

URGENT NEED TO ATTEND TO THE DEPLORABLE CONDITION OF IKOT EKANG EDEOBOM, AFAHA ABIA, IKOT OBIO ASANGA & IKOT ODIONG ROAD

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).

It is a clear fact that most roads constructed in the former Cross River State, particularly in Akwa Ibom State between 60s and 90s are either impassable, poorly maintained or untarred.

Quality road infrastructure provides flexible and mobility of workforce from one location to another and also gives credence to good governance and public welfare.

Unarguably, good road network in any city or community gives citizens a sense of belonging, better life style, lowers production costs and raises productivity, especially in the agricultural sector where transportation of crops and other commodities to consumers is a major factor in the production chain. But in the reverse, the age-long predicament of the deplorable road spanning through Urua Utuat in Edeobom, Afaha Abia, Ikot Obio Asanga, Ikot Odiong all in Nsit Ibom Local Government Area and Ikot Ekang in Etinan L.G.A. calls for an urgent intervention by the State Government.

Socio economic activities in these parts of Nsit Ibom and Etinan Local Government Areas have suffered major setback in recent time because of the prevailing condition of the road linking the two Local Government Areas.

Nsit Ibom Local Government Area is in Etinan Federal Constituency of Uyo Senatorial District of the State and it was created from Etinan Local Government Area many decades ago.

Interestingly, the two Local Government Areas share common boundaries, political interests, social relationships such as marriage and business. But the road in question is now at the state of disrepair causing serious barrier to this affinity that had existed long time ago, hence, making live unbearable for residents of these communities.

The ancient bridge (otherwise, called Garman Bridge then) between Ikot Odiong and Ikot Ekang in Nsit Ibom and Etinan Local Government Areas respectively has become a death trap for people and the environment is gradually becoming a den for criminal activities and law enforcement agencies cannot carry out their duties in these communities owing to the bad road.

This road, described as an economic road, traverses Owot Uta in Ibeskpo Asutan Local Government Area to Ikot Ekang in Etinan Local Government Area within a few minutes. Today, the pains, agony and challenges of this neglected road are becoming worrisome and embarrassing to the citizens.

Predominantly noted by indigenes of affected communities in both Local Government Areas with dismay, is that lack of good road has affected them in many ways, as according to them, economic activities in the popular Urua Utuat and Urua Ekponwa in Nsit Ibom have reduced drastically.

Mr. Speaker, Leadership, Ranking Members & my Distinguished Colleagues...you will agree with me that the word- APPALLING, provides fair enough reference to this predicament

This House...

AGREES that basis the submission above , these communities are in dire need of help.

ACKNOWLEDGES that delayed inaction by the Akwa Ibom State Government will reduce the opportunities of the people in the 5 affected villages from measuring up with other communities

AWARE that the need and appeal for this road construction is timely as it will rekindle hope and bring back that sense of inclusion amongst affected communities.

WORRIED that these villages have been disconnected from economic development and I deem it fit to say that they are also unable to access other available social services

NOTES that there will be zero or no economic activities among residents of these communities in the near future

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 THIS APPEAL BE MOVED AND HEREBY ACCORDINGLY RESOLVED BY THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE THAT A PASSIONATE APPEAL IS MADE TO HIS EXCELLENCY, GOVERNOR UMO BASSEY ENO, to:

1. Approve for the construction of the road from Ikot Ekang in Etinan L.G.A. into Edeobom, Afaha Abia, Ikot Obio Asanga & Ikot Odiong Roads in Nsit Ibom LGA

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

Hon (Engr.) Uduak-Obong Ekpo-Ufot

Member Representing Etinan State Constituency.