

**AKWA IBOM STATE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA, USA, INC
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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N.Y. Mayor Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Senator Effiong Bob Hail Akwa Ibom Day

Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York, has paid compliments to the Akwa Ibom Diaspora in New York ahead of the upcoming Akwa Ibom Day 2010 events and Cultural Night in City.

The event is slated for Saturday, July 24, 2010.

In a written goodwill message to the Akwa Ibom Community in New York and the New York Chapter of Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria, USA, Inc. (AKISANY), Mayor Bloomberg lauds the Akwa Ibom Community over their achievements and contributions to the city's growth.

"Since the first wave of Akwa Ibomites arrived in New York, they have made outstanding contributions to our City's economic and cultural success.

"And thanks to the hard work of the Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria, New Yorkers of all backgrounds can join their neighbors in celebrating Akwa Ibom and Nigerian heritage—and the richness and variety of our shared cultural life."

Akwa Ibom Day 2010 Cultural Night, which Mayor Bloomberg says, "presents a wonderful opportunity for Akwa Ibomites to reflect on the positive difference they are making in our communities" is expected to draw a large number of young people from New York and the tri-state area as well as guests from all over the United States. Dr. Samuel Esema, National Chairman of AKISAN Board of Trustees, and Obong Umanah National President of AKISAN, whose greetings, along with the Mayor's, have been published in the upcoming event Program Booklet, are among the invited guests. Dr. Tom Mbeke-Ekanem, President, Ibom People's Congress (IPC) is also one of the numerous leaders of the Akwa Ibom Diaspora who have sent greetings to the Akwa Ibom Community in New York.

Praise worship, led by Brother Aniekan Akpan, is expected to precede the all night Akwa Ibom Day 2010 Cultural Night, which invited dignitaries from Nigeria are also expected to attend.

In a congratulatory message to the Akwa Ibom Diaspora in New York, Senator Effiong Bob, head of the Akwa Ibom State Caucus at the National Assembly of Nigeria, salutes the host of the event, AKISANY, which he says, “requires support from men and women of goodwill.” A strong supporter of AKISANY, the two term Senator and Nigerian Senate leader offers assurances of his “association with the noble objectives and aspirations of (the) association.”

It is not yet known whether or not the Akwa Ibom State Executive Governor, Obong Godswill Akpabio, will attend the event. The governor or his representative was invited to address Akwa Ibom Youths in the Diaspora most of who have never had the opportunity to interact with the governor.

The governor’s office in Uyo, responding to confirmation request from AKISANY, said the governor was away in Abuja. Aniekan Umanah, the Akwa Ibom State Commissioner for Information, said he would facilitate contact with the governor’s office. Feedback from the Commissioner is still pending.

The event will be held at the Central Brooklyn Center on Saturday, July 24, 2010 starting at 7.00 p. m.

The goal of the event, honoring Akwa Ibom Youths/Victorious Dance Troupe and featuring the state’s cuisines, dressing, dances, creative artists, and talented youths, is to raise awareness of the rich and diverse heritage of Akwa Ibom State, through the different cultural milieu.

Guests will be treated to a wide variety of Akwa Ibom food, cultural performances, and continuous music throughout the night.

The event flyer beckons on all to “discover Akwa Ibom State, its dance performances, its culture, and enjoy its fascinating variety of delectable meals.”

In the past one year and half year AKISANY, a 501 (C) 3 Organization, has invested time and resources in our community, while supporting other charities including the Abak Children’s Home, in Abak LGA, Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria.

**AKISANY INFORMATION SERVICE
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