



**AN ADDRESS PRESENTED BY HIS EXCELLENCY,  
THE GOVERNOR OF CROSS RIVER STATE,  
SENATOR LIYEL IMOKE AT THE STATE AGENCY  
FOR THE CONTROL OF AIDS (SACA) LOCAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON  
AIDS (LACA) FORUM AT THE STATE LIBRARY COMPLEX ON  
TUESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE, 2008**

Your Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Cross  
River State, Barr. Efiok Cobham

Members of the State Executive Council here present

The Chairman of Occasion

The Director General of the State Agency on the Control of AIDS, Dr.  
(Mrs.) Irene Aniyom

Chairmen of Local Government Councils here present

Distinguished Resource Persons

SACA Coordinators

Participants at this Forum

Distinguished Invited Guests

Gentlemen of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted by your kind invitation as Special Guest to declare open this important SACCA/LACA forum holding here in Calabar.

This forum, which seeks to ensure synergy between the State Agency for the Control of AIDS achievements at the State level and the activities of the Local Action Committee on AIDS, would not have come at a better time than now, when we are doing everything possible to conquer the AIDS pandemic.

Let me therefore formally welcome all of you to this forum and urge you to avail yourselves of the golden opportunities offered here to get more acquainted with the control and eradication of AIDS.

Permit me to equally reiterate here the renewed resolve of this Administration to completely eradicate AIDS from every segment of our society in order to give our people a more secured sense of belonging. Health cannot be taken for granted and we are all desirous of a time when we shall be wholly free from the ravages of AIDS.

It was precisely for this reason that I approved the appointment of Civil Servants as coordinators on Local Action Committee on AIDS to ensure that disciplinary action can be taken against them in line with Civil Service Rules, should they misappropriate any funds at their disposal. Efforts must therefore be redoubled by coordinators to carry out their functions more effectively and in a result oriented manner.

In the same vein, let me re-emphasize that the sum of ~~N~~**200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira)** should continuously be released by Local Government Chairmen to the various Local Action Committees on AIDS in their localities. To ensure compliance, the Commissioner for Local Government must ensure that this sum is deducted at source and forwarded to the committees rather than the wives of the Local Government Chairmen.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, let me also commend the initiative of the Director General of the State Agency for the Control of AIDS and her entire staff for organizing this important forum. Let me also urge all the participants to pay attention to the knowledge that would be impacted here and make good use of it thereafter. I do

know that the Resource Persons have been carefully chosen and they shall live up to expectations.

It is my fervent hope that this interaction will provide opportunity for sharing experiences, exchanging ideas as well as reviewing the Local Action Committee on AIDS Work-Plan for the current year. The forum can only be said to be successful when its impact is felt in our communities by reducing stigma and discrimination and assisting more people to access HIV and AIDS services in our various localities.

While welcoming you once again to this event, it is my pleasure to declare this forum, officially open.

I thank you all.