

URGENT NEED TO COMMENCE FENCING OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS & PROVIDE LIVE-IN QUARTERS FOR TEACHERS IN RURAL AREAS IN ETINAN LGA & AKWA IBOM STATE AS A WHOLE

SPONSOR: HON. (ENGR) UDUAK EKPO-UFOT: Member Representing Etinan State Constituency

Mr. Speaker, Distinguished Colleagues...

This Motion is brought pursuant to Order III, Rule I of the Standing Orders of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly (7th edition).

According to UNESCO, Education is a top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation on which to build peace and drive sustainable development. As the United Nations’ specialized agency for education, they have been entrusted to lead & co-ordinate the Education 2030 Agenda- which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The Education Sector provides global and regional leadership in education, strengthens national education systems and responds to contemporary global challenges through education.

In his wisdom & foresight, the Executive Governor, Pastor Umo Eno’s A.R.I.S.E. Agenda has unequivocally committed to sound **Educational Sector Management & Rural Development** as key elements of this agenda.

In Akwa Ibom State, post-primary education is overseen by State Secondary Education Board & State Technical School Board, the following information are note-worthy of mention:

- Total number of teachers employed by the State Secondary Education Board: Approximately 9,000
- Number of Public Schools in Akwa Ibom Schools in Akwa Ibom State: About 274
- *Ideal* Number of teachers per public secondary school: 32
- Number of Youth Corps Members posted to Akwa Ibom State: Average of 2,000 Corpers per stream, with 6 streams each year, about 12,000 Corpers pass through Akwa Ibom State each year. Note that 98% of Corpers are posted to public secondary schools to teach.
- In Etinan LGA alone, there are 235 Corpers, and although they complement the efforts of the teachers that are subject matter experts, they are transient by their very natures.

Please see some statistics below, note the inconsistent teacher-to-student ratios:

SN	Secondary School	Total Number of Students	Total Number of Teachers	Teachers: Students Ratio	Total Number of Mathematics Teachers
1	Etinan Institute	3600	27	1:133	2
2	Salvation Army High School, Efa	925	14	1:66	1
3	St. Theresa’s Secondary School, Edem Ekpat	862	22	1:39	2
4	Community Secondary School, Asuna	531	30	1:18	3
5	Community Secondary School, Ekpene Ukpa	205	12	1:17	3

6	Government Technical School, Mbioto II	408	43	1:9	1
7	Community Secondary Commercial School, Ikot Eba	680	13	1:52	1
8	Community Secondary Grammar School, Ikot Akpabio	1766	24	1:74	3
9	Community Secondary School, Ikot Nte	310	9	1:35	1
10	Comprehensive Secondary School, Nkana	870	11	1:79	1
11	Community Secondary Grammar School, Ikot Itina	325	16	1:20	2

Basis the statistics above, I am VERY concerned for the next generation of children who are currently being educated in these schools- especially for critical subjects like Mathematics.

Independent research have confirmed that most teachers reside in Uyo & only go to their respective schools twice a week. We can all agree here that with the increasing costs of petrol, the frequencies of attendance will definitely ebb, accentuating the toll on teachers & students alike basis the student to teacher ratio per the above.

This House...

AGREES that basis the information above, the children of my community- and most communities in Akwa Ibom State are disenfranchised.

ACKNOWLEDGES that the previous Government commenced fencing of schools in Uyo LGA, but this has not been extended to Etinan LGA

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES that most Primary & Secondary Schools in Akwa Ibom State were donated by the respective communities in the vicinities of these schools & some do not have requisite resources to proceed with surveying the land on which the schools sit.

AWARE that the mandatory pre-requisite (by the Ministries involved) before fencing considerations can be initiated is that each School must bear the cost of the survey

WORRIED that if this mandatory "bearing of survey cost" pre-requisite is sustained, security on the school premises cannot be guaranteed when the live-in quarters are built

CONCERNED that where fencing of schools are not concluded, students will continue in their recalcitrant ways & truancy, lateness from school, and other associated misdemeanours will remain unchecked, especially in these rural areas

NOTES that the overall effect of addressing (1) Fencing of Secondary Schools (2) Improving on the teacher-to-student ratios (3) Building live-in quarters for teachers will be positively impactful on the Sustainable Development Goal 4

RECOGNIZES that it is our duty and responsibility to speak for the interest of our constituents, noting that the executive arm of our state government gives tangible expression to our laws and resolutions through assiduous

implementation of policies and programmes in a holistic manner for the benefit of our citizens without necessarily waiting for the federal government.

LET IT BE MOVED AND HEREBY ACCORDINGLY RESOLVED BY THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE: -

1. *That* H.E. Governor Umoh Eno should deliver an executive fiat, directing the Surveyor-General, that all surveys for Secondary Schools in Akwa Ibom State are done for FREE
2. *That* H.E. Governor Umoh Eno should graciously extend the fencing of schools to Etinan LGA
3. *That* H.E. Governor Umoh Eno should commence efforts to build live-in quarters for teachers, hence discouraging teachers from operating from other LGAs (especially Uyo)
4. *In the bid to review the associated ratios & statistics across all the LGAs, that* the Honorable Commissioner for Education provide to this honorable house on a per LGA-basis
 - (I) The students-to- teachers ratio per Secondary School in Akwa Ibom State
 - (II) The list of teachers in each of the schools in Akwa Ibom State & the subjects they teach

My distinguished colleagues & MOST RESPECTFULLY MR. SPEAKER, I BEG TO MOVE.

Hon (Engr) Uduak-Obong Ekpo-Ufot

Member Representing Etinan State Constituency.

Co-Sponsors: Hon Samson Idiong | Hon Emem Udom | Hon Precious Selong | Hon Selina Ukpatu | Hon Pius Bassey | Hon Prince Ukpong Akpabio |