**ROYAL DECLARATION OF HIS MAJESTY, EDIDEM (APOSTLE) ETIMBUK S. AKPAN OKPOKPO, *PhD, MBA, FCIPAM,* EDIDEM AKWA IBOM OF FCT/CHAIRMAN, JOINT COUNCIL OF AKWA IBOM TRADITIONAL RULERS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA ON THE SOLEMN CEREMONY OF AKWA IBOM TRADITIONAL AND RELIGIOUS DAY FIESTA IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SILVER JUBILEE OF AKWA IBOM STATE AT THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA**

**ALL PROTOCOLS DULY OBSERVED WITH GREAT HONOUR,**

All glory, honour and worship be under the Almighty God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for evermore in Jesus Name – Amen.

Today marks a solemn watershed in our holy struggle as a Royal Race and People of the Almighty God towards the consolidation of our possessions and rights in the Federal Capital Territory of our nation Nigeria, to which we, Akwa Ibom people are co-equal owners with the rest of the 36 State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in consonance with the supreme law of our Country – our Constitution.

Today we are assembled hereto for a solemn ceremony of Akwa Ibom Traditional/Cultural and Religious fiesta to the Glory of the Almighty in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria. The creation of Akwa Ibom State for us – a core Jewish Race from the Northern Kingdom of Israel who migrated to Nigeria and became the first natives our present land of Akwa Ibom for ancient ages before the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ on earth, was indeed a generous answer to our Prayers by our God to which we will continue to celebrate and glorified God eternally. Akwa Ibom State is becoming 25 years and we the people of the Almighty God, who are also called by the Name of the Almighty God – Akwa Abasi Ibom State, herewith raise up our voices and proclaim with one accord – Halleluiah – Hosanna in Highest, blessed be the Name of the Lord God Almighty in Jesus Name – Amen.

Today, we are also assembled here for a sacred duty for the coronation and installation of Godly Traditional Rulers and Chiefs for Akwa Ibom people in the Federal Capital Territory. They offered themselves to serve, passed through the rigorous process of screening and were voted and elected as Traditional Rulers for Akwa Ibom People in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja of the various Area Councils and Districts/Villages. Others through exceptional acts of selfless service to their people and attainment of uncommon height have been found worthy of honor for Royal Traditional Chieftaincy. We salute their feats and pray for greater accomplishment with divine providence.

The Council of Akwa Ibom Traditional Rulers and Religious Leaders in the Federal Capital Territory herewith charge you by the enablement of the Almighty God; that you put on your Strength in Christ Jesus and rise up to secure and obtain all the rights and privileges of Akwa Ibom people in the Federal Capital Territory in consonance with the federal character provision enshrined in our extant Constitution.

There are various political positions in the FCT Administration, its Agencies and the Area Councils which ought to be filled in accordance with federal character principle as enshrined in Section 14(3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. These political positions/post include:

1. Political Aides to the Minister and Minister of State for the Federal Capital Territory;
2. Secretaries of the various Secretariats (equivalent of Commissioners in the States)
3. Chairmen, Members and Secretaries of the various Boards, Commissions, Authorities and Agencies in the FCT Administration
4. Heads of the Various Parastatals in the FCT Administration
5. Chairman and Members of the Judicial Service Committee of the FCT
6. Chief Judge and Judges of the High Court of the FCT
7. Chief Magistrates/Magistrates of the Magistrate Courts, Presidents of the Customary and Area Courts and the Registrars thereto and the Heads of others Courts;
8. Chairman and Members of the FCT Council of Chiefs (which ought to have at least one traditional Ruler/Chief from each State of the Federation);
9. Secretaries of the Area Councils in the FCT;
10. Supervisory Councillors in the Area Councils of the FCT;
11. Political Aides to the Chairmen of the FCT Area Councils
12. Chairmen and Secretaries of the various Committees in the FCT Administration, etc.

Akwa Ibom people and indeed the South-South geo-political zone in general are grossly under-represented in the FCT Administration both in the political and career positions. There is dire need for this situation to be corrected now. Rise up now and commence a campaign for correction of their cross cheating our of peope. The FCT Administration is part of the Federal Government of Nigeria in consonance with Section 297(2) and 298. Every Nigerian has co-equal rights in FCT as his/her home state, without any preferential or discriminatory treatment whatsoever in accordance with section 42(1) of our Constitution, 1999 (Amended).

Let us match forward to possess our possessions for it is written that wherever we step our foot upon has been given to us for a possession and our God is for ever faithful.

We thank the Almighty God for giving us a purposeful and outstandingly efficient Governor, His Excellency, Chief (Dr.) Godswill Obot Akpabio. May God Almighty bless him.

God bless Akwa Ibom State,

God bless Nigeria,

God bless the State of Israel.