

IbomPower

# NEWSLETTER

## ENGR. CAMILLUS UMOH ASSUMES LEADERSHIP AT IBOM POWER

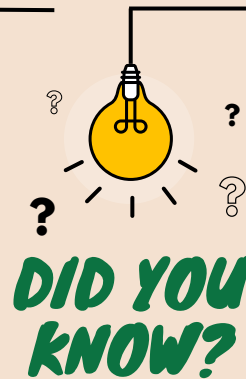
The Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Power, Engr. Camillus Essien Umoh has resumed overseeing the operations of the state-owned Ibom Power Company Limited, succeeding the former Managing Director, Engr. Meyen Etukudo. This is in line with the directive of the Governor of Akwa Ibom State, His Excellency, Pastor Umo Eno.

With the appointment of Engr. Camillus Umoh, who has about 24 years of experience at Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), a new era in the company's leadership begins. Upon his resumption at the office, Engr. Umoh expressed gratitude to the Governor, Pastor Umo Eno, for the opportunity to oversee the company at this time, as well as his predecessor, Engr. Etukudo, for the company's accomplishments during his leadership.

Engr. Camillus Essien Umoh completed his First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) in 1973. In 1979, he finished as the Best Graduating Student from Federal Government College in Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State. He attended the University of Benin from 1979 to 1984. In 2020, he obtained his MBA from the University of Port Harcourt Business School. He is a member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (MNSE).

*Photo: L-R: Former MD of Ibom Power, Engr. Meyen Etukudo handing over to the Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Power, Engr. Camillus Umoh at the Uyo Office of Ibom Power on Friday 15th November 2024*

In March 2022, the former Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Mr. Udom Emmanuel appointed Engr. Camillus Umoh into the State Executive Council as the Commissioner, Ministry of Trade & Investment. In July 2023, he was re-appointed by the Governor, Pastor Umo Eno as the Commissioner, Ministry of Power.



**In Ibom Power's 23-year history, this marks the third leadership transition, with three Managing Directors having served during this time.**



**Engr. Camillus Umoh**  
**Hon. Commissioner**  
**Ministry of Power**

## BRIEF PROFILE

Engr. Camillus Essien Umoh completed his First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) in 1973. In 1979, he finished as the Best Graduating Student from Federal Government College in Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State. He attended the University of Benin from 1979 to 1984, where he earned a Second-Class Upper Division in Civil Engineering and received the Chevron National University Scholarship from 1982 to 1984. In 2020, he obtained his MBA from the University of Port Harcourt Business School. He is a member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (MNSE).

During his 24 years of employment with Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) from 1993 to 2017, Engr. Umoh served as Principal Project Engineer, Senior HSE Engineer, and Nigerian Content Development Lead. He received numerous awards during his academic and professional career, including the award for Best Graduating Student, Federal Government College, Ikot Ekpene (1979); Chevron National University Scholarship (1982–1984); Shell Executive Vice President, EVP/A Prize for Development of Indigenous Dredging Capability

(2008); and Shell CEO's HSSE & SP Award for SPDC Contractor Financing Support (2014) to mention but a few.

Engineer Camillus Umoh has participated in several trainings and courses at home and abroad, including in South Korea, the Netherlands, and the United Arab Emirates. He is married with children.



*Photo: Former MD of Ibom Power, Engr. Meyen Etukudo flanked by Ibom Power's Management during the handing-over to the Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Power, Engr. Camillus Umoh on November 15th 2024*

## Editorial

### A NEW CHAPTER

Greetings and welcome to our highly informative newsletter for the month of November!

For the third time in the 23-year history of Ibom Power, the baton of leadership has changed hand - from the pioneering Managing Director, Mr. Gareth Wilcox (January 2001 - June 2014) to Dr. Victor Udo (June 2014 - July 2016), Engr. Meyen Etukudo (August 2016 - November 2024) and now Engr. Camillus Umoh. As he leads this new chapter in the fascinating story of the Ibom Power Company Limited, we extend a warm welcome to the Honourable Commissioner.

Akwa Ibom State's grid power supply has been restored after the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) fixed the problems along the Itu – Alaoji 132kV transmission line. It's another packed edition of Ibom Power Newsletter.

Enjoy it!

### About Ibom Power

Ibom Power is a 191 megawatts Independent Power Plant (IPP) owned by the Akwa Ibom State Government and situated in the Ikot Abasi local government area of Akwa Ibom State. It is a pioneer in the Nigerian power industry. Please visit [www.ibompower.com](http://www.ibompower.com) to learn more.

correspondence: [Michael.Dada@ibompower.com](mailto:Michael.Dada@ibompower.com)



**Michael Dada, anipr**

“Without change there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement.”  
WILLIAM POLLARD

## SUSTAINING POWER: AKWA IBOM STATE'S RESILIENCE AMID NIGERIA'S ELECTRICITY GRID COLLAPSES

PAUL OKON – CONVENER, IBOM ENERGY FORUM

In recent weeks, Nigeria has witnessed a disturbing trend of electricity grid collapses, with 11 incidents as of 7th November 2024 since the beginning of this year. These frequent nationwide blackouts have left millions of Nigerians in darkness, disrupting businesses, schools, healthcare, and daily routines. However, Akwa Ibom State has shown remarkable resilience during these times, largely due to a state-owned thermal power plant (Ibom Power Company). While Akwa Ibom State also experiences challenges with power supply like many other states, these grid collapses do not completely plunge it into darkness. The Ibom Power Plant can "island" its operations anytime there's grid instability, allowing it to continue supplying electricity within the Akwa Ibom complex, even during nationwide outages.

The ability to maintain electricity during grid collapses is a game-changer for Akwa Ibom State's economy, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and local businesses. Across Nigeria, SMEs frequently lose revenue due to power outages, often relying on costly diesel generators to sustain operations. In Akwa Ibom State, however, the resilience provided by Ibom Power's islanding capacity enables these businesses to operate with fewer interruptions, reducing costs and improving productivity. This reliability not only helps existing businesses stay afloat but also encourages new entrepreneurial ventures, as start-ups and small businesses benefit from lower operating costs in a region with more consistent electricity.

Akwa Ibom State's energy resilience makes it a highly attractive destination for industrial investment. Manufacturing firms, tech companies, and other energy-intensive industries all depend on stable, reliable electricity to function efficiently. Akwa Ibom's potential for uninterrupted power during grid failures presents a rare advantage in Nigeria's challenging power landscape, making it a prime location for industries looking to escape the uncertainty of the national grid.

**Akwa Ibom's ability to remain powered amidst Nigeria's frequent grid collapses is not merely a fortunate situation; it is the product of strategic investment and forward-thinking energy planning.**

While Akwa Ibom's grid independence during collapses is impressive, the state government must remain committed to sustaining and expanding this capacity. Continuous investment in infrastructure maintenance, skilled personnel, and efficient management is essential to ensure the thermal plant's reliable operation. Additionally, collaboration with policymakers, industry experts, and local stakeholders such as gas suppliers, consumers, etc. will be vital for addressing future energy challenges and ensuring that Akwa Ibom continues to lead by example in energy resilience and creating a conducive business environment for investors.

Akwa Ibom State's energy resilience makes it a highly attractive destination for industrial investment.

Manufacturing firms, tech companies, and other energy-intensive industries all depend on stable, reliable electricity to function efficiently. Akwa Ibom's potential for uninterrupted power during grid failures presents a rare advantage in Nigeria's challenging power landscape, making it a prime location for industries looking to escape the uncertainty of the national grid. Akwa Ibom's ability to remain powered amidst Nigeria's frequent grid collapses is not merely a fortunate situation; it is the product of strategic investment and forward-thinking energy planning. This resilience benefits residents, small businesses, and industries, making Akwa Ibom a beacon of opportunity in a country struggling with energy challenges.

By remaining committed to infrastructure development and fostering an investor-friendly environment, Akwa Ibom has the potential to emerge as a model of energy resilience in Nigeria and a key player in the nation's economic future. In a country where reliable electricity is still a privilege, Akwa Ibom's foresight in power independence demonstrates what's possible when stability and strategic planning are prioritized.

In conclusion, Akwa Ibom's ability to maintain power during national grid failures is the result of strategic planning and investment, providing a stable environment for business and improving the quality of life for its residents. With further infrastructure development, the state could become a model of energy resilience and a key player in Nigeria's economic future.





Participants from the Peer PR Conference 2024 with the Keynote Speaker/Company Secretary of Ibom Power (5th from the right) Barr. Ime Asibong at the NUJ Press Centre, Uyo Akwa Ibom State.

## BATTLING THE INFODEMIC: EXPERTS PROFFER STRATEGIES AGAINST MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

In an era where misinformation and disinformation spread rapidly, the stakes for effective crisis communication have never been higher thus, making experts devise means of combating the menace, which requires a multifaceted approach involving the media, legal frameworks, reputation management, and technological solutions.

At the Peer PR Conference organised by Master's students of the School of Media and Communication, Pan Atlantic University, the keynote speaker and Company Secretary of Ibom Power Company Limited, Barr. Ime Asibong highlighted legal and regulatory frameworks that can mitigate the spread of disinformation.

He said, "Section 39 of the 1999 constitution states that every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression including the freedom to hold opinion, receive and impart ideas and information without interference. That provides freedom of information but it is not absolute as it has been held in several cases that have come up for judicial interpretation - your rights stop where another person's rights begin".

The Editor of ThisDay on Saturday, Mr. Obinna Chimma stated that as the first line of defence in addressing misinformation, media organizations need to focus more on fact-checking and responsible reporting.

Mr. Chimma, a panelist at the conference, harped on the need for media practitioners to separate themselves from news reports. He said this is the only way to maintain objectivity. Even if the story is about someone you share some form of affiliation with, media practitioners must remove their biases from the news story and promote editorial independence to maintain objectivity. He also mentioned the need to invest in media literacy by educating the public on what they need to know and how to check against misinformation and disinformation.

**"Media practitioners must remove their biases from the news story and promote editorial independence to maintain objectivity".**

For organizations and public figures, reputation management is critical in a crisis fueled by false narratives. This is according to digital media and communication specialist, Keni Akintoye who said that "the structure of organizations needs to be wired such that it can withstand the challenges of corporate reputation management. The brand philosophy grows from the foundation of how information about your brand is treated by you and how it is received by your customers and society in general. How do you communicate? What is your tone as a brand – are you the humorous brand or the sage?

Are you the calm and collected or the playful brand? How Richard Branson, the founder of Virgin Atlantic, will communicate differs from how British Airways will communicate. The tone of the brand is part of the elements that help brands prepare for days of 'trouble'".

"We have Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, fact-checking organizations and then there are also web browser extensions, those are the three categories of Tech solutions, according to the founder of UK-based TechPR Africa and former Editor-in-Chief of TechCabal, Mr. Oluwaseun Oyeniyi who was also a panelist at the conference.

"For the AI tools, there is Bot Sentinel, which is the most prominent. It allows people to identify and track bots that are spreading misinformation on Twitter (now X). For browser extensions, News Guard helps to track the sources of online news to determine their relevance and credibility. A popular fact-checking organization is Africa Check", he concluded.

In summary, as misinformation and disinformation evolve, so must the strategies to address them. With a combination of media integrity, legal frameworks, proactive reputation management, and innovative technology, society can build more informed and resilient consumers of media messages.

Michael Dada, anipr