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ARISE

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President Tinubu Hails Gov Eno's Transformative Leadership at Funeral of CBN Dep Gov's Mother

•Condoles daughter, Emem Usoro •As Gov Eno rallies support for Tinubu, Akpabio, self ahead of 2027



Nigeria's President, Bola Tinubu, has extolled the visionary and impactful leadership of the State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno, describing him as a man of humility, unity, and purpose-driven governance.

President Tinubu made the commendation on Saturday, October 25, during a reception, held at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Ikot Ekpene, after the funeral of late Deaconess Eno Usoro, mother of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Deputy Governor (Operations), Mrs. Emem Usoro.

Represented by the Vice President, Senator Kashim



Senate President Akpabio and Gov Umo Eno Jointly Host DAVIDO



1st Dec. 2025 - 1st Jan. 2026



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Shettima, the President acknowledged Governor Eno's exemplary leadership qualities, noting that his administration's commitment to unity and development has brought steady progress to Akwa Ibom. He lauded the Governor's humility and people-oriented governance, maintaining that he was a leader whose impact is felt across sectors.

While commiserating with Mrs. Emem Usoro and the Usoro's family as a whole, President Tinubu paid glowing tributes to the late Deaconess Usoro, describing her as a woman of grace, faith, generosity, and selfless service to humanity. He noted that her enduring legacy is reflected in the life of her daughter, Mrs. Emem Usoro, whom he averred was a worthy example of excellence and service to the nation.

Further stating that the life of the deceased was "a sermon in compassion, a ministry in kindness, and an inheritance that will outlive her," the President added that those who live to serve others never truly die but continue to live through every act of goodness done in their name.



In his remarks, Governor Umo Eno expressed gratitude to Mrs. Usoro for drawing distinguished Nigerians, including Vice President Shettima, to Akwa Ibom State to honour her late mother. He extended condolences to the family on behalf of the Government and people of the State, urging them to find comfort in the fact that their matriarch lived a life dedicated to God and humanity.

Governor Eno also appreciated the Vice President for his presence, which he observed as a demonstration of love for both the bereaved family and Akwa Ibom people. He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to promoting unity and shared compassion.



Calling for stronger unity and support for President Tinubu, Senate President Akpabio and himself at 2027 elections, the Governor assured that Nigeria was on a sure Path of recovery and renewal under their leadership. He pledged to advance the Renewed Hope Agenda and the ARISE vision of inclusive growth, while he urged the citizenry to shun divisive politics and align with the collective national direction.

The Senate President, Senator Godswill Akpabio, in his goodwill message, lauded the daughter of the deceased for honouring her mother with dignity and making the State proud. He prayed that God would grant her and the family peace and comfort.

The event was graced by members of the National Assembly, State Executive Council, political leaders, captains of industry, and a cross-section of the public.

**FUNERAL SERVICE IN HONOUR OF LATE DEACONESS ENO USORO,
MOTHER OF THE CENTRAL BANK (CBN) DEPUTY GOVERNOR (OPERATIONS) MRS EMEM USORO**



SENATE PRESIDENT AKPABIO AND GOV ENO JOINTLY HOST A NIGERIAN MUSIC SUPERSTAR, DAVID ADELEKE AKA DAVIDO IN UYO



DAVIDO 5IVE TOUR CONCERT AT GODSWILL AKPABIO INTERNATIONAL STADIUM, UYO



Gov Eno Launches ARISE Youth Hubs to Boost Skills, Job Creation in A'ibom

• Kicks off initiative in 11 pilot LGAs, expands to 31 by May 2026



In a strategic move to empower young people and tackle unemployment in the State, Governor Umo Eno, has flagged off the construction of Youth-Friendly Hubs in 11 local government areas.

The initiative, designed to promote innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship among the youths, serving as a cornerstone of the administration's broader agenda for inclusive economic growth, was launched simultaneously on Tuesday, October 21, at Etinan, Mkpát Enin, Urue Offong/Oruko, Uruan, Itu, Etim Ekpo, Nsit Atai, Nsit Ubium, Eastern Obolo, Oron, and Ikono.

Represented by members of the State Executive Council at the various flag-off centres, Governor Eno described the initiative as a new era of innovation and inclusive development, which reflects his administration's commitment to creating sustainable opportunities rather than offering handouts.

He emphasised that the hubs are conceived as safe, enabling spaces that will equip young Akwa Ibom people with practical skills, digital competence, and the confidence to thrive in a global economy.

"These are not just buildings, they are innovation centers and platforms for creativity, collaboration, and growth, spaces where young people can shape their own success stories and contribute meaningfully to our collective development," the Governor said.

Each of the ARISE Youth Hubs, as stated by Governor Eno, will feature a multi-sectoral training center offering modular skill programmes, a startup accelerator and incubation unit, co-working areas to foster teamwork, and recreational lounges

to promote social interaction and mental well-being. Additional components include, a creative development hub for arts and culture, an ICT innovation lab, a networking café, and a digital e-library to enhance research and global learning.

Disclosing that the construction of 20 additional hubs will commence in January 2026, with the vision of completing one fully functional hub in each of the 31 local government areas before May 2026, the State Chief Executive averred that the initiative follows a modular incubation model consistent with global best practices, positioning the hubs as centers of excellence for youth development and innovation.

He, therefore, called on young people across the State to take ownership of the project, stressing that the true success of the Hubs will depend on how effectively they utilise the facilities to innovate, collaborate, and create value. "The success of these hubs will not be measured by their structures," he said, "but by the ideas, products, and enterprises that emerge from them."

The Governor also commended the local government chairmen, community leaders, development partners, and other stakeholders for their support and partnership, noting that their collaboration remains critical to the sustainability of the initiative.

With construction already underway in the eleven pilot locations, the ARISE Youth Hubs Initiative stands as a defining milestone in Akwa Ibom's developmental journey, reaffirming the Governor's belief in the creativity, resilience, and limitless potential of the youths.

Deputy Gov Tasks A'lbomites on Godly Consciousness

• Reaffirms Pastor Eno's commitment to state devt



The State Deputy Governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, has called on citizens to live with a deep sense of godly consciousness in all they do, reminding them that God is ever watchful over the actions of men.

Senator Eyakenyi made the call on Saturday, October 18, during the Government House Monthly Prayer Service, held at the Latter House Chapel, Uyo.

Addressing the worshippers, the Deputy Governor averred that God can use anyone, regardless of status or position, to fulfill divine purpose, thereby urging the citizenry to be intentional in their relationship with God and to submit wholeheartedly to His will and service.

The number two citizen, used the opportunity to inform the congregation that Governor Umo Eno was out of the country, not for leisure, but to attract investors and partnerships that will enhance the growth and development of the State. She reaffirmed the Governor's commitment to improving the lives of the people, describing him as "a leader who sends, follows up, and ensures that things are done rightly for the benefit of all."

Senator Eyakenyi also appreciated the clergy for their continuous

intercession for the peace and progress of the State, noting that Akwa Ibom has continued to enjoy divine favor because of the prayers of the faithful. She further charged political office holders to remain focused, responsible, and diligent in carrying out their duties, especially in the Governor's absence, stressing that "the big eyes see."

Delivering his exhortation on the theme, "The Greatness of God," drawn from Isaiah 55:9-12, the General Superintendent of God's Bethel of Praise Ministry International and Secretary of the International Worship Centre, Rev. Hilkiiah Eliathat described God's greatness as boundless and supreme. He explained that God's power has the capacity to lift people from nothing to greatness, and from darkness into light, citing his personal experience as testimony to divine transformation.



Gov Eno Reaffirms Commitment to Quality Education at Topfaith Graduation

• Urges graduands on excellence



Governor Umo Eni, has reaffirmed commitment to promote quality education as cornerstone for sustainable development across the State.

Governor Eni, who stated this on Friday, October 17, during the maiden convocation of Topfaith University, at Mkpatak, in Essien Udim Local Government Area, lauded the institution's rapid progress and described it as a beacon of academic innovation and growth within just four years of establishment.

Represented by the Deputy Governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, Governor Eni commended the management for its impressive expansion to five faculties and 26 departments since obtaining its license in 2021 as the third private university in Akwa Ibom State. He congratulated the staff and students on the successful convocation. He also charged the new graduates to uphold excellence and integrity in all their pursuits.

In his address, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Patrick Ebewo, described the ceremony as a significant milestone in the institution's pursuit of academic distinction, and disclosed that the university began academic activities in 2021 with 104 students, out of which 40 are graduating from the

Faculties of Computing and Applied Sciences, and that of Management and Social Sciences. He added that students from the Faculties of Law and Engineering, which run five-year programmes, will graduate next year.

Highlighting the institution's steady progress, Prof. Ebewo further announced that the National Universities Commission (NUC), has granted approval for the commencement of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) and Cybersecurity programmes beginning from the 2025/2026 academic session. This, he said, reflects the university's dedication to expanding academic opportunities and aligning with modern global educational standards.

The Founder and Chairman, Board of Trustees, Dr. Emmanuel Abraham, congratulated the graduating students for their outstanding performance and urged them to uphold the values of diligence and discipline inculcated during their studies. He expressed gratitude to Governor Umo Eni and past administrations for their "extremely



education-friendly disposition," and appreciated the governing council, parents, and other stakeholders for their support of the university's pioneering vision. Dr. Abraham further assured that Topfaith University would continue to pursue cutting-edge research, exchange programmes, and collaborations in line with global best practices.

Delivering the convocation lecture on the theme, "Repositioning University Education for Human Empowerment in an Emerging World," Prof. Joy Eyisi emphasised the need for education to evolve beyond traditional teaching models to remain relevant in a rapidly changing world.

A total of 40 students graduated, with 11 earning First Class Honours, 16 Second Class Upper, nine Second Class Lower, three Third Class, and one Pass, while Miss Marylyn Ibem emerged the Best Graduating Student.



AKHA Commits to Citizens' Welfare, Legislative Progress in Third Year

• Outlines two years achievements

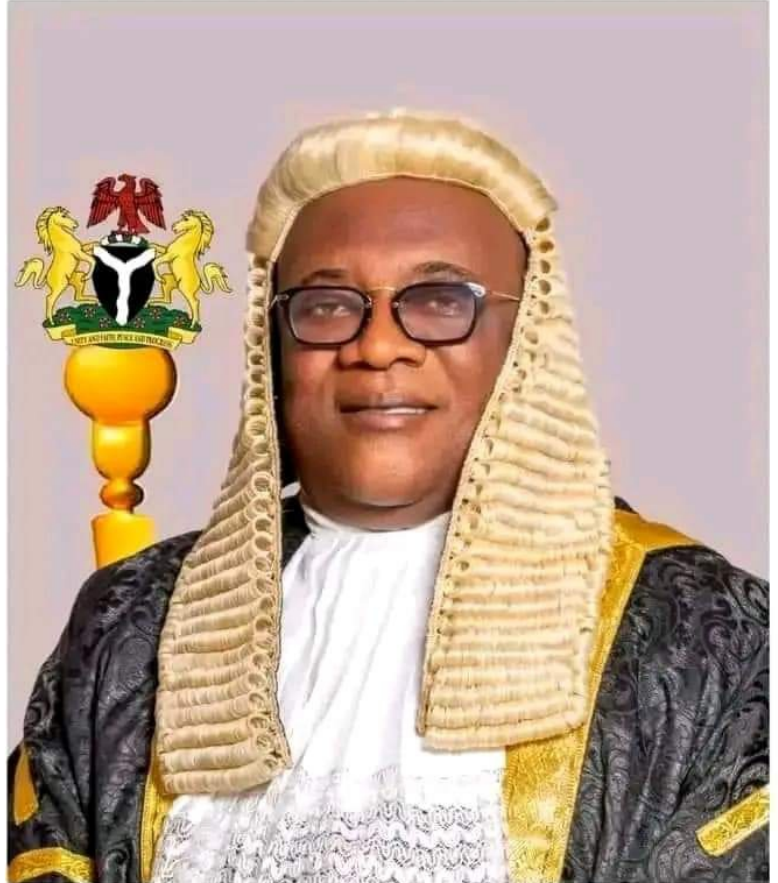
The Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, has reaffirmed its commitment to advancing citizens' welfare and sustaining legislative progress as lawmakers commence the third legislative year.

The Assembly also assured that it will prioritise the consideration of pending petitions, strengthen committee oversight through follow-up visits, and deliberate on ongoing bills to ensure effective governance.

Speaking during a press briefing at the Assembly Complex on Thursday, October 16, the Chairman of the House Committee on Information, Hon. Jerry Otu, highlighted the achievements of the 8th Assembly in the past two years across its core mandates of lawmaking, oversight, and representation. He noted that since its inauguration in June 2023, the Assembly has received 44 bills in its first session, with 13 passed into law, while 26 bills were introduced and 12 enacted in the second session. In the ongoing third session, one bill has so far been passed out of the five presented.

Hon. Otu, who represents Ikot Ekpene/Obot Akara State Constituency, expressed satisfaction with the quality of motions presented by members to address the pressing needs of citizens and draw the attention of the executive arm to urgent matters requiring intervention. He added that the Assembly has been proactive in identifying operational lapses in some government agencies, which have since been addressed through committee investigations.

The lawmaker further disclosed that the House has treated numerous complaints from citizens and civil servants, ensuring fair hearings and timely resolutions in several cases. He stated that matters requiring additional attention have been



RT. HON. (ELDER) UDEME J. OTONG
SPEAKER, AKWA IBOM STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

recommended for further legislative action to guarantee fairness and justice.

Commending the leadership of the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Udemé Otong, Hon. Otu attributed the Assembly's harmonious working environment and legislative productivity to the Speaker's inclusive and focused leadership style. This, he said, has enabled members to discharge their duties effectively without rancour.

He reaffirmed the legislature's commitment to maintaining a cordial relationship with the media for transparent and accurate reportage of the Assembly's activities. Other lawmakers present at the briefing included Hon. Moses Essien (Ibiono Ibom), Hon. Itorobong Etim (Uruan), and Hon. Lawrence Udoide (INI).

Lady Obareki Flags Off Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Centre in Etinan

• *Receives nutrition champion recognition*



The Coordinator, Office of the First Lady, Lady Helen Obareki, has flagged off the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Out-Patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) at the Primary Health Care Operational Base in Etinan Local Government Area, to tackle the rising incidence of acute malnutrition among children under five years.

Speaking on Monday, October 20, at the IMAM project, jointly undertaken by the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Health, and the Akwa Ibom State Primary Health Care Development Agency, as well as the Helen Keller International, Lady Obareki stressed that the initiative was in tandem with the ARISE Agenda of Governor Umo Eno, which identifies maternal and child health as a critical pillar of the State's development plan.

The Coordinator explained that the initiative also supports the Maternal and Child Healthcare thematic area of the Golden Initiative for All (GIFA), aimed at ensuring that every mother and child in Akwa Ibom receives optimal care from conception through early childhood. She further described the IMAM programme as a vital transition from policy to practical life-saving action, that provides specialised care for screening, diagnosis, and treatment of malnourished children.

While commending Helen Keller International and the Ministries of Health at both federal and state levels for their technical and logistical support,

Lady Obareki lauded health workers for their commitment, describing them as "frontline heroes." She reaffirmed the commitment of the First Lady's office and GIFA to fight against malnutrition, assuring that partnerships with development agencies and health stakeholders will continue to ensure that every child in Akwa Ibom grows healthy and well-nourished.

Speaking on behalf of the Deputy Governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, the Permanent Secretary in her office, Mr. Joseph Esidem noted that the establishment of the IMAM centre reflects the government's continued commitment to child health and the wellbeing of vulnerable populations. He added that the State government, under the ARISE Agenda, has continued to provide standard health facilities, expand access to quality healthcare services, and recruit more health professionals, especially to meet the needs of rural communities.

At the event, which featured remarks from the representatives of the Country Director of Helen Keller International, the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the National and State Primary Health Care Development Agencies and the Chairman of Etinan LGA, Lady Obareki was honoured as a Nutrition Champion by the Federal and State Ministries of Health, in recognition of her exceptional advocacy and leadership in promoting maternal and child nutrition in Akwa Ibom State.



Humanitarian Affairs Ministry Celebrates One Year of Impact with Thanksgiving

• *Donates food items to widows, solar lights to Eket Correctional Centre*



The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, on Sunday, October 19, marked its first anniversary with a thanksgiving service, held at the United Evangelical Church, 165 Aka Road, Uyo.

Leading the management and staff of the ministry, alongside officials of parastatals under its supervision, to express gratitude to God for His faithfulness and blessings over the past year, the Commissioner, Hon. Emem Ibanga said the thanksgiving was a moment to appreciate God for His mercies, protection, and the achievements recorded since the establishment of the ministry by Governor Umo Eno in October 2024.

She lauded the Governor's visionary leadership and compassion, describing the creation of the ministry as a deliberate move to institutionalise care for the vulnerable and promote social inclusion across the State.

Hon. Ibanga, who made financial and material donations to the host church and widows in the congregation, noted that the ministry's success stories within one year were evidence of God's grace and the Governor's unwavering commitment to humanitarian causes.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Eno Akpan, recalled her experience as the first staff to assume duties in the newly created ministry, expressing gratitude to Governor Eno for his trust and support. She reaffirmed the ministry's resolve to advance the Governor's humanitarian vision by continually reaching out to the less privileged and fostering community welfare initiatives.

As part of activities marking the anniversary, the ministry also donated five solar-powered streetlights to the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Eket to improve night visibility and enhance safety within the facility. Presenting the items, the Commissioner emphasised that the gesture reflected the ministry's broader mandate of promoting human dignity and supporting public institutions to function efficiently.

Responding, the Controller of Corrections, Akwa Ibom State Command, Frank Okonkwo, commended the ministry for its intervention, describing the donation as a timely contribution that would boost security and create a safer environment for both inmates and staff. He also praised the leadership of Pastor Eno for establishing a ministry dedicated to humanitarian causes, saying the impact within one year has been remarkable and far-reaching.



CAHSEL Applauds Gov Eno's Approval of Allowances, Incentives for Healthcare Practitioners

• Pledges commitment to sector reforms, establishment of Ibom Int'l Hospital, Medical University



The Coalition of All Health Sector Leaders (CAHSEL) in the State, has applauded Governor Umo Eno's efforts in repositioning the health sector through the recent approval of allowances and incentives for healthcare practitioners.

Briefing journalists on Monday, October 20, at the Doctor's Mess, Udo Udoma Avenue, Uyo, the Chairman of CAHSEL, Dr. Aniekan Peter said the approvals will go a long way to improve the quality of health care services in the State, and enhance the well being of citizens.

Dr. Peter, highlighted the vital role of the sector in the socio-economic development of the State, commending Governor Eno for prioritising the needs of health care practitioners in recognition of the long hours of dedication, hazards and excess work load peculiar to the sector.

Maintaining that the new allowances by the Governor, would not only serve as a morale booster for the health workers, but also retain skilled professionals in the field, reverse the 'JAPA' syndrome and increase the overall productivity in health care.

The CAHSEL Chairman further listed Revolution in the primary healthcare, Akwa Ibom Health Insurance Agency, Akwa Ibom State Emergency Medical Service and Ambulance System (AKISEMSAS), Construction of Oxygen plants, Construction of new General Hospital at Ukanafun, Renovation of Accident and Emergency Unit at the Ikot Ekpene General Hospital, Establishment of Renal Centre at Ikot Ekpene, Renovation and Upgrading of the Ibom Airport Clinic, recent Declaration of State of

Emergency in the Health Sector and the recent approval for renovation of eight General Hospitals and 25 Comprehensive Health and primary health centres, as part of Governor Eno's reforms in the sector under the ARISE Agenda.

He also appreciated the Governor for the approval of the ongoing recruitment of 2,000 new health professionals, ongoing recruitment of 900 retired workers on contract, approval for skipping policy, payment of MRTF, revitalisation of the State Molecular diagnostic Laboratories and the introduction of four new allowances as incentives including, health sector peculiar allowance, retention allowance, teaching allowance, Accoutrement and rural allowance, as well as review of all Health laws.

Pledging CAHSEL's commitment to the growth of the sector, Dr. Peter assured that the body will support the State government in sensitising health workers on attitudinal change, empathy, resilience and dedication to service, as well as galvanise support for the actualisation of the Ibom International Hospital and the Ibom Medical University.

Giving a vote of thanks at the briefing that featured interaction with journalists, the NUJ State Chairman, Comrade Nsibiet John, thanked the coalition for partnering with the media to showcase the strides of Governor Eno in the health sector.

Represented by the State Secretary, Comrade Nsikak Esenowo, Comrade John assured of deepened partnership with the body for proper sensitisation of the government activities and programmes in the sector.



Ministry of Health Hosts House of Reps Committee on Healthcare Services

·Highlights Gov Eno's strides in the sector



Members of the House of Representatives Committee on Healthcare Services, were in the State on Friday, October 17, as part of their oversight function to assess progress in healthcare delivery.

Hosted by the State Ministry of Health at its conference room in Uyo, the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Ekem John, who welcomed the delegation, said the visit aligned with Governor Umo Eno's administration's commitment to providing accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare services through the remodeling and equipping of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and the establishment of the Akwa Ibom State Health Insurance Agency (AKSHIA).

Dr. John, applauded the Committee for its collaborative efforts towards strengthening healthcare delivery in the country. He reaffirmed the State government's dedication to ensuring that citizens, particularly those in rural areas, enjoy improved access to quality medical care. He also disclosed that discussions are ongoing between the ALGON Chairman and the State government for all Local Government Councils to pool resources into the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) to match the State's contributory funding and strengthen primary healthcare operations.

The Commissioner, further announced the approval for the recruitment of 2,000 new health workers by Governor Umo Eno, and the re-engagement of medically fit retirees on contract to boost the healthcare workforce. He explained that the strategy will balance experience and innovation within the system, improving efficiency and service delivery across healthcare facilities statewide.

Revealing that during the last State Executive Council meeting, the salary structure of all health workers was reviewed including, new allowances for both CONHESS and CONMESS cadres, Dr. John noted that the implementation of the new structure will make Akwa Ibom's health professionals the highest-paid in the country by November 2025, reflecting the Governor's commitment to staff welfare and retention of skilled manpower in the health sector.

In his remarks, the Chairman of the House Committee on Healthcare Services, Hon. Amos Magaji, lauded Governor Eno and the ministry for their remarkable strides in transforming healthcare delivery in Akwa Ibom. He emphasised the Federal Government's determination to ensure that every Nigerian, particularly those in rural communities, has access to basic healthcare. Dr. Magaji also urged effective resource management following the exit of major donor agencies, stressing the need to sustain gains and prevent avoidable deaths from treatable conditions.

The Committee received detailed reports from the Executive Secretary, Akwa Ibom State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (AKSPHCDA), Dr. Eno Attah, on the performance and challenges of the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund in the State. It also reviewed a PowerPoint presentation from the Permanent Secretary, Akwa Ibom State Health Insurance Agency (AKSHIA), Dr. Igbemi Igbemi, outlining the State's progress towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and its ongoing efforts to expand access to quality healthcare through strategic insurance programmes.



329 Contractors Jostle for 2024 UBE Intervention Projects as SUBEB/UBEC Open Bids

The State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), in collaboration with the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), has officially opened bids for the execution of the 2024 UBE intervention projects.

Addressing the gathering, on Monday, October 20, at the board's Headquarters, Idongesit Nkanga Secretariat, Uyo, the Executive Chairman of SUBEB, Rt. Hon. Anietie Etuk, described the event as a collective stride towards improving the learning environment for pupils and teachers across the State. He stressed that the bidding process aligns strictly with the Public Procurement Act of 2007, ensuring transparency, fairness, and competitiveness.

Etuk further explained that the bidding process goes beyond mere formality, describing it as a demonstration of good governance and accountability in the utilisation of public funds. He added that the projects will cover construction, reconstruction, renovation, and supply of school furniture and learning materials, urging only competent and reputable contractors with proven integrity to participate.

The SUBEB Chairman noted that all approved projects are expected to be completed within a three-month timeframe, urging successful contractors to take advantage of the dry season to ensure timely delivery and uphold the highest ethical and professional standards. He also commended Governor Umo Eno, for his consistent support of basic education through the prompt payment of counterpart funding, which has sustained the implementation of UBE projects in the State.



In her remarks, the Permanent Secretary of SUBEB, Mrs. Roseline Mfon, appealed for cooperation from host communities to facilitate smooth project execution. She advised contractors to prioritise quality delivery and strictly avoid the use of substandard materials, reiterating the government's commitment to ensuring lasting educational infrastructure across schools in Akwa Ibom.

Speaking on behalf of UBEC, the South-South Zonal Representative, Mr. Francis Etuk, commended Akwa Ibom State for being one of the few States consistently meeting counterpart funding obligations. He stressed the importance of quality assurance and timely completion of all awarded projects, wishing the Board and contractors a successful bidding exercise.



The highlight of the event was the formal opening of the tender box, accreditation, and inspection of bids led by the Project Officer, Nsikak-Abasi Ossom, with Builder Jacob Umana overseeing the counting, reading, and recording process. A total of 329 bids were submitted for consideration, while only 134 projects were available for award.

Representatives from ICPC, NLC, BPP, NUJ, and the Ministry of Justice delivered goodwill messages, urging contractors to maintain high standard and utilise quality materials throughout the construction process.

Info Ministry, NUJ Renew Partnership for Stronger Media Collaboration

Reaffirming the enduring bond between government and the media, the Ministry of Information, has renewed partnership with the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Akwa Ibom State Council, to promote effective communication, transparency, and public enlightenment across the State.

The commitment was made on Tuesday, October 21, when the State Working Committee of the NUJ, led by its Chairman, Comrade Nsibiet John, paid a courtesy visit to the Commissioner for Information, Rt. Hon. Aniekan Umanah, Ph.D at the ministry's conference Room, Idongesit Nkanga Secretariat, Uyo.



Welcoming the new NUJ leadership, Rt. Hon. Umanah congratulated Comrade Nsibiet John and his team on their successful election and commended the innovations already recorded at the State Press Centre. He reiterated that the ministry remains open to sustained partnership with the Union in advancing Governor Umo Eno's ARISE Agenda.

The Commissioner highlighted the Governor's remarkable achievements, and applauded him for exceptional performance, noting that he has not only fulfilled all his campaign promises, but also gone beyond expectations in delivering the ARISE Agenda.

He outlined some of the achievements to include, the construction of over 900 kilometres of roads, establishment of model primary schools and health centres across all local government areas, building of compassionate homes for the needy, and the ongoing construction of the ARISE Resort, a world class tourism centre set for commissioning soon. The Commissioner

also emphasised the Governor's investment in human capital development through youth training programmes like the Ibom-LED and DASAC, as well as the empowerment of beneficiaries with start-up capital to support entrepreneurship and self-reliance.

Umanah further disclosed that contractors handling the recently flagged-off Youth-Friendly Centres in eleven local government areas, were pre-qualified through the State Government's employment portal, with the remaining councils to be covered in the next phase.

Earlier, Comrade Nsibiet John, congratulated the Commissioner on his recent award of Doctorate Degree in Leadership and Strategic Studies, appreciating his non-interference in the just-concluded NUJ elections, the first, as observed by him, in the Union's history to be held without government influence. He assured of the Union's readiness to collaborate with the ministry and the State government in promoting information dissemination and public education.

In a vote of thanks, the Permanent Secretary, Akparawa James Edet, acknowledged the long-standing partnership between the Ministry and the NUJ and pledged continued cooperation and support.

Other officials of the ministry present included, Mr. Aniekan Ukpog (Director of Information and Communications), Mr. Peter Antai (Director of Planning, Research and Strategy), Mr. Nsikan Essien (Director of Advertising and Public Relations), Dr. Eunice Egharevba (Director of Documentary and Archives), Mr. Edem Okon (Director of Strategy and New Media), Mr. Marvelous Friday (General Editor), and Mr. Uwem Ben (Director of ICT and Technical Services).



Esit Eket: Legislative Council Holds Public Hearing on Scavengers Regulation Bill

The Esit Eket Legislative Council, has held a public hearing on a proposed bylaw aimed at regulating the operations of scavengers in the area and ensuring environmental and public safety.

The session, held recently at the Udo Edukere Hall, Esit Eket Local Government Secretariat, Uquo, is part of the legislative process leading to the passage of the Scavengers Regulation Bill, sponsored by Hon. Sampson Ntuen, Councillor representing Ward 6.

The bill seeks to register and license scavengers operating within the local government area for proper monitoring and accountability. It also aims to establish safety standard to protect workers from health hazards, integrate them into formal waste management systems, curb insecurity linked to unregulated scavenging, and promote the dignity of labour.

Leader of the Legislative Council, Hon. Ndifreke Etieketa, described the hearing as a democratic platform for citizens participation, noting that it underscores the 8th Assembly's commitment to transparency, inclusiveness, and responsive governance.

He emphasised that the bill is not intended to criminalise scavenging but to bring order,



protection, and sustainability to the sector. He urged participants to approach the deliberation with open minds, focusing on building a balanced framework that promotes both economic survival and public safety.

In his remarks, the Chairman of the occasion and member representing Esit Eket/Ibendo State Constituency in the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, Hon. Udobia Friday, commended the council for its proactive lawmaking efforts.

He called for proper and transparent implementation of the bill when passed, urging the involvement of credible individuals to ensure its success for the benefit of the people.

Stakeholders also lauded the initiative, stressing the need for intensive sensitisation to ensure public understanding and compliance. They maintained that effective education and enforcement will be vital for achieving the objectives of the bill once it becomes law.



Nkom Hosts Ikot Ekpene Athletes, Rewards Medalists for Outstanding Performance



The Chairman of Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area, Hon. Aniefiok Nkom, has hosted the area's contingent that participated in the recently concluded 2025 Akwa Ibom State Sports Festival, where he fulfilled his cash reward promise to the medalists.

Receiving the athletes, coaches, and management team at the Ikot Ekpene Local Government Secretariat on Friday, October 17, Hon. Nkom commended them for their dedication, passion, and commitment throughout the competition.

"I am very proud of you all, I believe that with continued hard work and determination, you will achieve even greater success in the future, said the Chairman.

In appreciation of their outstanding performance, Nkom presented cash rewards to the medalists, N200,000 for gold medalists, N150,000 for silver medalists, and N100,000 for bronze medalists.

The team was led by the Supervisor for Sports, Hon. Etido Inyang, who thanked the council boss for his consistent encouragement and support, which he said greatly contributed to their impressive outing at the festival.

An athlete and gold medalist in the high jump event, Miss Uwakmfon Udo, expressed gratitude to Hon. Nkom for his generosity and assured of better performance in future competitions.

Also speaking, the Track and Field Coach, Mr. Phidippides Okon, lauded the Chairman's gesture, describing it as a strong motivation that would spur the team to greater heights in subsequent sporting events.



Ibendo: Chairman Reaffirms Commitment to Educational Development, Youth Empowerment

The Chairman of Ibendo Local Government Area, Hon. Glory Effiong, has reaffirmed her administration's commitment to promoting education and youth empowerment as vital tools for community growth and development.

Hon. Effiong, made this known on Friday, October 17, when she received the winners of the 2025 Ibendo Spelling Bee Competition, held on Thursday, October 16.

Commending the young champions for their brilliance and composure, the council Chairman described their achievement as a reflection of Ibendo's promising future.

She stated, "Today, I see the true promise of Ibendo's future reflected in the brilliance and confidence of our young champions. Your achievement in this year's Spelling Bee is not just a personal victory but a testament to what dedication, guidance, and the right opportunities can achieve. My administration will continue to invest in education because



when we empower young minds, we secure a brighter tomorrow for our community. Keep believing, keep learning, and keep making Ibendo proud."

The chairman emphasised that such achievements reaffirm the importance of investing in education and align with the vision of Governor Umo Eno, under the ARISE Agenda, which prioritises educational development and youth empowerment across the State.

The winners of the competition were Silver Christian of Blestville International School (1st place), Love Okon of Epitome of Excellence Model School (2nd place), and Victory Jacob of the same school (3rd place).



Additionally, the Supervisor for Education, Mrs. Lily Edikpo, commended the pupils and expressed gratitude to the Chairman for her consistent support of educational initiatives, which serves as an inspiration for excellence among Ibendo's youth.

Ikot Ekpene Chairman Inaugurates Eight-Man Ward Committee On Tree Crop Development



The Chairman of Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area, Hon. Aniefiok Nkom, has inaugurated an eight-man Ward Committee on Sensitisation, Mobilisation, and Registration for the Tree Crop Development Programme.

Speaking during the inauguration on Monday, October 20, Hon. Nkom tasked the committee to identify and register 500 oil palm farmers across the area to benefit from the government initiative.

The Chairman who noted that the programme will provide seedlings and offtake the palm produce from farmers, boosting income and strengthening the local economy, described the initiative as part of Governor Umo Eno's ARISE Agenda to enhance productivity and promote sustainable growth.

The council boss added that, government extension workers would monitor the process to ensure the programme's success.

Members of the committee include; Chief Paul Akpan, Chief David Uku, Hon. Aniekan Umondia, Mrs. Edima Johnson, Hon. Mfon Micah, Ndorenyin Inyang, Pastor Justina Enang, and Mr. Udeme Inyang.

Earlier, the Director of Agriculture, Mrs. Eno Augustine, noted that the programme seeks to promote oil palm cultivation and agricultural development in the State.



Ibeno: Effiong Restates Commitment to People-Centred Governance

The Chairman of Ibeno Local Government Area, Hon. Glory Effiong, has reaffirmed her administration's dedication to people-centered governance through projects that directly enhance community welfare.

Hon. Effiong made the assertion on Monday, October 20, while commissioning a solar-powered borehole, a modern toilet facility at the Ibeno Market, and the renovated Ibeno Park in Iwuoachang, marking her administration's first year in office.

The Chairman, who expressed gratitude to God for the successful completion of the projects, assured that similar interventions would be replicated across all ten wards of Ibeno.



"These projects may seem modest, but they represent something significant, they symbolise health, dignity, and a renewed sense of belonging for our people," she stated.

In a goodwill message, the Iwuoachang Town Council, led by Chief Samuel Ukot commended the Chairman's inclusive and development-driven leadership, describing the projects as timely and beneficial and pledging the community's support for their maintenance.

The event featured unveiling of the projects by, the Director of Finance, Mr. Patrick Etukudo; Leader of the Legislature, Hon. Rose Nelson; and the Vice Chairman, Hon. Ukpog Okon and was attended by council officials, community leaders, and a cross-section of Ibeno people.



A'ibom LG Councils Begin Stakeholders' Consultation for 2026 Budget in Etim Ekpo



Local Government Councils in Akwa Ibom State, have commenced the preparation of the 2026 fiscal plan with stakeholders' consultation meetings, in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs and the Fiscal Responsibility Board.

The exercise kicked off on Tuesday, October 21, at Etim Ekpo Local Government Council, where stakeholders from the 17 wards met with council executives to review progress and propose priority projects for inclusion in the 2026 budget.

Etim Ekpo Council Chairman, Hon. Gideon Uwa, lauded the participatory budgeting process for promoting transparency and inclusiveness, while assuring greater developmental strides in the coming year. He commended the State Government and partner agencies for their technical support.

The Head of Planning, Research and Statistics

in the Ministry, Mr. Patrick Ikotidem, said the consultation empowers citizens to take ownership of selected projects and ensures accountability, in line with Governor Umo Eno's ARISE Agenda.

On his part, the Director-General of the Fiscal Responsibility Board, Mr. Victor Edet, emphasised that the engagement is a serious platform for incorporating citizens' inputs into the 2026 budget, noting that unimplemented 2025 projects would be rolled over.

The Paramount Ruler of Etim Ekpo, HRM Amanam Udo, commended the initiative and praised the leadership of Hon. Uwa, while calling for improved access to the Traditional Rulers' Chambers and provision of a coaster bus.

The consultation exercise will continue in other local government areas across the State.



**GOVERNMENT OF AKWA IBOM STATE OF NIGERIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION**

PRESS RELEASE

October 25, 2025

GOV ENO ORDERS SCOPING OF POTHOLES IN UYO METROPOLIS FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION

1. In his continued drive to ensure improved infrastructure and seamless mobility for citizens and residents across Akwa Ibom State, Governor Umo Eno has directed the Ministry of Works to commence a detailed assessment of potholes and failed portions of roads within the Uyo metropolis for immediate intervention.
2. The State Government is aware of the potholes that have appeared on some roads as a result of the heavy and prolonged rainfall in recent weeks.
3. Government wishes to assure members of the public that, as the rains subside, rehabilitation work will begin in earnest to ensure proper and durable reconstruction of the affected portions.
4. Furthermore, desilting of drainages and clearing of blocked water channels will also commence in various parts of Uyo to reduce flooding and prevent further damage to road infrastructure.
5. The administration, in line with the Infrastructure Development thrust of the ARISE Agenda, remains fully committed to the maintenance, rehabilitation, and sustainability of public infrastructure. Beyond the ongoing construction of over 964 kilometers of new and inherited roads and bridges across the State, Government is equally focused on routine maintenance to enhance mobility, safety, and the overall aesthetic appeal of urban centers.
6. Government hereby appeals to residents and motorists to exercise patience and understanding, as arrangements are being finalized for the Ministry of Works to respond promptly and responsibly to infrastructure needs across the State.

Rt. Hon. Aniekan Umanah
Commissioner for Information



**FUNERAL SERVICE IN HONOUR OF LATE DEACONESS ENO USORO,
MOTHER OF THE CENTRAL BANK (CBN) DEPUTY GOVERNOR (OPERATIONS) MRS EMEM USORO**



MODEL OF ARISE YOUTH-FRIENDLY CENTRE FLAGGED OFF BY GOV ENO IN 11 LGAS



FLAG-OFF OF ARISE YOUTH-FRIENDLY CENTRE –



NSIT UBIUM LGA



EASTERN OBOLO LGA

FLAG-OFF OF ARISE YOUTH-FRIENDLY CENTRE

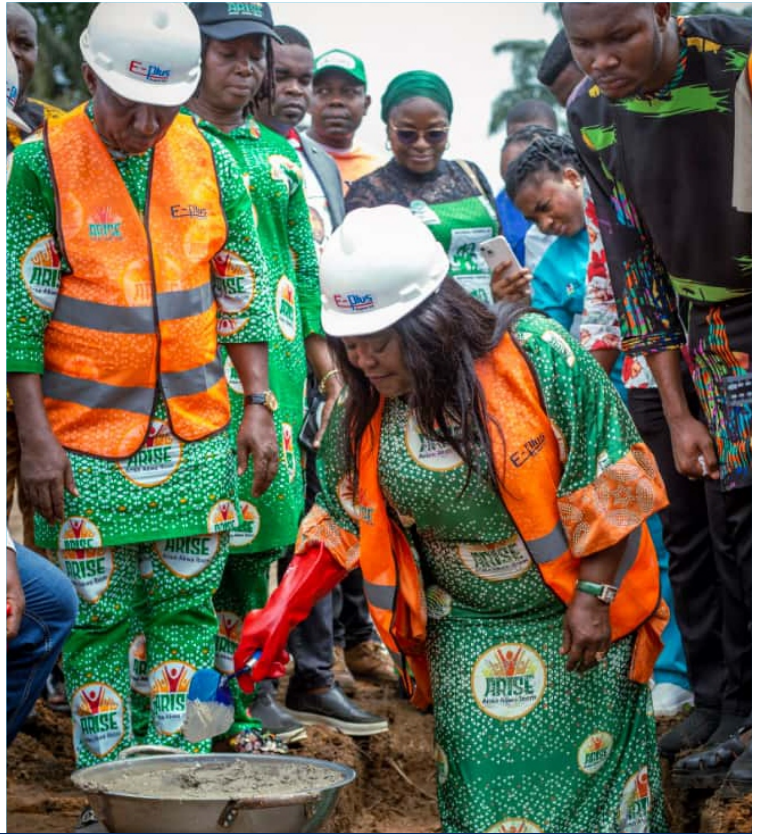


ETINAN LGA



URUAN LGA

FLAG-OFF OF ARISE YOUTH-FRIENDLY CENTRE



NSIT ATAI LGA



ITU LGA

FLAG-OFF OF ARISE YOUTH-FRIENDLY CENTRE



IKONO LGA



ETIM EKPO LGA

FLAG-OFF OF ARISE YOUTH-FRIENDLY CENTRE



URUE OFFONG/URUKO LGA



MKPAT ENIN LGA

FLAG-OFF OF ARISE YOUTH-FRIENDLY CENTRE ORON 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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unplugged 3.0

▲ 1st Dec. 2025 - 1st Jan. 2026

Akwa Ibom
Christmas
Carols Festival

▲ 19th Dec. 2025



It is for the benefit of the general public
to **call in for help** and **volunteer actionable information**
on black spots and criminal elements to enable ops response

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