

ADDRESS BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT EKET DEVELOPMENT CONGRESS
(USA) Inc.



Margaret Itauma
National President

The Chairman of today's occasion, Chief Esin D Abia, the Honourable Member Federal House of Representative, Eket Constituency, Hon Esemeyiboh, all protocols observed. The National President, Akwa State Association of Nigeria USA Inc. (AKISAN), supporters, distinguished guests and members.

Welcome to our 5th National Convention in Houston.

Thank you for your volunteerism advocacy and giving, and let me remind every one here today that, our success can only be measured if we give back to our communities. Initially this organization started as Eket Family Union with different chapters, but in 2002, Eket sons and daughters found the need to form a National body called Eket Development Congress (USA) Inc. (EDC) to channel its affairs. We are proud to have the pioneers and the EDC history committee put up the history of this organization.

EDC under the leadership of this present administration has set a standard with local and national chapters thereby attracting global recognition by great men and women worldwide. The number of people who

have reported to serve and ready to inspire the next generation shows this attestation. Our capacity to grow can only come when we embrace "UNITY" therefore, we must shun divisiveness! Shun disloyalty!! And shun factions! Eket must speak as one voice at all times.

EDC is also proud to welcome on board its first appointed Board of Trustee. The Board of Trustees has in her short existence developed a mission statement and a vision for EDC. I am proud of the caliber of people serving in the Board. I look forward to a productive working relationship with these Honorable members.

Our website www.eketusa.org has been a great tool that we used to enhance our services to our communities. We continue to strive to improve our services as well as identify new ways to serve you better. This brings us to date with modern technology. We are constantly updating, improving and expanding on this site. We hope you will continue to find this website resourceful.

PROJECTS

1. CRARN

The cries of our abandoned children at CRARN Centre, Eket, echoed all over the world and EDC made it its priority to be a part of the team to alleviate their suffering by donating a substantial amount, time and administrative support. Thank you for helping us reach out to those kids.

In December 2008, The Akwa Ibom State Government enacted the Child's Right Bill but the abuse of children has not stopped and the process of prosecuting perpetrators has also been slow. This act of child stigmatization in our society is strongly condemned and cannot be ignored. We call on our State Government other NGO's to

launch an extensive campaign to educate and enlighten our society and religious organizations about superstitious beliefs, basic health care and disease prevention. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare to organize counselling of parents and kids reunite kids with their parents and integrate them into public schools and the society.

2. BOREHOLE

With the given situation at home, we undertook a project to provide boreholes to selected communities. Our investigation revealed that there were quite a number of boreholes already in existence. We were rather advised to select some non-functional boreholes already in existence and bring it up to date. A couple of boreholes were selected and the assignment is underway but not yet completed.

3.AFFILIATIONS : The present administration, EDC has taken its rightful place in other sister organizations especially the active role that it plays with AKISAN. EDC through supervision of its president was assigned the role of organizing, managing and executing the role of Miss Akwaibom at the last AKISAN convention. We are proud that project was successful and that Houston chapter won the Miss Akwaibom

contest. EDC also had a chance to show its solidarity to its sister organization in London in October 2009 on the annual convention. This kind of affiliations is also shown to many other ethnic organizations as Eket name becomes synonymous with activities. We started well in the way to progress, our other projects are under review to be launched this year including but not limited to education, youth organization and enlightenment, functional partnership with the Eket administration at home. We intend to expound the theme of the 2010 convention focusing primarily on education. We have a scholarship that will be expanded to students in the universities and other tertiary institutions to provide them with employable careers as against the present secondary school scholarship system.

During the last two years of this administration, I've witnessed a lot of challenges, some were constructive, fostering improvement, others were mere distractions but I remained focused to meet my leadership obligations. I stand here today not to enumerate on the distractive challenges but to magnify your support. This administration has operated without a legal adviser but you have been my counsel.

Thank you for your overwhelming support and for giving US the opportunity to serve you for the past two years as we look forward to a greater and better tomorrow.

God bless Nigeria
And
God bless America



Margaret Itauma
National President