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ARISE

NEWS WEEKLY



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Akwa Ibom Youths Endorse Tinubu, Akpabio, Eno for 2027

· As Gov unveils massive skills acquisition, bursary boost



The State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno, has announced plans to train 3,100 youths at the Dakkada Skills Acquisition Centre (DASAC) in the next academic session, as part of his administration's drive to equip young people with sustainable skills for the future.

The Governor made the disclosure in Uyo on Tuesday, December 30, while receiving youths who staged a rally endorsing President Bola Tinubu, Senate President Godswill Akpabio, and himself ahead of the 2027 general elections. He thanked the youths for their support and for sustaining a peaceful environment in the State.

Governor Eno said each of the 31 local government areas will nominate 100 trainees to DASAC, 50 sponsored by the State



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Gov Eno Commissions Primary Health Centre at Nduo Eduo

· Orders termination of non-performing contracts - Page 4



government and 50 by local councils, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 3,100 youths in the upcoming session.

He also announced a 150 per cent increase in students' bursary, revealing that from January 2026, beneficiaries will receive N50,000, up from the previous N20,000. The Governor urged youths to either pursue formal education or acquire vocational skills, assuring them of government support in both paths.

Highlighting other youth-focused initiatives, Governor Eno said the State is constructing youth-friendly centres across all LGAs, equipped with solar power, internet access, and essential facilities, while the Ministry of Youth Development is finalising a comprehensive youth development policy.

He further disclosed that through Ibom Air, 40 Akwa Ibom indigenes have been trained in

aviation, 20 as pilots and 20 as engineers, with an additional 10 pilots scheduled for training in January 2026.

Governor Eno emphasised that his administration prioritises empowerment over handouts, stressing that youths must be positioned to compete confidently nationwide. He thanked President Tinubu for releasing funds to States and pledged sustained investment in skills acquisition and human capital development.

Speaking at the rally, Hon. Martins Esin, Chairman of the House Committee on Youth Development, Commissioner for Youth Development, Dr. Ekerette Ekanem, and ALGON Chairman, Hon. Uwemedimo Udo assured the Governor of massive youth support in 2027. The event climaxed with a motion adopting Tinubu, Akpabio, and Eno as the youths' sole candidates for the election.



AKWA IBOM YOUTHS HOLD SOLIDARITY RALLY FOR TINUBU, AKPABIO, ENO AHEAD OF 2027



Gov Eno Commissions Primary Health Centre at Nduo Eduo

• Orders termination of non-performing contracts



Governor Umo Eno, has commissioned an ultra-modern Primary Health Centre for the people of Nduo Eduo in Eket Local Government Area, describing the project as a special Christmas gift to the community.

Speaking during the commissioning on Monday, December 29, Governor Eno urged community leaders and stakeholders to take collective responsibility in protecting and maintaining the facility, stressing that it was built to improve grassroots healthcare delivery.

The Governor explained that the health centre is part of the One Project Per Local Government Initiative, an electioneering promise he made to the late Elder Ekwo and the people of Nduo Eduo. He commended the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Ekem John, and other officials involved in ensuring the project's timely completion.

Governor Eno expressed concern over delays in similar projects across the State, revealing that nine local government areas are yet to complete their allocated projects more than two and a half years into the administration. He consequently directed that contracts for the affected projects be terminated.

He criticised contractors who collect project funds, abandon work, and later seek cost variations, warning that any contractor or guarantor found culpable after a financial audit would be held accountable for public funds already disbursed.

The Governor also appealed to residents of Eket to maintain peace and avoid disrupting construction activities on the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway, particularly along the Stubb's Creek corridor.

Presenting an overview of the project, the Commissioner for Health described the facility as a unique Christmas gift to the people of Eket, fully equipped with modern medical infrastructure including a resuscitation machine, functional laboratory with haematology analyzer, accident and emergency unit, immunisation room, nutrition centre, vaccine store, staff quarters, and solar-powered systems.

In their goodwill messages, Eket Local Government Chairman, Hon. Akaninyene Tommy; APC State Chairman, Obong Stephen Ntukekpo; Chief Assam Assam; Prof. Maurice Ekwo; Prof. Etie Ben and Dr. Edikan Ackley praised Governor Eno's commitment to healthcare development.

The event was attended by the Secretary to the State Government, Prince Enobong Uwah; the Executive Assistant/Chief Delivery Advisor, Mr. Aniefiok Johnson; other members of the State Executive Council; Council Chairmen, and government officials.



GOV ENO COMMISSIONS PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE AT NDUA EDUO



Old Skool Night Evokes Joy, Nostalgia for Senior Citizens in A'Ibom



Governor Umo Eno, on Sunday, December 28, hosted elderly citizens of Akwa Ibom State to a night of fun, nostalgia and celebration tagged, "Old Skool Night" at the Unity Park Amphitheatre, Udo Udoma Avenue, Uyo, as part of activities of the Christmas Unplugged 3.0.

Addressing the senior citizens through the Deputy Governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, Governor Eno said his administration remains inclusive and committed to the wellbeing of all segments of the society, stressing that both the young and the old deserve happiness and care.

He described the evening's dance and entertainment as therapeutic, noting that such activities promote good health and blood circulation for better living. The Governor reaffirmed his love for the elderly, acknowledging their contributions to the growth and development of the State.

Governor Eno highlighted key welfare initiatives for senior citizens, including the near-completion ARISE Senior Citizens Centre, stipends for elderly persons across the 31 local government areas, medical care and other social support programmes designed to improve their quality of life.

Earlier, the Commissioner for Culture and Tourism, Dr. Anieti Udofia, appreciated Governor Eno for approving the Old Skool Night to ensure relaxation, fun and fond memories for older persons, urging participants to enjoy the carefully packaged entertainment.

Speaking for members of the State House of Assembly, the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Udeme Otong, praised the Governor's passion for the elderly, commending the Senior Citizens Centre and financial support, pledging the Assembly's continued backing of the administration.

In separate goodwill messages, the ALGON Chairman, Hon. Uwemedimo Udo, on behalf of council chairmen, and a former Secretary to the State Government, Obongawan Grace Ekong, representing senior citizens, applauded the Governor for intentionally dedicating the night to the elderly, calling for sustained

honour and dignity for them, while looking forward to more of such celebration.

Giving the vote of thanks, the Commissioner for Information, Rt. Hon. Aniekan Umanah, thanked Governor Eno for hosting the event, which is part of the 32-day Christmas celebration. He appreciated his Culture and Tourism Counterpart, Dr. Udofia and performers, including Papilo, Composer, The Moon, comedian MC George and international guest artist Jeffrey Daniel, of the Shalamar Soul Train who taught Michael Jackson the backslide (moonwalk).



OLD SKOOL NIGHT, CHRISTMAS UNPLUGGED 3.0



Lady Obareki Welcomes Christmas Baby, Presents Cash, Gifts



As Christians across the world marked the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on Thursday, December 25, the Coordinator of the Office of the First Lady, Lady Helen Obareki, welcomed the State's first baby born at 12:01am, presenting the newborn and other nursing mothers with cash and gift items.

Visiting the female child weighing 2.6kg, born to Mr./Mrs. Lawrence Umoh of Ikot Osom, Obot Akara Local Government Area, at the Ikot Ekpene General Hospital, Lady Obareki expressed gratitude to God for her safe delivery and that of others born on the same day.

She described the birth as highly significant, noting that the child shares her birthday with Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. In the spirit of the season, Lady Obareki extended Christmas goodwill by presenting cash and gift items to all babies and their mothers in the maternity ward.

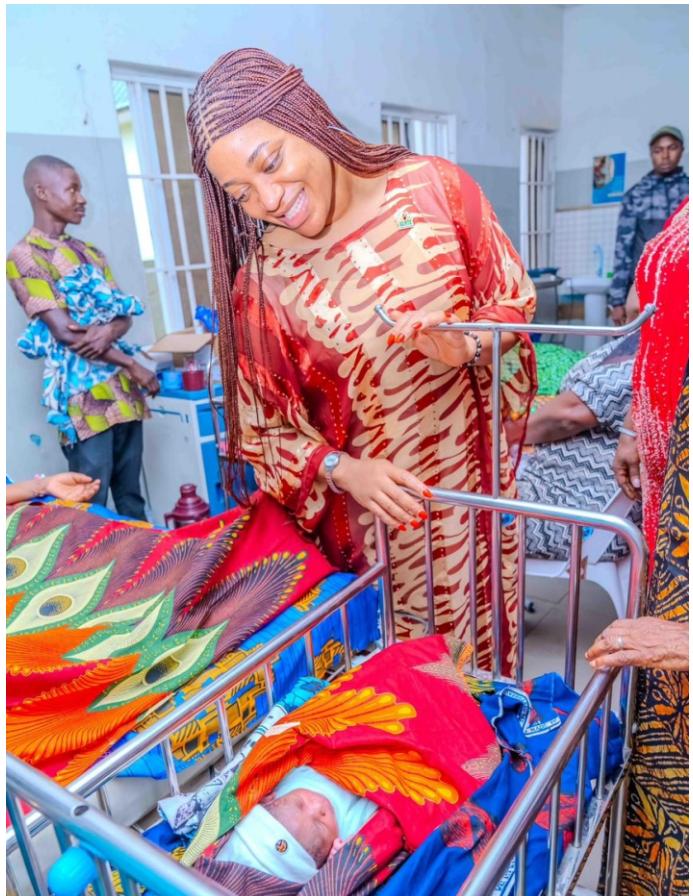
"As we have been doing in the past, we are here to receive our Christmas baby for the State. This is very significant to us because, as Christians, the baby shares the same birthday with our Lord Jesus Christ. We wish her and the family all the best that the future has to offer," she said.

In her remarks, the Chief Medical Superintendent of Ikot Ekpene General Hospital, Dr. Nene Andem,

thanked the Coordinator for the visit and confirmed that the Christmas baby and all other newborns in the facility were in stable condition.

Speaking on behalf of the nursing mothers, the mother of the Christmas baby, Mrs. Nsisong Umoh, expressed heartfelt appreciation to Governor Umo Eno, and the Coordinator of the Office of the First Lady for the kind gesture. She prayed God to reward their labour of love.

Lady Obareki was received at the hospital by the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Welfare, Hon. Inibeh Etukudo, alongside political stakeholders from the area, including Senator Emmanuel Ibokessien, the Commissioner for Environment and Mineral Resources, Rt. Hon. Nsikak Ekong and his wife, the wife of the Chairman of Ikot Ekpene Local Government, Mrs. Affiong Nkom, and others.



Christmas Unplugged 3.0: Portuguese Ambassador Hails A'Ibom's Progress at Exco's Hangout



The Portuguese Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Paulo Santos, has commended the developmental strides recorded in Akwa Ibom State under the administration of Governor Umo Eno, describing the State as peaceful, serene and progressively transforming.

Mr. Santos made the remarks on Saturday, December 27, during the Commissioners' Night, tagged "Exco's Hangout," held at the Unity Park Arena along Udo Udoma Avenue, Uyo, as part of activities marking the Christmas Unplugged celebration.

The Ambassador expressed delight at being part of the festivities, noting that Christmas Unplugged has drawn significant national and international attention to the State. He praised the visible infrastructure and governance efforts of the State Government, attributing them to purposeful leadership.

According to him, his visit aligns with Portugal's commitment to expanding cooperation with Nigeria, particularly in education, energy and technology, with a focus on fostering economic development and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Mr. Santos added that despite being away from his family for the first time during the Yuletide, he felt at home in Akwa Ibom, commending the hospitality of the people and the welcoming atmosphere of the State.

Setting the tone for the evening earlier, the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs and Dean of Commissioners, Hon. Frank Archibong, lauded Governor Eno for combining entertainment, business and economic growth through the 32-day Christmas Unplugged celebration, which he said has boosted social and economic activities.

In separate remarks, the Commissioner for Information, Rt. Hon. Aniekan Umanah, his Power counterpart, Rt. Hon. Iniobong Robson, and a former House

Leader and former member for Oruk Anam State Constituency, Mr. Udo Kirian, observed that the three-year-old Christmas Unplugged initiative has positioned Akwa Ibom as a destination of choice, with attendant tourism and investment benefits.

Delivering the vote of thanks, the Commissioner for Trade and Investment, Captain Iniobong Ekong (rtd), expressed appreciation to Governor Eno for the opportunity to serve in the State Executive Council and for approving the Commissioners' Night. He congratulated winners of various competitions, called for continued support for the Governor ahead of 2027, while indigenous artistes including King Nicholas, Aku Pius and Emma Praise entertained guests at the event.



A'Ibom Youths Endorse Tinubu, Akpabio, Eno for Continuity Beyond 2027

•Cite development gains



Youths of the State, under the aegis of Akwa Ibom Youths United, have formally endorsed President Bola Tinubu, Senate President Godswill Akpabio and Governor Umo Eno, for continuity in office beyond 2027, citing their leadership performance and developmental strides at both National and State levels.

The endorsement was announced on Tuesday, December 30, during a press briefing held at the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Press Centre, Information Drive, Uyo, with the theme, "ARISE to Renewed Hope," reflecting the collective position of Akwa Ibom youths ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Speaking at the briefing, the Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Youth Development and Member representing Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Uko/Urue Offong Oruko Federal Constituency, Hon. Martins Esin, commended President Tinubu for what he described as bold and decisive economic reforms, particularly the removal of fuel subsidy.

According to him, the policy has increased revenue allocations to States and local governments while permanently addressing fuel scarcity. Hon. Esin averred that the improved fiscal inflow has translated into visible development projects and expanded youth-centred social investment programmes nationwide. He also praised Senate President Godswill Akpabio for providing legislative leadership, noting that his role has been critical in the smooth passage and implementation of key federal policies.

On the State level, the federal lawmaker applauded Governor Eno's ARISE Agenda, describing it as a quiet but impactful revolution that has enhanced unity and accelerated development across Akwa Ibom. He highlighted investment in road infrastructure, aviation, healthcare, education, youth training and empowerment, as well as social welfare as key achievements of the administration.

Based on these accomplishments and the need to consolidate ongoing reforms, Hon.

Esin announced that Akwa Ibom youths have unanimously resolved to support President Tinubu, Senate President Akpabio, and Governor Eno for a second term. A motion for the endorsement was moved by the House Leader and Member, Nsit Ubium State Constituency, Rt. Hon. Otobong Bob, seconded by the Chairman, House Committee on Security, Youths and Sports and Member, representing Uyo State Constituency, Hon. Uwemedimo Asuquo.

Also speaking, the Commissioner for Youth Development, Dr. Ekerette Ekanem, said the endorsement followed extensive consultations and reflects youths appreciation of Governor Eno's inclusive and participatory governance style. He added that the youths would further demonstrate their support through a planned solidarity walk and endorsement rally from Ibom Hall grounds to the Globe at Wellington Bassey Way, where they would be addressed by the Governor.

Defending the endorsement, the Commissioner for Information, Rt. Hon. Aniekan Umanah, said Akwa Ibom has benefited significantly from federal interventions under the current administration. He cited the Coastal Highway project, increased federal appointments for Akwa Ibom indigenes, economic reforms and strengthened collaboration with the centre. Umanah added that Governor Eno's performance and Senator Akpabio's position as Senate President have given Akwa Ibom a strategic advantage at the national level.

The press conference was attended by top government officials, including Hon. Clement Jimbo, Member representing Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency; Commissioner for Health, Dr. Ekem John; Commissioner for Culture and Tourism, Dr. Anieti Udofia; Chairman, Local Government Service Commission, Hon. Monday Eyo; Chairman, Akwa Ibom State Environmental Protection and Waste Management Agency, Prince Akpan Ikim; Honorary Special Adviser to the Governor, Hon. Emmanuel Ekpenyong; Mr. Daniel Eyakenyi, son of the Deputy Governor; and aides to the Governor on youth matters and the media, as well as directors and staff of the Ministry of Youth Development.



AKWA IBOM YOUTHS UNITED ENDORSE TINUBU, AKPABIO, ENO FOR CONTINUITY BEYOND 2027



A'Ibom Children Celebrate Christmas at Statewide Party Hosted by Lady Obareki



Children across the State on Monday, December 22, enjoyed a colourful and memorable Christmas celebration hosted by the Coordinator, Office of the First Lady, Lady Helen Obareki, at the Amphitheatre of the Christmas Village, Uyo.

Speaking at the event, Lady Obareki said the 2025 Christmas Party was deliberately designed to be inclusive, bringing together children from all socio-economic backgrounds. She noted that beneficiaries included children from all 31 local government areas, children of security personnel, inmates of government homes across the three senatorial districts, as well as children from non-indigenous communities resident in Akwa Ibom.

She expressed deep appreciation to the Governor, Pastor Umo Eno, for approving and providing the necessary funding to ensure that every child present was adequately accommodated and catered for at the venue. Lady Obareki also thanked the female Council Chairmen and the wives of Chairmen for their consistent support for the activities of her office.

The Coordinator further commended the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Welfare, Hon. Inibehe Etukudo, alongside staff of the Office of the First Lady, for their commitment and tireless efforts which she said, contributed to the successful hosting of the event.

In her welcome address, Hon. Etukudo lauded Governor Eno and Lady Obareki for sustaining the tradition of celebrating the Yuletide with children, describing the initiative as a reflection of the true spirit of Christmas and compassionate leadership.

Delivering a Christmas exhortation, Evangelist Becky Udom reminded the children that the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ centres on love, giving, compassion, and peaceful coexistence.

Goodwill messages were presented by the wife of the Member representing Uyo/Uruan/Nsit Atai/Ibesikpo Asutan Federal Constituency, Dr. Dorcas Esset, and the wife of the Chairman of Uyo Local Government Council and President of WALGON, Mrs. Akaninyene Udo. They both commended Lady Obareki for creating a warm and festive atmosphere for the children and pledged their continued support for her initiatives.

The highlight of the celebration anchored by Uncle Chicco, featured cake-cutting, dance competitions, age-group games and a photo session with Lady Obareki, during which children from different clusters personally received Christmas gifts from the Coordinator, with the children treated to food, drinks, ice cream, popcorn, party mascots, bouncing castles, leaving them with lasting memories of joy and excitement.



LADY OBAREKI HOSTS AKWA IBOM CHILDREN TO A STATEWIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY



AKIRS Engages Traditional Rulers on Nigeria's New Tax Reform Ahead of 2026 Rollout



The Akwa Ibom State Internal Revenue Service (AKIRS), has intensified its stakeholder sensitisation drive on Nigeria's new tax reform law with a consultation meeting involving the State Supreme Council of Traditional Rulers.

The meeting, held at the Traditional Rulers' Chambers in Uyo, on Tuesday, December 23, formed part of preparations for the implementation of the Federal Government's tax reform scheduled to take effect from January 2026.

Leading the AKIRS delegation, the Chairman, Sir Okon Okon, explained that the engagement was aimed at enlightening traditional rulers as critical stakeholders, securing their buy-in, and encouraging them to relay accurate information on the reform to their subjects.

Sir Okon clarified that the new tax reform, which replaces the obsolete colonial-era tax law, does not introduce new taxes nor increase existing ones. Rather, he said it seeks to harmonize taxes, eliminate multiple taxation, and exempt low-income earners and small and medium-scale enterprise operators from the tax net.

He noted that the reform, aligned with global best practices, would

ease pressure on the State's economy, enhance efficiency and effectiveness in government savings, and promote transparency and integrity in revenue collection, among other benefits.

The AKIRS Chairman, who is also a member of the Presidential Tax Reforms Team for the South-South region, commended the high calibre of Akwa Ibom traditional rulers, describing them as seasoned professionals with deep knowledge of contemporary issues, which he said facilitated productive engagement.

Sir Okon further expressed appreciation to Governor Umo Eno, for the support and enabling environment provided for widespread sensitisation, while calling for collective support to ensure effective tax administration.

Responding on behalf of the traditional institution, the President General of the Supreme Council of Traditional Rulers in Akwa Ibom State, His Eminence, Ntenyin Solomon Etuk thanked the AKIRS team for the briefing and pledged support, urging comprehensive public enlightenment ahead of implementation.

The meeting featured a lecture titled, "Nigeria Tax Reforms: Synopsis of Implications" delivered by Sir Okon Okon, followed by an interactive session with traditional rulers from the 31 local government areas of the State.



AKIRS ENGAGES TRADITIONAL RULERS ON THE NEW TAX REFORM LAW



AKHA Passes N1.390trn 2026 Budget, Cuts Spending by 16%

• Prioritises Capital Projects



The Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, has passed the 2026 Appropriation Bill totaling N1.390 trillion, as presented by Governor Umo Eno on Tuesday, November 25.

The bill was approved on Tuesday, December 30, following the presentation of the report by the Chairman of the House Committee on Finance and Appropriation, Hon. Itorobong Etim. The budget provides N354.867 billion for recurrent expenditure and N1.035 trillion for capital expenditure.

The motion to receive the committee's report was moved by the Deputy Chief Whip and Member representing Oruk Anam State Constituency, Hon. Sampson Idiong, and seconded by Hon. Lawrence Udoide, with unanimous support from the House.

Lawmakers subsequently considered and adopted the bill clause by clause at the Committee of Supply, presided over by the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Udeme Otong. The motion for the third reading was later moved by the House Leader, Rt. Hon. Otobong Bob, and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Hon. Nsidibe Akata.

After the passage, the Speaker directed the Clerk of the House, Mrs. Nsikak-Abasi Orok, to transmit a clean copy of the bill to Governor Eno for assent.

He commended the lawmakers for their unity and diligence, and also praised the Assembly's management, staff, and other stakeholders for their contributions to the successful passage of the budget.

Presenting the committee's report earlier, Hon. Etim noted that the N1.390 trillion 2026 budget represents a 16 percent reduction from the N1.650 trillion revised budget approved for the 2025 fiscal year. She added that projected recurrent revenue for 2026 stands at N1.146 trillion, down from N1.259 trillion in 2025, reflecting a 9 percent decrease.

A breakdown of the budget shows that the Administration sector will receive N268.555 billion (29.3%), the Social sector N305.509 billion (22.0%), the Economic sector N79.916 billion (5.8%), the Law and Justice sector N23.738 billion (1.7%), while the Regional sector is allocated N2.28 billion (0.2%).



Pastor Eno Empowers Female Entrepreneur With ARISE Automobile Workshop

•Reaffirms commitment to youth empowerment



The State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno, has further demonstrated his administration's commitment to youth empowerment with the commissioning of an ultra-modern automobile workshop for a Female Entrepreneur, Miss Rejoice Ubaha, under the ARISE Youth Empowerment Initiative.

The workshop, fully equipped with modern automotive repair facilities, is designed not only to support the beneficiary's enterprise but also to serve as a training hub for other youths, thereby promoting skills acquisition, self-reliance, and job creation across the State.

Speaking at the event through the Commissioner for Youth Development, Dr. Ekerette Ekanem, the Governor said the initiative aligns with his ARISE Agenda, which prioritises youth development as a pathway to economic growth and social stability. He stressed that empowering young people to become employers of labour remains a core objective of his administration.

Governor Eno reaffirmed that youth development has continued to receive top priority under his leadership, urging the beneficiary to maximise the opportunity by building a sustainable business and mentoring other young people. He assured that more youths would benefit from similar empowerment programmes in the coming years.

"In the coming years, many more youths will benefit from similar gestures," the Governor said, while encouraging young people to acquire practical and viable skills capable of improving their livelihoods.

The Commissioner for Youth Development, represented by the Director of Administration and Supplies, Mr. Anthony IsongUyo commended the initiative, describing it as a reflection of the Governor's commitment to positive change and the grooming of Akwa Ibom youths as future leaders. He pledged the ministry's continued support for youth-focused development programmes.

In separate goodwill messages, including those from the Commissioner for Information, Rt. Hon. Aniekam Umanah, and the Special Adviser on Political and Social Orientation, Mr. Kufre Udosen, the empowerment was described as one of the administration's many compassionate interventions for youths. They expressed appreciation to Pastor Eno for keeping faith with young people and delivering on his promises.

An elated Miss Rejoice Ubaha thanked the Governor for the unprecedented gesture of constructing and donating the modern automobile workshop, noting that the support affirms the value of hard work. She pledged to use the facility for the benefit of humanity and to mentor other youths in the State.

The workshop, located on a fully surveyed and fenced 731.501-square-metre plot, features an office and equipment room, automobile pit and car lifter, diagnostic scanner, power probe, vacuum pump, air compressor, complete set of spanners, mobile soldering tools, HP laptop and workstation, a 4.5KVA generator, and safety gear including mechanic creepers, safety boots, and hand gloves.



GOV ENO EMPOWERS FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR WITH ARISE AUTOMOBILE WORKSHOP



Urue Offong/Oruko: Udung Uwe Back on Grid as Uno Commissions 300KVA Transformer



Electricity has been restored to Udung Uwe village in Urue Offong/Oruko Local Government Area following the commissioning of a 300KVA transformer by the Chairman, Rt. Hon. Uno Etim Uno, ending years of power outage in the community.

At the event held recently, Rt. Hon. Uno stated that the intervention fulfilled a pledge made during the administration's Needs Assessment exercise, noting that the project included the installation of a new transformer

and the replacement of damaged poles and wires to reconnect the community to the national grid.

The Council Boss assured that appeals for electricity extension to other areas would be factored into the 2026 budget, and reaffirmed his commitment to delivering at least one project in every village based on identified needs.

Community leaders, including Hon. Comfort Mkpesit, Pastor Emmanuel Antakikam, Hon. Nkereuwem Okpo, Comrade Effiong Otong, Nse Ekpaha and Chief E. Uwe, commended the Chairman for the gesture and pledged support for his second-term ambition.

The event was attended by senior officials and dignitaries, with residents presenting gifts to Rt. Hon. Uno in appreciation.



Esit Eket Chairman Presents N12.231Bn Budget for 2026 Fiscal Year

The Chairman of Esit Eket Local Government Council, Hon. Uduak Ikot, has presented a N12.231 billion budget to the Legislative Council for approval ahead of the 2026 fiscal year.

Speaking at the Legislative Chambers, Uquo, Hon. Ikot said the budget aligns with Governor Umo Eno's ARISE Agenda and prioritises projects that enhance human development, social services, infrastructure, and public service delivery. She emphasised transparency and accountability in line with IPSAS, as well as strengthened internal audit and budget



monitoring.

Key priorities include rural road rehabilitation, drainage improvement, completion of ongoing projects, youth and women empowerment, ICT skills development, healthcare delivery,

support for vulnerable groups, and agricultural initiatives to boost food security.

The Chairman further appealed for cooperation from stakeholders, residents, NGOs, and businesses to ensure effective implementation, stressing that collective effort is vital for achieving meaningful development in



Nsit Ibom: Aaron Presents N13.716bn 2026 Fiscal Budget Tagged, "Rural ARISE Agenda"



The budget allocates 43% to recurrent expenditure and 57% to capital projects, with sectoral allocations of 25.5% to General Administration, 42% to the Economic Sector, 5.5% to Environmental/Regional Development, and 27% to Social Services. It prioritises human capital development, rural infrastructure, socio-economic growth, and empowerment initiatives.

The Chairman of Nsit Ibom Local Government Area, Rt. Hon. Otobong Aaron, has submitted a N13.716 billion 2026 Appropriation Bill to the Legislative Council for approval, marking a 100% increase on the previous year.

Titled, "Budget of Actualisation of Rural ARISE Agenda," the proposal was presented on Wednesday, December 24, in the Legislative Chambers, Afaha Offiong. It complies with the Akwa Ibom State 2020 Fiscal Responsibility Law and IPSAS standards, and is funded through FAAC allocations, VAT, IGR, and grants.

Rt. Hon. Aaron urged stakeholders, residents, NGOs, and businesses to support the budget's implementation to ensure sustainable development across Nsit Ibom Local Government Area.



Yuletide Celebration: Ikot Ekpene Chairman's Wife Hosts Children at Raffia City Christmas Arena



In a display of goodwill and festive spirit, Mrs. Affiong Nkom, wife of the Chairman of Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area, Hon. Aniefiok Nkom, hosted children from across the area to a Christmas celebration on Thursday, December 25, at the Raffia City Christmas Arena.

The programme, themed, "Visit to Santa Claus," featured music, dancing, mascots, a

bouncy castle and assorted refreshments, providing the children with a structured and enjoyable festive experience.

A key aspect of the event was the presentation of Christmas gifts to the children by Mrs. Nkom, who was accompanied by her husband, Hon. Nkom, underscoring the values of



generosity and community engagement during the festive season.



Parents and guardians commended Mrs. Nkom for her dedication, care, and commitment to the welfare and development of children within Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area.

Nsit Atai: Nyong Unveils N12.308bn Appropriation Bill for 2026 Fiscal Year



The Chairman of Nsit Atai Local Government, Hon. Anthony Nyong, on Tuesday, December 30, presented the N12.308 billion 2026 Appropriation Bill to the Legislative Council for approval. The budget, tagged, "The Budget of Transformation," reflects the administration's commitment to economic growth, improved service delivery, and sustainable development.

The proposed budget marks a 64.1% increase over 2025's N5.894 billion, with N4.086 billion allocated to recurrent expenditure and N8.222 billion to capital projects. Major allocations include

N 4.455 billion for Administration, N 1.898 billion for Social Services, and N 1.868 billion for the Economic Sector.

The Chairman noted that funding relies mainly on statutory allocations while the council continues to develop its revenue base. The bill, submitted in NGF, COA, and IPSAS-compliant format, includes detailed project plans for implementation.

Responding, Hon. Ubong Udoeyo, Leader of the 8th Legislative Council, commended the Chairman for timely submission and pledged prompt consideration and effective oversight to ensure full implementation.



Eket: Tommey Appeals for Calm, Steps in to Resolve Crisis with Seplat Energy



The Chairman of Eket Local Government, Rt. Hon. Akaniyene Tommey, has appealed to protesters, including members of the Joint Labour Committee and GMT Energy workers, to allow him to negotiate with Seplat Energy Plc on their behalf.

The protesters took to the streets on Monday, December 29, to express grievances against GMT Energy, a contractor with Seplat, citing alleged victimisation, non-compliance with agreements, and exclusion from work opportunities.

Addressing the demonstrators at Mobil Housing Estates, the Chairman assured them that negotiations were ongoing and urged them to permit Seplat and GMT staff to resume work. He emphasised

that his intervention would facilitate a swift resolution and enable workers to return to their duties.

Accompanied by Mr. Godwin Ndueso, Joint Labour Committee Chairman, Rt. Hon. Tommey reassured the workers that their concerns would be addressed. Following his intervention, the protesters dispersed peacefully.

Earlier, Mr. Ukpong Akpanumo, the Chairman of the Joint Labour Taskforce explained that the dispute is with GMT Energy, other contractors and not with Seplat Energy, highlighting issues of employment denial and minimal pay inconsistent with agreements. The Protesters also noted that prior attempts at communication over five months had failed, prompting the demonstration.



December 29: Governor Eno's Unrelenting Day of Service

For most Akwa Ibomites, Monday, December 29, 2025, arrived as a gentle exhale at the tail end of the Christmas holidays, a day still scented with rest, reunion, and reflection. Many assumed that the season's calm would extend to Government House. But for the Governor of Akwa Ibom

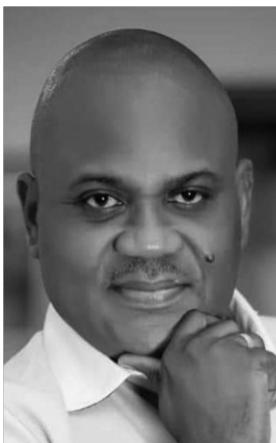
State, Pastor Umo Eno, it was the first working day of a new week, an unmistakable declaration that leadership, in its truest sense, does not go on holiday.

He arrived dressed with quiet elegance: a signature designer shirt paired with a matching fez cap, well-tailored trousers, and finely handcrafted footwear that struck a confident contrast. It was a look defined not by flamboyance but by poise and panache. As he stepped onto the ground, the Governor cut a striking figure of calm authority, measured in stride, focused in bearing, embodying a leader fully present, purposeful, and ready for work.

His arrival at Nduo Eduo was met with unrestrained joy. The air lifted with excitement as traditional rulers in full regalia, respected elders, women groups, and vibrant youth poured out in celebration. Songs rang out, smiles widened, and hands waved in greeting. It was not merely the welcome of a Governor; it was the embrace of a people who felt seen, heard, and remembered. Every segment of the community was represented, their presence a living testament to shared ownership and collective hope.

The tone of the day had been set the night before. Late on December 28, the Governor's appointment schedule was released, fixing the commissioning of a brand-new Model Health Centre for the people of Nduo Eduo in Eket Local Government Area. What many had assumed would be a quiet festive Monday was instead transformed into a day of governance in motion, another practical expression of the ARISE Agenda, through which Agriculture, Rural Development, Infrastructure, Security, Education and other areas such as Healthcare, and Tourism are being deliberately advanced. Under this agenda, development is not abstract; it is visible, measurable, and people-focused.

At Nduo Eduo, Governor Eno commissioned the ultra-modern Primary Health Centre, one of the flagship projects under his one-project-per-local-government initiative and a promise fulfilled to the late Elder Ekwo and the people of the community. Fully equipped with emergency and resuscitation facilities, a functional laboratory, immunisation and nutrition units, staff quarters, and powered by solar energy, the centre



Elucidation
by
ANIEKAN
UMANAH

stood as a tangible yuletide gift to the grassroots, modern, functional, and humane.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor called on community leaders, women, youths, and stakeholders to take collective responsibility for the facility. He urged them to protect it, use it, and ensure it serves generations yet unborn. While

commending the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Ekem John, and his team for delivering the project on schedule, he also issued a firm warning to non-performing contractors across the state, directing that abandoned or poorly executed projects would no longer be tolerated.

True to his reputation as a workaholic Governor, the day did not end in Eket. From there, he proceeded to neighbouring Nsit Ubium Local Government Area to inspect ongoing school and hospital projects—reinforcing his administration's insistence on quality, speed, and accountability in public service delivery.

The occasion also provided the Governor an opportunity to restate his unwavering stance on development, particularly regarding the Lagos–Calabar Coastal Highway passing through Stubb's Creek. His message was firm yet conciliatory: development must proceed, dialogue must replace confrontation, and progress must serve the collective good of Akwa Ibom State.

Commendations flowed freely. Voices from the traditional institution, community elders, professional bodies, women leaders, youth representatives, and political stakeholders, including Chief Assam Assam, SAN, and the State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, Obong Stephen Ntukekpo, praised the Governor for his consistency, humility, courage, and people-centred leadership.

As dusk settled, Governor Eno capped the long day in his characteristic benevolent style, inviting officials, stakeholders, and community leaders to his country home in Ikot Ekpene Udo for a late lunch. There, he personally sat through the meal with his guests, an unpretentious gesture that spoke volumes about accessibility, warmth, and genuine connection.

On the Ides of December 29, while many rested, Governor Umo Eno worked, quietly, deliberately, and purposefully, offering yet another reminder that true leadership is measured not by proclamations, but by presence, service, and an unrelenting commitment to the people.



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

PRESS RELEASE

30th December, 2025

**GOVERNOR UMO ENO APPROVES IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF
₦120 BILLION PAYMENT TO ALL CONTRACTORS WITH APPROVED
INTERIM PAYMENT CERTIFICATES (IPC) AND RELEASE OF ₦1.5 BILLION
FOR ADDITIONAL PAYMENT OF BACKLOG OF GRATUITIES**

1. Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno, PhD, has approved the release of ₦120 billion for the payment of contractors executing state projects.
2. The Governor also approved the immediate release of ₦1.5 billion for the continued payment of outstanding gratuities owed to retired public servants.
3. The payment to contractors is to enable them to remain on site and promptly take advantage of the current dry season to intensify construction activities and deliver projects within agreed timelines.
4. We wish to state here that the payment made is limited to contractors with submitted, duly vetted, and approved Interim Payment Certificates (IPCs).
5. The intervention is expected to significantly accelerate work on critical projects across the State, reinforcing the administration's commitment to timely project delivery and value for money.
6. In addition, the release of ₦1.5 billion for gratuities further reduces the backlog of ₦112 billion inherited by the administration, dating back to 2012. With this latest payment, the total amount disbursed for gratuities to date stands at ₦76.665 billion, covering up to May 2021.
7. Governor Eno has consistently emphasized that the welfare of workers and retirees remains a core priority of his administration, alongside the delivery of impactful projects that improve the quality of life of Akwa Ibom people.
8. This development underscores the administration's resolve to combine fiscal discipline, infrastructure acceleration, and social responsibility, in line with the ARISE Agenda.
9. The Governor wishes the people a happy and prosperous 2026 and assures that the administration will continue to work hard in the new year for the full realization of the ARISE Agenda for the people.



Rt. Hon. Aniekan Umanah
Commissioner for Information



CHRISTMAS UNPLUGGED 3.0



NSIT UBIUM LGA

CHRISTMAS UNPLUGGED 3.0



ORON LGA



URUAN LGA

CHRISTMAS UNPLUGGED 3.0



UKANAFUN LGA



UDUNG UKO 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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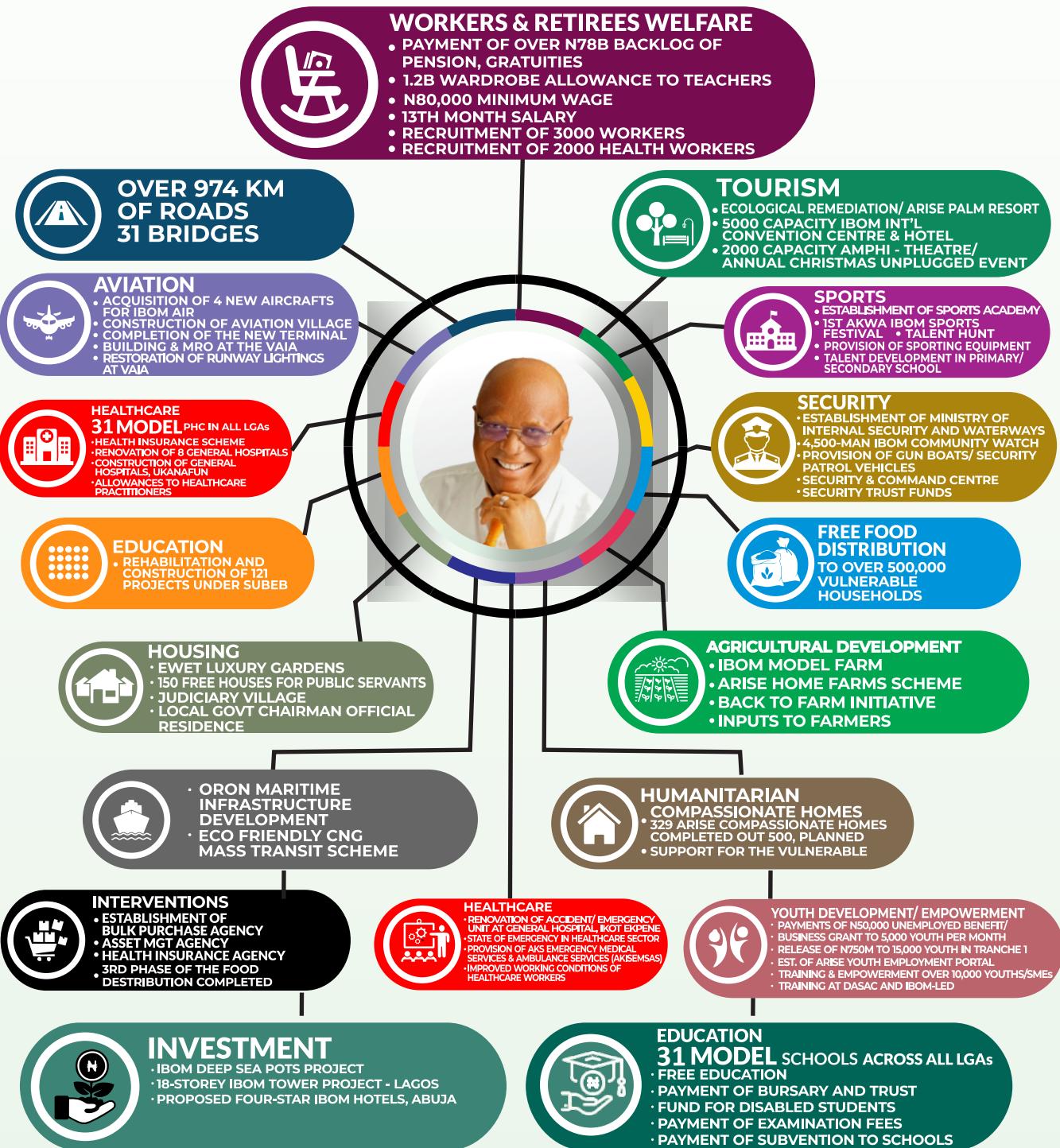
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HIGHLIGHTS OF GOV. UMO ENO'S IMPACTFUL PERFORMANCE



60 NEW PRIORITY PROJECTS

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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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