**SPECIAL FUNDING TO ELIMINATE NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES OF POVERTY IN AKWA IBOM STATE**

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

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

This motion seeks to address the urgent need for intensified efforts and resources to control and eliminate Preventive Chemotherapy Neglected Tropical Diseases (**henceforth referred to as PC-NTDs)** in Akwa Ibom State, aligning with global health objectives and ensuring the well-being of our communities.

Akwa Ibom State is endemic for several PC-NTDs, including River blindness (also called Onchocerciasis), lymphatic filariasis (also known as elephantiasis), soil-transmitted helminthiasis (hookworm, tape-worm, ring-worm) , and schistosomiasis (bilharzia) . These diseases entrench poverty and hinder public health and economic development initiatives.

Akwa Ibom State will gain the following by achieving WHO's 2030 goals for PC-NTD control and elimination:

* Positioning the State as a leader in Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa
* Visibility of the supportive role of the Executive Governor, the relevant ministries, department, and agencies (MDA), and Akwa Ibom State University
* Partnership with the World Health Organization, UNICEF and Hellen Keller International (HKI) and EndFund for PC-NTDs control and elimination efforts

**AGREES** that Neglected tropical diseases of poverty also called Preventive Chemotherapy neglected tropical diseases (PC-NTDs) are pervasive in Nigeria, including Akwa Ibom State, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable populations. These are families living below the extreme poverty belt

**ACKNOWLEDGES** that Over 1.7 million school-aged children in all 31 LGAs in Akwa Ibom require preventive treatment for soil-transmitted helminthiasis every two years till 2030 (Table 1)

**AWARE** that A substantial number of individuals (769,970 persons) in Ikono, Ini, Ibiono Ibom and Ika LGAs, require treatment to prevent river blindness and its unrelenting itching and elephantiasis (Lymphatic filariasis), with a significant backlog of patients awaiting hydrocele surgery a neglected condition due to lymphatic filariasis (Table 1)

**WORRIED** that recent impact assessments survey in the State, highlight persistently high burdens of soil-transmitted worms in children and adults despite years of distribution of medicines, underscoring the urgency of intensified control efforts in our state (Table 2)

**CONCERNED** that the critical public health threats posed by PC-NTDs in Akwa Ibom State, might water down or delimitate the laudable projections of the ARISE agenda of His Excellency, Pastor Umo Eno.  
  
**NOTES** & **RECOGNIZES** that The World Health Organization (WHO) has set a goal for the control and elimination of PC-NTDs by 2030 in Nigeria, necessitating increased resource mobilization and funding for various interventions ([Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: A road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030 (who.int)](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240010352).

Mr. Speaker, Leadership, Ranking Members & my Distinguished Colleagues...

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

1. Urges His Excellency Pastor Umoh Eno to:

* Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to determine funding requirements till 2030.
* Domesticate the Nigerian National NTDs Master Plan
* Appoint an indigene of Akwa Ibom State either as a State Ambassador or Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to increase the visibility of neglected diseases to stakeholders and help mobilize in-country resources to drive the elimination efforts in the State
* Allocate specific funding for PC-NTD control programmes, including advocacy, preventive treatment, disease surveillance & hydrocele surgeries
* Appeal to all Oil & Gas companies to establish public-private partnerships with the Akwa Ibom state to supplement government funding for NTDs & ensure their workers and households receive treatment annually
* Consider the establishment of a Research Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases at Akwa Ibom State University

1. The Ministry of Health is mandated to:

* Facilitate for the conduct public hearings to gather stakeholder input.
* Advocate for improved access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities.
* Propose legislation to support special funding and programmatic efforts for PC-NTD control
* Propose legislation to end Open Defecation (ODF) in all communities and schools by 2027. Engage UNICEF and other developmental partners to promote this initiative and present to the State Assembly a situation reports annually from 2025 to 2030
* Recognize the funding support of Hellen Keller International and EndFund and nominate them for an award.

**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 Sunday Udofot Johnny | Hon Otobong Bob |Hon Chief Effiong Johnson | Hon Udobia Udo| Hon Dr Nsidibe Akata | Hon Moses Essien | Hon Selina Isotuk Ukpatu | Hon Pius Bassey |

**Table 1: Status of PC-NTD affect person or at risk of infection requiring treatment/Case management**

| **LGA** | **School Aged Children Targeted for STH Treatment till 2030** | **Population Targeted for ONCHO Treatment in 2024** | **Patient with Onchocerciasis/Lymphatic filariasis manifestation requiring case management** | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **LYMPHOEDEMA** | **ELEPHANTIASIS** | **MIXED LYMPHOEDEMA/**  **ELEPHANTIASIS** | **CONFIRMED HYDROCELE CASES** | **HYDROCELE SURGERY DONE** | | **HYDOCELE SURGERY YET TO BE DONE** |
| ABAK | 60741 |  |  |  |  | 31 | 14 | | 17 |
| EASTERN OBOLO | 26439 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | | 1 |
| EKET | 75356 |  |  |  |  | 44 | 27 | | 17 |
| ESIT EKET | 27818 |  |  | 2 |  | 32 | 10 | | 22 |
| ESSIEN UDIM | 84139 |  |  |  |  | 85 | 37 | | 48 |
| ETIM EKPO | 46037 |  |  |  |  | 15 | 2 | | 13 |
| ETINAN | 73927 |  | 1 |  |  | 50 | 28 | | 22 |
| IBENO | 32919 |  |  |  |  | 41 | 15 | | 26 |
| IBESIKPO ASUTAN | 59873 |  |  |  |  | 17 | 8 | | 9 |
| IBIONO IBOM | 82817 | 295774 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 37 | 16 | | 21 |
| IKA | 31853 | 113759 | 1 |  |  | 31 | 12 | | 19 |
| IKONO | 57603 | 205725 |  | 3 | 1 | 87 | 44 | | 43 |
| IKOT ABASI | 57655 |  |  |  |  | 10 | 3 | | 7 |
| IKOT EKPENE | 62482 |  |  |  |  | 61 | 30 | | 31 |
| INI | 43319 | 154712 | 1 |  |  | 28 | 15 | | 13 |
| ITU | 55476 |  |  |  |  | 19 | 12 | | 7 |
| MBO | 45423 |  | 2 | 3 | 3 | 48 | 19 | | 29 |
| MKPAT ENIN | 77749 |  |  |  |  | 22 | 13 | | 9 |
| NSIT ATAI | 32576 |  |  |  |  | 28 | 12 | | 16 |
| NSIT IBOM | 47431 |  | 1 |  |  | 18 | 10 | | 8 |
| NSIT UBIUM | 55999 |  |  |  |  | 32 | 16 | | 16 |
| OBOT AKARA | 64755 |  |  |  |  | 9 | 4 | | 5 |
| OKOBO | 45442 |  |  |  |  | 46 | 17 | | 29 |
| ONNA | 53878 |  |  |  |  | 36 | 20 | | 16 |
| ORON | 38195 |  | 1 | 1 |  | 19 | 9 | | 10 |
| ORUK ANAM | 75399 |  |  |  |  | 43 | 16 | | 27 |
| UDUNG UKO | 23267 |  | 4 | 1 |  | 17 | 8 | | 9 |
| UKANAFUN | 55476 |  | 1 |  |  | 19 | 11 | | 8 |
| URUAN | 51662 |  |  | 1 |  | 12 | 5 | | 7 |
| URUE OFFONG/ORUKO | 31075 |  | 1 |  |  | 25 | 8 | | 17 |
| UYO | 135192 |  | 3 |  |  | 121 | 56 | | 65 |
| **Grand Total** | **1711972** | **769970** | **17** | **15** | **9** | **1087** | | **500** | **587** |

**Table 2: Results of Impact Assessment for Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis in 7 LGAs in Akwa Ibom State**

