

**GOVERNMENT OF AKWA IBOM STATE OF NIGERIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND SOCIAL RE-ORIENTATION
UYO, AKWA IBOM STATE**

TEXT OF POST EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MEDIA BRIEFING BY THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION AND SOCIAL RE-ORIENTATION, MR. ANIEKAN UMANAH ON 25th March 2010.

Gentlemen of the Press,

The Akwa Ibom State Executive Council, in its weekly meeting of Wednesday, March 24, 2010 presided over by His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Chief Godswill Obot Akpabio, considered some memoranda and deliberated on various issues affecting the state. The Council took far reaching decisions some of which are as follows.

The State Executive Council after careful consideration of a memo presented by the Secretary to the State Government approved an upward review in the remuneration package for part time board Chairmen and members of the State owned companies, and agencies with effect from January 2010.

- a. For Boards and Agencies classified under Category A, the new take home allowance for chairmen is now pegged at N100, 000 as against the previous sum of N47, 000; while members of the same board are now to earn N60, 000 from the previous sum of N30, 000 per month.
- b. In the same vein, category B board chairmen are now to earn N75, 000 monthly against the previous amount of N40, 000, while

members are to receive the sum of N55, 000 against the sum of N29, 000 monthly allowance hitherto received.

c. For Category C Boards and Agencies, Council approved a monthly increment for Chairmen from N35, 000 to N70, 000, while members are to earn N40, 000 against the present sum of N20, 000 monthly allowances.

d. Furthermore council approved an upward review of sitting allowances for Chairmen and members in Category D boards from N15, 000 to N20, 000, and from N9, 000 to N12, 500 respectively.

The intention of government in granting the good gesture is to cushion the effect of inflation and economic pressure on political and public appointees, and to empower them to have an honest and improved living.

2. In her desire to provide meaningful employment for our teeming youths and graduates, as well as train a set of professionals in the state, Council approved the immediate employment of 2,262 persons across board into the state civil service. They include engineers, quantity surveyors, architects, and doctors. Vacancies for the above positions are to be immediately advertised and filled by the Civil Service Commission.

3. In view of the fact that judges and permanent secretaries who retired prior to 2007 may have become financially disadvantaged, the State Executive Council approved a monthly financial augmentation of N100, 000 across board in addition to the current State share of pension contributions. Also, Council approved 20% pension increase for all category of retired civil servants and teachers in the State. The increment takes effect from April 1, 2010. This decision is expected to assist them

cushion the effect of inflation as well as guarantee them improved livelihood during retirement.

In addition to these, and in its avowed commitment to linking all rural communities in the state to the national grid by 2011, council also approved:

- a. Completion of rural electrification/improvement of electricity supply in five communities of Ikot Ntuen, Ediene Ikot Inyang, Ikot Ezenam, Manta and Ikot Obio Asan in Oruk Anam local government area.
- b. Completion of abandoned rural electrification project along Ikot Ntuen – Ikot Okoro road in Oruk Anam local government area.
- c. Completion of rural electrification project for new Federal Prison communities in Utu Ikpe, Abiakpo and environs in Ikot Ekpene local government area.

So far, 850 villages have been linked to the national electricity grid through the efforts of the Ministry of Rural Development and the State Inter-Ministerial Direct Labour Coordinating Committee. Prior to the advent of the current administration, only 1,100 communities out of 2,671 were connected from the creation of the state in 1987.