



A

**Agricultural
Revolution**



R

**Rural
Development**



I

**Infrastructural
Maintenance/
Advancement**



S

**Security
Management**



E

**Educational
Advancement**



...rising together

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Ministry of Culture & Tourism

Program of Events for the Official Opening



*Christmas
unplugged*

Unity Park, Udo Udoma Avenue,
Uyo, Akwa Ibom State

1st December, 2023

6pm Prompt

www.discoverakwaibom.com



National Anthem

Arise, O compatriots
Nigeria's call obey
To serve our fatherland
With love and strength and faith
The labour of our heroes past
Shall never be in vain
To serve with heart and might
One nation bound in freedom
Peace and unity.

Oh God of creation
Direct our noble cause
Guide our leaders right
Help our youth the truth to know
In love and honesty to grow
And living just and true
Great lofty heights attain
To build a nation where peace
And justice shall reign

The Pledge

I pledge to Nigeria my country.
To be faithful, loyal and honest.
To serve Nigeria with all my strength.
To defend her unity,
and uphold her honour and glory.
So help me God.



State Anthem

Let Us Rise, Akwa Ibom State
To The Faith Of Greatness
O Akwa Abasi Ibom,
Let Our Dreams Be Ever One
Rise Beyond Ethnicity
Build With Love, 'our Promised Land'
Forward Ever! Backward Never!
Serve The Land In Unity And Love

God of mercy hear our plea,
make our land a place to be,
Let the war-like sheathe his sword,
still all vices in the land.
Grant your rule O Prince of Peace,
that our State may ever be
Peaceful ever! Warring never!
Let your will O God forever reign.



- Official Opening - *Christmas unplugged*



his brand of reggae music. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Victor Essiet.

STREET 12: SAMUEL PETER STREET

Samuel Okon Peter is a Nigerian professional boxer and former WBC heavyweight Champion (2008). Samuel Peter was named among the 20 greatest athletes in the history of independent Nigeria by The Punch in 2023, while his capturing of the WBC heavyweight title was ranked the 26th most memorable moment in independent Nigeria's sports history by Premium Times in 2020. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Samuel Peter.

STREET 13: UTITOFON UKO STREET

Utitofon Uko, now Utitofon Nkantah is a one-time fastest African woman. At the end of her career, she had accumulated a total 7 trophies and 56 medals with 22 of those being gold medals. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Utitofon Uko.

STREET 15: PRELATE SUNDAY MBANG STREET

Sunday Coffie Mbang was a prelate of Methodist Church Nigeria. He served as President of the World Methodist Council and National President of the Christian Association of Nigeria. He also held a several positions outside the Methodist Church Nigeria, namely; the National President of the Christian Association of Nigeria, the co-chairman of the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council, and the Vice and Chairperson of the World Methodist Council for many years. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Prelate Sunday Mbang.

STREET 16: CARDINAL EKANDEM STREET

Cardinal Dominic Ignatius Ekandem was the first Nigerian cardinal and founding bishop of the Archdiocese of Abuja. He was also the first native West African Catholic Bishop in history. He was the first priest from the old Calabar province. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Cardinal Ekandem.

STREET 17: BEN EKANEM STREET

Ben Ekanem was an Akwa Ibom Sculptor responsible for the sculpture of Queen Amina which was originally in 1975 during the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture and was placed at the entrance of the National Arts Theatre in Lagos State. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Ben Ekanem.

STREET 18: CHARLES BASSEY STREET

Charles Bassey (MON) is a member of the 1980 Africa Cup of Nations winning Nigerian National team: the Green Eagles (now Super Eagles). Bassey has the national honour of Member of the Order of the Niger (MON), which was bestowed on him by the then President Shehu Shagari in 1980. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Charles Bassey.

STREET 19: MARY AFI USUAH STREET

Mary Afi Usuah, a Nigerian female singer, born in Oron, was active not only in Africa but also in European countries. Her dignified and powerful vocals are amazing with the essence of soul to funk. Afi Usuah's career focused more on promoting the arts in post-civil war Nigeria than a personal output. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Mary Afi Usuah.

STREET 20: BASSEY BLACK STREET

Bassey Black was a popular musician from Oron Extraction. He and his Band, Bassey Black and the Natty Messiahs rendered several hits song in local dialect. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Bassey Black

STREET 21: LAWRENCE IQUAIBOM STREET

Lawrence Iquaibom is a weightlifter who won Gold Medal the 60 kg category in the 1987 All-Africa Games and a silver medal at the 1990 Commonwealth Games in the 130 kg Snatch category. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Lawrence Iquaibom



His Excellency
Pastor Umo Eno
Governor, Akwa Ibom State



STREET LEGACIES

STREET 1: CHRISTIANA ESSIEN IBOKWE STREET

Christiana Essien-Igbokwe was a Nigerian actress and musician often referred to as "Nigeria's Lady of Songs". She was the First Female President of the Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria (PMAN) while also being one of the Chairwomen and Managing Director of Soul Train Entertainment. She sang fluently in different languages including Ibibio, Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo. Akwa Ibom celebrates her.

STREET 2: LEMMY JACKSON STREET

Born Otu Udofa and popularly referred to as "Lemmy Jackson", he is a legendary Nigerian music producer/song writer who produced most of the hit songs of the 1980 and early 90s in Nigeria. He was easily dubbed the Nigeria's version of Quincy Jones, the legendary American music producer. His resume include Ras Kimono's 'Whats Gwan'; Majek Fashek's 'Send Down The Rain'; "Wait for Me", a duet by Onyeka Onwenu and King Sunny Ade, Tera Kota's 'Lamentations of Sodom, and the Mandator's third album, Rebel.

STREET 3: UKO AKPAN STREET

Uko Akpan was Akwa Ibom State's first ever cultural musician and an embodiment of African Traditional music filled with philosophical tales. He founded cultural displays in 1945 popularly known as "NKAANKANG" meaning "without" due to his non-use of musical instruments and drums. "USUNG CALABAR-ITU", his major hit song was appreciated more after President Shehu Shagari's completion of the now popular Calabar-Itu bridge. Akwa Ibom celebrates UKO AKPAN.

STREET 4: ETE ANTIA STREET

Emmanuel "Ette" Antia was a legendary Highlife music maestro from Abak Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State. Distinct in his music and lively nature, Akwa Ibom celebrates Ette Antia.

STREET 5: ETUBOM REX WILLIAMS STREET

Etubom Rex Williams is regarded as one of the Legends of Nigerian Highlife Music. His incredible professionalism, vast body of work and huge personality, established him as a veritable force of the genre quite early in his career. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Sir Maxwell Udoh.

STREET 6: MAXWELL UDOH STREET

Ignatius Maurice Udoh, popularly known as Rasman Maxwell Udoh had a natural leaning towards reggae music.

The social crusader an entertainment writer is regarded by some as the first African to sing reggae music in its true form. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Sir Maxwell Udoh.

STREET 8: UDO ABIANGHA STREET

Udo Abiangha was; for so many years, one of the leading lights in the music industry in Akwa Ibom State. His brand of highlight music was unique. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Udo Abiangha.

STREET 9: NATHANIEL BASSEY STREET

Nathaniel Bassey is a singer, pastor, trumpeter and gospel songwriter. His music spans across different genres such as worship, hymns and medleys.

Akwa Ibom State celebrates Nathaniel Bassey.

STREET 10: VINCENT ENYEAMA STREET

Vincent Enyeama is regarded as one of the Greatest African goalkeepers of all time. He is a one-time captain of the Super Eagles and Nigeria's second most capped football player. Akwa Ibom State celebrates Vincent Enyeama.

STREET 11: MANDATORS STREET

Victor Essiet is one half of The Mandators, a musical group that held sway in the Nigerian Reggae music scene between the early 1980's through to the 1990's; putting Nigeria on the world map with



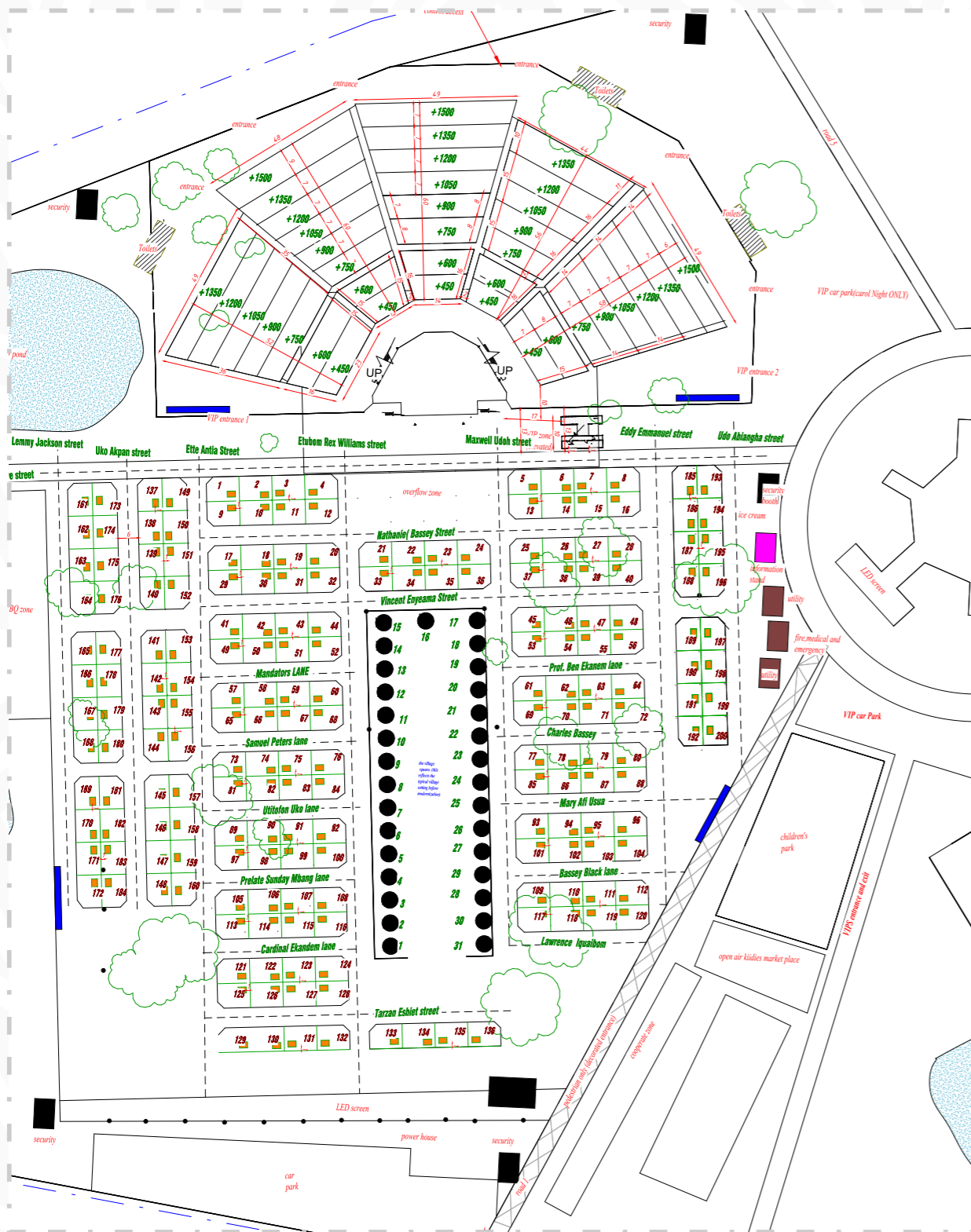
- Official Opening -



- Official Opening -



SITE MAP



Her Excellency
Patience Umo Eno
 Wife of the Governor,
 Akwa Ibom State



Her Excellency
Sen. (Dr.) Akon Eyakenyi
 Deputy Governor.
 Akwa Ibom State

AKWA IBOM CHRISTMAS CAROLS FESTIVAL.

The Akwa Ibom Christmas Carols Festival; which started in 2008, is a festival of Christian Songs, Dance, and Worship that has over the years attracted A-List of Gospel Artists, Choirs groups and Worshipers from across the world.

This year's Edition, which holds on Friday, December 15, 2023 at the Unity Park in Uyo by 6pm, will feature a mixed grill of 100% home-grown Gospel Artists, Church Choirs, Choral Groups and Choristers drawn from every local council in the state coming together to form a mass choirs.

Over the years, the Akwa Ibom State. Christmas Carols Festival has attracted a large number of International Gospel artistes such as Ron Kenoly, Alvin Slaughter, Lionel Petersen, Donnie McClurkin, Bob Fitts, Nicole Mullen, Don Moen, Israel Houghton, Shirley Ceaser, amongst many others. The Event has also played host to several choirs from within and outside Nigeria.

Renowned men of God like Pastor William F. Kumuyi, Pastor Enoch Adeboye, Bishop David Oyedepo, Pastor Paul Adefarasin, Archbishop Nicholas Duncan-Williams, Pastor T.D. Jakes amongst others; have graced the podium at the event at various times.

The 2023 edition of the Akwa Ibom State Christmas Carols Festival will be the first since the election of Pastor Umo Eno as Governor of our state in May this year.

It promises to be a December-to-Remember in Akwa Ibom State.

A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER IN AKWA IBOM STATE

Christmas is a special time of the year that is a sacred religious holiday as well as a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon.

Over the years, Akwa Ibom State has raised the bar on the quality of events and activities organized within the state during this season with a rich bouquet of events particularly the IBOM CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CELEBRATIONS and the Guinness Book of Records breaking AKWA IBOM CHRISTMAS CAROLS FESTIVAL.

IBOM CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CELEBRATIONS

The Annual Ibom Christmas Village Celebrations has been rebranded, reloaded and aptly tagged CHRISTMAS UNPLUGGED. The event will take place from December 01, 2023 – January 01, 2024 at the Christmas Park Arena at the Unity Park, Uyo. The venue architecture has been upscaled to offer both traditional and contemporary settings to cater for the needs of a diverse audience over a 32-days period. It is set with kiosks built on clearly demarcated streets that have been named after Akwa Ibomites who have excelled in various fields of endeavours. The REBRANDED; RELOADED Christmas Park helps businesses that sign-on to maximize brand visibility and ease of identification.

The festive event will feature a daily dose of a mixed grill of back-to-back musical events, drama, comedy, games, cultural display, talent shows, outdoor catering and lounging.

Christmas Unplugged provides exceptional brand visibility, networking opportunities, and the chance for corporate bodies to showcase their commitments to corporate social responsibility. Last year, the event attracted an estimated footprint of over 1 million people daily and has been widely adjudged to be the biggest of its kind in Africa by the size of its location and potential for growth. This year, we anticipate a footprint of 1.6million people daily with 250 kiosks provided for Micro and Small-Scale Entrepreneurs.

The CHRISTMAS PARK consists of the following segments;

The Arena

- o This is the kiosks area where 200 business kiosks are built and allocated on first-come-first served; T & C apply.

Village square

- o This is laid in a typical village setting consisting 31 thatch huts representing the 31 Local Government Areas in the state and will host Traditional cultural events such as Mbok (traditional wrestling, ekak, ube isong, abukpok nsa (draught games), etc

Business District

- o This is where Partners and corporate bodies are situated.

VIP Lounge

- o This provides a comfortable location for VIPs

Information Centre

- o this is the event secretariat, emergency response and health checkpoint.



Rt. Hon. (Elder)

Udeme J. Otong

Speaker

Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly



Hon. Justice
Ekaette F. Obot
Chief Judge.
Akwa Ibom State

PROGRAM OF EVENTS FOR THE OPENING CEREMONY, CHRISTMAS UNPLUGGED 2023

°World AIDS Day

°Sights and Sounds of Abak Local Government Area

°Day 1: Friday- Happy Hour

1. Arrival of His Excellency, **Pastor Umo Eno**, the Governor of Akwa Ibom State
2. Opening of the Museum of Akwa Ibom History & Art Exhibition
3. Tour of the Christmas Park by His Excellency, **Pastor Umo Eno**, the Governor of Akwa Ibom State
4. Opening Prayer
5. National Anthem
6. Akwa Ibom State Anthem.
7. Performance by Ekemini Cultural Troupe
8. Spoken Word by Elisha Ettannah
9. Dance Performance by Elite Kings Dance Crew
10. Comedy by MC George
11. Musical Performance by Unik Brothers - Amem
12. Vendor Dance Competition (Male & Female categories.)
13. Performance by The Young Professionals
14. **Happy Hour** Lucky Dip for Vendors
15. Musical Performance by Feelingz - Colour me Orange
16. Opening Remarks by Sir Charles Udoh,
Honorable Commissioner of Culture and Tourism
17. Musical Performance by Pasto Goody Goody - Afo do legend
18. His Excellency, **Pastor Umo Eno**, the Governor of Akwa Ibom State: Launches the Ibom Christmas Park 2023
19. His Excellency the Governor of Akwa Ibom State, **Pastor Umo Eno** moves to watch cultural display and novelty Mbok Exhibition Match.
20. The Governor departs.
21. Information/Announcements
22. **DJ Peejay** Plays

CHRISTMAS PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. **Sir Charles Udoh**, Honorable Commissioner,
Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Akwa Ibom State/Chairman
2. **Gen. Koko Essien** - Commissioner for Internal Security/Coordinator Security
3. **Prof. Augustine Umoh** - Commissioner for Health/Coordinator Medicals
4. **Engr Camilus Umoh** - Commissioner for Power/Coordinator Power
5. **Akparawa James Edet** - Permanent Secretary Ministry of Information/Coordinator
Information Management
6. **Mr. Anthony Isonguyo** - Director of Administration/Covering the duties of Permanent
Secretary Ministry of Culture and Tourism & Coordinator, Power and Waste Management
Team
7. **Mrs. Ime Udo** - Honorary Senior Special Adviser, Tourism
8. **Mr. John Offiong** - Director Culture
9. **Mrs Iniobong Umotong** - Head of Department of Arts
10. **Mr. Mfon Essang** - Head of Marketing and Logistics
11. **Mr. Imoh Moffat** - Head of PRS/Coordinator, Information/Database Centre
12. **Aniekan Inyang** - Assistant Director Tourism
13. **Mrs. Ememobong Anthony** - Tourism Officer
14. **Mrs Ruth Harry** - Cultural Officer
15. **Miss Grace Bassey** - Tourism Officer
16. **Mr. Eyo Eminue** - Secretary and Member, Content Team
17. **Mr. Imoh Idiong** - Coordinator, Monitoring and Compliance Team
18. **Mr. Mbuotidem "Krox" Ukpe** - Coordinator Design and Branding Team
19. **Andy Nkim** - Assist. Coordinator Design and Branding Team
20. **Mr. Aniekan Antia** - Coordinator, Multimedia Team and Member, Content Team
21. **Dr. Unwana Joshua** - Head of Council, Council for Arts and Culture and Coordinator,
Village Square
22. **Architect John Marcus** - Venue Management Team
23. **Nester Multimedia** - Coordinator, Stage, Light and sound
24. **Mr. Israel Otu** - Coordinator, Ambiance Lighting.
25. **Barritex Enterprise** - Electricals
26. **Mr. Idara Akpan** - Coordinator, Car Park
27. **Mr. Daniel Eniang** - Photography
28. **Tedikom Wireless Ltd** - Website development/IT Consultant
29. **Mr. Emmanuel Godwin** - Media & Publicity



Prince Enobong Uwah

Secretary to the State Government.

Akwa Ibom State



Sir Charles Udoh

Honourable Commissioner
Ministry of Culture and Tourism
& Chairman, Planning Committee



Mr. Anthony Isonguyo

Director of Admin and supply.
(Officially Covering duties of Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Culture & Tourism)