

## **MOTION TO DISCONTINUE THE CONSUMPTION OF DOG MEAT, BASIS THE METHODS OF SLAUGHTER.**

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).

Dogs are man's best friend- they have always been, and will always be. Although debatable by non-lovers of dogs, we dog lovers deem it fit to make this attempt to stem the consumption of dog meat- mainly basis the way they are slaughtered for consumption in Nigeria- especially in Akwa Ibom State.

In Nigeria, dogs killed for consumption are primarily slaughtered using strangulation, blunt force trauma (repeated blows to the head) & finally suffocation. Further investigation reveals that butchers often prefer these methods due to the unscientific belief that a more "gruesome" death enhances the meat's quality or taste. These methods raise significant animal welfare concerns due to the pain, fear, and suffering inflicted on the animals. The lack of humane slaughter practices, coupled with unsanitary conditions and a lack of veterinary inspection, also creates significant public health risks, particularly regarding the transmission of diseases like rabies to butchers and consumers. Animal welfare organizations advocate for the use of proper stunning techniques to alleviate suffering and improve public health outcomes.

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

**AGREES** that the methods of murder (or slaughter), outlined above do not necessarily improve the taste of dog meat

**ACKNOWLEDGES** that dogs and especially free-roaming or poorly slaughtered animals can carry zoonotic pathogens, rabies, Toxocara, trichinella-like parasites, leptospira, Salmonella, Campylobacter and other bacteria/parasites. Improper handling and cooking raise transmission risk, hence largely seen as unacceptable practice in modern societies like South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, South Australia e.t.c. where slaughter and consumption of dog meat has been banned

**AWARE** that on 20 December 2018, the federal Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act was signed into law as part of the 2018 Farm Bill. It bans slaughtering dogs and cats for food in the United States, with exceptions for Native American rituals.

**WORRIED** that dog breeders usually give antibiotics and medicines so they don't get sick easily, so if dog meat is consumed, the human body can experience an excess of antibiotics and the immune system will decrease. Dog meat is high in sodium which can cause hypertension. On January 9, 2024, South Korea's National Assembly voted through a ban on the dog meat industry, making the breeding, slaughter and sale of dogs and dog meat for human consumption illegal from 2027.

**CONCERNED** that most dog food is “feed grade”, which describes food products for all animals (including pets, farm animals and zoo animals). Feed grade means the food is not suitable for human consumption according to FDA standards and can only be fed to animals. Note. That the FDA is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, it is tasked with ensuring the safety, security, and effectiveness of the nation's food supply, human and veterinary drugs, and medical devices.

**NOTES** that the “Dogs Law of Lagos State” and a proposed draft of “The Roxie’s Law” are spirited attempts to provide for the welfare requirements of dogs as companion animals in Nigeria- how do people feel comfortable to be actively *“consuming their companions”...?*

**RECOGNIZES** that what is good for the goose is good for the gander- this being said, if dog meat is seen as a permissible meat to consume, we as legislators should encourage the Executive Arm of Government, to instruct Ibom Icon, Four Points, Monty Suites, Merzino Apartments, D’Angelo Lounge- and other highly regarded hotels, to include Dog Meat on their menu, to be served as special delicacies in their buffets....should my constituents in Etinan be allowed to consume dog meat because it is cheap?

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. Cause the method(s) of slaughtering “man’s best friend” to be effectively changed to modern methods like stunning
2. Unequivocally ban the slaughter and consumption of dog meat in Akwa Ibom State

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



Hon (Engr.) Uduak-Obong Ekpo-Ufot  
Member Representing Etinan State Constituency.