



**AKWA IBOM STATE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA, USA INC.
NATIONAL SECRETARIAT
P.O. BOX 651, WARREN, MICHIGAN 48090**

National President's Address
2nd National Council meeting
Los Angeles, California
24th April, 2010

Welcome to the Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria, USA Inc. (AKISAN) 2nd National Council meeting of the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

We are gathered here to deliberate on matters that affect AKISAN future and members' welfare.

Before we continue, let us please rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of the departed members, (since our last gathering).

A moment of silence.....please rise and bow your heads in silence and reverence.....

To the families of the departed, our condolence, God's comfort, and grace.... Amen.

Let me, on behalf of the National Executive team, thank the LA City Chapter for being such gracious host of the 2nd National Council meeting of our great Association this day in ordinary time..... Thank you President Victor Ekpo Jr. for your leadership; your support, and numerous counsels.

Thank you to all members of the LA City Chapter for all your hard work in community organization. We extend our appreciation to all the members that worked so hard behind the scene to make this day possible.

To all the National Vice Presidents in Council, to members of the Board of Trustees present, to all observing members and Associates, **all protocols observed.**

Need we be reminded of our sacred duty as leaders entrusted with the future and function of our great Association?

Akwa Ibom State Association lives on, bigger than any one person, but only as big as our collective sum, our will, our reputation, and our sphere of influence.

Akwa Ibom State Association lives on, bigger than any one person, but only as big as the scale of our works of charity; and our resolve to continue and complete National Convention approved projects.

Akwa Ibom State Association lives on, bigger than any one person, but only as big as the value we deliver to our members and our zest for advocacy on behalf of the Akwa Ibom community.

We stand committed to AKISAN constitutional vision and mission statements. We must embody these principles with a commitment to a concept rooted in unity, shared goals, shared risks, and shared rewards. That concept must become our new reality; the concept of "**One Akwa Ibom, One People, One Destiny**".

Afore mentioned embodiment is made manifest and demonstrated through a set of seven behaviors; call them the "**One Akwa Ibom..... behaviors**" viz.:

Behavior of **respect** for varying view points;

Behavior of **tolerance**, devoid of primitive instincts to destroy or jail those that question our actions;

Behavior of **commitment** to **minimizing sectional differences** and amplifying the common essence in Akwa Ibom communities;

Behavior that seeks out for **leadership**, only the **thorough bred** and **blood lines** that will **never betray** that community our fore bearers bestowed upon us;

Behavior that thrives on **economic empowerment** for members of our community;

Behavior of saying what we do, and doing what we say, with **openness and transparency**

Behavior of committing to the **security and welfare** of our children and the elderly.

I therefore urge every Akwa Ibom indigene to learn, embody, and make manifest the true meaning of these seven "**One Akwa Ibom.... Behaviors**".

Be a proud Ibibio, be a proud Annang, be a proud Ekid, be a proud Oro, but above all, **be a proud Akwa Ibom indigene, knowing no boundaries, all with love.**

Why the rancor in LA? Why the rancor in Dallas?? Why the rancor in Ohio??? Why the rancor in Chicago???? Why the rancor in AKISAN????? Why the rancor in the Akwa Ibom Diaspora??????? Why the rancor in Akwa Ibom State?????????

Look at yourself in the mirror and see an Akwa Ibom person, then turn around and embrace every Akwa Ibom indigene, with love. For only till you do that, are you as good as you believe you are.

Beware of those that come to you with political dispensations not based on merit and merit alone. They trade in the dark divisive con (DDC).

Beware of those that seek to divide our communities for self serving interests.

Beware of those that come to you in the name of God, but they live the vile life among us; they oppose help for abused children; they oppose schools for young minds; they pride themselves as **"NO Sayers"**.

Beware of those that keep quiet in the face of evil; in the face of a season of terror; in the face of famine in our land; in the face of blood stains on our sands; in the face of a Doctor slaughtered and discarded like a dog; when jail time is the price for daring to ask! These times; these times of fears and tears; these times of widows and orphans.

I invite you to join me in advancing the **"One Akwa Ibom.... behaviours"**. Tell your families about the **"One Akwa Ibom behaviors"**; Tell your village heads, your clan heads, and your paramount rulers about the **"One Akwa Ibom behaviors"**. **Call them today, tell them.**

And so to one and all, despite ourselves, despite our egos, despite our diversities, we must be reminded of the fact that we are volunteers in service for our common good.

Commit your selves to relentlessly giving, advocating, and volunteering.

Commit your selves to working together for the common good of our people and our causes.

Commit your selves to the "One Akwa Ibom....Behaviors". Make manifest daily.

Akwa Ibom Isongo oooo.....

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

**National President
Obong Eyi Umana**