

By Tom Moses

**I**KPA TOWN—FOR the umpteenth time, the people of Ikpa community, Esit Eket Local Government Area, Akwa-Ibom State, have expressed worry over the state government's seeming lack of concern about the devastating gully erosion that had claimed nine lives, rendered thousands of villagers homeless and destroyed several houses.

They said two school children lost their lives to erosion, two weeks ago, while seven died earlier in the year when the rain started.

Investigation showed that people, mostly children lost their lives in the community, especially after the heavy rains, as surging floods, which had submerged the only link road, swept them into the hidden gully. Sometimes, the children unknowingly slip into the ravine.

### Urgent request

One of the residents, Mr. Enobong Bassey, who lost his house to the flood, urged Governor Udom Emmanuel to come to the aid of the people by mobilizing the contractor, Messers O. J. Asubop and Company Limited to complete the work abandoned midway due to lack of mobilization by the government.

Niger Delta Voice learned the community has sent two SOSs to Governor Emmanuel over the erosion. The one dated November 5 was entitled, "2nd SOS from the Adeng Gully Erosion Menace in Ikpa Town Ward-4 Urban, Esit Eket Local Government Area."

The villagers said: "Your Excellency, we were exceedingly glad when you detailed your Commissioner for Environment to inspect the gully erosion site to ascertain things for himself, but since that inspection in July 2015, we have not heard from the government again. The delay

by government to swing into action in this regard, has subjected the people of Ikpa Town Ward-4 to serious psychological trauma and untold threat of being completely eroded from the surface of the earth."

### Fresh death

"Recently, the monster struck again and killed two of our children, who were returning from school, thereby raising the number of deaths so far recorded to nine. Property worth billions of naira were destroyed and hundreds of people rendered homeless, as could be confirmed by the member representing Esit Eket State Constituency in the House

of Assembly, Hon. Usoro Akpan Uso, who visited the scene," they said.

They continued, "Your Excellency, with profound respect and humility, we tender our passionate prayers again for your earliest consideration and necessary action that the Adeng gully erosion contract which was abandoned due to financial constraints be revisited soon to forestall more untimely deaths of our people, destruction of lives and rendering our people homeless."

### Why work slowed down

The letter, signed by the chair, Ikpa Village Council, Elder Etim Eno and others, expressed

ago, when the youths of the community attacked him and destroyed his house on the allegation that he abandoned the contract to tackle the gully erosion, which destroyed people's houses and consumed seven lives.

### Commissioner assures on Gov Emmanuel

Asubop could not be reached for comments as at the time of filing this report, but Commissioner for Environment, Dr. Iniobong Essien, who spoke with the NDV sympathized with the people of Ikpa town on the calamity.

He said Governor Udom Emmanuel was aware of their plight and would address the situation once the rains were over.

## Buhari group commences anti-corruption crusade in A'lbom

By Chioma Onuegbu

**I**JYO—THE Buhari/

track the sensitization initiative.

He said, "The problem of

why the main objective of forming BOSC is to reach out to all the nooks and crannies

**EXTRA** **LIFE STYLE**