



AKWA IBOM DIASPORA

ROUNDUP
NEWSLETTER



A Publication of the Office of the SSA to the Akwa Ibom State Governor on Diaspora Matters

"Connecting Akwa Ibomites Worldwide; Building the Homeland Together"

December 2025 - Vol. 1, Issue 3



EDITORIAL NOTE

A SEASON OF RETURN, REFLECTION, AND RESILIENT GROWTH
TO THE AKWA IBOM DIASPORA COMMUNITY

December calls us home. For Akwa Ibom sons and daughters across the world, this is the month when thoughts drift back to familiar streets, warm reunions, and the pulse of a community that never stops evolving. The Christmas Unplugged Festival captures this spirit as a vibrant meeting point for culture, creativity, and the collective joy of returning home.

This season is also a time for reflection. The impact of our diaspora reaches far beyond remittances. Your expertise, networks, mentorship, and vision have strengthened institutions, supported local enterprises, and created new opportunities for young people across the state. You continue to play a central role in building resilience and shared progress.

This year, under Governor Umo Eno's ARISE Agenda, the

administration is reinforcing its commitment to working with the diaspora as an essential partner in development. With a renewed focus on inclusivity, innovation, and sustainable growth, the government is collaborating with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant on Diaspora Matters to open up new pathways for meaningful engagement.

Our office remains dedicated to building a strong, structured, and accessible engagement platform that positions Akwa Ibom State as a model for diaspora-driven development in Nigeria and beyond. In this spirit, we look forward to deeper collaboration through improved communication channels, enhanced engagement frameworks, and more opportunities to foster global partnerships.

As we strengthen this bridge, we encourage every Akwa Ibom person living abroad to join our growing network. Register with the Akwa Ibom Diaspora Directory to stay connected to opportunities, government programs, and emerging development initiatives:

[www.Akwai IbomDiaspora.com/
intl-directory/](http://www.Akwai IbomDiaspora.com/intl-directory/)

This season also invites a broader question: How can festive energy inspire sustainable growth? What if celebration becomes a catalyst for the future? In this edition, we explore pathways such as investments in accommodation and transport infrastructure, support for diaspora-led initiatives, and platforms that transform holiday engagements into long-term development outcomes.

Our progress depends on a partnership rooted in trust, transparency, and collaboration. When policies are inclusive and processes are open, every contribution—large or small—can create meaningful and measurable impact.

As you move through these pages, we invite you to see this season not only as a homecoming but as a launchpad for the new year. Together, let us shape a future defined by resilient growth, shared prosperity, and a more connected Akwa Ibom.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2026.

Signed,

*Hon. Linda Akon Umoh
Senior Special Assistant on
Diaspora Matters*

Editor-in-Chief

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AKWA IBOM 2026 BUDGET: A GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION

Tagged: The People's Budget



N1.39 Trillion Budget: Building a Future Together

History is being made. Akwa Ibom State has just approved its largest budget ever (N1.39 trillion for 2026) and for the first time, diaspora engagement isn't an afterthought. It's central to the plan.

Under Governor Umo Eno's A.R.I.S.E Agenda, this forward-thinking budget signals bold growth and strengthens strategic sectors including agriculture, healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Most importantly, it opens new pathways for meaningful diaspora participation in the state's development.

Lawmakers are calling it "a blueprint for sustained, transformative development." And they're right.

A Message to Our Global Community

The diaspora is now recognized as a vital development partner. Whether you're in Europe, North America, the Middle East, Asia, or Africa, this budget creates expanded opportunities for you to invest, collaborate, and make a lasting impact in Akwa Ibom. Your skills, capital, and networks are needed now more than ever.

Agriculture: Growing Together

Enhanced funding for mechanized farming and agro-processing is transforming the agricultural landscape. Diaspora members can now participate in commercial agriculture initiatives, export-oriented processing ventures, and farmer-diaspora cooperatives that connect global markets with local production.

There's also significant opportunity in cold-chain infrastructure and logistics support—critical gaps that have long hindered our agricultural potential.

"Investing back home has never been this structured or promising," one returning investor recently noted. The framework is finally in place.

Infrastructure: Co-Creating Community Impact

Roads, water systems, rural electrification, and township upgrades are top priorities. But here's what makes this different: the budget explicitly creates space for diaspora-led projects. Imagine solar street lighting initiatives in your hometown, boreholes that provide clean water to communities that raised you, or community facilities that serve generations to come. Matching grants with hometown associations make these projects financially viable and deeply personal.

This is joint action that directly touches lives in local communities—not abstract development, but tangible change you can see and touch when you visit home.

Healthcare: Strengthening Global Partnerships

Expanded health funding invites collaboration from our medical diaspora in powerful ways. From medical missions and specialized outreach to hospital equipment support and telemedicine programs, there are multiple entry points for engagement. Knowledge exchange and training

programs mean your expertise doesn't just visit—it stays, building capacity in our health-care workforce.

Medical diaspora, your expertise can save lives and transform care delivery. The infrastructure is being built to support your contributions.

Human Capital and Youth Development

Skills development and job creation are central to the 2026 agenda. Diaspora contributions can take many forms: mentorship programs that connect young professionals with global career pathways, ICT and tech training that prepares youth for the digital economy, creative industry development that positions Akwa Ibom as a hub for innovation, and scholarships that remove financial barriers to academic excellence.

You have the power to shape the next generation of leaders and innovators. The question is: how will you engage?

Tourism and Culture: Amplifying Akwa Ibom Globally

Cultural assets like Christmas Unplugged are no longer just local events—they're global platforms. And the diaspora plays a critical role in tourism promotion, hospitality investments, cultural diplomacy, and global brand positioning. Whether you're a creative professional, entrepreneur, or culture enthusiast, this is a unique chance to champion Akwa Ibom on the world stage.

The world is watching. Let's make sure they see our best.

New Structures for Diaspora Engagement

To make collaboration seamless and transparent, the state is introducing concrete platforms designed specifically for diaspora participation:

- **Diaspora Development Desk:** Your direct line to government coordination
- **Digital Engagement and Investment Portal:** Streamlined access to opportunities
- **Diaspora Investment Summit:** Annual platform for dialogue and partnerships
- **Diaspora Bonds:** Structured financial instruments for direct investment

These are not just buzzwords. These are practical mechanisms to make your engagement easier, more structured, and more impactful than ever before.

Together, We Rise

The 2026 budget reflects a forward-looking agenda that genuinely values global contributions. Investment, expertise, advocacy, and community support from the diaspora are no longer peripheral—they're central to building a stronger, more prosperous Akwa Ibom.

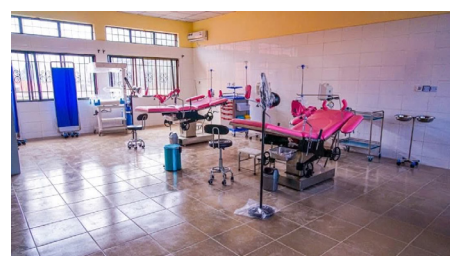
Wherever you are, your connection to home matters. Your ideas matter. Your resources matter. Your voice matters.

Together, we move Akwa Ibom forward.

Together, we rise.

HEALTHCARE REFORM UPDATE

Strengthening Akwa Ibom's Health Systems Through Global Partnerships and Diaspora Engagement



Rotary International Launches Healthy Communities Initiative

Akwa Ibom has been chosen as a pilot state for Rotary International's Healthy Communities Challenge, a major public health program announced by Governor Umo Eno on 6 November 2025.

The initiative focuses on reducing child mortality from diarrhea, pneumonia, and malaria through house-to-house sensitization campaigns. Rotary-trained volunteers will provide free testing and treatment, with priority coverage for rural and underserved communities.

Governor Eno also reaffirmed the state's commitment to establishing the International Medical

Centre, envisioned as a future hub for advanced care and medical tourism.

Akwa Ibom Community Receives First Fully Functional General Hospital

In a landmark development for Ukanafun Local Government Area, Governor Eno inaugurated a fully equipped general hospital in the Ikot Akpankuk community. This is the first facility of its kind in the area, designed to deliver comprehensive medical services and improve access to quality care.

The hospital features modern diagnostic equipment, emergency services, and specialized treatment units. By reducing the need for residents to travel long

distances for care, the facility strengthens the state's healthcare infrastructure and underscores the government's commitment to elevating standards across Akwa Ibom State, aligned with the A.R.I.S.E agenda.

Spotlight Analysis

Global partnerships are bringing technical expertise and accelerating implementation of healthcare programs. Rotary's initiative emphasizes prevention and early intervention, placing primary healthcare at the forefront of reform efforts.

The International Medical Centre positions Akwa Ibom as a regional healthcare hub with future-proof infrastructure capable of attracting specialized medical

services and professionals. Diaspora engagement remains vital for investment, advisory roles, skills transfer, and volunteer services that can amplify these gains.

Bottom Line

Akwa Ibom is advancing a coordinated, globally connected healthcare reform agenda. November's developments underscore the state's commitment to stronger systems, preventive care, and meaningful diaspora participation, laying the foundation for better health outcomes for all residents.



Akwa Ibom Diaspora Health Professionals

Connecting Health. Changing Lives.

A Global Charitable Organization Advancing Access to Healthcare, Education & Research

ADHP is an independent non-profit (501c3) global network of healthcare professionals of Akwa Ibom State origin in the diaspora, and friends of Akwa Ibom State, dedicated to providing charitable, scientific, and educational healthcare services to strengthen health systems through advocacy, training, dialogue, partnerships and investments, coordinated by specialized healthcare professionals in collaboration with the Government of Akwa Ibom State.

Our Vision

A world where everyone, regardless of location or circumstance, enjoys access to quality healthcare, education, and wellness opportunities.

Our Mission

To promote health equity, deliver high quality medical services, humanitarian aid, and advance medical education and research, —bridging gaps in healthcare access locally and globally.

Who We Serve

Serving communities in the United States, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, Africa, and communities around the world.

What We Do

✓ Capacity Building & Education	✓ Medical Missions & Health Promotion
✓ Research & Innovation	✓ Community Development & Advocacy
✓ Digital Health & Technology	✓ Build Global Partnerships and Networks
✓ Health Infrastructure Development for Healthcare Delivery	✓ Emergency Medical Services & Humanitarian Aid

Join Us

Join us to create a healthier, empowered, and connected global diaspora community.

WhatsApp Group

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LGV3tQp0OI8ECU4pcC0HvX>

AKWA IBOM DIASPORA HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (ADHP)

WhatsApp group

Scan or upload this QR code using the WhatsApp Camera to join the group

OR scan the QR Code and be a part of the movement to build a healthier Akwa Ibom State.

Thank you for believing in our vision.

Contact Us

✉ info@ibomhealthprofessionals.org

🌐 <http://www.ibomhealthprofessionals.org/>

NIDCOM UPDATE: AKWA IBOM DIASPORA REAPS STRATEGIC GAINS FROM 8TH NIGERIA DIASPORA INVESTMENT SUMMIT



The Akwa Ibom diaspora community emerged strategically positioned at the recently concluded 8th Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit (NDIS), held from November 11–13, 2025, with the theme “Fast-Tracking Regional and National Development by Mobilising Diaspora Investment.”

The summit, convened by the Nigerian Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) with federal and international participation, provided an unparalleled platform for Akwa Ibom to

showcase investment-ready projects, engage high-level policy-makers, and strengthen diaspora partnerships.

Key Strategic Benefits for the Akwa Ibom Diaspora:

1. **High-Visibility Investment Platform:** Akwa Ibom projects gained national and international exposure to diaspora investors actively seeking opportunities in infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare, tourism, and renewable energy.

2. **Access to Federal and Policy Decision-Makers:** The summit offered direct engagement with ministers, regulatory agencies, and NiDCOM officials, facilitating faster approvals and policy support for diaspora-backed projects.

3. **Deal-Making & Matchmaking:** Structured investor roundtables and pitch sessions created opportunities to convert discussions into concrete agreements, term sheets, and MOUs with potential diaspora partners.

4. **Financing & Capital Market Insights:** Exposure to diaspora-friendly financial instruments, including diaspora bonds, equity syndicates, and blended finance, empowers investors to channel funds efficiently and securely.

5. **Skills Transfer & Technical Partnerships:** Beyond capital, the summit enabled pathways for diaspora professionals to contribute technical expertise, mentorship, and knowledge transfer across health, education, and technology sectors.

6. Diaspora Tourism & Cultural Promotion: Networking and promotional opportunities strengthen inbound diaspora tourism and enhance Akwa Ibom's cultural brand globally.

7. Pooling of Diaspora Capital: The summit highlighted mechanisms to aggregate smaller diaspora investments into larger, bankable projects, boosting infrastructure and industrial development.

Next Steps for Akwa Ibom Diaspora Engagement:

- Develop a pipeline of 5–10 investible projects ready for immediate diaspora investment.
- Establish a State Diaspora Desk to follow up on leads and fast-track MOUs.
- Launch a post-summit roadshow (virtual & local) for detailed investor engagement.
- Explore pooled diaspora investment vehicles and bonds for scalable infrastructure projects.
- Initiate structured skills-transfer and mentorship programmes with diaspora professionals.

Governor Umo Eno's Vision:

Governor Umo Eno's A.R.I.S.E Agenda emphasizes collaboration with the diaspora as a strategic lever for socio-economic transformation. The state is committed to leveraging the summit's outcomes to mobilize diaspora capital, expertise, and partnerships for accelerated development in Akwa Ibom.



AKBC'S ULTRA-MODERN BROADCAST UPGRADE: A CATALYST FOR DIASPORA TOURISM

...Tourism, Media & Akwa Ibom's Global Visibility



Akwa Ibom State has taken a bold leap toward global relevance as Governor Umo Eno signed a landmark agreement to establish an integrated ultra-modern television broadcast station for the Akwa Ibom Broadcasting Corporation (AKBC).

Aligned with his administration's vision to upgrade the State Government's information infrastructure, Governor Eno partnered with Media Guru

Consultant, LLC, Dubai, to transform AKBC into a world-class broadcasting hub. This initiative is set to elevate the state's media landscape while unlocking new opportunities for diaspora tourism, cultural exchange, and investment-driven visibility.

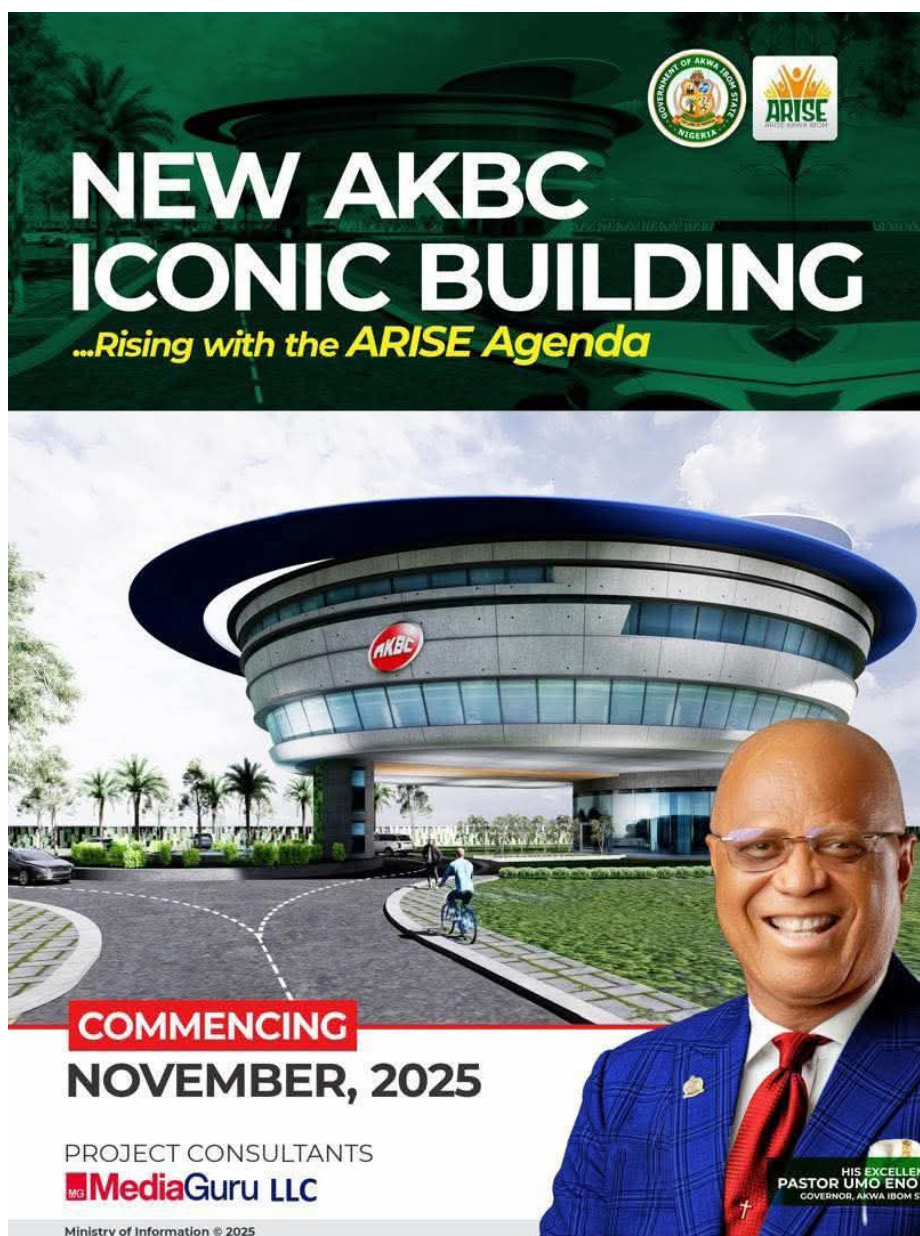
A NEW WINDOW BETWEEN HOME AND THE DIASPORA

For millions of Akwa Ibom citizens abroad, the media serves as a bridge to their roots. With AKBC's upgrade, the state will produce

world-class HD content that highlights its culture, creativity, and development achievements.

Why This Matters for Diaspora Tourism:

- High-quality storytelling strengthens emotional connections and inspires homecoming visits.
- Cultural events—like Christmas Unplugged, Heritage Week, and culinary showcases—will reach global audiences in real time.



- Professional content builds confidence among diaspora travelers, presenting Akwa Ibom as safe, vibrant, and investment-ready.
- Increased visibility drives curiosity and boosts holiday, cultural, and heritage tourism.

TRANSFORMING AKBC INTO A GLOBAL MEDIA HUB

The integrated upgrade includes digital studios, HD/4K transmission, newsroom automation, multi-platform broadcasting,

and a creative content academy. These features position AKBC as a leading sub-national broadcaster in West Africa.

Strategic Impacts:

- Expanded global reach through partnerships with international networks.
- Diaspora-focused programming to keep citizens abroad informed and connected.
- Boost to the creative economy, empowering filmmakers,

journalists, and content creators.

- New revenue streams from advertising, licensing, and syndicated content.

AMPLIFYING TOURISM UNDER THE A.R.I.S.E AGENDA

This project directly supports Governor Umo Eno's A.R.I.S.E Agenda, particularly the tourism and economic empowerment pillars. Upgraded broadcasting ensures Akwa Ibom's beaches, hotels, festivals, cuisine, heritage sites, and infrastructure projects gain sustained global exposure.

Tourism Benefits:

- Enhanced branding for the state.
- Increased visitor inflow during festivals and holidays.
- Stronger trust among diaspora travelers.
- Promotion of investment-led tourism in hospitality, real estate, and the creative sector.

Looking Ahead

The modernization of AKBC is more than a technological upgrade—it is a strategic gateway to the world, designed to showcase Akwa Ibom's progress, culture, and opportunities. As the state strengthens its global narrative, diaspora engagement and tourism are expected to surge, ushering in a new era of visibility, connectivity, and economic growth.

CHRISTMAS UNPLUGGED 3.0 AND THE DESTINATION MARKETING STRATEGY WITH CELEBRITY INFLUENCERS

...A Seamless Destination Marketing Campaign Driven by Dr. Anieti Udofia
By Mfon Jacott



The homecoming of Mr. Victory Okokon and the warm reception he received from the Akwa Ibom State Commissioner for Culture and Tourism, Dr. Anieti Udofia, has ignited widespread online conversations about the destination brand of Akwa Ibom State. It has also heightened anticipation for the upcoming 32-day Christmas Unplugged 3.0—Africa's longest cultural festival that promises an immersive cultural, entertainment, and lifestyle experience.

For many, Okokon's return is not just the arrival of a celebrity figure—it is the convergence of identity, influence, and destination storytelling. And at the center of this cultural synergy is Dr. Udofia's evolving strategy for using celebrity influencers as engines of tourism visibility.

A CELEBRITY WITH CULTURAL ROOTS AND MODERN INFLUENCE

Victory Okokon—psychologist, writer, pig farmer, and one of the standout personalities of Big Brother Naija Season 10—has grown into a figure whose authenticity resonates with young Nigerians. His "bold realist" persona and frank, often unconventional worldview made him a subject of national discourse during the show's 2025 season.

But beyond television fame, Okokon represents something deeper for the Akwa Ibom story:

- A proud indigene with global visibility
- A youth icon who embodies creativity, ambition, and cultural pride
- A personality who appeals to the demographic that drives

modern tourism—Millennials and Gen Z

His warm reception by Dr. Udofia is therefore more than symbolic; it is a deliberate activation point for a broader tourism marketing strategy.

DR. ANIETI UDOFIA'S STRATEGIC SHIFT IN TOURISM ACTIVATION

Since assuming office, Dr. Udofia has consistently aligned tourism promotion with Governor Umo Eno's vision for a globally competitive Akwa Ibom destination. In his approach to Christmas Unplugged 3.0, he has embraced the reality that celebrity influence is now central to destination marketing worldwide.

Akwa Ibom, as he often emphasizes, already possesses the three pillars of competitive tourism:

- Unbeatable hospitality
- World-class recreational and tourism infrastructure
- A peaceful and culturally rich environment

What remained was a modern narrative and a powerful messenger. Victory Okokon is emerging as one of such.

WHY CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENT WORKS IN DESTINATION MARKETING

In tourism promotion, celebrity endorsement is more than posing with a festival banner or attending an event. Its power lies in emotional transfer, credibility, and social contagion.

Marketing research identifies three fundamentals that drive success:

The Match-Up Principle

A celebrity must naturally align with:

- the festival's identity
- the target audience
- the cultural values of the destination

Okokon's youthful persona matches the audience Christmas Unplugged 3.0 seeks to attract—urban Nigerians, creatives, tourists, and lifestyle explorers.

Trust and Aspirational Influence

Fans often follow celebrities not because of instructions but because of identification. When a figure like Okokon celebrates Akwa Ibom or participates in its festival, audiences feel a psychological endorsement

that traditional advertisements cannot replicate.

Social Conversations and Virality

Celebrities amplify visibility:

- every post
- every appearance
- every interview becomes a marketing asset

Okokon's homecoming instantly triggered online conversations—free, organic publicity that strengthens Akwa Ibom's destination brand.

CHRISTMAS UNPLUGGED 3.0: BEYOND A FESTIVAL, A TOURISM BLUEPRINT

Christmas Unplugged has grown into one of the most anticipated cultural festivals in Southern Nigeria. The 32-day celebration brings together music, art, dance, gastronomy, local craft exhibitions, and city-wide festivities.

With the introduction of a structured celebrity influencer strategy, Christmas Unplugged 3.0 is poised to:

- Increase interstate tourist arrivals
- Boost local commerce and hospitality revenue
- Position Uyo as a December tourism capital
- Strengthen Akwa Ibom's long-term destination brand architecture

For the first time, the festival is being framed not just as entertainment but as a tourism economy project.

THE VISION: BUILDING A DESTINATION THAT MARKETS ITSELF

Dr. Udofia's approach signals a new era where Akwa Ibom tourism leverages:

- Celebrity ambassadors
- Digital storytelling
- Experiential events
- Youth-driven engagement
- Cultural identity branding

In this model, celebrities become walking narratives, carrying the essence of the destination into every space they occupy—on TV, online, or in physical events.

Victory Okokon's involvement is therefore strategic: he embodies the aspirations, vibrancy, and authenticity that appeal to Nigeria's largest tourism-driving demographic.

AKWA IBOM STEPS INTO A NEW TOURISM CONVERSATION

Christmas Unplugged 3.0 is not just another festive celebration—it is a destination marketing laboratory testing a refined strategy that blends culture, entertainment, celebrity influence, and government vision.

With figures like Davido and Victory Okokon helping to shape the narrative and Dr. Anieti Udofia orchestrating a modern tourism marketing ecosystem, Akwa Ibom is positioning itself as a compelling, youth-friendly, globally appealing destination.

The story has only begun.

ENO UMOH: THE AKWA IBOM DRONE MAVERICK SHAPING AFRICA'S SKIES



In a world defined by technology and innovation, few leaders manage to blend vision, skill, and impact as seamlessly as Eno Umoh. Known as Nigeria's "Drone Maverick," Umoh is more than a technologist—he is a trailblazer transforming Africa's skies into a canvas of possibility. Hailing from Akwa Ibom, his journey reflects a rare combination of ingenuity, ambition, and a deep commitment to societal impact.

Based in Baltimore, USA, Umoh co-founded Global Air Media, a pioneering drone services company delivering precision aerial solutions across industries. Yet his influence extends far beyond commercial ventures. Through the Global Air Drone Academy (GADA), he empowers the next generation of drone pilots, engineers, and innovators, inspiring African youth to view technology not just as a tool, but as a gateway to

entrepreneurship, creativity, and societal transformation.

An FAA-certified drone pilot, Umoh blends technical mastery with strategic foresight. As Chairman of the African Drone Forum, he shapes policy, fosters collaboration, and drives drone adoption across the continent. Through his consultancy, Global Air U, he helps drone businesses worldwide refine strategy, scale operations, and navigate the fast-evolving technological landscape.

Yet, numbers and titles only tell part of the story. Umoh's journey began with curiosity—long hours spent tinkering with electronics, imagining solutions that could reshape everyday life. That childhood fascination has grown into a career defined by both innovation and tangible impact.

In agriculture, his drones enable farmers to monitor crops with

precision, detect disease early, and optimize yields with minimal waste. In urban and industrial landscapes, they conduct rapid infrastructure surveys, gather critical data, and perform inspections that were once costly and time-consuming. During emergencies, these drones provide real-time situational awareness, assisting disaster response teams and saving lives.

Beyond technology, Umoh is a mentor, educator, and advocate. He invests in people as much as machines, inspiring students, entrepreneurs, and innovators to see drones as instruments of transformation. His workshops, seminars, and speaking engagements convert curiosity into action, cultivating a community of problem-solvers ready to tackle Africa's challenges with ingenuity.

Recognized both locally and internationally, Eno Umoh positions Nigeria—and particularly Akwa Ibom—as a hub of innovation, proving that African ingenuity can lead on the global stage. His combination of technical expertise, entrepreneurial drive, and visionary leadership is redefining what is possible, showing that for him, the sky is not a limit—it is just the beginning.

Eno Umoh, the Drone Maverick, is leaving an indelible mark on Africa's technological landscape, one flight, one workshop, and one innovation at a time.

DIASPORA TRAVEL SMART: HOTEL TIPS FOR STRESS- FREE INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

Empowering global journeys — from home to the world and back



Planning a trip across borders? Whether you're visiting family, studying abroad, or heading out for vacation, where you stay before departure or after landing can shape your entire travel experience. Let's make hotels work for YOU!

Before You Fly

Stay Close to the Airport. Early flight? Late arrival? Airport hotels help you avoid rushing, traffic stress, and extra transport costs.

Explore With Ease

Want city adventure? Book a hotel in the center — most offer luggage storage, so you can explore without dragging your bags around!

Book Early, Save Money

Prices rise during holidays and school breaks. Early booking = better deals + peace of mind.

Communicate with Your Hotel

A quick message before arrival can unlock helpful perks:

Early check-in or late checkout

Airport shuttle for safer transport

Breakfast details (important if you arrive hungry!)

Pool & Wi-Fi access — great for long layovers

Traveling off-season? You'll find cheaper rooms and fewer crowds.

Travel Day Smarts

Drop Bags, Feel Free

Hotels can hold your luggage — explore comfortably until flight time.

Stay Connected. Before leaving home, make sure your phone plan or Wi-Fi access is sorted so you can reach your hotel easily.

Essentials in Hand Pack a small carry-kit including:

- Travel documents (passport, tickets, etc.)
- Charger + power bank
- Toiletries + snacks
- A pen for forms (always useful!)

Diaspora Travel Wisdom

- Give yourself extra airport time
- Rest well — don't rely on sleeping on the plane
- Keep hotel contact details handy
- Organize travel documents early
- Respect local culture and rules wherever you go
- Stay alert with luggage and personal info
- Wherever you go — represent home proudly.

Final Thought

The right hotel doesn't just give you a bed — it gives you time, comfort, and confidence during your journey abroad. Travel smart, stay safe, and enjoy every moment between takeoff and touchdown.

Your journey is global — your heart stays home.

FEATURE RECIPE OF THE MONTH: AFIA EFERE (WHITE SOUP)



Heritage on a Plate

Afia Efere, popularly called White Soup, is a treasured delicacy from the Efik and Ibibio people of Southern Nigeria. Loved for its velvety texture and fragrant spices, it stands out for being cooked without palm oil, making it a lighter but still deeply satisfying

dish. Often served during special occasions, this meal brings families together with every warm scoop.

Ingredients You'll Need

- Proteins

- 500g goat meat or chicken

- Stockfish and/or smoked fish
- Periwinkles (optional)

- Thickener

- 4-6 boiled yam cubes, pounded into a smooth paste
- (Yam flour can be used as an alternative)

- Spices & Seasoning

- 1-2 tsp ehuru (Calabash nutmeg)
- 1 uyayak pod (Aidan fruit), broken
- 2-3 tbsp ground crayfish
- Fresh/dry pepper to taste
- Salt and seasoning cubes to taste
- A handful of chopped odusa leaves (optional)

- Liquid

- Water to cook and adjust consistency

How to Prepare

1. Cook the Meat

Season your meat with salt, pepper, stock cubes, and uyayak. Cook until tender. Add smoked fish and periwinkles to simmer briefly.

2. Make the Thickener

Boil yams until soft, then pound into a smooth, stretchy paste.

3. Build the Flavour

Add crayfish and ehuru to the broth. Allow 5-7 minutes for the spices to release their aroma.

4. Thicken the Soup

Drop small lumps of pounded yams into the pot. Let them

melt in gradually to achieve your desired thickness.

5. Finish & Serve

Adjust seasoning. Stir in odusa leaves just before turning off the heat for a final burst of aroma.

Best enjoyed hot with pounded yams, fufu, or semovita.

Nutritional Highlights

Afia Efere is not only delicious — it's nourishing!

- High in Protein: supports strong muscles and healthy growth
- Low in Unhealthy Fats: no palm oil required
- Rich in Vitamins & Minerals: peppers and local spices boost immunity and bone health
- Aids Digestion: Periwinkles add fiber
- Estimated Per Serving (250g):
 - 150 calories • ~5g protein • ~8g fat • ~15g carbohydrates

Fun Fact

Did you know?

Afia Efere is commonly served at traditional celebrations, symbolizing warmth, unity, and hospitality in Ibibio and Efik culture.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

This newsletter belongs to every Akwa Ibomite.

Share your stories, ideas, recipes, photos, and news!

ASK ME ANYTHING

Have questions about Akwa Ibom culture, politics, business, or life advice? Send them in!

Name/Pseudonym: [Your name or "Anonymous"]

Location: [Your Location]

Category: [Politics, Culture, Business, etc.]

Question: [Your detailed question]

Background: [Optional context that helps us answer better]

TELL US YOUR DIASPORA STORY

Are you an Akwa Ibomite making impact abroad? We want to celebrate YOU in our next Diaspora Spotlight!

Share your:

- Career journey
- Achievements and impact
- Connection to home
- Advice for young people

MAKE YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:

akwaibomdiaspora@gmail.com
www.akwaibomdiaspora.com
IMPORTANT: Please use the appropriate subject line

WORD OF THE MONTH: IDARA (pronounced: Ee-da-ra)

Meaning: Joy

"Idara" captures a universal feeling that resonates deeply; joy from community, family, achievements, and hope for the new year.




Christmas Giveaway '25

for all Akwaibomites home and abroad

1-20 DEC 2025

MY AKWA IBOM NAME CHALLENGE

**powered by: The Office of the Senior Special Assistant
to the Akwa Ibom State Governor on Diaspora Matters**

Akwa Ibom Ayaya oooo!
Our NAMES are our CROWN
Our STORIES are our GLORY

Our NAMES are
our CROWN

This Christmas, let the world
hear the beauty flowing
in our veins!

Winner
\$200

1st runner-up
\$100

2nd runner-up
\$75

Gift Cards
For 10 random
winners

STARTS
NOW!

ENDS
Dec 20

WINNERS
Dec 24

ENTER TO
WIN!

HOW TO ENTER

- Like the post and Follow @akwaibomdiaspora on Instagram and 4 or more platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, Snapchat, TikTok, X, YouTube)
 - facebook.com/Akwaibomdiaspora
 - instagram.com/akwaibomdiaspora/
 - linkedin.com/company/akwaibomdiaspora/
 - snapchat.com/@ak_ibomdiaspora
 - tiktok.com/@akwaibomdiaspora
 - x.com/Ak_IbomDiaspora
 - youtube.com/@akwaibomdiaspora.com

- Post a reel sharing the following:
 - Your Akwa Ibom name + meaning
 - Who named you & why?
 - How has it blessed your life?
- Tag @akwaibomdiaspora and 10+ friends in your post
- Use the hashtags below in your post:
 - #MyAkwaIbomName
 - #AkwaIbomDiaspora
 - #AkwaIbomChristmasGiveaway

Prize money will be converted to the currency of the winner's country.

All inquiries can be sent through the DM or WhatsApp contacts:
+234 803 887 9920 or +1 (832) 654 6435



JOIN THE AKWA IBOM INTERNATIONAL DIASPORA DIRECTORY – YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

Akwa Ibom Isongo!

Warm greetings from the Akwa Ibom State Government! Under the leadership of His Excellency, Pastor Umo Eno, Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State, we are committed to engaging with our people abroad—ensuring your voice, contributions, and concerns shape the policies that impact our collective future.

To strengthen this bond, the Office of the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the Governor on Diaspora Matters, Ms. Linda Akon Umoh, is developing an International Diaspora Directory—a vital initiative to enhance direct communication, participation, and collaboration with Akwa Ibomites worldwide.

WHY SIGN UP?

- ✓ Stay informed about government initiatives, investment opportunities, and diaspora-focused programs.
- ✓ Gain access to exclusive events, economic opportunities, and direct engagement with state leadership.
- ✓ Have a voice in shaping policies that impact our diaspora community.
- ✓ Strengthen ties with fellow Akwa Ibomites worldwide.

Act Now – Add Your Name to the Directory!

www.AkwaIbomDiaspora.com/intl-directory/

The image shows a smartphone screen displaying a registration form for the Akwa Ibom International Diaspora Directory. The form includes the following fields and options:

- First Name *
- Last Name *
- Email *
- Phone Number
- Your Location *
 - Select Country
 - Select State
 - Select City
- Address
- LGA Of Origin *
 - Please choose an option—
- Profession/Area Of Specialty *
 - ☐ Agriculture
 - ☐ Architecture and Engineering
 - ☐ Arts, Culture and Entertainment
 - ☐ Business, Management & Administration
 - ☐ Communications
 - ☐ Community and Social Services
 - ☐ Education
 - ☐ Government
 - ☐ Health and Medicine
 - ☐ Installation, Repair and Maintenance
 - ☐ Law and Public Policy
 - ☐ Sales
 - ☐ Science and Technology
 - ☐ Sports

**FOLLOW
US!**

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- linkedin.com/company/akwaibomdiaspora/
- www.akwaibomdiaspora.com
- lindaumoh@akwaibomstate.gov.ng