

A M A N O F D E S T I N Y



20

COMPELLING  
**REASONS**  
TO VOTE FOR

PASTOR  
**UMO ENO**

ANJETIE USEN ■ VICTOR ETEFIA ■ ANIEFIOK ETOK



# THE **ARISE** agenda



**Pastor  
Umo Eno**

**Sen. DR.  
Akon Eyakenyi**

## VISION STATEMENT

a vibrant, inclusive, diversified and highly industrialised economy with life-long opportunities that engender improved social welfare conditions and a more broadly-shared prosperity



## MISSION STATEMENT

the sustainable and efficient use of highly developed human and material resources within the framework of SMART solutions as well as innovative digital and green technologies in all sectors of the economy to create value and wealth, and improve the quality of life of the people in a clean, safe and secured environment.

# THE ZENITH OF AC TION

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For the dedicated PDP leaders, Campaign chieftains, Media and publicity leadership, down-liners, canvassers and support groups who will make sure this publication reach every doorstep in Akwa Ibom State, I thank you in advance.

**ARISE!**

**ANIETIE USEN**

Director, Strategic Communications,  
PDP/UmoEno Campaign Organisation



# Portrait

## of a Man of Destiny



*All my life, I have been like the Biblical David, tending the sheep in the field, and focussing on my assigned duties and responsibilities. Little did I know that God Almighty has a greater and higher responsibility for me...*



# INTRODUCTION

## PORTRAIT OF A MAN OF DESTINY

“  
***Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.***  
”  
— WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

**D**estiny, mildly put, is that unavoidable event, which happens or will happen in a man's life, and is generally believed to be ordered or imposed on man by a higher, stronger or supernatural guiding force or Supreme Being called God. However, every individual has a role to play in his or her destiny.

According to William Jennings Bryan, former United States Secretary of State: “Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved”. In other words, destiny favours the diligent. In this case, destiny has favoured Pastor Umo Eno and placed him on the positive side of life.

For a man of very humble beginning in the squalid Nigerian Police Barracks, who lost his father at a very tender age, his meteoric rise to become a successful entrepreneur and now the governorship candidate of a major political party in Nigeria, is a rare story of rags to riches, grass to grace and obstacles to miracles. It is a story of a struggling man, who, by the sheer grace of God and dint of hard work conquered failure, poverty and disappointment to regain mastery of his destiny.

His emergence therefore at the apex of the political firmament of Akwa Ibom State has turned him into a role model and beacon of hope for millions of underprivileged young people, who now believe that if this hitherto impoverished man could make it, then they too can follow his footsteps to great success.

Pastor Umo Eno is a gifted start up entrepreneur. This is his passion, affection and turf. He is a man of innovative business ideas, who sees opportunities where others see crisis. That is how he started his now famous Royalty Group Of companies, which has now grown into six subsidiaries. He saw many business opportunities around the International Oil Companies in Akwa Ibom State and latched on to them from the nadir to the zenith.

The stumbling blocks others may see is the stepping stone for him to grow the same business. For instance, many have seen the vast infrastructures put in place by past and present Akwa Ibom governors and simply stand in awe. But Pastor Eno sees the same infrastructures side by side with multiple SMEs that can spring up around and connect profitably to them. This is what he means by his now famous phrases of “connecting the dots” and “reaping the low hanging fruits”.

“

***It is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.***

”

**L**ittle did I know that God Almighty has greater and higher responsibilities for me... in the Akwa Ibom Project”.

But now it has dawn on all that “it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy”.

At the onset of his company in 1997 and in an act many regard as providential, he forsook the conventional titles of Chairman, Managing Director or Chief Executive Officer of the company. Instead he opted, at the suggestion of his wife, Patience, to be called “governor” of the Company. The title stuck. He became known as addressed by all as governor, even in Ikot Ekpene Udo, his village. Some thought it was a nickname. But now, that title is fast becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy. Words, from the Scriptural point of view, are often spirits and life. Words can be quick, powerful and sharp. Words can become flesh and walk among men. A modern day pointer is the life of Pastor Umo Eno.

“

***With his trademark lifestyle of humility and diligence, he goes about his political campaigns like a rural evangelist, crusading and preaching the gospel of entrepreneurship, wealth and peace for Akwa Ibom people.***

”



***They that wrestle with  
us strengthen our  
nerves and sharpen our  
skills; our antagonist is  
our helper.***

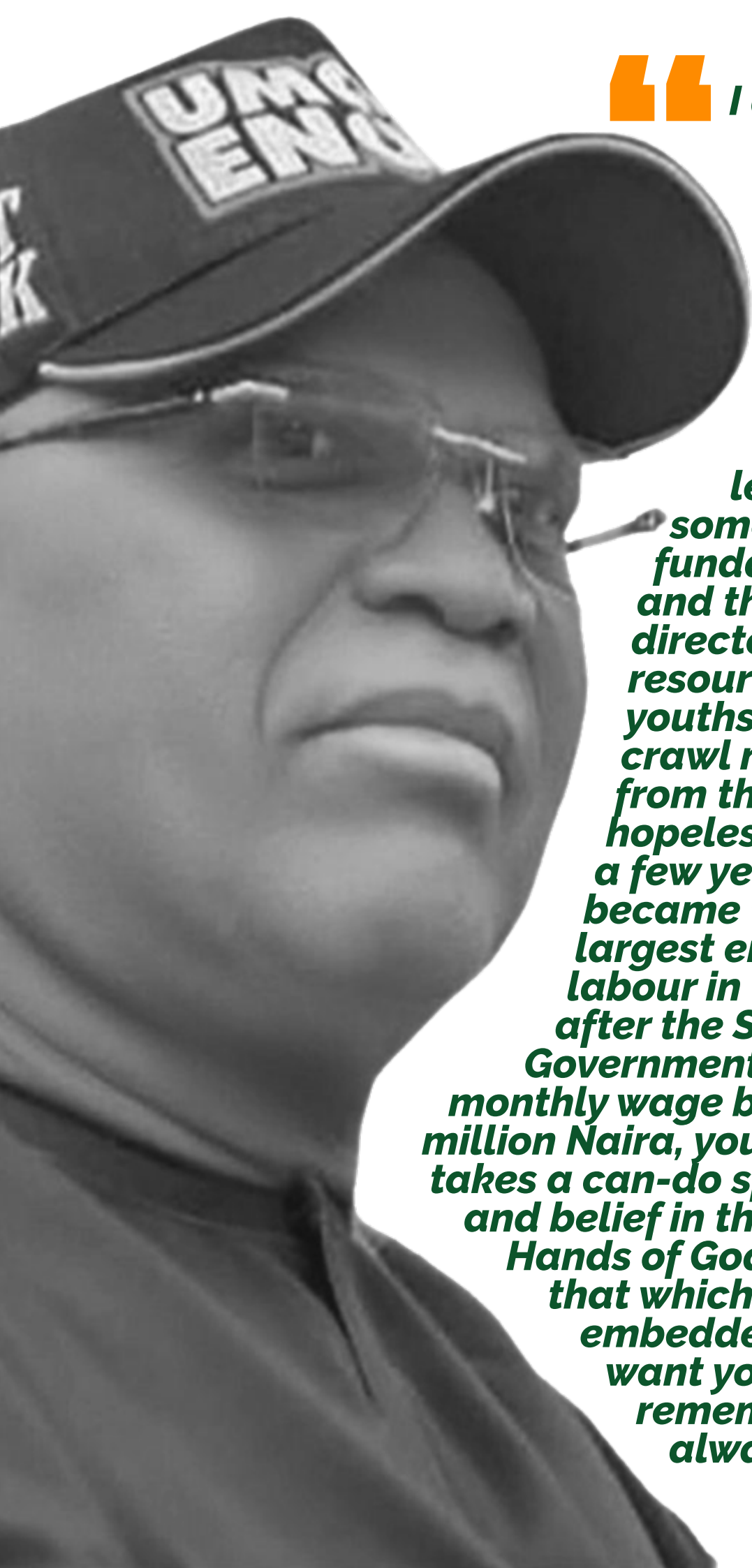


**T**oday, many consider Pastor Umo Eno to be just a breath away from the exalted office of the Governor of the oil rich Akwa Ibom State. With his trademark lifestyle of humility and diligence, he goes about his political campaigns like a rural evangelist, crusading and preaching the gospel of entrepreneurship, wealth and peace for Akwa Ibom people.

Many though are his political adversaries. He has no bitterness whatsoever towards them. But like the Biblical Jeremiah who faced enormous persecution and defamation of character, he is confident that God is with him the way he was with Jeremiah: "as a mighty terrible one: and his persecutors shall stumble, and shall never prevail". And like Edmund Burke, Pastor Eno believes that: "they that wrestle with us strengthen our nerves and sharpen our skills; our antagonist is our helper, who are propelling us to victory".

So be it.





“

***I do not wish to repeat the story of my life. That, already is in the public domain. However, let me say something very fundamental, and this is directed at our resourceful youths. If I could crawl my way up from the abyss of hopelessness, and, a few years later, became the second largest employer of labour in this State, after the State Government, with a monthly wage bill of over 25 million Naira, you too, can! It takes a can-do spirit, faith and belief in the Invisible Hands of God, to perfect that which He has embedded in you. I want you to remember that, always!***

”



# Imperatives Of Prayer

In Choosing A Leader



***And the Lord said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him***

***-Numbers 27:18***





## IMPERATIVES OF PRAYER IN CHOOSING A LEADER:

### *Biblical Account*



**“  
Let the Lord,  
the God of the  
spirits of all  
flesh, set a  
man over the  
congregation  
”**

In the Bible, Moses is our case study as one of the Bible leaders that prayed and waited on God for a successful succession plan and God’s guidance as in Numbers 27:16:

***“Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation.”***

Moses knew how weighty the matter of choosing a successor could be, given opposition, brickbats and diverse opinions to such arduous task. He was conscious that it would be error-prone to use human effort to make a choice of successor.

He resorted to the Almighty, the unbiased kingmaker, as in Numbers 27:18:

***“And the Lord said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him”.***

Truly, because Moses prayed, sought the face and waited on God for a successor for the people, Joshua his successor became mighty and very successful after Moses. He accomplished greater exploits since he was divinely chosen and ordained to serve the people of Israel.

## IMPERATIVES OF PRAYER IN CHOOSING A LEADER:

*The Akwa Ibom Experience*



**A**s the days were inching towards 2023 with much apprehension, the people of the State waited to see and know the choice of successor Governor Udom Emmanuel will finally present to the people. Whenever the question was asked the governor, he repeatedly said, prayers were on; as the matter had since been handed over to God to reveal his successor. Eventually, on Sunday January 30, 2022, a stakeholders meeting was convoked to reveal the identity of the man the **lot fell** on. Surprisingly, it was **Pastor Umo Eno** that became the **PREFERRED CHOICE** of the Governor and stakeholders.

It was the unthinkable choice to many people. No wonder the Bible says that: "Behold, I will do a new thing... which both ears of everyone that hears it shall tingle." (2 Samuel 3: 11)

Finally, **Pastor Bassey Umo Eno**, author, visionary Christian leader, hospitality magnate, entrepreneur, politician and former Commissioner for Lands and Water Resources became the anointed one for the 2023 governorship race. Same was presented for onward gubernatorial journey to the Hilltop Mansion in 2023. As it is written:

***"... and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy to whom I will shew mercy."***

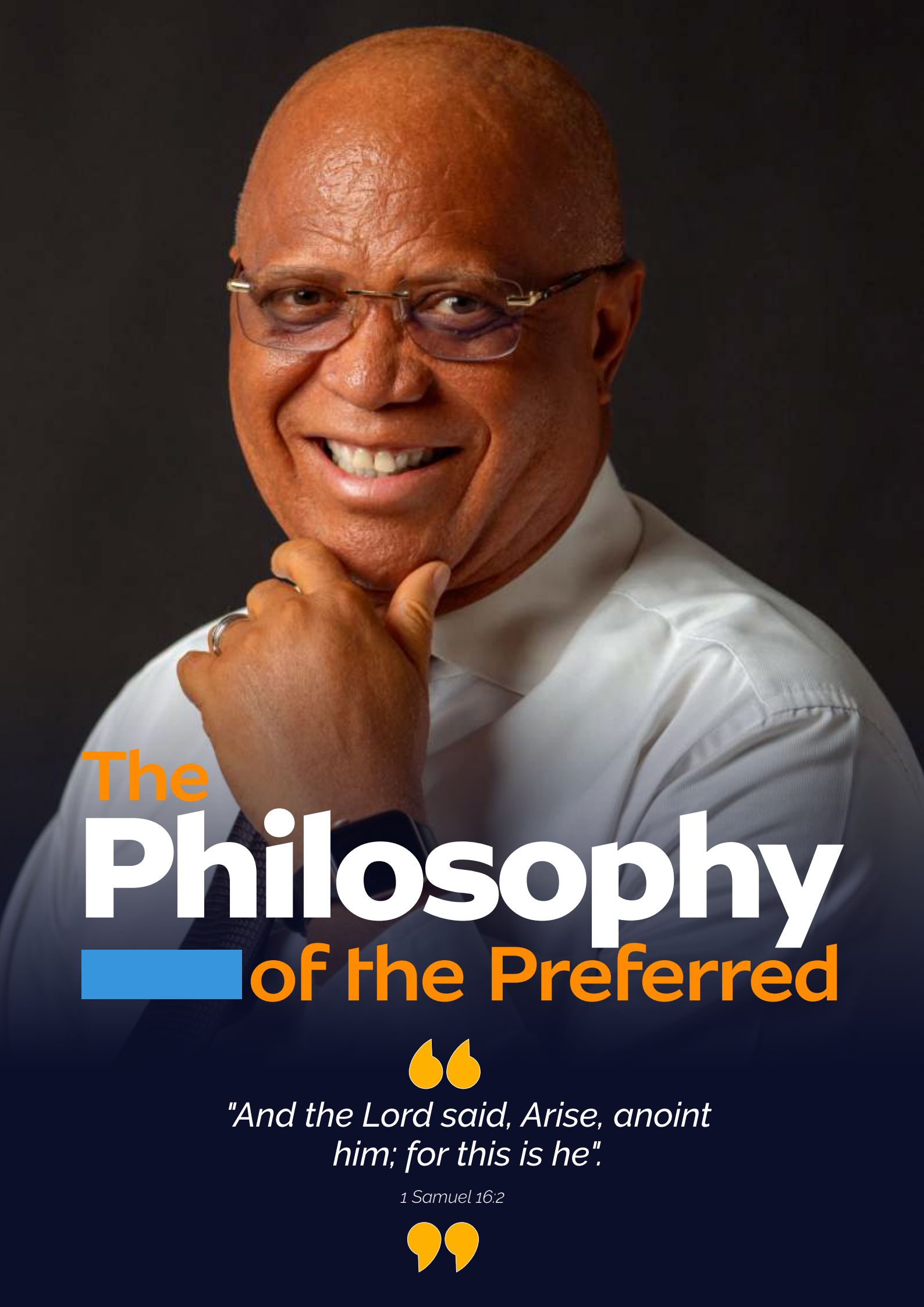
***-Exodus 33:19***

# OUTCOMES OF AKWA IBOM PRAYER PROJECTS

By Aniefok ETOK

Akwa Ibom State is a peculiar State. It is a completely God's special state, specifically named after the Almighty God. God takes special interest in the affairs of the state. The people of the state liken themselves to the Biblical Israelites that the Almighty decided to take up their cases whenever they were affected or confronted by the enemies and challenges. Below are some of the victories God has given Akwa Ibom State, at various times, at the place of prayers.

- ◆ When Akwa Ibom people were praying for a separate State. God answered in 1987.  
  
When confronted with the obnoxious onshore/ offshore oil dichotomy for years. Through prayers, God abrogated it.
- ◆ When the State was denied full 13 percent derivation from crude oil. God answered through prayers.
- ◆ When Akwa Ibom people in the heights of kidnappings, fear and widespread insecurity prayed for a peaceful and God fearing leader.
- ◆ When the battle for 2019 governorship elections raged and Governor Udom Emmanuel and the PDP were besieged, overwhelmed and confronted with imminent defeat by "Federal Might" in what was termed "Warsaw Saw War"; God demonstrated Himself strong on behalf of Akwa Ibom, with a comprehensive victory to those who were on the Lord's side. Governor Udom and the PDP won a landslide re-election that confounded political pundits.
- ◆ When Pastor Umo Eno and PDP won many court cases up to the Supreme Court following the Party Congresses and law suits on alleged certificate forgeries.
- ◆ Certainly, God , through prayers, has been the critical success factor, for the high standing and good reputation that Akwa Ibom State is enjoying nationally today. This explains why Governor Udom Emmanuel is raising a State Altar for the Almighty God with construction of a world class International Worship Centre.



The  
**Philosophy**  
of the Preferred



*"And the Lord said, Arise, anoint  
him; for this is he".*

*1 Samuel 16:2*



## THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE PREFERRED

By ANIETIE USEN

“

***Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.***

”

**P**olitics is a game of interest. Everyman is guilty of advancing and protecting his interest.

Some call it self interest. It is a polite phrase for selfishness.

The only man who is not guilty of selfish interest is the man who has no interest whatsoever in life and is entirely indifferent about the outcomes and consequences of the issues at stake.

A politician, no matter how passive can hardly be indifferent or choice-less about who governs his or her society.

Democracy itself is a game of choice and choice springs from preference. Whether in politics or any other aspect of life, humans pick and choose what they prefer, based on the value they see, attach and hope to derive from their preferred choice.

Most men prefer to marry the adorable and beautiful Figure Eight wives, only to discover too late that within the outward beauty and elegance lie the wild, roaring lion, that erupts like a volcano at the slightest opportunity.

God is different. And He sees differently and makes better preferences and choices. God had to literally yank Samuel's hand from a major blunder of preferring and anointing the tall, handsome sons of Jesse as king. Said God to Samuel, obviously upset by his lack of discernment: "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." As it turned out, God preferred David instead of his brothers and preferred Jacob instead of Esau. Even Jacob preferred Joseph and made him a coat of many colours. This and other incidences in the Bible show the importance of prayers and God's guidance in making critical preferences and choices.

Very often and quite striking, those preferred by God usually look rather very ordinary at the onset, without 'form nor comeliness'.



So was David, Esther, Joseph, Jephthah and even Jesus himself. Said the Bible: "no beauty that we should desire him...despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief...despised, and we esteemed him not...but who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, tolerated the shame, and now is set down at the right hand of the throne of God". (Isaiah 53:2-3, Hebrews 12:2)

This God-kind of template should strike a familiar chord for Akwa Ibom people, who pride themselves as God's own State. As in 1 Corinthians 1: 27-29, "God has preferred and chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; preferred and chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, has God preferred and chosen, yes, things which are not, to bring to nought things that are...". But Why? "SO THAT NO FLESH SHOULD GLORY IN HIS PRESENCE".

Whether man likes it or not; or whether man believes it or not, the truth remains that "power belongs to God". That's what the Bible expressly says in Psalm 62:11. And to crown it all, God also says that he gives power to whoever he wants, "sometimes to the least important people, or as the King James Version of Daniel 4:17 puts it, "to the basest of men". It is not to the mightiest and toughest of men, who fight tooth and nail or steal, kill and destroy. It is not to the self-entitled and proud. This is a curious template and blueprint.

As a matter of fact, God is best at resisting the proud and the haughty. He says the price for pride and haughtiness is a fall and destruction. This is found in Proverbs 16:18-19 KJV: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud". This Scripture cannot be broken, and will not be broken for the first time in Akwa Ibom State.

At times, God can locate the right man for the job who has the capacity but lacks the desire for the task. He would do what HR professionals call head-hunting. He goes all out to recruit such people. The man called Saul and later Paul in the Bible was head-hunted by Jesus Himself for the job that has now reached the uttermost parts of the earth. This is where God's grace and mercy step in and speak. "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy" (Romans 9:16 KJV).

Pastor Umo Eno himself admitted that much in his acceptance remark when he was presented as the preferred. "I have never solicited for what we are witnessing today, and I consider myself the least qualified of all the contenders for this assignment. However, I find solace in the popular maxim of my Boss, the Governor that when God calls, he qualifies".

“  
**when  
God  
calls, he  
qualifies.**

UDOM EMMANUEL

”

# WHY...

## Priests, The Party, And Traditional Institutions Were Involved In The Succession Plan

By ANIETIE USEN with ANIEFIOK ETOK

**P**utting in place lasting institutions requires orderly transition of power for effective continuity. Without tangible continuity, plans derail, structures collapse, designs are eroded, visions are in shambles and projects are abandoned.



**HE Obong Victor Attah**  
*Former Governor, AKS*

**His Eminence, Dr. Sunday Mbang, CON.**  
*Prelate Emeritus of Methodist Church*

**HRM Ntenyin Solomon Etuk**  
*Oku Ibom Ibibio & President General  
Akwa Ibom Traditional Rulers Council*

Preparing genuinely for a successor takes time, energy and opposition from diverse quarters. Evasive leaders may be afraid to equip or anoint someone capable of succeeding them. But great and bold leaders who mean well for their people like Moses in the Bible and Governor Udom Emmanuel of Akwa Ibom State, begin to prep their successors long before they expect to leave office.

To make a headway, a leader needs the cooperation of at least, key stakeholders since he cannot do it all alone. In God-inspired succession plan therefore, it is the responsibility of both the governor and those who exercised complementary roles like the priests, key political stakeholders and leaders of traditional institutions to reason together. As in the Bible, When Moses finally wanted to present Joshua as his successor, he called Eleazar representing the priesthood and leaders of the congregation before Joshua was anointed.

Borrowing a leaf from the said Bible ceremony, Governor Udom Emmanuel, invited Obong Victor Attah, former governor of the State, who is considered as the modern father of Akwa Ibom State. He also invited the top hierarchies of the Party, clergy and traditional institution, who had been involved in the process of leadership selection from the onset.

In a ceremony that lasted for about one hour Pastor Umo Eno was unveiled, presented and anointed as the preferred governorship candidate of the ruling PDP. Said governor Emmanuel:



***Let me say this emphatically. I mean well for the State. That is why I waited on God to show me the man who would continue with the pace of developmental strides we have started in the last six years plus and move the needle even further. Pastor Umo Eno is a highly respected person, he has enormous capacity, he is an epitome of humility, and is blessed with the common touch, a compelling story and he is God fearing. He is a successful entrepreneur who has employed our people, lifted thousands out of poverty to prosperity. He will be coming to the office of Governor with an economic blueprint that will further guarantee employment, development, and economic prosperity for our people. He is a man of peace and will ensure that the peace and security of life we have enjoyed in the last six years plus will be maintained. His story resonates with that of many ordinary Akwa Ibom people. ...Through hard work, he summoned hope and overcame his early difficulties and ended up as one of the biggest employers of labour in our State. His story is a testament of our DAKKADA philosophy; one that will inspire and innovate our youths.***





**Governor**

**Udom Emmanuel**

**& His Brand of Politics**

# Udom Emmanuel

## & His Brand of Politics

Without any iota of doubt, Governor Udom Emmanuel is a committed Christian. His life, inside out, is God-centred. Without fail, he has always attributed to God his sudden ascension from a bank executive to a State governor. Opposition to his first coming was stiff but God saw him through. Opposition to his second coming was even stiffer, maybe the stiffest ever such opposition in Akwa Ibom political history, but he overcame it.



His mantra was ONLY GOD. Pitched against virtually all the known political heavyweights in the land, the ONE AND ONLY GOD he serves gave him a historic victory that silenced the roaring intimidation of his political foes. And now, as he prepares to hand over power to the next governor, he has openly, without any reservations, also resorted to God with the mantra of THAT SAME GOD. He runs two prayer programmes every month in the Government House, where he often declares and proclaims his total trust and dependence on God for everything. Virtually all his public speeches and remarks are laced with Biblical references. Writing recently in THISDAY Newspaper, against this backdrop, Anietie Usen, a multiple award journalist, author and technocrat described Governor Udom aptly as a "King and Priest".

Next to God for this godly governor, is his people. He is a consummate team player and a down to earth grassroot politician. His high profile corporate credentials notwithstanding, he is a quintessential community oriented person, who actively seeks out like-minded, goal-driven people to interface with and build a network of relationships that is beneficial to the larger community of Akwa Ibom people. While he personally and corporately resorted to God in prayers and fasting for the critical decision of choosing his successor, he left the pragmatic leadership selection process in the hands of a broad spectrum of stakeholders and a network of like minded people, made up of former governors, senators, technocrats, top clergies and first class traditional rulers.

“  
*The entire political class waited impatiently and pressured Governor Udom Emmanuel to indicate his preferred governorship aspirant.*  
”

**M**any see and describe his style as the veritable politics of inclusion, whereby he carries along nearly all relevant stakeholders in every locality, not just in his decision making process but in the allocation of values in the society. It was the same leadership selection and decision-making process that led to the choices of various elective and appointive positions ranging from the LGA to federal positions in the National Assembly.

**I**n other words, the concept of “the preferred candidate” is the rule rather than exception in Akwa Ibom politics, even before the Administration of Udom Emmanuel.

It was against this backdrop that the entire political class waited impatiently and pressured Governor Udom Emmanuel to indicate his preferred governorship aspirant. Naturally, all the governorship hopefuls prayed and lobbied Governor Emmanuel to endorse them as the preferred candidate. Some of them who were hardly seen in churches became regular church goers with the governor, while others trailed him everywhere he attended any function, whether in Nigeria or abroad. Kneeling down to greet the governor in the public became a fad for many governorship aspirants. They called it ‘stooping to conquer’.

Sufficiently instructive, the D-day for the announcement of the preferred governorship aspirant came on a holy day, Sunday, January 30, 2022. A cross section and broad spectrum of stakeholders gathered inside the Government House, at the invitation of the Governor. They included political, religious and traditional rulers from every section of the State. The governor himself said little or nothing that Sunday night. He yielded the floor instead to Obong Victor Attah, the respected former governor of the State, who is regarded as the modern father of Akwa Ibom State. In a twist of political paradox, Attah announced a non-political, little known but successful entrepreneur and pastor as the preferred successor to the Governor Udom. Like David in the Bible, he was little known and hardly reckoned with politically. Instead, he was essentially and metaphorically tending the sheep in the field, businesslike with a track record of hard work, courage, integrity, God-centeredness, productivity and provision of food. At first his name was **Umo Who?** But now, he is a household name: **Umo Eno.**



COMPELLING  
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PASTOR  
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20

**COMPELLING  
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**PASTOR UMO ENO**



## VISIONARY LEADER AND STRATEGIC THINKER



***Good leaders have vision and inspire others to help them turn vision into reality. Great leaders have vision, share vision, and inspire others to create their own.***

**-ROY BENNET**



**V**isionary leadership is about evolving concrete plans that must translate to reality for the betterment of the people and the society and not mere wishful thinking.

**Pastor Umo Eno** is blessed with the capacity to see and plan ahead. He uses facts and figures and depends on scientific indices to make decisions that have brought lasting benefits to the people and organizations that he has managed. His efficient and successful management of many of his enterprises shows that he is one of the most respected strategic thinkers and planners in Akwa Ibom State. **Pastor Eno's** visionary and strategic Development Plan for Akwa Ibom State is realistic and life changing. His plan will create sustainable developmental projects around the state in order to generate employments and check rural-urban drift. He envisions Agricultural revolution in Akwa Ibom to make the state self sufficient in food. He foresees Akwa Ibom making a lot of money from Tourism and Akwa Ibom became a tourists haven.



***In 1997, I saw an opportunity in the Hospitality Industry and I relocated from Lagos to Eket and started the Royalty Hotels with just five rooms. Today, the Royalty Group has become a conglomerate with a diverse interest in hotels and hospitality industry, Akwa Fresh Water Production Company, industrial catering, eateries etc. For over 12 years, I was the second largest employer of labour after the State Government and I ran a monthly wage bill of over 25 million Naira. I have changed people's destinies, trained their children, unified the family unit through employment and I have won souls for Christ as a Pastor.***

**-PASTOR UMO ENO**







## ADVOCATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY



***Peace is the seed of prosperity and growth that the Udom Emmanuel administration has planted. This peace that we enjoy today calls for continuity and further advancements, a forward movement as opposed to backward slide to insecurity. We will work tirelessly to ensure that our people continue to live in peace as we strive to turn our State to a tourist haven and promote our creative industry to make Akwa Ibom a destination of choice. That is what this election is all about!***

**-PASTOR UMO ENO**



**T**oday, while insecurity has assumed a worrisome dimension in many parts of the nation, Akwa Ibom State has been an oasis of peace and tranquillity. From the fishing creeks in Mbo to the Raffia City of Ikot Ekpene or to the sandy beaches of Ibeno, or the inviting boulevards in Uyo, our people can travel any time any hour in peace and in absolute security.

Today, our people go to bed and sleep soundly with their two eyes closed. It wasn't always like this. Not too long ago, our people were kidnapped, murdered and politically muscled and killed. People were removed from churches and killed in the most brutal of manners, a lot of Nigerians did not desire to visit our State for fear of being kidnapped, but today, that ugly narrative has changed (because ) Akwa Ibom is blessed with a God-fearing leader, a people-centric leader in the person of Governor Emmanuel Udom, who came on the scene and brought about a different tone of level headedness and godly influence in governance.





## EPITOME OF HUMILITY AND RESPECT



*God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace  
unto the humble...*

*Pride goeth before destruction, and an  
haughty spirit before a fall...*

*Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the  
lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.  
Humble yourselves therefore under the  
mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in  
due time:*

**- BIBLE**



**P**astor Umo Eno is accessible, humane, easy-going and humble in nature. He is a stoic philosopher and a leader with amazing doze of patience. He meets, listens and assists people no matter their station in life. As a man who grew up from a disciplined home, he was taught the tenets of respect from the family, school and the church. He gives respect to whom is due. He gives respect to elders and do obeisance or prostrate in respect to constituted authorities.





## DEDICATED & COMMITTED

“  
***Genius is one percent  
inspiration, ninety-nine  
percent perspiration.***

— Thomas A. Edison

”

Pastor Umo Eno is a worker to the core. To combine a full time role as the chief executive of a conglomerate of six subsidiaries with that of a full time pastor of huge church demands certain attributes that include dedication and commitment

Dedication and commitment are two words that are often used interchangeably. However, there are some instances where this interchangeability cannot be used. While both of these words refer to a strong feeling of loyalty and strong support for someone or something, commitment can also refer to an obligation or a pledge.

Umo Eno, is committed and dedicated to the vision of the modern fathers of Akwa Ibom State, the mission of the performing PDP government, and the hopes of a greater future of the entire Akwa Ibom People, which is to make our state the best possible enterprising and attractive part of Nigeria. This demands, as Thomas Edison, the inventor of electricity said just 1% of showmanship and 99% of hard work, rigour and sweat.





**HE. Dr. Mrs.**  
**Martha Udom Emmanuel**  
WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR, AKWA IBOM STATE



## ACCOMPLISHED ENTREPRENEUR



***"Anyone can steer the ship, but it takes the real leader to chart the course. Leaders who are good navigators are capable of taking their people [to the top]"***

**- JOHN C. MAXWELL**



Pastor Umo Eno is a man with the midas touch, who is always able to make success out of every venture that he partakes in. His background in the private sector, beginning from all the companies he worked for in Lagos up to his own private company speak for themselves.

He has always managed to turn every business into a highly successful company. Governing Akwa Ibom State will therefore not be any different. The truth is that if you have never managed a kiosk, you cannot wake up overnight to manage a multi-national company.

Running a State is not a learning process; it is not an affair based on trial and error. We cannot gamble with the destiny of about 8 million Akwa Ibom people and entrust same in unsteady and shaky hands.

This is why Pastor Umo Eno is the best hand for the important job at hand.





## EXCEPTIONAL CAPACITY TO DELIVER



***The person coming after me is hundred times better than me. I want to believe that those who did not believe me initially are now beginning to believe it...***

**-UDOM EMMANUEL**



- ◆ Accomplished Entrepreneur
- ◆ Visionary and tenacious business leader with a proven track record
- ◆ Effective Pastor of more than 3,000 membership congregations in various assemblies across Akwa Ibom State and beyond
- ◆ Public Administrator
- ◆ Bi-vocational Leader and owner of increasingly successful and expanding businesses, in Akwa Ibom and beyond.
- ◆ Lead Co-ordinator of operations of a hospitality industry and allied service spanning through hotels, apartments, eatery, coffee shops, industrial catering and water production.
- ◆ Trusted and award winning offshore catering service provider for multinational oil companies including ExxonMobil, Chevron and Total.
- ◆ Employer of more than 2,000 staff in more than 12 locations (including offshore locations), adding his quota to the social-economic index of Akwa Ibom State and Nigeria.
- ◆ Stickler for excellence and builder of synergy with corporate organizations, private and government institutions in pursuit of empowerment of youths, capacity building, maximization of productivity, wealth creation, and steady growth of State and national development.
- ◆ Winner of National Productivity Award
- ◆ Winner of 3-Star Paul Harris Fellow (PHF),
- ◆ Distinguished Rotarian of the Rotary International District 9140
- ◆ Recipient of the Honourary Member Award of the World Conference of Mayors, United State of America.
- ◆ Fellow of the Nigerian Hotels & Catering Institute (FNHCI)
- ◆ Alumnus of the Lagos Business School, Pan-African University.



- ◆ Honourable Commissioner  
Ministry of Lands and Water Resources, Akwa Ibom State
- ◆ Executive Director, (Agricultural Investment), Akwa Ibom Investment Corporation
- ◆ Board Chairman, Ibom Fadama Microfinance Bank
- ◆ Board Chairman, Akwa Ibom Hotels & Tourism Board
- ◆ Member, Technical Committee on Agriculture & Food Sufficiency, Akwa Ibom State.
- ◆ Chief Executive Officer, Royalty Group (Six Subsidiaries)
- ◆ Group General Manager (GGM), Commercial Services Division, Norman Holdings Ltd, Lagos.
- ◆ General Manager, (GM), Norman Investment Ltd, Lagos.
- ◆ Finance & Investment Manager, Norman Investment Ltd, Lagos
- ◆ Commercial Director, Bertola Machine Tool Ltd, Lagos.
- ◆ Banking Officer, Union Bank Nigeria Plc, Lagos

“

***High achievers spot rich opportunities swiftly, make big decisions quickly and move into action immediately. Follow these principles and you can make your dreams come true.***

**- ROBERT H. SCHULLER, AMERICAN CLERGYMAN**

”





## TESTED & COMPETENT RUNNING MATE

- ◆ Talking about capacity, resourcefulness and experience in almost all layers of governance, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, the deputy governorship candidate and running mate of Pastor Umo Eno, is virtually unrivalled as her enviable track record speak volumes of a true woman of substance who remains yet humble, virtuous and homely. A perfect addition to the PDP governorship ticket, she will be the first elected female deputy governor in Akwa State.
- ◆ She is the current senator representing Akwa Ibom south senatorial district in Akwa Ibom State. She was elected into the senate during the 2019 general elections of Nigeria. She won with a total vote of 122,412.
- ◆ Before being elected into the senate she was the former Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development during the regime of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan.
- ◆ In 2000, she was appointed Commissioner for Industry, Commerce and Tourism in Akwa Ibom State during the tenure of Governor Victor Attah.
- ◆ In 2013, she was appointed by Governor Godswill Akpabio as Chairman of Akwa Ibom State Technical Schools Board. She served as Chairman of the board until her appointment by President Goodluck Jonathan as Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development in 2014.
- ◆ Akon Eyakenyi began her career as a teacher when she was appointed Mistress I & II by the Cross River State Education board where she served from 1986 to 1993. In 1991, while serving as a teacher she was appointed simultaneously as the Supervisor for Education, Youths, Sports and Culture as well as Executive Chapter President of Better Life Programme in Oron Local Government Area. Subsequently she served in the Akwa Ibom State ministry of education 1993 to 1999 as an Education officer before she voluntarily retired from the civil service.
- ◆ In 1983 Akon enrolled into the University of Calabar and was given Nigerian Certificate in Education (NCE) in 1986. In 1990, she obtained a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) degree from the University of Calabar. She also obtained a Master of Education (M.Ed) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Curriculum Education in 2010 and 2014 respectively. She is married with children and grandchildren.





Senator Dr.  
**Akon Eyakenyi**  
PDP, Deputy Governorship Candidate



## CREDIBLE AND TRUSTWORTHY

“  
***Trust is the essence of  
leadership***

- COLLIN POWELL

”

One of the best known and publicly acclaimed virtues of Pastor Umo Eno is that he is a trustworthy man. It was Chief Senas Ukpanah, former minister of National Planning, under the Babangida Administration who captured the essence of Pastor Umo Eno in a sentence during the consultation visits in 2022: “Pastor Umo Eno is a man of capacity, competence and character.”

Character refers to the sum of an individual’s qualities and characteristics which differentiate him or her from others. An individual’s character is actually an amalgamation of the person’s qualities which makes him unique and helps him stand apart from the rest. These qualities can include honesty, patience, trust, kindness, tolerance, utterance, courage, fair mindedness, ability to manage emotions or control temper, respect for authority, and leadership. For Pastor Umo Eno, nothing is more important than your character and moral values. life is nothing without ethics and values.

A person with a good character finds acceptance wherever he goes and respected by all. For many, character is Umo Eno’s strongest point.

“

***If you are faithful in little things, you  
will be faithful in large ones. But if you  
are dishonest in little things, you won't  
be honest with greater responsibilities***

Luke 16:10

”





## A CREATIVE LEADER



***Organization don't really accomplish anything; plans don't accomplish either, theories of management don't matter much. Endeavours succeed or fail because of people involved. Only by attracting the best people you accomplish great deeds.***

- ADMIRAL RICKOVER



**P**astor Eno will bring creativity and flair to the business of governance in Akwa Ibom State; and will turn the state around for our collective good. It is his creativity, tact and business development initiatives that have made the ROYALTY GROUP, a National Productivity Award Winner.

***A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be.***

—Rosalynn Carter

***If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.***

—John Quincy Adams





## FOCUSED AND PURPOSEFUL



***Nobody can really guarantee the future. The best we can do is seize the chances, calculate the risk, estimate our ability to deal with them and make our plans with confidence***

- JOHN MAXWELL



**P**urposeful leadership means the ability of a leader to be connected to a clear, compelling vision that is ambitious, aligned with specific values, and motivates the leader and his team to jump out of bed each morning, poised to work. It is about walking boldly towards major development targets and carrying the people along in the journey.

The A.R.I.S.E. Agenda of the Umo Eno Campaign Organisation is a clear and bold definition of purpose of his expected Administration. A.R.I.S.E., stands for:

A - Agricultural Revolution.

R - Rural Development

I - Infrastructural Maintenance/Advancement.

S - Security Management

E - Educational Management.

It is a robust and easy-to-digest Economic Blueprint that points the way to a glorious and prosperous future for Akwa Ibom State.

***“The A.R.I.S.E. Agenda of the Umo Eno Campaign Organisation is a clear and bold definition of purpose of his soon coming Administration”***









## DETRIBALIZED LEADER



***Don't be trapped by dogma, which is the result of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of other opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most importantly, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary***

- STEVE JOBS



**P**astor Umo Eno is a completely detribalized Akwa Ibom man and indeed a highly detribalised Nigerian. This is not unconnected with the fact that he grew up as a son of a policeman who travelled widely and worked in virtually every part of Nigeria. And at a point, he was even more fluent in other Nigerian languages than his native Akwa Ibom Language He sees and accepts all Akwa Ibom indigenes as one indivisible people.

For **Pastor Umo Eno**, all the 31 Local Government Areas, 3 Senatorial Districts and 10 Federal Constituencies are his constituency. Hear him:

***“ We will run a campaign where the cords of unity and brotherhood will remain the enduring articles of faith. ”***

When elected as the Governor of Akwa Ibom State in 2023, he will implement the **Pan-Akwa Ibom Agenda**.



**PDP**  
PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
NOMINATION FORM  
FOR  
**GUBERNATORIAL**  
Primary Election



## COMPASSIONATE LEADER



***The test of our progress is not whether we did more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide for those who have little.***

- FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT



Many believe that compassion means the feeling sympathy and concern for others. But it was Rev. Dr. Uma Ukpai who gave the most graphic and unforgettable definition of compassion some years ago here in his headquarters in Uyo during one of the famous Wednesday fellowships. According to the respected international evangelist "compassion is love in action". It is not sufficient to feel sympathy for persons; it is sufficient to take action to alleviate their pains. This is what Pastor Umo Eno does best. he is a graphic example of Rev. Dr. Uma Ukpai's definition of a compassionate man.

As a pastor of a 3,000 plus congregation, the sick among them still wake him up at odd hours for prayers. Pregnant women in labour still require his attention at the critical hour. The poor among them still look up to him for help. The widows still cry to him for help. He is a man who practically identifies with these underprivileged. He enjoys this pressure on his resources, space and time. Not because he is a pastor but more so because his poverty stricken background places him squarely in the shoes of the poor.

His compassion for them led him to setup several empowerment programs, skill acquisition schemes, free medical services and missions, scholarships schemes for brilliant orphans, many years before he was drafted into politics. This is the quintessential Pastor Umo Eno: a down-to-earth philanthropist.

With a greater leverage and resources as a governor, the underprivileged youths, men and women, can have hope for a brighter future.



Pastor (MRS)  
**Patience Umo Eno**

## YOUTH FRIENDLY AND ROLE MODEL

“

*"To the youths of Akwa Ibom State, my story is your story. I could have joined bad companies, I could have been recruited to engage in unholy activities, but I embraced hope, and hope brought opportunities, and I tapped into those opportunities because I was **READY**. If I overcome, you too, can"*

”

**N**early 90 percent of the more than 2000 employees in his companies are youths. He knows and feels the challenges they are facing, because he came from a similar background.

The life story of **Pastor Umo Eno** is compelling enough to drive youths to know that with hard work, determination and the grace of God, their tomorrow shall be better.

**Pastor Eno** is blessed with the gift of inspiring and rekindling the hopes of the hopeless and supporting them to achieve success in life. He keeps reminding the youths with the following words: "my story is your story. I could have joined bad companies, I could have been recruited to engage in unholy activities, but I embraced hope, and hope brought opportunities, and I tapped into those opportunities because I was **READY**. If I overcome, you too, can"

He keeps reminding the youths that they can only fail if they choose to fail. To **Pastor Eno**, what is needed to arrive at the top is extra push, a positive attitude and a can do spirit.





## A HARDWORKER



***I call on you all my brothers and sisters in the political space to join me on this speed train of development, which His Excellency, Governor Udom Emmanuel has been the lead driver in the last six years plus and whose engine is raving and accelerating steadily. I promise to be as steady a hand on the wheel as God will allow me.***

PASTOR UMO ENO



**H**ard work is definitely the key to success. What we earn by sweating our brow gives us greater happiness than something we get by criminal acts or swindling the public. As humans, we wish to achieve many things in life. These things need hard work to be able to come true.

Hard work is an essential thing we all need in life. It is impossible to achieve greatness without working hard. In other words, an idle person cannot gain anything if they wish to sit and wait for something else. On the other hand, one who keeps working hard constantly will definitely gain success in life and this is exactly how Pastor Umo Eno made it to the top.







## A SERVANT LEADER



***Servant leadership is all about making goals clear and then rolling your sleeves up and doing whatever it takes to help people win. In that situation, they don't work for you; you work for them.***

– KEN BLANCHARD



**I**n all his business conglomerates Pastor Umo Eno is both a team player and the captain. He modelled the art of service to all his staff, by joining them in their various units to work just like any other staff.

Jesus Christ modelled servanthood when He came to dwell among us as a man. He became a servant when He obeyed God's will. He was a servant when He washed the feet of His disciples. And His supreme act of servanthood came when He died on the cross and gave His life as a ransom for us all.

Moses was the first to practice servant-leadership (Ex. 32:11-14, 30-35). Servant leaders strengthen the weak and empower those entrusted to their care, and also show compassion towards the disadvantaged and the lost (Eze. 34:2-10).

Servant leadership is the lifestyle and leadership style Pastor Umo Eno will bring into office because that has always been his work habit.





## HOME GROWN POLITICIAN

“  
***The strong point of a home-grown governor is that he would be better placed to appreciate the needs of the locality and tackle them.***  
”

For years, most Akwa Ibom politicians have been agitating for a home-based and home-grown governor. The first civilian governor of Akwa Ibom State, Obong Akpan Isemin, was a Lagos based company executive when he came home to contest and become the Governor of Akwa Ibom State in 1992. The second civilian governor of Akwa Ibom State, Obong Victor Attah, was both a Lagos and Kaduna-based architect when he returned to become the governor in 1999.

Senator Godswill Akpabio was also a Lagos-based company lawyer when he was appointed a commissioner from where he transited to become the governor. The agitation for a home-based governor grew louder when Governor Akpabio preferred Deacon Udom Emmanuel, another Lagos-based bank executive, to become his successor as governor. The protesters had their say, in favour of a home grown governor but the majority had their way as Udom Emmanuel was elected governor with a landslide victory.

It appeared homegrown politicians would never make it to the Hilltop Mansion as governor. Then like a thunder from the blues, came the jinx breaker, Pastor Umo Eno, who has lived and ran a successful business in Akwa Ibom for more than 27 years, as the governorship candidate of the only ruling party in Akwa Ibom State.

The strong point of a home-grown governor is that he would be better placed to appreciate the needs of the locality and tackle them when he wins the coming election.





***A decisive governor considers multiple options, understands possible outcomes, and makes choices efficiently, thereby achieving set goals that give his government the needed momentum.***



**D**ecision-making is an essential skill in governance. Overanalyzing and second-guessing can lead to poor decisions with consequences. A decisive governor considers multiple options, understands possible outcomes, and makes choices efficiently, thereby achieving set goals that give his government the needed momentum.

Overthinking can stall the decision-making process; an indecisive governor will waffle between options, dragging out others' patience. The ability to make firm, good decisions inspires confidence. Decisiveness is necessary for leadership positions. The good news that this is another strong point of Pastor Umo Eno.





***Let me use this platform to enjoin us to live in peace and in unity. We should not allow politics to divide us. Politics and political parties are merely vehicles to aspire for power, but our cord of unity remains sacrosanct. When by the grace of God, I become your Governor in 2023; I will be a governor for all. We will run an all-inclusive style of administration that will accommodate all our supporters, and even members of other political persuasions and inclinations.***

*- PASTOR UMO ENO*



**C**onsensus building is a deliberate effort to meet the interests of all stakeholders and seek inclusion in governance and the reward of governance. This is what Pastor Umo Eno has been talking about with stakeholders as he traverses the length and breath of the State to win the confidence of stakeholders ahead of his Administration.

His team has already completed the needs analysis of every LGA in Akwa Ibom State. His constant message is that leaders of each LGA will agree on their hierarchy of needs and forward them in order of priority to the State government. This is a bottom-up, collective leadership approach, which is fast replacing the outmoded top-down leadership approach.







## PREPARED AND READY TO SERVE

“  
***This timeless adage still holds true:  
Success is where preparation and  
opportunity meet. This is very true of  
Pastor Umo Eno***

-ANITIE USEN



**P**reparation is the key to great leadership. Even God prepared David in the bush as a boy shepherd. His training ranged from feeding the sheep and fighting lions and bears to daring the terror of Goliath and conquering him, before David became the greatest King of Israel and later the ancestor of Jesus.

All successful leaders embrace the principle of preparation along their journey to the top. This timeless adage still holds true: “Success is where preparation and opportunity meet”. This is very true of Pastor Umo Eno. God did not just prepare him spiritually in the management of the people of God, as a pastor both in The Apostolic Church and All Nations Christian Ministry International, but God also took him through secular preparation in the corporate world before inspiring him to set up his own outfits and manage them from the scratch to great heights.

He was once a very successful Commercial Director, Finance & Investment Manager, General Manager, Group General Manager Of nationally reputable firms in Lagos, before he moved on become a CEO of Royalty Group, his company and proceeded to work in government as Chairman of the Akwa Ibom State Tourism Board, Executive Director of Agricultural Investment in Akwa Ibom Investment Corporation, Board Chairman, Ibom Fadama Microfinance Bank and Commissioner Of Lands and Water Resources in the Cabinet Of Governor Udom Emmanuel.

In Pastor Umo Eno, Akwa Ibom will have one of the most prepared governors in Nigeria.





**DEDICATED  
CHRISTIAN**



***When the righteous are in authority,  
the people rejoice;  
But when a wicked man rules, the  
people groan.***

**- PROVERBS 29:2 (NKJV).**



**P**astor **Umo Eno** is an ordained Apostle in the vineyard of God. He is a very committed Christian and strong believer in the **One And Only True God**, who created the heavens and the earth.

He served as a pastor in The Apostolic Church for several years before he was inspired by God to set up the All Nations Christian Ministry International, a ministry called to build a community of Christian Believers that transcend race, tribe, colour, tradition and denominations into a kingdom focussed church. He confesses and preaches Christ Jesus as his Lord and saviour.

The life of Pastor Umo Eno is a picture of the word of God in 1 Samuel 2:8-9: "He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the beggar from the dunghill, to set [him] among princes and make [him] inherit the throne of glory... He will guard the feet of His saints, but the wicked shall be silent in darkness, for by strength shall no man prevail."

He believes that the God who created him without his consent, handles all his travails in life, showers him with immeasurable blessings, **prefers** him to succeed Governor Udom Emmanuel, will complete the good work that He (God) had started in his life.







**IKOT EKPENE UDO**

**NEW BETHLEHEM**  
**of Akwa Ibom**

By ANIETIE USEN



***A prophet is honoured in his own town as Ikot Ekpene Udo, hometown of the PDP governorship candidate, Pastor Umo Eno hosts their famous son to a thanksgiving service for past and future victories.***



This community loves to wake up to the symphony of nature: noisy birds singing on tree branches in the wee hours of the day; a thousand insects chirping away in conformity as a natural orchestra, just as the cock crows persistently on the rooftop with the audacity of a timekeeper. All day, every day except Sundays, Ikot Ekpene Udo people, go about their vocations and occupations quietly, farming, weeding, harvesting and tapping the sweet juice from palm trees, the wine that gladdens the heart of men.

But not exactly so today! Both sides of the narrow tarred road through Ikot Ekpene Udo, Nsit Ubium LGA, in Akwa Ibom State, were lined up as far as the eyes could see. Excited youths of different associations, clubs and churches, dressed in brand new T-shirts of multiple colours, waved their flags, banners and placards enthusiastically as they drummed and screamed for joy. Jubilant mothers are not left out today. Some with their babies strapped to their backs danced and shook their waist, some to traditional rhythms and others to the loud blaring gospel pop played by the local DJ. Looking more composed and comported, the men wore their unique Ibibio traditional outfits with distinctive caps that separate the elders and the titled from the untitled and unsung. Even masquerades and cultural dancers of different grades were at hand to add colour and entertainment value to the occasion.

It was a day set aside by Ikot Ekpene Udo, strictly to thank God for the famous son of the soil: the PDP governorship candidate in Akwa Ibom State, Pastor Umo Eno, who the community insist is a “divine candidate” in the 2023 guber race. Eno, a humble but successful entrepreneur without any core politicking and electioneering experience, has suddenly skyrocketed unto the political pinnacles of the State and proven to be the proverbial cat with nine lives, impossible to beat.







***Eno's enormous capacity, proven competence, serious-minded disposition and well-known humane treatment of people, have combined to practically make him the governor-in-waiting or as he is colloquially called by supporters, the incoming governor.***



**H**e has scaled many legal hurdles on his path and surmounted incredible obstacles by blackmailers and blasphemers to stay head and shoulders above all other contenders for the throne . This is the throne of the incumbent Governor Udom Emmanuel, the high performing governor of Akwa Ibom State. Eno's enormous capacity, proven competence, serious-minded disposition and well-known humane treatment of people, have combined to practically make him the governor-in- waiting or as he is colloquially called by supporters, the incoming governor.

As the sirens and motorcade that brought Pastor Eno from Uyo, the beautiful capital city of Akwa Ibom approached the Primary School venue of the Thanksgiving programme, thousands of villagers erupted in ecstasy, poured unto the entrance of the school and besieged the motorcade. This is the homecoming of the incoming governor. A prophet is honoured in his own town. A permanent smile fixed on his lips, the pastor turned politician had to step down midway from his black Toyota Landcruiser. In the company of his wife, Pastor Patience and running mate Senator Akon Eyakenyi, they walked the remaining distance with the bustling crowd, waving, hugging, shaking hands and dancing all the way to the seats reserved for them and the large entourage.

Presiding over matters was another gentleman pastor from Ikot Ekpene Udo, Reverend Ndueso Ekwere, the immediate past Chairman Of the Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, in Akwa Ibom State. Pastor Eno is his nephew, the son of his sister, and he has known Pastor Eno from childhood and played a pivotal role in his upbringing.

**H**e is the one who rode the young Umo Eno on a bicycle many years ago to take the entrance examination into St. Francis Secondary school, Ikot Ataku, near Eket. He is the one who took him back to the same school on the same bicycle with a six springs bed to become a boarding student, after he passed the entrance examination.



**Rev. Ndueso Ekwere**

He is the one who took him back to the same school on the same bicycle with a six springs bed to become a boarding student, after he passed the entrance examination. By sheer providence, the now Reverend Ekwere was there in the Government House, precisely on the head table with Governor Udom and other leaders, on that historic January 30, 2022 night, when Umo Eno was endorsed as the preferred successor to Governor Udom Emmanuel by key stakeholders in the State.

Fast forward to Ikot Ekpene Udo and the Thanksgiving programme, Reverend Ekwere thanked God and Governor Udom as well as the Umo Eno Campaign Organisation for a job well done for Pastor Eno and by extension Akwa Ibom State. He said whatever God does "shall be" and "nothing can be put to it or anything taken from it". The chorus of AMEN was heard many villages away.

Then Eteidung Udousoro Johnson Usoro, the king of Ikot Ekpene Udo, a retired headmaster, took over the podium, full of joy. He spoke wholeheartedly the words of gratitude too to God. He went ahead to lionise Governor Udom Emmanuel. Pastor Eno himself spoke in the same vein and spent more time singing and dancing with his large entourage as well as making donations along with his friends to the community and various associations that attended the Thanksgivings programme.

The scenario today at the Thanksgiving programme was more relaxed than earlier in the year, on February 9, 2022, when Pastor Eno formally visited the village to consult and inform them about his governorship bid. On that occasion, in the Town Hall of Ikot Ekpene Udo, Eteidung Usoro was literally on fire. A strong member of Apostolic Church, he stood up nimble-footed and announced suddenly that Ikot Ekpene Udo had a gift for Pastor Eno. He summoned all his subjects to stand up with him. As all eyes turned around to see the gift, the Eteidung bursted into a powerful vernacular spiritual song and prayers for their famous son. It was the kind of prayers Nigerians call fire prayers.

He prayed against 'Judas' in the company of their son. "I say, if it were not well with Judas, let it not be well with any Judas in Pastor Eno's campaign team". The AMEN was deafening

But today was not prayer warfare. It was yet warfare by another name: praise warfare. As Ikot Ekpene Udo came alive, many guests could not take their eyes off this quiet, peaceful, lush green and serene little community known for their hospitality, cassava farmlands, palm trees and palm wine tappers. Even as the event was rounding up late in the evening and the dining and wining began to ensue, some palm wine tappers were seen dressed up for the tree top, complete with their climbing robes and calabashes.



***To say that Umo Eno is a good man is an understatement. He is the kind of person anyone who wants sanity in any organisation would look for and count on. In fact he is a man of noble character***



Like most Akwa Ibom villages, virtually every home in Ikot Ekpene Udo is self-sustaining. Their houses, some mud and thatched roofs, are surrounded by farms of nearly every food, fruit and crop that they need. Cassava, yams, cocoyams, sweet yams, plantain, banana, pumpkin, afang leaf, editan leaf, atama leaf, bitter leaf, scented leaf, water leaf, pepper plants, maize plant, orange trees, mango trees, African pear trees, avocado pear trees, pawpaw trees and even lemon grass, which sometimes is boiled and filtered as a native tea, are here in abundance. This is the picture of, even, the king's palace.

Sitting with him this cool Sunday evening, outside the terrace of his bungalow, and overshadowed by the green foliage of every tree and plant, he spoke in flawless English about Pastor Umo Eno. "To say that Umo Eno is a good man is an understatement. He is the kind of person anyone who wants sanity in any organisation would look for and count on. In fact he is a man of noble character".

As he was speaking, another man walked in briskly. Village life is simple and sweet. No need for advance notice before a visit, and this was the case this evening. Even the visit of this reporter was without any notice, in compliance with village lifestyle.

The Eteidung introduced the visitor as the Village Secretary, Prince Imaikop Udosen. The man dragged a nearby plastic chair for himself and joined in the conversation immediately uninvited. These days, the topic on every lip in this village is Umo Eno. He has suddenly acquired the status of a folk hero. "His nickname in this village for almost 30 years now is governor", Prince Udosen began to interject. "He is a very level-headed but funny man. I remember that whenever we used to tease him as governor, he would say, 'My Brother, I am just a governor of rice and stew o'. He used to say that because of his hotel business. But now he is fast becoming the real governor", Prince Udosen said.



***He is a very level-headed but funny man. I remember that whenever we used to tease him as governor, he would say, 'My Brother, I am just a governor of rice and stew o'. He used to say that because of his hotel business.***

***But now he is fast becoming the real governor***



Udosen was spot-on on Pastor Eno's nickname. Most people in Akwa Ibom knew him more as governor than Pastor Eno. Even in his businesses, he was not addressed as Chairman or MD/CEO. He was called governor. The nickname originated from his wife. After he returned from Lagos in 1995 to start a small five-room hotel in Eket in 1997, he was musing with his wife one day on what should be his title in the company. He had the regular titles in mind such as Chairman, Managing Director or Chief Executive Officer. But suddenly the wife suggested governor as the best title. It clicked. He loved it and accepted it instantly because, as a Lagos boy, he remembered that Ken Olumehense, the owner of Night Shift, the most famous night club in the 80s and 90s, patronised by the movers and shakers of Nigeria, was called Governor of Night Shift. And that was it. He became the Governor of the Royalty Group which grew to become a conglomerate of six subsidiaries. Naturally, the sharp-instinct woman who suggested the title got her reward and became known and addressed as 'governor's wife'.

It was the same perceptive and quick-witted woman who gave Pastor Eno the now famous political nickname as the Golden Boy. It came in the wake of his endorsement by the Governor Udom-led stakeholders. The social media lynching that followed the endorsement was relentless. He was called all kinds of names including albino and yellow man.

But the wife got all of that diffused instantly in the crowded auditorium of the All Nations Christian Ministries International, Eket, during the 58th Birthday Thanksgiving Service that was aired live on television and streamed online on most social media platforms. "They say my husband is albino and some call him yellow fever, but I call him My Golden Boy". The ovation in the jam packed Church that Sunday afternoon reverberated across the State and beyond. The new name stuck instantly. Now everyone calls him Golden Boy with pride.

Prince Udosen did not only nail it on the self-fulfilling nickname of the Pastor Eno but on his character of humility and sobriety. His humility is the talk of the town not only in Ikot Ekpene Udo, but everywhere he is known. "He is a very humble, calm and peaceful man", Prince Udosen said.

It would appear this trait of humility and sobriety is the modal character of Ikot Ekpene Udo people as a whole! Udosen said yes and traced it particularly to the bloodline, descendants and enlarged family of the governorship candidate. "He is from a family that loves peace and treats people with kindness. As our elders would say: "where a child of peace is, there is peace also".

”

***They say my husband is  
albino and some call him  
yellow fever, but I call him  
My Golden Boy.***

”

But Eteidung Usoro disagreed slightly with his Village Secretary, Prince Udosen, on the complete peaceful nature of the community. "Like every other community, we sometimes have what I call 'a few controllable troublemakers', " he said laughing. "But whenever I talk to them, they will behave themselves. I can say with certainty that 99 percent of the people of Ikot Ekpene Udo, are peace loving".

The peaceful character of this community goes in pari passu with its hospitability. In fact, in this village they tend to cherish visitors more than themselves. "We don't joke with our guests. Some government and company workers in Eket who live here have retired and prefer to stay back and make Ikot Ekpene Udo their hometowns and we are very happy to be their host till eternity because most of them are also contributing to the well-being of our community", Prince Udosen, the Village Secretary said.



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So was Umo Eno contributing to the community development of Ikot Ekpene Udo before he became a politician?

"Extensively" was the instant answer by the Village King. "There was no community project we initiated that Pastor Umo Eno did not contribute up to 80%. For instance, when we started work on our Town Hall that you saw on your way to my house, we could not complete it. But he took over the project personally and completed it for us in 2012 and that provided for us a decent meeting point for everybody. For him, the project is not completed yet because he says he wants to add more class to the hall, but for us villagers, it is a perfect hall...I am sure that if he was not divinely distracted by the governorship campaigns, he would have completed the hall to his taste and class by now".



***I say, if it were not well with Judas, let it not be well with any Judas in Pastor Eno's campaign team.***



Eteidung Usoro himself, in spite of his No.1 position as the king of the community carries himself with enviable modesty and grace, like his now famous kinsman, Pastor Eno. To him, the town hall that Pastor Eno helped to build was only a minor matter. "In fact, he has empowered so many youths and elders like me in this community. I am now a car owner courtesy of Pastor Umo Eno", he said pointing at his blue Nissan Primera parked in his garage.

"He declared in the Town Hall that he would derive no joy in having a fleet of cars in his house while his Village Head rides on the back of a motorcycle under rain and sun. Soon after that statement, he followed up and bought the car for me in 2017...He has been contributing immensely...". He had just started to talk about the free medical missions that Pastor Eno has run for years even in his church in Eket, when he was interrupted by a phone call.

Of course, Prince Udosen was waiting to weigh in on the issue and quickly took over from where the Eteidung stopped. "All the projects you see in this community, including the hospital and secondary school, were established through self help initiatives. We built them by ourselves. We did not wait for the government to do it for us. We tasked ourselves and embarked on fundraising. All our kinsmen everywhere in Nigeria and beyond were involved. Pastor Umo Eno was first in Lagos. He was always the Chairman. He always brought money contributed by our people in Lagos on Ikot Ekpene Udo Day which is usually on December 26 every year. He has always been one of the biggest donors in all Ikot Ekpene Udo Days. I am talking as someone God has blessed to be an eyewitness...".

God seems to play a central role in the life of this village. Prince Udosen himself is an Elder in the United Evangelical Church just as Eteidung Usoro is a strong member of The Apostolic Church. But the 'mother of all churches' in Ikot Ekpene Udo, according to Prince Udosen, is Qua Iboe Church, QIC. Qua Iboe Church, which some historians believe means Akwa Ibom Church, was founded in 1887 by Rev. Samuel Alexander Bill, an Irish missionary, at Ibeno, near Eket. The church is not only the mother of all churches in Ikot Ekpene Udo but in most parts of Akwa Ibom State.





Though it was the first and only church in Ikot Ekpene Udo for decades, the entire length and breath of the village today is dotted with signposts of various churches including United Evangelical Church, Assemblies of God, Redeemed Christian Church of God, Living Faith Church, Deeper Life Bible Church, African Church, African Episcopal Church, Baptist Church, to name just a few.



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If anyone calls Ikot Ekpene Udo The Little Bethlehem, it may not be a misnomer. Pastor Umo Eno himself was brought up by his parents in Qua Iboe Church before they changed their denomination to The Apostolic Church.

Without doubt, the influence and impact of these churches in the dominant character and ethos of Ikot Ekpene Udo is palpable. Cultural practices in this village are strictly for entertainment and exclude some dreaded masquerades like Ekpo secret society, whose members do not go to church. It is in this same moral milieu that the parents of Pastor Eno, (Bassey Eno and his wife Eka Eno) grew up and raised their children even when their career and quest for greener pastures took them around Nigeria with their young children. For the young Umo Eno, the eldest child in the house, his upbringing was even more rigid with a strict disciplinarian policeman as a father and a prayer warrior as a mother.

“Right from his childhood that boy has been a very good boy, very humble, very godly and very helpful to people, even people who were older than him,” Madam Ikoabasi, the elder sister of Eno’s mother, said in her home, opposite the palace of the late Edidem Robert Obot, the former paramount ruler of Nsit Ubium.

According to the Octogenarian lady, her nephew was from youth a little wiser than other boys and blessed with a deep sense of good judgement. "He was always giving people ideas and advice on what kind of small businesses they can go into. I remember how, as a very young boy he told one pilot who was in our church in Lagos to start a business in time because he may not be able to fly aeroplane at old age and the man took the advice seriously and my young nephew helped the man to start the business...I don't remember every detail again because I am getting more older everyday", Mama said. She is not only the senior sister of Eno's mother, but the senior sister of the former CAN Chairman, Rev. Ndueso Ekwere.



***In fact, he has empowered so many youths and elders like me in this community. I am now a car owner courtesy of Pastor Umo Eno***



Talking, with her eldest daughter who came visiting, Ama, by her side, Mama said Pastor Eno loves to help people. "He is the one that is taking care of us but since you people took him into politics I am not seeing my nephew again. Tell him I am longing to see him so much ...I think about him every day I wake up...When I saw your car coming to my house now, I was saying `Oh God, please let that be my sister's son...Hmmm..."

So how did Mama react when she heard the news that Governor Udom along with other political and religious leaders had drafted her nephew into the governorship race? "I was very surprised. I was very surprised. I said 'Ah, this boy has been a businessman all his life. Is he interested in this kind of thing? I said God has already given this boy enough wealth to train and care for his siblings and children...Then I said to myself, well, if he is interested, the God he has been serving since childhood will certainly hold his hands..."



The expectations of Ikot Ekpene Udo people from the anticipated Umo Eno Administration are very high. Rev. Ekwere expects one of the best and most successful governments in the country from his nephew. "I am saying so because I have known him since birth. I was a boy, living with my senior sister (Eno's mother ) and helping her when baby Umo Eno was born. I babysat him...He was a very gifted child. That child learned to sit, crawl and walk within seven months. Even as a secondary school boy later in Lagos, he represented Lagos State schools in a certain debate in America and won the second prize...He is a very meticulous, very dexterous and very knowledgeable person whose relationship skills are second to none...This is why I am confidently expecting him to make a great governor, when he wins the coming election.

Eteidung Usoro, the king of Ikot Ekpene Udo, has a different kind of expectation. He said the community has enough land for tertiary institutions as well as international skill acquisition centres and "we trust him to do more than that". Idem Johnson, who visited from Eket, just ten minutes drive away, said there is abundance of palm fruits and palm fruit harvesters as well as cassava and cassava farmers in the village to attract many SMEs around those raw materials. Prince Udosen expects the dualisation of the main road that passes through the village to Eket. But for Mama, Pastor Eno's octogenarian auntie, her expectation is simple: "Let him come and clear the bush in front of this my house, when he becomes the governor. Mosquitoes are disturbing me too much".

Such a sweet, hospitable village to visit!





## CONCLUSION

### 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

**27** *But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;*

**28** *and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,*

**29** *THAT NO FLESH SHOULD GLORY IN HIS PRESENCE.*



# **AKWA IBOMITES**

## **RISE TO THE FAITH OF GREATNESS**

RISE to the faith that with God all things are possible.  
RISE to the faith that Akwa Ibom was created by God out of  
greatness.

RISE to the faith that as a people, we can move beyond  
biases, ethnicity, religion, and gender.

RISE to togetherness.

RISE to the faith of our resources, beyond what others see;  
human and intellectual. Rise to chart a new course for us, our  
children and a generation of Akwa Ibomites uborn.

Rise to the faith that one day, we shall be counted as a great  
people of a great state with great minds. Rise to the faith  
that all these are possible and many more.

Hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for  
He who promised is faithful.

I RISE to the faith that Akwa Ibom was created to be great.

I RISE to the faith that Akwa Ibom is destined to be great.

I am an Akwa Ibomite and I rise to the faith of greatness!

**“MME DAKKA NDA”**

**Akwa Ibom Dakkada**



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