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Community writes Akpabio, laments loss of nine pupils

OCTOBER 15, 2013 BY ETIM EKPIMAH, UYO LEAVE A COMMENT

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No fewer than nine children from Ewet Offot in Uyo, Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, have been killed in recent times by vehicles on their way to schools in the neighbouring communities of Anua, Eniong and Wellington Bassey Way.

It was learnt that Ewet Offot did not have a public primary school, forcing parents in the area to send their children to other communities, where there are public primary schools.

In a save-our-soul letter to Governor Godswill Akpabio, the community appealed to the state government to curtail the incessant deaths of the town pupils by establishing a primary school in the community.

The letter, which was signed by the President, Ewet Youth Development Association, Messrs. Aniefiok Ebong, and Secretary-General, Alexander Edet, they residents described as a shame a situation where the town was regressing educationally while others were progressing.

The letter read, "His Excellency, it is no longer news that more than 80 per cent of the land belonging to Ewet Offot was acquired by the state government in the 70s for the purpose of establishing Ewet Housing Estate, without compensation or any provision made for the resettlement of the displaced indigenes, not to talk of providing any reservations in the housing estate for the host community as done everywhere in the whole world.

"Our children, some as young as three years, travel several kilometres to attend primary schools in other communities like Anua, Eniong, Wellington Bassey Way, among others. The place that had been earmarked for a primary school was then taken over for the construction of a makeshift timber market.

"In recent days, we have lost about nine children who were knocked down by vehicles while walking long distances to attend primary schools in other communities."

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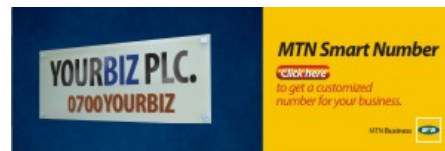
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