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ARISE

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Unity, Progress Must Prevail in A'Ibom, Says Gov Eno

● *Announces commencement of night operations at VAIA*



Governor Umo Eno, has reiterated his resolve to promote unity, peace, and sustainable development in the State, declaring that division and treachery will find no place in Akwa Ibom's progress agenda.

Speaking on Thursday, October 2, at the Victor Attah International Airport, where he was warmly received by a large crowd of supporters, Governor Eno urged citizens to register with the All Progressives Congress

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the work done, he commended the Airport management team for meeting the set deadline and ensuring the smooth resumption of night operations.

“Our Airport is back, so any flight can now land here at night. Ibom Air can also bring in passengers and conveniently night-stop in Uyo, with the first flights to Lagos and Abuja taking off early in the morning,” he announced.

Pastor Eno further lauded the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly for the swift passage of the Supplementary Budget, noting that the approval would enable the government to extend its road network from 772km to 1000km during the coming dry season. He assured that his administration

remains focused on delivering the dividends of democracy through collaborative efforts with all tiers and arms of government.

(APC) and participate actively in the ongoing Continuous Voter Registration exercise, stressing that such civic engagement was necessary to secure more development and progress for the State.

“We are Akwa Ibom united, united for progress and development. And, the symbolic broom of the Party will sweep away disunity, poverty, division, and treachery,” the Governor declared.

He reaffirmed his loyalty to President Bola Tinubu and the Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, assuring that Akwa Ibom State would stand solidly behind their re-election in 2027. According to the Governor, "Identifying with the Federal Government is key to ensuring that the State continued to benefit from the support of the centre."

The State Chief Executive disclosed that he deliberately returned to the State at night in order to personally inspect the functionality of the newly restored runway lighting system at the Victor Attah International Airport. Expressing satisfaction with

Appreciating the overwhelming turnout at the airport, the Governor likened the gesture to “fuel in a car,” stressing that it would inspire him to work harder in transforming the State. He also pledged continued service and commitment to the growth and wellbeing of Akwa Ibom people.



Gov Eno Opens Ibom Ignites Conference 2025, Calls for Youth Creativity, Innovations



inside you, because your future starts now.”

In an opening charge, Rev. Godwin Amaowoh, quoting Deuteronomy 8:18 and Luke 4:6, emphasised empowerment as the key to wealth creation. He explained that God equips people through ideas, ability, and vision, while human beings provide infrastructure and platforms, charging the youths not to waste resources, but utilise the conference effectively.

The CEO, Emerging Markets Telecommunications Services, Obafemi Banigbe, in his keynote address, described the conference as a movement with the potential to transform communities and industries.

He praised Akwa Ibom’s growth over the past two decades, noting its potential in digital technology, agriculture, and artificial intelligence. “When I look at this state, I see possibilities. To the young people here: you are not just leaders of tomorrow, you are leaders of today. Don’t dim your spark, ignite it,” he said.

Since inception, the Ibom Ignite Conference, has served as a platform for youth empowerment, vision building, and leadership development, drawing participants from diverse fields to accelerate growth and innovation in Akwa Ibom and beyond.

The 2025 edition of the Ibom Ignite Conference, with the theme, “Ignite to Accelerate,” has been declared opened at the Ibom-LED Centre, IBB Avenue, Uyo, with a strong call on young people to embrace innovation, resilience, and self-determination, in order to accelerate their personal and collective destinies.

Governor Umo Eno, who opened the conference on Friday, September 3, recalled its origin as a vision to uplift the youths and challenge entitlement mentality, stressing that government alone cannot define success, and urged participants to take responsibility for their future.

“Everyday, God gives you an opportunity, so as you have come today, I beg you, do not waste this opportunity. I like to talk to young people, take your destiny into your hands,” the Governor advised.

In his welcome address, Pastor ImoAbasi Jacob hinted that the conference started as a youth impact programme, but has now grown into a global event, hosted at world-class venues. Calling on the participants to seize the moment, he said, “Fire without movement is wasted. Wake up the giant



GOV ENO ATTENDS IBOM IGNITE 2025 CONFERENCE



A'ibom Diasporans Laud Pastor Eno on Healthcare, Seek Partnership with AKSHIA



implementation, the ARISE Care Scheme, has already recorded about 140,000 enrollees across the State.

Additionally, the agency according to Ackley, has successfully accredited about 100 healthcare facilities spanning primary, secondary, and tertiary levels to provide quality care under the scheme.

Dr. Ackley further stressed that the visit was a major step in linking the diaspora community with government-driven healthcare initiatives at home, stating that

such partnerships would contribute to expanding coverage and achieving the state's universal health care vision.

The visit, which featured the AKISAN President witnessing the process of enrollment, reflected a renewed commitment by the diasporans to support policies and programmes that directly impact the welfare of their people.

The Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria (AKISAN) in the United States of America (USA), has lauded Pastor Umo Eno on healthcare delivery through the ARISE Care Health Insurance Scheme.

The President of AKISAN USA, Engr. Mbong Ekiko, who gave the commendation when he led a delegation on a visit to the Akwa Ibom State Health Insurance Agency (AKSHIA) in Uyo, expressed the association's delight with the government for ensuring that every indigene has access to affordable and reliable healthcare.

Declaring the association's interest in partnering AKSHIA to facilitate the enrollment of their families and dependents in the ARISE Care Scheme, Engr. Ekiko described the initiative as a timely and people-centered programme capable of easing the burden of healthcare financing on households.

Receiving the visitors on behalf of the Executive Secretary of AKSHIA, Dr. Igbemi Igbemi, Dr. Edikan Ackley appreciated the gesture and assured them of the agency's readiness to work with Akwa Ibom indigenes abroad.

He disclosed that within just one year of



AKSG Relocates CNG Bus Terminal for Enhanced Accessibility, Patronage



vandalism.

It would be recalled that in 2023, the Federal Government launched the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses through the Presidential CNG Initiative to reduce fuel costs, create jobs, and promote environmental sustainability by transitioning from petrol and diesel to CNG-powered vehicles.

For better accessibility and patronage, the Akwa Ibom State Government has relocated the site of the CNG bus terminal from Odiok Itam in Itu Local Government Area to Obio Offot and Ikot Akpe communities in Uyo Local Government Area.

Speaking during an inspection of the site, Pastor Umo Eno, noted that the decision to relocate the terminal, after much consideration, was to ensure better accessibility for residents of the State.

Pastor Eno disclosed that the terminal would consist of a gas station, training school, repairs workshop for engineers, CNG technology and a maintenance unit.

The Governor, who commended the host community for cooperation in ensuring the success of the project, urged youths in the area to participate in the construction and protection of the facility from

To ensure that Akwa Ibom people benefit from the initiative, the State government, through the Ministry of Transportation in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria, ordered 50 CNG buses to improve transportation in the State.

The inspection team comprised, the Deputy Governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi; Secretary to the State Government, Prince Enobong Uwah and other members of the State Executive Council.



VAIA: Gov Eno Commends NAMA, Ibom Airport Devt Company for Restoring Night Operations

• Reaffirms commitment to sustained investment in aviation sector



The State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno, has commended the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) and the Ibom Airport Development Company (IADC), for the successful restoration of night flight operations at the Victor Attah International Airport (VAIA), following the September 30, ultimatum.

Last week, Governor Eno, had issued a directive to the Senior Special Assistant/Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of IADC, Mr. Uwem Ekanem, alongside the Board, to ensure the full restoration of the airfield lighting system on or before September 30. The task, he noted, has now been completed within the specified timeline.

According to a release by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Ekerete Udoh, Pastor Eno congratulated the MD/CEO, the staff, and the Board of IADC for rising to the challenge, adding that the calibration and overhaul of the airport's navigational aids, coupled with the restoration of the lighting systems, putting an end to the sunrise-to-sunset operational restriction. He confirmed that night flight operations have now resumed with immediate effect.

The Governor also expressed deep appreciation to NAMA for its critical role in ensuring the successful completion of the project. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to sustained investments in the State's aviation infrastructure, including the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility, the international terminal, and other ongoing projects, all of which are targeted for operational readiness ahead of the Yuletide season.

Highlighting the tourism focal sector of the ARISE Agenda, Governor Eno emphasised that the restoration of night operations would further boost accessibility and convenience for tourists and other visitors, especially with the planned commissioning of the ARISE Resort in December.

Described as the nation's premier family-themed resort, the facility is expected to complement Ibom Air's expanded operations and strengthen Akwa Ibom's positioning as Nigeria's emerging tourism haven.

"Akwa Ibom is being primed as the tourism hub of the nation and a future secured with or without oil," the Governor stated.

NYSC: Gov Eno Restates Commitment to Welfare, Safety of Corps Members

• *As 511 males, 633 females take Oath of Allegiance*

Governor Umo Eno, has reiterated his administration's unwavering commitment to the welfare and safety of corps members deployed to the State.

The assurance was given by Governor Eno on Friday, September 26, during the swearing-in ceremony of Batch "B" Stream "II" corps members at the NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Ikot Itie Idung, in Nsit Atai Local Government Area.

Congratulating the 1,144 corps members, comprising 511 males and 633 females, on the successful completion of their academic journey and their call to national service, the Governor noted that the phase marks their transition from dependence to becoming active contributors to national growth and development. He urged them to maximize the opportunities offered by the Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme to fully develop their entrepreneurial potential.

Represented by the Director of Administration and Supplies, Mr. Anthony Isonguyo, Pastor Eno further advised the corps members to embrace the culture and values of their host communities and approach their service year with innovation, discipline, and a positive attitude to work.



Speaking through the Director of Youth Affairs, the Commissioner for Youth Development, Dr. Ekerette Ekanem, appreciated the Governor, the State Chief Judge, and the corps members for their attendance at the ceremony. He lauded the ARISE Agenda of Pastor Eno's administration, particularly in approving the rebuilding of the orientation camp for the comfort of corps members and officials. Dr. Ekanem also charged the corps members to imbibe leadership skills, discipline, resilience, and the spirit of service.

Earlier, the NYSC State Coordinator, Mr. Sam Pepple, applauded the Governor's foresight in constructing a new orientation camp, describing it as a laudable step towards enhancing corps members' welfare. He congratulated the corps members and encouraged them to give in their best during the service year while appreciating the cooperation of service chiefs and camp officials.

The high point of the event was the administration of the Oath of Allegiance to the 1144 corps members by the State Chief Judge, Honourable Justice Ekaette Obot, who was represented by Honourable Justice Sharon Ede as well as Guard of Honour inspection by the representative of the Governor.



Deputy Gov Tasks Women on Prayer, Faith in God

The State Deputy Governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, has urged women to remain steadfast in prayer and faith, describing spiritual devotion as a vital anchor for overcoming life's challenges.

Senator Eyakenyi stated this on Sunday, September 28, while addressing participants of the 2025 Women of Grace Convention of the Insight Bible Church, Uyo.



Speaking as Special Guest, the Deputy Governor described women as pillars of strength in both the family and the society. She noted that women play a pivotal role in promoting peace and moral values, adding that godly women

are instrumental in shaping future generations through prayer, faith, and exemplary living.

Stressing that women must stand firm in their belief in God, knowing that their strength lies in the ability to connect with God, Senator Eyakenyi also urged women to embrace their role as agents of positive change, reassuring that Governor Umo Eno's administration remains committed to the welfare of women and will continue to provide opportunities for them to excel.



Commending the leadership of Insight Bible Church for organising the programme, the Deputy Governor described the theme of the convention, "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made", as both timely and impactful. She said such gatherings strengthen women spiritually and socially while reinforcing their place in God's plan.

In her homily, Pastor Erikan Ukafia drew lessons from Psalm 139:14, reminding women that they are not an afterthought in God's design and that no circumstance can derail His purpose for their lives. The convention featured worship sessions, drama presentations, and prayers for Governor Eno and Senator Eyakenyi, led by the church's Senior Pastor, Dr. Sylvanus Ukafia.

A'ibom Advances Child Protection with Alternative Care Review



To enhance the welfare and protection of Akwa Ibom children, the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on Alternative Care for Children, convened a meeting for a final review of the draft guidelines.

Held recently at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare, with funding from the SOS Children Village, Abuja, the meeting brought together stakeholders committed to shaping policies that prioritise children's best interests.

In her opening remarks, the Director of the Child Development Department, Mrs. Precious Udofia, stressed that the review marks a significant milestone in establishing effective care standards towards the needs of Akwa Ibom's children, and called for active participation and meaningful contributions from all attendees.

Also speaking, Mrs. Itoro Enang, a volunteer resource person for the Child Protection Network

(CPN), outlined the committee's objectives and facilitated group activities to review the draft guidelines.

On his part, the Akwa Ibom State Coordinator for the Child Protection Network and TWG Secretary, Mr. John Umo-Otong, thanked members of the Technical Working Group for their invaluable contributions towards producing the draft guideline.

Participants actively offered feedback and differing viewpoints, with each group presenting their insights for collective consideration.

The Akwa Ibom State TWGs was inaugurated a few months earlier by the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Welfare, Hon. Inibehe Etukudo, with the task of refining guidelines to safeguard and promote the well-being of children in the State. And the review is expected to form future policies that will provide better care and support for children in need.

Ibendo: Effiong Reaffirms Commitment to Upgrade Health Infrastructure



from improved healthcare. She also commended health workers for their dedication and urged them to remain diligent in the discharge of their duties, describing their role as critical to the wellbeing of residents.

According to her, the upgrade of the Iwuo-Okpom Health Post forms part of a broader plan to enhance primary healthcare services across the area. She noted that the completion of the project would mark a significant step

The Chairman of Ibendo Local Government Area, Hon. Glory Effiong, has reiterated her administration's commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery through the upgrade of health facilities, particularly in underserved communities.

Hon. Effiong made this known recently, an inspection visit to the Iwuo-Okpom Health Post, where she assessed the progress of the ongoing infrastructure upgrade. She emphasised that the initiative reflects her administration's resolve to ensure that every community has access to essential medical services.

While interfacing with the construction team, the Chairman stressed the need for timely completion of the project to enable the host community benefit

towards strengthening medical service delivery in Ibendo.

The Chairman was accompanied on the visit by the Vice Chairman, Hon. Ukpong Okon; Secretary of Council, Mr. Daniel Solomon; Head of Service, Prince Ndayo Inuaeyen; NULGE Chairman, Ibendo Chapter, Mr. Asukpa Asukpa, alongside other council officials.



Local Government Service Commission Flags Off 2025 Pre-Promotion Seminar

The Chairman of the Local Government Service Commission, Rt. Hon. Monday Eyo, has declared open the 2025 Pre-promotion Seminar for qualified senior officers in the Unified Local Government Service of the State.

Addressing participants at the event, which took place at the Commission's Multi- purpose Hall, on Monday, September 29, Rt. Hon. Eyo, who spoke through Commissioner I, Hon. Saturday Akpan, said the exercise was one of the ministerial mandates of the Commission.

He acknowledged the cooperation and support enjoyed from all the councils during the Senior Staff Management Committee Meetings held across the 31 Local Government Councils earlier in the year, and hinted that the commission has successfully conducted the Conversion of Appointments/ Placement Interviews, effected various re-progression and other sundry service corrections for staff, as well as apply extant service rules in dealing with daily administrative routine.

He also used the opportunity to felicitate Governor Umo



Eno, and the entire Akwa Ibom people on the occasion of the 38th Anniversary Celebration of the State and appreciated the Governor for the unprecedented drive towards greatness after 38 years of statehood.

The Chairman called on the participants to sustain the tempo of loyalty, dedication and hard work, which according to him are the elements of a sustained brand, while he also sued for continued support to the ARISE Agenda, adding that government means well for the Public Service.

Welcoming participants, the Permanent Secretary in the Commission, Mrs. Affiong Ebieme, thanked Governor Eno for approving the 2025 promotion exercise. She emphasised the need for participants to take advantage of the lectures, and wished them a successful exercise.

Seasoned lecturers lined up to speak on different topics during the two days seminar were, Dr. Rosalyn Essien, Pastor Victor Solomon, Mrs. Itohowo Nkanta, Elder Friday Johnson, Engr. Ekong Akpan, Mrs. Ito Udo, Mr. Aniefiok Udoh and Mrs. Precious Kingsley.



Nsit Ubium Chairman Repositions Council with Innovation, Agro-Development

The Chairman of Nsit Ubium Local Government Area, Hon. Alfred Charles, has restated his administration's commitment to infrastructural development, innovation, and agricultural renaissance to drive sustainable growth in the area.

Hon. Charles gave the assurance on Monday, September 29, during an inspection of the ongoing renovation of the Legislative Chambers at the local government secretariat and the Local Government Model Demonstration Farm.

At the Legislative Chambers, he expressed satisfaction with the quality of work delivered by Koba Integrated Services, commending the contractor for adherence to standards, transparency in budget use, and timely project delivery. He noted that the chambers, when completed, will provide a conducive environment for lawmakers to perform their duties effectively.



The Chairman explained that the renovation forms part of wider efforts to reposition key institutions in the local government, stressing that prudent use of resources and visible results demonstrate the administration's commitment to transparency and sustainable governance.

On the Local Government Model Demonstration Farm, Hon. Charles said the project is designed to promote modern farming practices, ensure food security, and serve as a training ground for farmers and youths interested in agribusiness. He stressed its role in equipping the younger generation with practical skills while boosting economic diversification.

Reaffirming his administration's commitment to promoting innovation and self-reliance in agriculture, the Chairman pledged continued support for initiatives that align with the sustainable development goals of the council.



AKHA: 2025 Supplementary Budget Scales Second Reading



The Speaker, Rt. Hon. Udemé Otong, referred the bill to the House Committee on Finance and Appropriation for further legislative work, with a report expected on Tuesday, October 7.

In a related development, the House also received a letter from Governor Eno seeking approval for an adjustment of the 2025–2027 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) to reflect recent changes in fiscal indicators.

The 2025 Supplementary Appropriation Bill, totaling N695 billion, has passed second reading on the floor of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly.

The bill, transmitted by Governor Umo Eno, was conveyed in a letter, read by the Clerk of the House, Mrs. Nsikak-Abasi Orok, during plenary on Tuesday, September 30.

The House Leader, Rt. Hon. Otobong Bob, moved the motion for the consideration of the bill, seconded by the Deputy Leader, Hon. Nsidibe Akata. The bill was read for the first time and immediately taken through second reading, during which lawmakers debated its general principles.

With the augmentation, the total budget size for 2025 now stands at N1.650 trillion, comprising N125.664 billion for recurrent expenditure and N569.335 billion for capital expenditure, in addition to the original appropriation of N955 billion.

The Governor requested the House to approve a new total revenue projection (including the opening balance) of N1.7 trillion, as against the previous provision of N980 billion, noting that the positive shift in fiscal indicators necessitated the supplementary budget.

The Speaker, referred the request to the House Committee on Economic Planning for consideration and directed the committee to report back to the House at the earliest possible date.



Ibom-LED, PIND Partnership Strengthens Entrepreneurship with Graduation of Start-Up Cohort

The vision of Governor Umo Eno to raise world-class entrepreneurs through the Ibom Leadership and Entrepreneurial Development Centre (Ibom-LED), recorded another milestone with the graduation of youths, who successfully completed a six-month Start-up Accelerator Incubation Programme in Tailoring and Shoemaking.

Sponsored by the Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND), the graduation ceremony, held on Friday, September 26, at the Ibom-LED premises in Uyo, featuring over 50 graduands who shared inspiring experiences and growth during the programme.

In his opening remarks, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Entrepreneurial Development and General Manager of Ibom-LED, Mr. Ime Uwah, commended the initiative and reiterated the government's commitment to youth empowerment through entrepreneurship.

Mr. Uwah lauded PIND Foundation for being the first patron to sponsor beneficiaries under the Youth Employment Pathway (YEP) Project, assuring that more impactful programmes will follow. He congratulated the graduands for embracing the ARISE Agenda of the State government, which seeks to equip young people with skills, create jobs, and foster sustainable enterprises across Akwa Ibom.



Delivering a lecture on “The Art of Pricing, Profits, and Value,” Mrs. Edidiong Eshiet urged the young entrepreneurs to add value to their products by avoiding underpricing. She highlighted the importance of bulk production, cost balancing, and consistency to remain competitive while maximising profit.

Speaking on behalf of PIND, Mr. Hanson charged the graduands to remain committed to their ventures, stressing that consistency, innovation, and resilience are critical to building sustainable enterprises. He encouraged them not to be undaunted by initial challenges, but to focus on solving problems within their industries as a pathway to long-term success.

Also delivering a presentation titled, “From Artisan to Entrepreneur: The Business of Bespoke,” Mr. Sifon Ekpenyong highlighted the importance of transitioning from routine craftsmanship to structured entrepreneurship. He advised the entrepreneurs to build systems that ensure continuity, create employment opportunities, and expand from small-scale production to larger-scale bespoke demands for greater recognition.



High points of the Ceremony was an hour's competition for selected graduands of Tailoring and Shoemaking, presentation of prizes to winners and a documentary on the impact of the YEP programme, phase 1.

Speaker Otong Welcomes Lawmakers from Recess, Reaffirms Commitment to Diligent Legislature

Members of the 8th Assembly, have been welcomed back after 51 days working recess, with a charge to renew dedication to the mandate entrusted by their constituents.

Giving the charge on Tuesday, September 30, at the resumption of plenary in Uyo, the Speaker of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Udemé Otong, expressed gratitude to God for preserving members in good health as they resumed legislative duties.

Rt. Hon. Otong also congratulated Governor Umo Eno, and Akwa Ibom people on the 38th Anniversary of the State's creation, describing the milestone as a moment of sober reflection and rededication to service.

Reviewing the Assembly's performance since its



inauguration on June 9, 2023, the Speaker disclosed that the House has received 75 Bills, with 26 passed during its first two sessions and one already passed in the ongoing session. He described the feat as evidence of commitment to effective lawmaking.



According to him, "The Legislature remains the heart and soul of democracy and governance. Therefore, the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly will continue to play its constitutional role as a critical institution in advancing the vision of our founding fathers 38 years ago."

Rt. Hon. Otong commended members who utilised the recess to engage their constituents through empowerment programmes and community outreach. He equally appreciated Assembly staff for their dedication to duty, urging them to sustain professionalism in service delivery.

While applauding correspondents and reporters for their fair and balanced coverage of legislative activities, Speaker Otong encouraged continued professionalism in projecting the work of the Assembly. He further charged lawmakers to remain united and supportive of the Executive, stressing that peace, cooperation, and shared purpose remain hallmarks of the 8th Assembly.

Assuring that the new legislative phase would create more opportunities for progress, the Speaker pledged that the Assembly will remain committed to serving Akwa Ibom people.

Info Commissioner Pledges Stronger Collaboration with FRSC to Enhance Safety



ARISE Agenda, averring that the government's focused approach and methodical implementation of its development blueprint, have yielded significant results in infrastructure and service delivery over the past two years.

On his part, the Sector Commander, Corps Commander Francis A. Ajata, who assumed duties in the State in June, highlighted the importance of strengthening existing partnerships between the FRSC and key institutions such as the Ministry of Information. He reaffirm the FRSC's collaboration with other security agencies, including the Police and the Department of State Services (DSS).

To further advance public safety and ensure the wellbeing of Akwa Ibom people, the Commissioner for Information, Rt. Hon. Aniekan Umanah has reaffirmed the ministry's readiness to deepen collaboration with the State sector Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC).

Speaking on Tuesday, September 30, in his office in Uyo, when he received the new Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Akwa Ibom State Command, Corps Commander Francis Ajata, and members of his management team on a courtesy visit, Rt. Hon. Umanah noted that road safety is a shared responsibility, stressing the importance of joint efforts in curbing reckless driving, particularly cases involving drivers under the influence of drugs.

"I am happy you have come to introduce yourself and to seek collaboration. I want to assure you that we will work together. Road safety is our collective responsibility, and we must all contribute to keeping our roads safe," the Commissioner stated.

Drawing from his experience as a former member of the House of Representatives Committee overseeing the FRSC, Umanah commended the Corps for their proactive efforts and urged the Sector Command to deploy necessary testing equipment on the roads to check drug-impaired driving.

He further highlighted the achievements of Governor Umo Eno's administration under the

The FRSC boss maintained that information sharing is critical to road safety management and commended successive administrations in Akwa Ibom for the excellent road network in the State. "We are here to build on our relationship with critical partners like the Ministry of Information. Information is central to our work, not just in stopping vehicles or checking licenses, but in promoting safety and security," Ajata remarked.

Present during the courtesy visit were, the Permanent Secretary, Akparawa James Edet, Director of Information and Public Communications, Mr. Aniekan Ukpong, Director of Advertising and Public Relations, Mr. Nsikan Essien, Director of Documentary and Archives, Dr. Eunice Egharevba, and Director of Technical Services, Mr. Uwem Ben.



Itu: Nkutt Inaugurates Security Base in Oku Iboku



The Chairman of Itu Local Government Area, Hon. Ubong Nkutt, has recently inaugurated a Forward Operating Base (FOB) at Ikot Adakpan Beach, Oku Iboku, as part of activities marking his one year in office.

The facility, designed as a jetty observation post for the Joint Task Force (JTF), is aimed at curbing persistent security threats in the Oku Iboku waterways, which have long affected farmers and fishermen in the area.

Hon. Nkutt explained that the initiative followed concerns raised by the Councillor representing Oku Iboku Ward 1, Hon. Samuel Inyang, after which the council resolved to provide a permanent, well-equipped base to strengthen the presence of security personnel. He further disclosed that a potable water project for the community would soon commence.

The Chairman commended the Supervisor for Works and Transport, Mr. Anthony Akan, for ensuring quality

supervision and timely delivery of the project.

Commissioning the base, Commander of 2 Brigade, Nigerian Army, Brigadier General N. E. Okoloagu, lauded the council for the timely intervention.

Also speaking, the Chairman of Oku Iboku Clan Council and Special Assistant on Chieftaincy and Boundary Matters, Mr. Daniel Archibong, expressed the community's appreciation for the council's foresight and prayed for the success of the administration.

Dignitaries present included the Vice Chairman, Hon. Helen Nta; Leader of Itu Legislative Council, Hon. Godswill David; members of the Legislative Council; Council Secretary, Mr. Imo Okon; Head of Local Government Service, Mr. Dominic Utin; as well as supervisors and special advisers led by their Dean, Elder Emmanuel Abel.



INI: Umah Disburses N500,000 to Young Entrepreneurs at Independence Day Event



Umo Eno's ARISE Agenda, which prioritises grassroots development and sustainable livelihoods.

Addressing beneficiaries of the empowerment programme, selected from all wards of the area, Hon. Umah urged them to take the opportunity seriously, describing the package as a pathway to self-reliance and sustainable development.

The Chairman of Ini Local Government Area, Hon. Inibehe Umah, has marked his one year in office with the disbursement of N500,000 each to 22 beneficiaries across the 11 wards of the area, in the second phase of his empowerment programme.

The initiative was unveiled during a special Independence Day Breakfast Meeting, held on Wednesday, October 1, at the Council Hall, Odoro Ikpe, in commemoration of Nigeria's 65th Independence Anniversary. Hon. Umah explained that aligning his one-year anniversary with the national celebration gave the event a deeper meaning of freedom, resilience, and unity.

Highlighting his achievements over the past year, the council boss listed the flagship "N120 million 'U Rise, We Rise Livelihood Enhancement and Empowerment Initiative", rural infrastructure development, as well as programmes targeted at agricultural growth, youth empowerment and entrepreneurship. He noted that these efforts align with Governor

Dignitaries at the event included Hon. Lawrence Udoide, Member representing INI State Constituency, who described Hon. Umah as a visionary leader; Barr. Essien Essien, political leader of Iwere, who praised the chairman for surpassing expectations; Dr. Godwin Udoudo, who described his scorecard as unprecedented; and Dr. Udeme Nana, who commended his innovative and unifying style of leadership.

The ceremony also drew political leaders, traditional rulers, stakeholders, and community representatives, reflecting widespread support for the chairman's people-oriented policies.



How Gov Eno Turned Power Talk to Energy Action

For years, Akwa Ibom has lived in paradox: a state rich in hydrocarbons and gas reserves, home to Ibom Power Plant, yet struggled to guarantee its people steady electricity.

Until recently, however, States had little room to chart their own course. Power was tightly held at the federal level, leaving sub-nationals with vision but no authority. That changed with the Electricity Act of 2023, which finally opened the door for States to take control of their own electricity futures.

Governor Eno is determined to seize that chance. In the week leading to the Summit, he personally joined stakeholders at the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) Roundtable in Abuja, where Akwa Ibom signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding on renewable energy penetration, a step that underscored his commitment to blending vision with concrete action.

At the maiden Akwa Ibom Electricity Summit held at Four Points by Sheraton, Ikot Ekpene, with the theme “Attaining Energy Security and Universal Access for Akwa Ibom State within the Framework of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry,” he lifted a promise as bold as sunrise: by 2034, every household in the state will enjoy reliable electricity.

“We are blessed with gas, and we have a power plant, yet our people still live with epileptic supply,” the Governor told the gathering. “These are hard questions, but we must dare to ask them. And we must act.”

The reforms he announced are sweeping. A State Electricity Regulatory Commission will be created to ensure fair tariffs and transparent licensing. An Electrification Agency will extend supply to communities too long left in darkness. Ibom Power, long underperforming, is to be rehabilitated and commercialised. A state distribution company will be born. Citizens will be protected by a Consumer Bill of Rights. And not less than 20 percent of future supply will come from clean energy sources—solar farms, renewables, electric buses, and compressed natural gas.

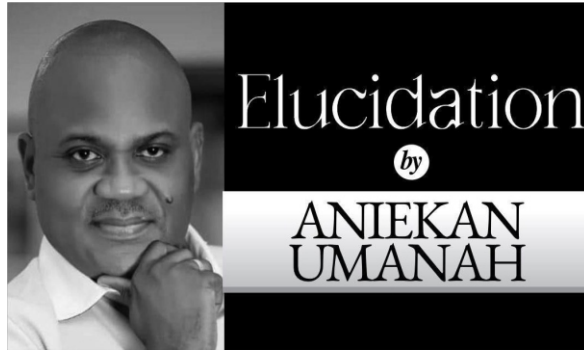
Gov. Eno’s electricity development pursuit in the State is not a flight-by-night initiative. It is firmly embedded in Aspiration 3 of the ARISE Agenda, which clearly sets out “to ensure the provision of uninterrupted electricity supply to homes, businesses, and industries in the State.” The Summit therefore represents not just policy talk, but the translation of a campaign blueprint into a governance framework.

The plan is the most comprehensive electricity reform yet attempted by a Nigerian sub-national. It dares to take power out of the stranglehold of a federal monopoly and bring it closer to the people. It seeks not just to light homes, but to electrify factories, power schools, energize hospitals, and make businesses less dependent on noisy, costly diesel generators.

The summit itself drew an impressive constellation of voices. The Deputy Governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, who chaired the State’s Electricity Summit Committee, set the tone in her welcome, urging participants not to “talk for talk’s sake,” but to align politics, policy, and investment with technical and financial reforms.

The Federal Government, represented by the Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adedun, through his Chief Technical Adviser, Mr. Adedayo Olowoniyi, pledged support. The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, represented by the Chairman, House Committee on Power, Hon. Victor Nwokolo, hailed Governor Eno’s courage and foresight.

There were also Commissioners representing the Governors of Enugu,



Abia, Cross River, and Bayelsa States; the National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, represented by AVM E. E. Effiong; the Managing Director of the Rural Electrification Agency, Abba Aliyu, who spoke on expanding access; and international experts like Eyo Ekpo, Team Leader of the UK Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility, who outlined five critical priorities for credible reforms.

A defining feature of the Summit was the collective participation of the entire Akwa Ibom State Executive Council for the full two

days. Their presence underscored that the electricity reform drive is not just the Governor’s agenda, but a shared government mandate. At the close of deliberations, the Secretary to the State Government, Prince Enobong Uwah, read the Communiqué, which captured in detail the resolutions, timelines, and commitments arising from the historic engagement.

Senator Ekong Sampson, speaking for Akwa Ibom stakeholders, pledged legislative backing, while the Governor touched hearts by acknowledging Ms. Ekemini Umoh, an Akwa Ibom daughter who flew in from Europe to contribute to the deliberations.

Still, many seasoned voices at the summit sounded a note of caution. They reminded participants that in Nigeria, the electricity game has long been 90 percent politics and only 10 percent real commitment. For reforms to succeed, therefore, the political will must endure beyond declarations, while technical and financial discipline remain non-negotiable.

Yet vision must wrestle with reality. 2034 is a decade away. Skepticism is natural in a country where projects rarely outlive the administrations that birth them. This is why the Governor has also set short-term deliverables: rehabilitation of Ibom Power, rollout of the electrification plan, licensing of new players, enforcement of consumer rights—all within two years.

Electricity is not grammar. It is light in sockets, machines humming in factories, cold rooms running without diesel, children studying without smoke stinging their eyes.

What makes Eno’s approach distinct is his tone. He insists recruitment will be professional, free of political patronage. He frames reforms as partnerships, not decrees—drawing in the federal government, investors, and international partners. That sincerity may explain why the summit drew such broad participation and endorsements.

But sincerity alone will not power homes. Competence, ruthless accountability, and citizen responsibility will. Infrastructure must be protected from vandalism, tariffs must be fair but paid, and providers must deliver on their promises. The Governor is right: government cannot do it alone.

For now, a candle has been lit in Akwa Ibom. How it grows into steady flame will depend on the next 24 months. If milestones are met, the dream of 2034 may indeed come within reach. If they are missed, hope will dim, and the paradox will remain.

The people of Akwa Ibom deserve more than promises. They deserve power—steady, affordable, and fair. And as the Governor himself said, only when the state is truly electrified will Akwa Ibom rise and stand tall together, no longer in shadow but in light fulfilled.

When the milestones of today mature into the power lines of tomorrow, then Akwa Ibom will not just rise, it will shine.

Hon Etukudo Engages Market Women on Unity, Support for Government Initiatives



The Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Welfare, Hon. Inibehe Etukudo, has engaged the leadership and members of the Market Women association of Akwa Ibom State in a meeting aimed at strengthening collaboration, fostering unity among traders, and supporting government initiatives designed to enhance their welfare.

Speaking during the meeting, held at the ministry's headquarters recently, Hon. Etukudo applauded the association for effective leadership structure, which she credited to the sustaining peace and harmony among market women across the state. She assured the women of government's unwavering commitment to maintaining the existing harmonious structure, while encouraging open communication with the ministry through the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Market Affairs, Mr. Idorenjin Raphael.

Recalling the Association's public endorsement of Governor Umo Eno at Itam Market during his electioneering campaigns, the Commissioner commended the Governor for fulfilling the promises made to traders and the general populace, noting that his policies have continued to reflect his commitment to grassroots development and traders empowerment.

In his remarks, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Market Affairs, Mr. Idorenjin Raphael extolled Governor Eno's administration for consistently supporting the traders. He outlined key interventions, including the provision of buses for market accessibility, a ₦2 billion trader empowerment fund, financial grants to

over 3,445 traders, and ongoing infrastructural upgrades at Akpandem and Itam Markets.

Mr. Raphael maintained that traders constitute the state's largest voting bloc, averring that the group remains steadfast in its support of the Governor's leadership and his re-election bid in 2027. He also revealed plans to establish a comprehensive database of market women across the 31 LGAs, as well as the introduction of customized wrappers with the Governor's image to serve as official uniform for members until 2031.

The SSA also expressed gratitude to the Commissioner for consistently making time to address the concerns of traders, stating that the market women regard her as a mother figure and dependable advocate, while he encouraged members to continue channeling their requests through her office for timely execution.

The leadership of the association reaffirmed commitment to upholding the integrity of their structure by ensuring that all leadership positions are filled through democratic process among members, free from external interference. They also pledged to maintain peace and unity in all markets across the State in recognition of the Governor's impactful policies and trader-focused initiatives.

Over 31 members, including representatives from different parts of the State and several male supporters, participated in the session, demonstrating their continued support and appreciation for government's efforts to empower market women in Akwa Ibom State.

JUBILANT AKWA IBOMITES RECEIVE GOV ENO AT VAIA AS HE RETURNS FROM AN OFFICIAL TRIP



NIGERIA @65: THANKSGIVING SERVICE IN ESSIEN UDIM LGA



NIGERIA @65: THANKSGIVING SERVICE IN ABAK LGA



NIGERIA @65: THANKSGIVING SERVICE IN URUE OFFIONG/ORUKO LGA



NIGERIA @65: THANKSGIVING SERVICE IN IBENO 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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