans are underway for a new shopping complex in Ikot Ekpene.

He emphasized the area's reputation for peace and security, noting recent efforts to combat vandalism and criminal activity—including

the arrest of persons involved in stealing electric cables from transformers.

Acknowledging the support and prayers of the people, Hon. Nkom attributed his administration's achievements to community cooperation and divine guidance. He also congratulated the Ikot Ekpene football team, represented by Ward 8, for winning the Ikot Ekpene Federal Constituency Unity Cup sponsored by Hon. Patrick Umoh.

Delivering the homily at the service, Bishop Godwin Akpaniko spoke on the theme, "God Remembers His People (Ikot Ekpene)," encouraging the people to remain faithful while assuring them of God's unfailing promises.

A significant economic transformation is on the horizon for Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area, as construction work is set to commence on the long-awaited Ikot Ekpene International Market.

This was announced on Monday, September 8, by the Chairman, Hon. Aniefiok Nkom during the monthly covenant service, held at the Ikot Ekpene Town Hall.

He confirmed that the project consultant has already mobilised to site, with full-scale construction activities expected to begin shortly.

The international market project, is in fulfillment of a commitment made by Governor Umo Eno to accelerate infrastructural and commercial development in the area.

Hon. Nkom described the project as a game-changer for the local economy and a step in linking Ikot Ekpene with major interstate commercial hubs.

"We are moving from stage to stage. With this project, Ikot Ekpene will not remain the same," the Chairman stated, expressing confidence in the project's transformative impact as he praised Governor Eno for his visionary leadership and unwavering dedication to grassroots





# Committee on Illegal Mining Seizes Over 14 Trucks, 4 Excavators

**T**he Task Force Committee on Illegal Mining, has impounded more than 14 trucks and four excavators during an enforcement operation against illegal mining activities in the State.

The operation, led by the Committee Chairman and Commissioner for Environment and Mineral Resources, Rt. Hon. Nsikak Ekong, covered several sites, including a burrow pit located behind the Science Park at Ntak Inyang in Itu Local Government Area, where several individuals were apprehended, while others fled into nearby bushes to evade arrest.

Addressing the press after the exercise, Rt. Hon. Ekong reiterated the State government's resolve to end environmental degradation caused by illegal mining. He warned that such activities significantly contribute to land



degradation, erosion, and the destruction of natural habitats.

“This is precisely why His Excellency, Governor Eno, deemed it necessary to inaugurate the Task Force on Illegal Mining,” the Commissioner stated.

He further emphasised that the State government would not tolerate any activity capable of undermining Governor Umo Eno's development programmes aimed at safeguarding the lives and welfare of citizens.



The enforcement team also proceeded to another illegal mining site at Ekpri Nsukara, where the Commissioner warned that all those found culpable would face the full weight of the law. He maintained that the task force would not relent in its mandate to protect the environment and enforce the relevant laws.



# Local Govt & Chieftaincy Affairs Ministry Trains Directors of BPRS Ahead of 2026 Budget

In preparation for the 2026 Local Government Budget, the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, has organised a capacity-building workshop for Directors of Budget, Planning, Research, and Statistics (BPRS), drawn from the 31 local government councils in Akwa Ibom State.



The training, which held on Wednesday, September 10, in Uyo, focused on skills enhancement for strategic formulation and preparation of development plans for the upcoming fiscal year.

Declaring the workshop open, the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Frank Archibong, represented by the Acting Permanent Secretary, Mr. Edet Etukudo, emphasised the importance of equipping participants with the requisite knowledge to design the 2026 Local Government Budget in line with the National Chart of Accounts (NCOA) and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

In his remarks, the Director General of the Fiscal Responsibility Board, Mr. Victor Edet, commended the Ministry for aligning with the Fiscal Responsibility Law by issuing budget call circulars to local government councils for both recurrent and capital estimates over the past three years. He noted that this initiative has now been adopted at the State level for the 2026 budget.

Mr. Edet, further lauded Governor Umo Eno Ph.D for his extensive consultations across the ten federal constituencies to capture the needs of the people in the forthcoming budget. He also acknowledged the Governor's fiscal reforms in the State's accounting system, particularly the inclusion of citizens' engagement in budget preparation, which has now been extended to the local government system.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, the Director of BPRS for Uyo Local Government Area, Pastor Inyang Inyang, expressed gratitude to the State government, the ministry, and the Fiscal Responsibility Board for the training initiative. He assured that the 2026 Local Government Budget would be prepared in strict compliance with fiscal reform methodologies.

The event was attended by staff of the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs and the Fiscal Responsibility Board.

It would be recalled that the Akwa Ibom Fiscal Responsibility Law (2020) mandates the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs to issue guidelines for the preparation of development plans and annual estimates of Local Government Councils.



# Pastor Eno Hails Akwa Ibom Stars in Diaspora

*• Says MoU with REA prelude to power summit*

**G**overnor Umo Eno, has expressed delight over the exploits of Akwa Ibom indigenes excelling in various fields across the world, describing them as role models and worthy ambassadors of the State.

The Governor shared his thoughts on Wednesday September 10, while speaking with Government House Correspondents at the Victor Attah International Airport, Uyo, on his return from the United Kingdom, where he met with British-based boxer of Akwa Ibom heritage, Moses Itauma, and the Mayor of Islington, Jason Utitofon.

Governor Eno lauded the duo for their remarkable achievements, urging youths in the State to emulate their example by embracing hard work, dedication, sacrifice, and commitment, rather than clinging to a sense of entitlement.

“We have said it, and it has become our practice, that wherever we find an Akwa Ibomite who has excelled in his or her chosen field, we would celebrate and support them. Part of my visit to the UK was to meet with Moses Itauma, the boxing champion, and also to meet with the Mayor of Islington, Utitofon Jackson, who is also our son from Ika Local Government Area,” he said.

The Governor recalled that this was the second time an Akwa Ibom indigene had risen to the rank of Mayor abroad, noting that the first was Mayor Ukeme Awakessien-Jeter of Upper Arlington, Ohio, USA. He stressed that such accomplishments were not products of godfatherism but of excellence and hard work.

On the sidelines of the trip, Governor Eno highlighted the significance of the Memorandum of



Understanding (MoU) he recently signed with the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) during the Electrification Roundtable in Abuja, shortly after returning from the UK. He explained that the agreement would play a pivotal role in securing 24-hour power supply across Akwa Ibom.

He disclosed that the State will host an Electricity Power Summit on September 18–19, in collaboration with REA, as part of efforts to deepen rural electrification and extend power to communities that remain unserved or under-served.

“This underlines our commitment to ensure Akwa Ibomites enjoy reliable 24/7 electricity. Working with REA, we will deliver power to communities not currently linked to the national grid,” the Governor assured.





# AKWA IBOM STATE **20** ELECTRICITY SUMMIT **25**

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



### WHAT IS IT?

The First Akwa Ibom State Electricity Summit - a high-level gathering convened by the Government of Akwa Ibom State, with technical assistance from UKNIAF, to chart the future of the State's electricity market.



### WHAT IS THE SUMMIT'S PURPOSE?

#### The Summit:

- ⚡ Defines pathways for reliable and affordable electricity
- ⚡ Builds strong institutions for regulation and accountability.
- ⚡ Unlocks private sector and development partner investment



### WHO WILL BETHERE?

#### Leaders from:

- ⚡ Federal and State Governments
- ⚡ Private investors and developers
- ⚡ Development partners and donors
- ⚡ Electricity industry stakeholders (generation transmission, distribution)
- ⚡ Civil society and consumer representatives



### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

With the approval of the Akwa Ibom State Electricity Policy and the signing into law of the Akwa Ibom State Electricity Law, 2025, the State is among the first movers in Nigeria to take charge of its own electricity market under the Electricity Act 2023.



### WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT?

The Summit will conclude with a communique, setting out comprehensive roadmap for the Akwa Ibom State Electricity Market (AKEM) paving the way for greater energy access, investment, and innovation.



### WHEN IS IT?

The Summit will be held from **18th - 19th September**  
At Four Points by Sheraton,  
Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State

**By Invitation**



## AKS AND RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE HELD IN ABUJA





## GOV ENO PRESENTS TROPHIES TO WINNERS OF THE 2025 AK SPORTS FESTIVAL





## AKS AND RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE HELD IN ABUJA





## GOV ENO RECEIVES BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION DELEGATION





## ARISE FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION – MKPAT ENIN LGA





## ARISE FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION - ESSIEN UDIM LGA





## ARISE FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION – IBESIKPO ASUTAN LGA





## ARISE FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION – EASTERN OBOLO LGA





## AKWA IBOM SPORTS FESTIVAL 2025



**OKOBO TEAM**



**ONNA TEAM**



**ESIT EKET TEAM**



**IKONO TEAM**



**IBESIKPO ASUTAN TEAM**



**EKET TEAM**



## TOP 10 INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE STATE



### IBOM INDUSTRIAL CITY

- National and regional industrial and economic hub
- Occupies **14,517 hectares** of land
- IIC will create jobs and limitless investment opportunities



### LIBERTY FREE TRADE ZONE

- Proposed Oil and Gas Free Trade Zone
- Occupies **50,000 hectares** of land across 6 LGAs
- Will consist of Modern International Jetty, a dry bulk quay to house agricultural products.



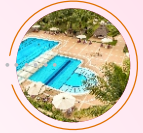
### AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENTS

- Largest producer of palm oil in the country
- Cocoa plantation
- Blessed with arable land, fertile soil, favourable all-round climate, marine resources such as large scale fishing



### TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

- Untapped potentials such as development of resorts and hospitality services.
- Availability of 21 storey smart building, Four Points by Sheraton hotel, Ibom Hotels and Golf Resort etc



### LARGE GAS RESERVES

- Abundance of natural gas
- Investment potentials in Gas to Liquid project, Gas gathering (dry) and distribution, renewable energy, low emission fuels, etc



### POWER SECTOR

- Investment opportunities available in this sector
- Upgrade of Ibom Independent Power Plant with an initial capacity of 191MW to 500MW.



### CRUDE OIL

- Largest oil producing and revenue contributing state to Nigeria's economy
- Investment opportunities in the development of upstream and downstream sector, refinery projects, oil & gas services, etc



### MARINE TRANSPORT

- Located in Nigeria's South-South region, predominantly coastal area offers opportunities for marine transportation.
- About 13.4% of 960km of Nigeria's Atlantic Ocean coastline sits in the state



### AVIATION SECTOR

- Opportunities for air cargo, freights & other courier businesses in the aviation sector



### IBOM DEEP SEAPORT

- Occupies **2,565 hectares** of land
- \$4.2bn IDSP to provide vital port capacity for the country, trans-shipment facility for West and Central African region.
- Good access to coastal railway line, Victor Attah International Airport & extensive road network.
- Beneficial to nearby industries involved in agriculture, petrochemical, marine, auto assembly, power plants.



*For more info contact*

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