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# ARISE

## NEWS WEEKLY



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## Gov Eno Unveils Electricity Roadmap

*• Ready to tackle power challenge in A'Ibom*



**G**overnor Umo Eno, has unveiled a bold initiative to overhaul the State's electricity sector, pledging improved availability, affordability, and accessibility of power supply.

Speaking while declaring open a two-day Electricity Summit at Four-Points by Sheraton, Ikot Ekpene, on Thursday, September 18, the Governor described the event as a turning point for the

energy future of the State.

Governor Eno, lamented the paradox of Akwa Ibom's rich energy resources, including gas reserves and a state-owned power plant, yet persistent epileptic power supply across homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses. He questioned why the Ibom Power Company, with an installed capacity of 191MW, has failed to operate optimally

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since its establishment in 2001 despite heavy investment.

Stressing that the summit must go beyond deliberations to actionable steps, with a clear roadmap and defined timelines, the State Chief Executive reiterated that electricity should be treated not as a luxury, but as a basic necessity and enabler of development, pledging reforms guided by the State Electricity Policy 2024 and Electricity Law 2025.

He called for stronger collaboration between the Federal and State Governments as envisioned under Nigeria's Electricity Act, assuring investors of a level playing field and facilities for clean energy production. According to him, Akwa Ibom is integrating renewable and clean energy solutions into its developmental agenda to power critical facilities such as healthcare centres and schools.

Highlighting sustainability measures, the Governor revealed that the State's Compressed Natural Gas mass transit programme, the introduction of electric vehicles, and renewable energy initiatives are part of deliberate steps to cut emissions, reduce costs, and build a cleaner energy future. He assured transparent and citizen-focused electricity governance to position Akwa Ibom as a model for sub-national reforms in Nigeria.

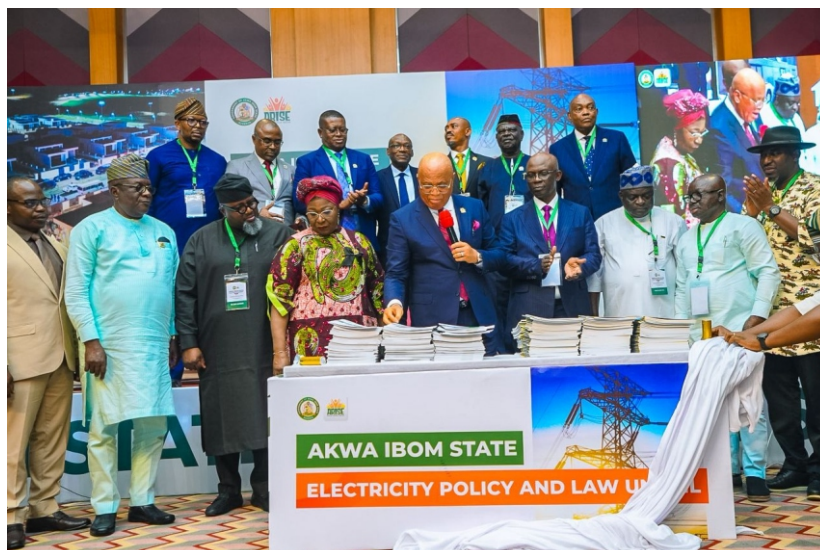
In her welcome remarks, the Deputy Governor and Chairman of the State Electricity Reform Committee, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, explained that



the summit seeks to align politics, policy, and investment with technical and financial reforms that could deliver universal electricity access. She emphasised the State's determination to ensure clean, affordable, and sustainable power supply for its citizens.

The Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu, represented by his Chief Technical Adviser, Mr. Adedayo Olowoniyi, commended the state's resolve and assured of the Federal Government support. Similarly, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, represented by Hon. Victor Nwokolo, lauded Governor Eno's courage and foresight, while representatives of Governors of Enugu, Abia, Cross River, and Bayelsa States, alongside the National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, pledged collaboration.

The summit also featured goodwill messages from stakeholders including, Senator Ekong Sampson and a keynote address by Eyo Ekpo of the UK-Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility, who outlined five strategic reform priorities, as well as the unveiling of the Akwa Ibom State Electricity Policy and Electricity Law by Governor Eno, alongside dignitaries and senior government officials.



The two-day summit, convened by the State government, climaxed with the Governor's plan to set up a State Electricity Regulatory Commission and an Electrification Agency.



# Pastor Eno Approves 1000 Recruitment for the Judiciary, as New Legal Year Commences



**P**astor Umo Eno, has approved the recruitment of 1,000 staff into the Akwa Ibom State Judiciary, aimed at strengthening the system for speedy dispensation of justice .

The Governor, who made the announcement, on Monday, September 15, during an inter-denominational church service, held at The Believers Assembly Nigeria, to mark the opening of the 2025/2026 legal year, also disclosed that provisions would be made in the 2026 budget for the construction of Evidence Rooms in select police stations in Uyo, to fast-track convictions and ensure justice for those who may be exonerated by evidence.

Governor Eno emphasised that all applicants will be engaged strictly through the State employment portal. He commended the State Chief Judge, Justice Ekaete Obot, for the robust collaboration between the Executive and Judiciary, assuring that his administration will continue to provide a conducive

environment for effective justice delivery.

The Governor further lauded the judiciary's role in maintaining peace and order, warning against attempts by individuals or groups to undermine the State's peace. He stressed that perceived injustices should be addressed through the courts rather than through sub-judicial actions, and congratulated the judiciary on the commencement of a new legal year.

Leading members of the judiciary in thanksgiving, the Chief Judge, Justice Ekaete Obot, appreciated God for sustaining the arm of government and thanked Governor Eno for creating a Judiciary Village and other welfare packages for judicial officers. She pledged continued partnership with the Executive for the peace and development of the State.

Earlier in his sermon, the Prelate of Believers Assembly, Prof. Isaiah Issong, underscored the need to enthrone the rule of law. He prayed that judges in the State will be known not only for their knowledge of the law but for their fear of God, while lawyers will serve as ministers of truth. He added that no person should be too powerful to be corrected, and no one, too poor to be protected.





# 4th EAP Cohort Kicks Off with Inauguration of A'Ibom Entrepreneurs Association



Assistant to the Governor on Entrepreneurial Development and Director-General of Ibom-LED, Mr. Ime Uwah outlined the Governor's vision for the EAP.

The programme, as stated by Uwah, has so far trained 1,200 entrepreneurs, with 500 more to benefit in the current cohort. He further explained that Ibom-LED actively monitors and evaluates businesses after training to ensure long-term sustainability and impact.

**T**he fourth Cohort of the Entrepreneurship Accelerator Programme (EAP), has been flagged off by Governor Umo Eno, as part of his administration's commitment to nurturing new business leaders and entrepreneurial development through the ARISE Agenda.

Speaking at the Ibom-LED Complex in Uyo, on Monday, September 15, Governor Eno charged participants to approach the 10-week training with discipline, passion, and commitment, disclosing that government would provide each trainee with N500, 000 grant as a foundation for their business journey.

He urged them to deploy the funds wisely in cognisance of the fact that it is not the amount that matters, but the passion to succeed, recalling how he started his chain of businesses with just a 5-room hotel, affirming that through dedication, commitment, focus and grace of God, it metamorphosed into a bigger organisation.

The Governor also highlighted his administration's prudent financial management, noting that Akwa Ibom State has operated without borrowing for over two years. This, he said, has enabled continued investments in projects and initiatives like the EAP and the Dakkada Skills Acquisition Centre (DASAC).

Earlier in his remarks, the Senior Special

In a goodwill message, the Team Lead of Ibom-LED and Managing Director of the Akwa Ibom Investment Corporation (AKICORP), Pastor ImoAbasi Jacob, praised the transformation of the Ibom e-Library into a vibrant hub for entrepreneurial training, shaping of modern business mindsets, and equipping of participants with support from active alumni network to compete globally.

Similarly, the Rector of DASAC, Prof. Enoidem Usoroh, commended Governor Eno for integrating the centre's graduates into the EAP, describing the collaboration as a major boost for skills development in the State.

The event also featured the formal inauguration of the Association of Akwa Ibom Entrepreneurs, with Mr. Ime Uwah as pioneer president, and the announcement of a ₦10 million support grant for the body by Governor Eno.





# Gov Eno Launches Security Trust Fund, Seeks Private Sector Support



**G**overnor Umo Eno, has formally launched the Akwa Ibom State Security Trust Fund, with a call on the private

sector to partner government in sustaining the State's reputation as one of the most peaceful and secure in the country.

ARISE Agenda, listing measures taken by his administration such as the creation of the Ministry of Internal Security and Waterways, headed by retired Brigadier General Koko Essien, and the establishment of Ibom Community Watch.

Governor Eno also acknowledged the support of past leaders who laid the foundation for peace in the State, and appreciated the State House of Assembly for passing the Security Trust Fund bill into law. He extended gratitude to the Fund's Chairman, Mr. Paul Usoro, SAN, and other stakeholders for their commitment to the success of the initiative.

The Chairman of the occasion and former Inspector General of Police, Usman Alkali, CFR, praised the Governor for translating his ARISE Agenda into actionable policies, describing him as a leader with uncommon passion for his people. He maintained that security and development are interwoven, noting that the launch of the fund provides a practical framework for sustainable peace.

The Inspector General of Police, Dr. Kayode Egbetokun, represented by the State Commissioner of Police, CP Baba Azare, described the initiative as a proactive step, stressing that security is an investment that yields long-term returns. He assured of the police force's support in ensuring Akwa Ibom continues to serve as a model for peace and safety.

Other speakers, including the Secretary to the State Government, Prince Enobong Uwah, commended the Governor's focus and consistency in implementing his agenda. The event was attended by the Deputy Governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi; Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Udemé Otong; federal lawmakers, industry leaders, and other stakeholders.

The initiative, themed, "Partnership for a Safer Akwa Ibom," was unveiled at the Banquet Hall of Government House, Uyo, on Monday, September 15.

The Governor stressed that security is pivotal to tourism and economic development, noting that his administration is committed to transforming the State into a tourism hub. He cited ongoing projects including the Arise Resorts set for commissioning in December, the International Conference Centre, Shopping Mall, Tropicana Hotel, and the International Worship Centre as major attractions that would draw visitors and investors to the State.

Governor Eno explained that the trust fund was established to guarantee long-term security infrastructure, emphasising that security is a collective responsibility of government, corporations, and citizens. He expressed confidence that the private sector would rise to the occasion, in line with global practice, to complement government's efforts in maintaining peace and safety.

Commending security agencies for their contributions, the Governor lauded their commanders, officers, and men for ensuring that Akwa Ibom remains free from criminal strongholds. He described security management as a key component of his





# Catholic Bishops Applaud Pastor Eno's Developmental Strides as Conference Ends in A'lbom



Catholic Bishops in Nigeria, have commended Governor Umo Eno for his developmental initiatives, particularly his transformation of a 70-hectare erosion-ravaged land, into a world-class recreation hub, aimed at boosting tourism and strengthening the State's economy.

The commendation came at the close of the Catholic Bishops Conference, held at the Diocesan Retreat and Youth Centre, Nto Ekpukot, in Obot Akara Local Government Area.

The Bishops, who were received at a courtesy visit and State reception in Government House, Uyo, on Wednesday, September 17, toured the ARISE Resort located along Dominic Utuk Avenue, where they expressed delight at the Governor's foresight and heavy investment in tourism infrastructure.

Speaking at the reception, Governor Eno emphasised his commitment to a people-centric leadership anchored on compassion, unity, and peace. He noted that his fulfillment in service comes from running a government that has a human face and remains focused on transforming the lives of citizens.

He thanked the Catholic Church and the broader Christian community for their consistent prayers and support, while restating his commitment to inclusive leadership. Governor Eno highlighted that his administration consults across party lines and partners with leaders past and present, including the Senate President, Senator Godswill Akpabio, to sustain unity and progress in the State.

The Governor further affirmed his support for President Bola Tinubu's reform agenda, which, according to him, has positively impacted Akwa Ibom in the last two years through steady federal allocations. He revealed that this has enabled the State to finance its programmes without resorting to borrowing and assured that his administration is on track to clear outstanding debts before the end of his first term.

Representing Pope Leo XIV and the Vatican, the Papal

Nuncio to Nigeria, Archbishop Michael Crotty, described the ARISE Resort as "innovative and spectacular." He praised Governor Eno's creativity in establishing the project, while appreciating the hospitality of Akwa Ibom people during the week-long Bishops Conference.

In his remarks, the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), Archbishop Lucius Ugorji, lauded the transformation of the resort site from wasteland to wealth, calling it a testament to innovation and a worthy investment for tourism. He prayed that the project would bring blessings to the State and its people, while also noting the hospitality and infrastructure that distinguished the hosting of the Bishops in the Calabar Province.

Other speakers, including Archbishop Joseph Ekwueme of Calabar Province, Bishop Camillus Umoh of Ikot Ekpene Diocese, and Bishop Chris Nyong, Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), equally applauded Governor Eno's people-focused governance. They expressed gratitude for his support in hosting the Bishops and affirmed that his election has proven to be a blessing to the State.





# Latter-day Saints Donates Over 440 Mobility Aids to State Govt



**T**he Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has donated over 263 wheelchairs and 181 assistive walking devices to the Akwa Ibom State Government, in furtherance of its humanitarian mission to support vulnerable groups and Persons Living With Disabilities (PLWDs).

Expressing appreciation to the church for its consistent demonstration of love and compassion, during the official handover ceremony on Friday, September 12, at the Women Development Centre, Uyo, Governor Umo Eno, represented by the Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs, Hon. Emem Ibanga, noted that the gesture was not just charity, but a restored dignity, renewed hope, and reaffirmed humanity for the beneficiaries.

The Governor recalled the church's past interventions, including the donation of medical equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic, remodeling of health centres in Abak and Uyo, renovation of school blocks, and ongoing support for child nutrition and immunisation. He requested expanded collaboration in establishing a socially inclusive ICT Hub for PLWDs, as well as increased relief and nutrition support programmes.

Quoting Matthew 9:37, Pastor Eno urged other organisations and individuals to emulate the church's example in serving humanity.

On her part, Hon. Ibanga highlighted Governor Eno's inclusive policies, which she observed have incorporated PLWDs into the State Social Register, facilitated the historic appointment of a PLWD as Permanent Secretary, and provided a ₦100 million

educational grant for students with disabilities.

Speaking on behalf of the church, Elder Alfred Kyungu, President of the Africa West Area, explained that all humanitarian efforts are funded by voluntary donations from members across the world. He stressed that the partnership extend beyond donations, as the church had trained staff of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare in the assessment, fitting, and maintenance of the mobility devices.

In her remarks, the Delivery Advisor, Nigeria for Women Project, Dr. Ini Adiakpan, averred that the assistive devices would help PLWDs overcome barriers of accessibility, inclusivity, and equal opportunity. She added that the partnership revealed new possibilities such as customizing wheelchairs to meet specific needs, thereby enhancing independence and visibility for persons with disabilities.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Mrs. Eno Akpan, and other speakers commended the collaboration between the church and the government, stressing that the donation would restore independence to beneficiaries.

Ms. Joy Ubong, who spoke on behalf of the beneficiaries, thanked the Governor for amplifying the voices of PWDs and appreciated the church for complementing government's efforts with a gesture she described, as love in action.

The event featured goodwill messages from senior government officials, professional associations, and stakeholders, including leaders of the Joint National Association of Persons Living With Disabilities and the Nigeria Union of Journalists. The highlight was the formal handover and presentation of the wheelchairs and assistive devices to the beneficiaries.





# HMB Reaffirms Commitment to Effective Healthcare Delivery



**T**he Akwa Ibom State Hospitals Management Board (HMB), has reiterated its commitment to strengthening healthcare systems and ensuring improved service delivery across hospitals in the State.

The reassurance was given during an unscheduled visit to the General Hospital, Awa, and the General Hospital, Etinan, where officials assessed the state of facilities and staff performance.

Speaking on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Board, Dr. Abraham Inyangudoh, the Director of Inspectorate, Dr. Imoh Akah, commended the management of the General Hospital, Awa, for maintaining a clean and orderly environment, particularly in the Accident and Emergency Unit.

Dr. Akah explained that the monitoring exercise formed part of routine oversight, aimed at enhancing service delivery, urging the staff to demonstrate diligence, punctuality, professionalism, and proper record keeping to rebuild public confidence in the health sector.

The inspection team also highlighted the

need for proper dressing, effective communication with management, and empathy in attending to patients, while charging staff to remain committed to maintaining standards.

In response, the medical officer in charge of the Awa General Hospital, Dr. Unyime Ekong, welcomed the exercise and appealed for the deployment of more medical personnel, especially doctors, to strengthen service delivery.

At the General Hospital, Etinan, the team inspected outpatient, emergency ward, and laboratory facilities, monitored staff attendance, and engaged both patients and staff in interactive sessions, which provided feedback for improving healthcare delivery.

The inspection, which forms part of ongoing efforts to rebrand the State's health sector, was undertaken by a team of senior directors from various departments of the Board, who pledged sustained oversight to ensure accountability and quality patient care across State-owned hospitals.





## Dep Gov Reaffirms Govt Commitment to Progress of A'Ibom Children



establishment of model schools would equip students to compete globally. She recalled her personal journey in education, describing it as the key that unlocked her success, and assured that Akwa Ibom will continue to produce leaders of excellence.

**D**eputy Governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, has reaffirmed Governor Umo Eno's unwavering commitment to securing a brighter future for Akwa Ibom children.

Senator Eyakenyi gave the assurance on Tuesday, September 15, when she received members of the Akwa Ibom Young Professionals Initiative, on a courtesy visit to her at Government House, Uyo.

Expressing delight with the group's engagement with the government, the Deputy Governor highlighted the achievements of the administration in education, security, and healthcare, noting that these sectors remain central to safeguarding the future of the younger generation.

She explained that the declaration of a state of emergency on the health sector would facilitate the provision of modern facilities, alongside the recruitment of more medical personnel, to enhance healthcare delivery and reduce mortality rates.

The Deputy Governor averred that the prioritisation of security by the government is ensuring a peaceful environment for the growth of the children. She referenced the launch of the State Security Trust Fund as a concrete demonstration of Governor Eno's resolve to sustain peace and attract investors.

On education, Senator Eyakenyi urged the young professionals to remain committed to learning, stressing that the Governor's

Earlier, the Team Lead of the Young Professionals Initiative, Miss Testimony Richard, applauded Governor Eno for prioritising education through the free education policy. She also hailed Senator Eyakenyi as a source of inspiration to both boys and girls, through her dedication to advancing educational opportunities for future generations.

Richard disclosed that the Young Professionals Initiative, founded in 2011 and coordinated by a Theatre Arts practitioner, Mr. Akan Ekpenyong, adopts creative and dramatic learning techniques to nurture leaders. She pledged, on behalf of the group, to remain steadfast in supporting the vision of the administration.





# Ikot Ekpene: Nkom Commends Rotary Club, Takes Delivery of Medical Equipment



**T**he Chairman of Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area, Hon. Aniefiok Nkom, has expressed gratitude to the Rotary Club of Uyo Metropolis for their generous donation of medical equipment.

Receiving the equipment on Thursday, September 18, at the Primary Health Centre, Ikot Ekpene, Hon. Nkom said the medical equipment will enhance service delivery of the health workers, improve access to quality healthcare, and reduce infant mortality.

Represented by the Vice Chairman, Hon. Abigail Akpan, the Chairman described the humanitarian service of the Rotary club as intentional and aligning with his administration's commitment to provide quality healthcare services. This includes covering medical bills for vulnerable residents, providing maternity care packs for nursing mothers, and supplying other essential medical consumables.

Earlier, the President of the Rotary Club of Uyo Metropolis, District 9142, Rotarian Uyai Francis, said the programme in partnership with Premier Medical Services, aims to train health personnel on infant resuscitation techniques to strengthen the capacity

of frontline workers in neonatal emergency care, as well as donate essential medical items and supplies to 10 select health centres within the local government area to improve service delivery, noting that Ikot Ekpene is the seventh local government area visited.

On his part, the Ambassador for Rotary Maternal and Child Health Project, MD, Premier Medical Service, Prof. Nsikak Udokang said, the initiative seeks to support the local government's efforts in reducing maternal and child morbidity and mortality while enhancing healthcare access at the grassroots level.

Prof. Udokang added that his hospital would provide training for two maternal nurses from the centre, and they will serve as trainers to their colleagues across the health centres.

Equipment donated, included a Sphygmomanometer, a Fetal Doppler, a Delivery tray, a Rectangular holder with cover, two Artery forceps, Episiotomy scissors, Tissue forceps, a Gallipot with cover, a Needle holder, two Digital Thermometers, a Pedal suction machine, and a Stethoscope.



# Urue Offong/Oruko: Chairman Flags Off Lions Club Development Project in Okossi Community



**T**he Chairman of Urue Offong/Oruko Local Government Area, Rt. Hon. Uno Etim Uno has commended Lion Alfred Ukoh of Downtown Lions Club, District 404A2, for initiating a major development project at the Federal Primary Health Centre, Okossi.

The Chairman, made the commendation at the flag off ceremony of the Lion Alfred Ukoh initiative, which includes the installation of a borehole, a 6.4 KVA solar/inverter system, and perimeter lighting for the healthcare facility.

Represented by the Vice Chairman, Hon. Arit Ambit, Rt. Hon. Uno reaffirmed his administration's commitment to partnering with stakeholders like Lion Alfred Ukoh to

ensure the successful delivery of impactful projects across the local government area. On their part, Lion Alfred Ukoh, and the District Governor of Lions Club, Pastor Ezekiel Umoh, expressed gratitude to the Chairman for his unwavering support and leadership. They also extended appreciation to the people of Okossi for their warm reception and acceptance of the project.

On behalf of the Okossi community, the Clan Head of Ubodung and Village Head of Obossi, who was represented by Elder Godwin Joe and Elder Akaima Ben, commended the Lions Club for initiating such a meaningful development in the community. They pledged the community's commitment to safeguarding and maintaining the facilities for the collective good.



# Ibendo: Effiong Receives Applause for Pioneering Teachers' Welfare Dialogue



**T**he Chairman of Ibendo Local Government Area, Hon. Glory Effiong, has been applauded by school heads and School-Based Committee (SBC) leaders for her engagement with teachers and education stakeholders in addressing their welfare.

The meeting, held on Thursday, September 18, at the council secretariat, brought together head teachers, teachers, SBC chairmen, education stakeholders, and council executives across the area.

Hon. Effiong reaffirmed her administration's commitment to supporting the teaching profession as part of efforts to complement the vision of Governor Umo Eno's ARISE Agenda, stressing that no society can rise above the quality of its teachers and assured

continuous support to enhance their work for the benefit of children in Ibendo.

On behalf of her colleagues, the Head Teacher of Iwuoachang, Mrs. Ekaette Ime, described the initiative as remarkable, noting that it was the first time since the creation of the local government that teachers had been formally gathered to discuss their welfare. She lauded the Chairman for making teachers feel recognised and respected, describing her as "a leader who listens and a mother to teachers."

Mrs. Ime added that the Chairman's concern for the teaching profession had restored a sense of dignity and encouragement among her colleagues.



# Winners of 2025 ARISE Youth Skills Week Pitch Competition Receive Prizes

*•As Dr. Ekanem Reaffirms govt's commitment to partnership, integration*



friendly policies and its support for innovation and enterprise.

Also speaking, the ministry's consultant, Mr. Emmanuel Etukudo, congratulated the winners and urged them to pursue strategic partnerships with relevant ministries, agencies, and institutions to transform their ideas into viable ventures. He stressed that determination remains key to sustaining innovation.

**T**he winners of the 2025 ARISE Youth Skills Week Pitch Competition, have received cash prizes in recognition of their outstanding innovations, particularly in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI), marking the successful conclusion of the maiden edition of the youth-focused contest.

On behalf of the beneficiaries, Mr. Jahazeil Uko expressed gratitude to Governor Eno for believing in the youths and giving them a platform to showcase their creativity. He appealed for continued technical and institutional support to aid the successful implementation of their projects.

Addressing participants, the Commissioner for Youth Development, Dr. Ekerette Ekanem, reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to supporting and integrating young innovators into the ministry's programmes and other youth development initiatives.

The winners, drawn from diverse innovation clusters, showcased ideas designed to promote technology-driven solutions, with the Pitch Competition serving as a launchpad for greater opportunities within and beyond the State.

Represented by the Director of Administration and Supplies, Mr. Anthony Isonguyo, the Commissioner commended the creativity of the pitchers and expressed appreciation to Governor Umo Eno for prioritising youth development in governance.

The highlight of the ceremony was the formal presentation of bank cheques to the winners.

He further lauded the Governor for approving and sponsoring the World Youth Skills Week, describing it as a demonstration of his administration's youth-





# Education Commissioner Applauds School Leaders, Declares ANCOPSS Conference Open



**T**he Commissioner for Education, Prof. Ubong Umoh, on Thursday, September 11, declared open the 2025 Annual Conference of the All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS), Akwa Ibom State Chapter, at Green Minds Hotel, Uyo.

The event, themed, “Re-engineering School Management Systems for Better Quality Education: The Role of Principals,” brought together principals and zonal directors of education from across the State.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Umoh commended ANCOPSS for its commitment to professional excellence, stressing that principals were pivotal in shaping the quality of education delivered in secondary schools. He underscored the importance of effective school leadership, accountability, and innovation, noting that the ARISE Agenda prioritises infrastructure, capacity building, and policy frameworks to empower school leaders and enhance learning outcomes.

The Commissioner urged principals to use the conference as a platform to exchange ideas, develop new management strategies, and recommit to nurturing disciplined, skilled, and productive students. “I implore you to imbibe all professional

skills and ethics at your disposal to ensure the best possible outcomes in your schools as we resume the 2025/2026 academic session,” he charged.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the State Secondary Education Board (SSEB), Dr. Ekaete Okon, described the conference as epoch-making, noting that it reflects a shift towards proactive self-development among educators. She urged school leaders to embrace responsibility and

praised Governor Umo Eno for his huge investment in secondary education and for appointing Prof. Umoh, whom she described as a pragmatic educationist and academic of high repute.

Earlier, the State President of ANCOPSS, Mr. Steve Akpabio, applauded the government’s sustained collaboration with school leaders through the Ministry of Education. He reaffirmed ANCOPSS’s commitment to driving quality education through effective leadership in alignment with the Governor’s ARISE Agenda.

The seminar featured keynote lectures, discussions, and evaluations designed to strengthen leadership and improve standards of learning in schools. The Keynote speaker, Prof. Enobong Joshua, alongside other resource persons, delivered papers on vital topics including, Management of Government Property, Administrative Procedures, Personnel Management, Teaching Ethics and Professionalism, and Public Relations in Government.

The event also featured goodwill messages, recognition awards for outstanding contributions to education, and had in attendance Lady Rose Bassey, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education; Mr. Okon Tom of SSEB; board members, directors, and other key education stakeholders.



# Abak: Chairman Reaffirms Commitment to Road, Street and House Numbering Bye-Law



The committee, chaired by the Vice Chairman, Hon. Mfon Udoudom, is tasked with developing effective execution strategies for the Bye-Law. Their terms of reference include, assessing areas of concern, identifying priority

**T**he Chairman of Abak Local Government Area, Hon. Ime Charles, has reaffirmed her administration's commitment to implementing the Bye-Law on road naming, street identification, and house numbering in the council area.

Hon. Charles, made the commitment after the recent public hearing on the Bill for "A Bye-Law to Provide for the Naming of Streets, Roads, House Numbering and Road Closure in Abak Local Government Area," where she formally inaugurated a committee to drive the implementation process.

She described this initiative as a transformative policy that will enhance accessibility, strengthen emergency response services, improve property documentation, and boost the internally generated revenue of the council.

zones for road and street naming, and creating an inclusive framework for house numbering throughout the area.

Hon. Udoudom also announced that residents, landlords, business operators, and all stakeholders, who wish to make inquiries or provide relevant information can contact the Office of the Secretary to the local government council.





# Ibeno: Council Boss Transforms Iwuoachang Motor Park to Modern Transit Hub



**T**he Chairman of Ibeno Local Government Area, Hon. Glory Effiong, has given commuters, transport operators, and traders a reason to cheer with the remodeling of the Iwuoachang Motor Park.

Speaking on the project recently, the Council Boss said, for years, the park had been in a dilapidated state, causing discomfort for travelers and hindering commercial activities around the area.

She noted that the remodeled facility will now offer a safer, cleaner, and more convenient environment for commuters, transporters, and traders.

She further noted that the intervention was a deliberate effort to complement

Governor Umo Eno's rural development agenda, which places emphasis on people-oriented projects at the grassroots.

"Our Governor, Pastor Eno, has shown us that true leadership is about touching lives where it matters most. This project is a reflection of that vision, and I am proud that Ibeno is part of the unfolding story of rural development in Akwa Ibom State," She said.

Residents and transport operators who spoke at the event, applauded the Council Boss for what they described as a timely and impactful intervention. Many noted that the remodeled park would ease movement, improve security, and boost the local economy.



## Uyo: Udo Commits Over N11M for 2025 Students' Bursary



Okpon, lauded the council boss for institutionalising bursary payments in Uyo, while urging the students to use the fund wisely.

On behalf of the Students, Comrade Gideon Douglas, President of Uyo Students Association, UniUyo Chapter, and

**T**he Chairman of Uyo Local Government Area, Hon. Uwemedimo Udo, has committed over N11 million for the payment of the 2025 bursary to Uyo Students in tertiary institutions, demonstrating the administration's commitment to the academic growth of young people.

The payment exercise commenced on Thursday, September 18, with students of the University of Uyo, during a flag off Ceremony at the Council Secretariat.

The Chairman, who was represented by Mr. Ekom Daniel, described the gesture as another milestone, recalling that three months prior, the entrepreneurial sector benefited, and now it is the turn of the students.

In addition, the Director of SDEISC, Mrs. Ifreke

Comrade Utibe Ekanem of NANS, expressed deep gratitude, noting that the student community will not forget the Chairman's support.

Goodwill messages were also delivered by the Dean of Supervisors and Special Advisers, Obong Idara Akpan and the Supervisor for Health, Mrs. Praise Otuekong who all commended Hon. Udo's commitment to education and empowerment





# MOE Insists on Standardised Education, Shuts Down Unauthorised Schools in A'ibom



**T**he Ministry of Education, has intensified its drive towards quality education by shutting down several private schools operating without official authorisation.

The action, according to the ministry, aims to enforce compliance with approved standards and eliminate substandard institutions that endanger the future of Akwa Ibom children.

Leading the enforcement exercise on Monday, September 15, the Commissioner for Education, Prof. Ubong Umoh, accompanied by the Permanent Secretary, Directors, Zonal Directors, the Special Assistant on Education Monitoring, and Local Government Supervisors of Education, carried out the closure of affected schools across Uyo and Nsit Ibom Local Government Areas.

Prof. Umoh condemned the operation of schools without the Ministry's Authority to Operate (ATO), describing it as unacceptable. He decried the disturbing trend of makeshift structures such as abandoned buildings, uncompleted houses, town halls, poultry farms, lock-up shops, filling stations, church halls, and residential apartments being converted into schools, thereby putting learners at risk.

The Commissioner further expressed dismay at the practice of proprietors exceeding their licenses by expanding from nursery sections

to primary and secondary levels without due approval. He highlighted shocking discoveries during the inspection, including multiple classes sharing one blackboard, cramped and partitioned classrooms, poorly ventilated spaces constructed on septic tanks, and generally deplorable sanitary conditions.

He therefore urged all proprietors of private nursery, primary, and secondary schools operating without approval to immediately regularise their status by completing proper documentation and registration with the Ministry of Education. Such steps as observed by the Commissioner are crucial to safeguard educational standards and protect children from hazardous learning environments.

A strong advisory, was also issued to parents and guardians across both urban and rural areas not to enroll their wards in unregistered schools, as Prof. Umoh reiterated that a comprehensive state-wide enforcement exercise will be undertaken in the new school year to seal unauthorised schools in the overall interest of quality education and the safety of children in the State.

Schools shutdown during the exercise included, Gracious Steps Royal Academy; Toppers Academy; Houston International Schools; Purple Hills Schools; Sparkling Height Schools; Beloved Child of God International School; Glorious Future Academy; Spring Success International School and Marcus Garvey Drillers Foundation Schools, among others. Additionally, Good Shepherd Christian Academy was directed to shut its secondary section and restrict operations to the nursery and primary levels.





# Women Affairs Ministry Takes Campaign Against GBV to Ika

As part of ongoing efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, girls, and vulnerable persons, the Akwa Ibom State Government, through the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare, in collaboration with UN Women and with support from the Ford Foundation, has taken its campaign against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) to Ika Local Government Area.

The event, which held at the Council Secretariat in Urua Inyang, had in attendance the Chairman of Ika, Hon. Utibe Nwoko, his wife, Mrs. Idongesit Nwoko, and other stakeholders of the local government council who warmly received the ministry's delegation.

Speaking, the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Welfare, Hon. Inibehe Etukudo, represented by the Director of Economic Services in the Ministry, Barr. Nkechi Udoh, described the campaign as a bold step towards building a safer and just society for women and girls in Ika. She emphasised that violence against women and girls constitutes a grave human rights violation that undermines their dignity and potential.

Hon. Etukudo highlighted the crucial roles of traditional and religious institutions in shaping societal norms, and called for stronger collaboration with government to stem the tide of GBV. According to her, their influence can help transform harmful attitudes and behaviors while providing protection and support for survivors, promoting gender equality, and advancing women's empowerment. She expressed appreciation to Governor Umo Eno for his consistent support and also commended the Ika Council Chairman for his commitment to the exercise.

In his remarks, Hon. Nwoko stressed that gender based violence is not only a crime against women and girls, but also an offense against God and humanity. He warned that with the public declaration now adopted in Ika, perpetrators of such acts would face the full



weight of the law.

The Programme Officer of UN Women, Mr. Nurudeen Ibrahim, conducted a sensitisation session to set the tone of the campaign, assisted by Ms. Adeola Potts-Johnson from the Women at Risk International Foundation (WARIF). They educated community members on the urgent need to collectively fight against GBV.

The Paramount Ruler of Ika, HRM, Edidem Ekot, represented by His Highness, Obong Jonathan Ukpougette, the Clan Head of Achan, reaffirmed the traditional institution's commitment to safeguarding the dignity of women and girls. He outlined abolished practices including sexual and gender-based violence in all forms, early marriage, female genital mutilation, wife inheritance, female disinheritance, outrageous bride price, and other harmful traditions that undermine women's rights.

Goodwill messages from development partners, including UN Women, the Excellence Community Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), and WARIF, condemned all forms of GBV and pledged continued partnership in the campaign. To formally seal the resolve, an official signing of the Public Declaration was undertaken by the Ika Council Chairman, the representative of the Traditional Ruler's Council, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare, UN Women, and WARIF.

# AKSG Poised to Align with FG Rail Initiative



At the conference, the Managing Director of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC), Dr. Kayode Opeifa, unveiled plans for high-speed rail expansion across Nigeria. The modernisation project, he explained, will reduce travel times, ease road congestion, enhance trade, and boost industrialisation. He added that the initiative seeks to connect key economic corridors, including Lagos–Kano and Abuja–Port Harcourt, while extending access to underserved regions.

The Minister for Transportation, Sa’idu Alkali, reinforced the Federal Government’s commitment, noting that the NRC’s modernisation drive is central to Nigeria’s ambition of becoming a leading regional trade hub. Similarly, the Chief Executive Director of De Sadel Consortium, Mr. Samuel Uko, announced that the proposed 4,000km high-speed rail network will make Nigeria the second-largest in the world after China. He emphasised that extending the network to Akwa Ibom would revolutionise mobility, reducing short-distance travel to under 30 minutes.

The Akwa Ibom delegation at the conference included TPL Aniekan Akpan, Permanent Secretary, Akwa Ibom State Liaison Office, Abuja; Hon. Bassey Abia, former Member, House of Representatives for Eket Federal Constituency; Hon. Nsidibe Akata, Member representing Eket State Constituency; Hon. Akan Tommey, Chairman of Eket Local Government Area; Hon. Ayang Ayang, former representative of Eket State Constituency; and Rt. Hon. David Lawrence. The State’s participation reflected a clear intent to tap into opportunities for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and other financing models that will advance railway and transportation development in Akwa Ibom.

**T**he Akwa Ibom State Government, has expressed willingness to align with the Federal Government’s railway expansion programme as part of efforts to attract investments, stimulate economic growth, and fast-track development in the State.

The commitment was reaffirmed by the Delivery Advisor to Governor Umo Eno on Transport, Mr. Orman Esin, who represented him at the 2nd International Railway Conference and Expo 2025, organised by the Federal Ministry of Transportation in collaboration with De Sadel Consortium on Tuesday, September 16, at the Ladi Kwali Hall, Abuja Continental Hotel.

Speaking to reporters in Abuja, Mr. Esin underscored transportation as one of the central pillars of Governor Eno’s administration. He explained that rail connectivity remains critical for driving development in Akwa Ibom, particularly in positioning the State as an emerging tourism and industrial hub.

Also speaking at the event, the Commissioner for Transport, Dr. Anthony Luke, highlighted the State government’s ongoing efforts under the ARISE Agenda to strengthen transportation and infrastructure. He noted progress in road expansion, the Ibaka Deep Seaport project, plans for stable power supply, and other complementary projects aimed at ensuring seamless connectivity.

Dr. Luke reiterated Governor Eno’s resolve to build a sustainable, affordable, and safe transportation system for Akwa Ibom people, stressing that the administration had already initiated strategic actions to actualise this vision but requires strong collaboration with the Federal Government to accelerate railway development.





## GOV ENO ATTENDS INTER- DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE 2025/2026 LEGAL YEAR





## GOV ENO HOSTED CATHOLIC BISHOPS IN NIGERIA AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, UYO





## GOV ENO LAUNCHES ELECTRICITY SUMMIT AT FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON HOTEL, IKOT EKPENE





## GOV ENO LAUNCHES ELECTRICITY SUMMIT AT FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON HOTEL, IKOT EKPENE





## GOV ENO LAUNCHES AKWA IBOM STATE SECURITY TRUST FUND





## ARISE FOOD DISTRIBUTION – NSIT ATAI LGA





## ARISE FOOD DISTRIBUTION – IKOT EKPENE LGA





## ARISE FOOD DISTRIBUTION - OKOBO LGA





## ARISE FOOD DISTRIBUTION - UYO LGA





## 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.



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