**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE NSIMA UDO EKERE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY AND TO HONOR HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF NIGERIA.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to recognize Nsima Udo Ekere, a highly regarded entrepreneur and innovative thinker, who serves as the managing director of the Niger Delta Development Commission; and

Whereas, he earned a degree in estate management from the University of Nigeria in Nsukka in 1986, and since then, he has built successful businesses and garnered impressive national and international experience in real estate, urban and regional planning, oil and gas, power, and construction; and

Whereas, as the executive chairman of the Akwa Ibom Investment and Industrial Promotion Council, the state investment agency, from 2007 to 2012, Mr. Ekere conceived and implemented the first private sector gas‑to‑power project in Nigeria, an innovative strategy to convert natural gas into feedstock for power generation, as a public‑private partnership with the Akwa Ibom State Government; and

Whereas, he also served as the chairman of Ibom Power Company from 2008 to 2011, before having a short but impactful public service career as the deputy governor of Akwa Ibom State between May 2011 and October 2012; and

Whereas, with more than twenty‑seven years of public and private sector experience, nineteen of which were in top management positions as he worked cross‑functionally in a variety of challenging projects across various economic sectors, Mr. Ekere has developed areas of expertise that include construction, real estate development and property administration, power sector development, investment management, and oil and gas upstream development; and

Whereas, he is a fellow of the Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers; a registered member of Estate Surveyors and Valuers Registration Board of Nigeria; a Senior Certified Valuer of the International Real Estate Institute in Minnesota; and an associate member of the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation in London; and

Whereas, Mr. Ekere also developed and implemented a framework for state governments in Nigeria to undertake power distribution within their states. He worked with the Office of the Vice President and the National Council on Power and with the Governors of Cross River, Rivers, Bayelsa, and Akwa Ibom to create a special purpose vehicle, 4Power Limited, to assume responsibility for power distribution across the four states; and

Whereas, the founder and principal partner Ekere and Associates, a real estate firm with offices in the Nigerian cities of Abuja, Port Harcourt, and Uyo, he has founded a number of other businesses that have provided him opportunities for philanthropy, including major investments in human development through regularly awarding scholarships and educational grants; provision of potable water to rural communities in his Edemaya Clan, Ikot Abasi; and medical outreaches to rural communities; and

Whereas, Mr. Ekere and his siblings donated a state‑of‑the‑art Accident and Emergency Ward/Trauma Centre to the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital in 2012; and

Whereas, married to Mrs. Ese Ekere, he is a Knight of John Wesley of the Methodist Church Nigeria and the recipient of numerous honors and merit awards. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Nsima Udo Ekere, Managing Director of Niger Delta Development Commission, on his outstanding service to his country and honor his significant contributions to the prosperity and economic growth of Nigeria.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Nsima Udo Ekere.

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