



Address by the Governor of Akwa-Ibom State

His Excellency Mr Godswill Obot Akpabio

Protocol

I am delighted to be with you here today on the occasion of the 2nd Annual Award of Excellence for Public Secondary School Teachers in Akwa Ibom State by INOYO TORO FOUNDATION. On behalf of the good people of Akwa Ibom State, I congratulate the FOUNDATION for being one of those who have taken steps to support this administration on the task of moving education forward in Akwa Ibom State. To my mind, today's event would go a long way to repair the rot in our Educational system through proper motivation of the crucial resources available in the school system, namely, the teachers.

As you may have already noticed, the state of the infrastructure in our schools has changed for the better through the ongoing massive rehabilitation by the present administration. We have given serious thoughts to improvements in the teaching and learning processes through supply of Science equipment, chemicals, textbooks and school desks, to mention only a few. Above all, training, re-training and motivation of teachers have been a cardinal focus of this administration. I am glad to mention that INOYO TORO FOUNDATION, from what we are witnessing today, shares the same vision. It is on record that the foundation in March 2009 hosted the 2008 awardees to a capacity enhancement workshop sponsored by the American International School, Lagos. It is also noted that the FOUNDATION exposed the first prize winners in the 5 subjects to the African Regional Conference in Abuja in May 2009. Needless to say, this has positively impacted on the level of delivery by the teachers. Based on their experiences during the trainings the focus of teaching is now child-centered rather than teacher centered.

I wish to further appreciate the INOYO TORO FOUNDATION for also packaging the mentoring programme for our students, which is in conformity with our overall objective



of providing education that will equip the recipients with the necessary attitude, knowledge and skill to contribute their quota to individual as well as national development. We are indeed fortunate to have today leading individuals and professionals in the State who have made one form of contribution to life or the other. I see the mentoring programme as a way of inspiring and nurturing success in our students. It is therefore my belief that the mentoring clinic will make the students become successful citizens and give them an ample opportunity to contribute meaningfully to national development.

Let me at this juncture mention and sincerely appreciate the efforts of groups and individuals that have so far contributed to the success of the Free and Compulsory Education Programme through the supply of exercise books to our children. I want to reassure you that my administration would ever remain steadfast in giving the Education Sub Sector the attention it deserves, because we are aware of the fact that education is the bedrock for any meaningful development.

I commend INOYO TORO FOUNDATION for sustaining this innovation initiated last year for our science teachers. I hereby call on other individuals, groups and corporate organizations to join this FOUNDATION to partner with the State Government in various aspects of educational enhancement for the benefit of our youths in particular and the society at large.

I thank the INOYO TORO FOUNDATION for rewarding excellence. For our teachers who are honoured today, I congratulate them, and urge others to work harder to benefit from subsequent awards in the state.

Thank you and God bless.