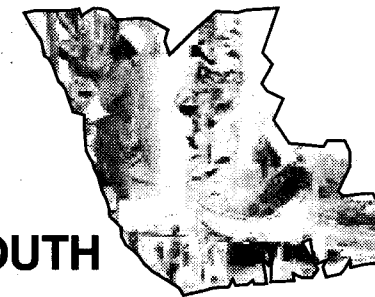


Niger Delta

MOUTH OF THE SOUTH



Why The Warri Crisis Happened
—Abakata

A'Ibom Did Not Rush Into Free Education
—Akpan

VI

C'ttee Warns On Ekiadolor-Okhuohuo Road Project

By Francis Onoiribholo
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT, Benin

The contractor handling Ekiadolor-Okhuohuo-Agekpanu Road in Edo State has been warned to deliver quality service, failing which the state government would reject the 26-kilometre road project.

The order was given when the state's Assets Verification Committee inspected the project for the second time to further assess the level of work so far done by the contractor, Gomene, on the N1, 262,510,493.30k road project, which was awarded by the immediate past Osunbor administration.

The committee during the assessment visit observed that the contractor in some areas/spots on the road did not use the required quality and quantity of materials that would make it stand the test of time.

The drains on both sides of the road close to Okokhuo River (when descending the hill from Ekiadolor axis), the committee observed, were poorly constructed, as one of the drains (on the right when descending), was already cracking, apart from the uneven nature of the road.

It was also discovered by the committee, which was led on the inspection by the Vice Chairman, Sunny Okundia, who is also permanent secretary, Ministry of Transport, Edo State, that contrary to claims by the contractor that a portion of the road, specifically at Ogbokeli village, was sand-filled, the villagers disputed the claim.

According to the villagers, "the road was sand-filled by another construction company during the administration of Prof. Ambrose Alli, and that Gomene, the construction company currently handling the road, only graded the portion of the road, passing through the village before tarring it."

Rainstorm Renders 70 Homeless, Kills One In Otolokpo

By Tunke-Aye Bisina
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT, Asaba

A devastating rainstorm has rendered 70 families homeless, killed one and injured others at Otolokpo community in Ika North East Local Government Area of Delta State.

The rainstorm also hit Otolokpo Mixed Secondary School, Ezewani Primary

School, and Saint Dominic Catholic Church in Otolokpo.

Eyewitness gave the name of the deceased as Mrs. Uti, who was said to be observing the Catholic Stations of the Cross in the church when the storm swept through the community.

Traditional ruler of the community, Obi Collins Abioma, while confirming the incident, lamented that the

community was witnessing the worst natural disaster in history, adding that one person died with several others were hospitalised and over 70 families homeless.

The library and laboratory with equipment at the Otolokpo Mixed Secondary School were said to have been affected, while a block of eight classrooms at Ezewani

Primary School was also destroyed.

Principal of Otolokpo Mixed Secondary School, Mr. Jonathan Ebinuohoea, wondered why the school that was just recovering from a similar disaster last year should be hit again.

Abioma, monarch of the community, noted that the inhabitants were helpless in the circumstance and pleaded with Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan to come to their aid.

Lawmaker Commends Obudu Monarch

By Bassey Inyang
CORRESPONDENT, Calabar

Speaker of Cross River State House of Assembly, Mr. Francis Adah, has described paramount ruler of Obudu, Uti J. D. Agba, as a monarch who has contributed immensely to the development of his domain.

Adah stated this in a congratulatory message he sent to the monarch, who marked his 50th year on the throne, recently.

He said the monarch, over the years, had exhibited loyalty and originality of vision in his contribution to galvanise the socio-cultural and political development of his domain.

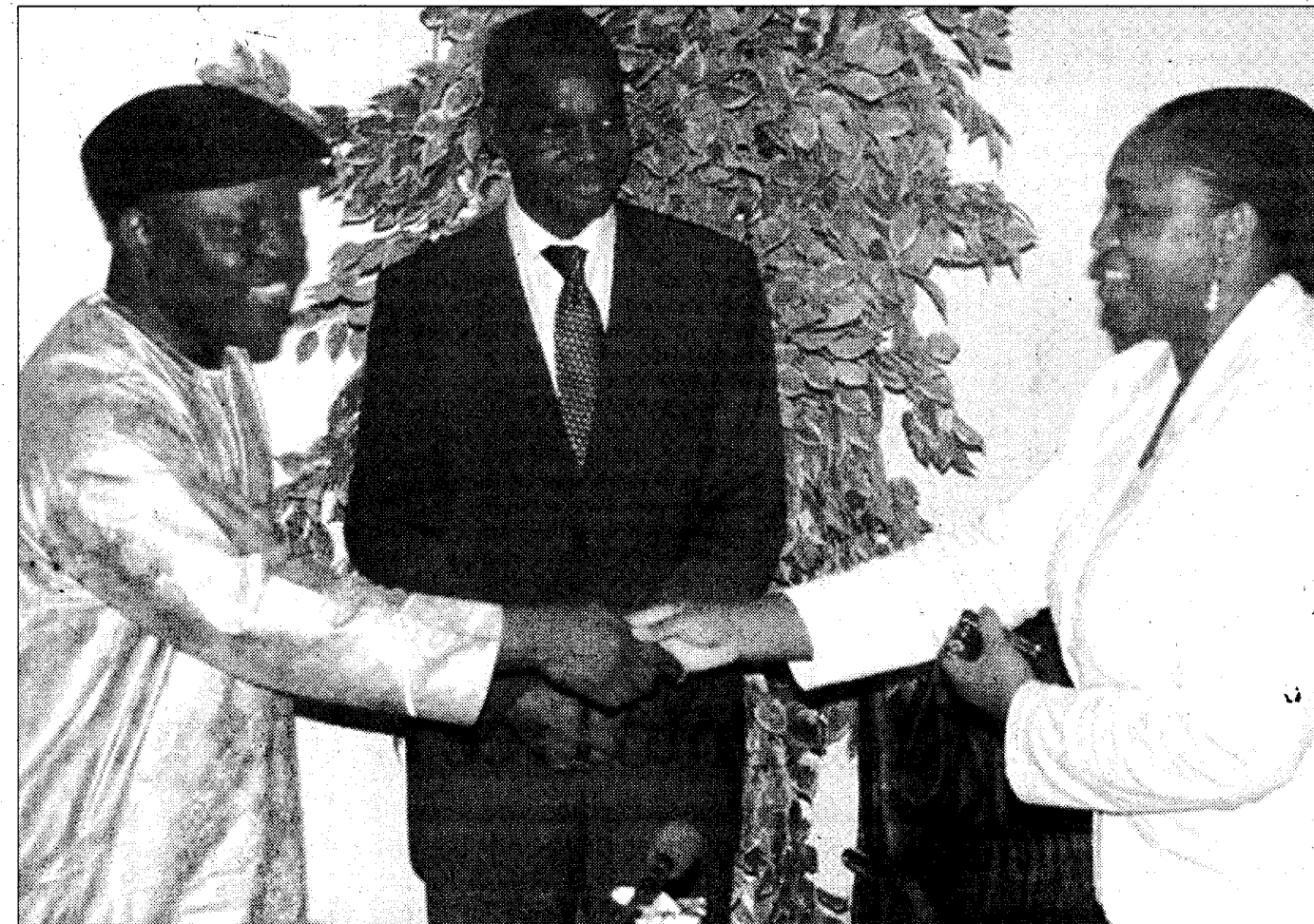
He said, "In the last 50 years the paramount ruler has distinguished himself through hard work and commitment to excellence in all his endeavours."

Adah pointed out that the innate qualities of the monarch included honesty, fairness, steadfastness and dedication to duty.

He wished the monarch more years on the throne, while urging him to continue leading his people right.

The celebration of the reign of Agba on the throne spanned one week and climaxed at the weekend in Obudu town, where Nigerians and foreigners gathered to celebrate with him and the people of the area.

The event also featured the award of traditional titles to Nigerians who have contributed to the development of the area among them; the governor of Benue State, Mr. Gabriel Suswam, and Cross River State Governor, Senator Liyel Imoke.



From left: Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan, Nigeria Resident Representative of UNDP, Mr. Alberic Kacou; Team leader, Poverty Alleviation, UNDP, Ms. Adiya Ode, during a visit to Government House, Asaba...recently.

A'Ibom Govt Equips 23 Health Institutions