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Daily InfoNews...

Daily News Bulletin is a daily publication of the Cross River State Ministry of Information and Orientation for the entertainment and Education of all Cross Riverians and the general public about the daily events, activities and programmes of government and the private sector operating in all parts of the State.



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CROSS RIVER STATE

VISION STATEMENT

To become a leading Nigerian State with prosperous, healthy and well educated citizens; living in harmony with people and nature, and pursuing legitimate interest in freedom moderated by good governance.

MINISTERIAL MANDATE

To project and protect the image of Government and act as Chief Image Maker/Spokesman for the State as well as supervision of the State Media Organisation.

VISION

To be the best organ of the State for the promotion of positive values, its image and overall endowment to Cross Riverians, Nigerians and the Diaspora.

Mission

To utilize in harmony all apparatus of government media to effectively disseminate information, educate and entertain the public, using the electronic, print media and interpersonal communication channels.

Gov Otu Bags Best Governor in Agriculture, Food Security

By Blessing Enagu



Governor Bassey Otu of Cross River State has been honored with the Best Governor in Agriculture and Food Security at the 2025 Africa Food Heroes Awards.

The event which held thursday at the Shehu Musa Yar'adua Center in Abuja was in recognition of Senator Otu's

administration's significant contributions to agricultural development and food security in Nigeria.

The award ceremony, organized by the Center for Agropreneurship and Green Economy, celebrated outstanding achievements in the agricultural sector across the continent.

Governor Otu's transformative efforts in improving agricultural practices and enhancing food security were key factors in his selection for this accolade.

Represented by Commissioner for Agriculture Hon. Johnson Ebokpo, the governor expressed gratitude to the organizers and

Nigerians who supported Governor Otu in the voting process.

"This award testifies to the hard work and dedication of our team in the Ministry of Agriculture, the agricultural cluster, and the entire government of Cross River State," Governor Otu stated.

He dedicated the award to the people of Cross River State, emphasizing the importance of their support in achieving this recognition, averring that the award would inspire his administration to further innovate within the agricultural sector and enhance its value chain.

"We are proud to have made significant progress

in ensuring food security in our state and contributing to the nation's agricultural development," he said.

Governor Otu reaffirmed his commitment to improving the lives of citizens through agriculture, stating that his administration would continue to create an enabling environment for farmers, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders in the agricultural sector.

Also honoured was the Executive Chairman of Ogoja Local Government Area, Hon. Chief Christopher Agbe in recognition of his exceptional strides in driving productivity in agriculture in rural areas.

Hon. Agbe emerged the Agro-Achiever of

the year in the "B" category of the awards which involved council Chairmen in Nigeria pushing the frontiers of food security in the Agriculture sector.

The Africa Food Heroes Awards is a renowned event that gathers key stakeholders in the agricultural sector to honor individuals and organizations making impactful contributions to food security and agricultural advancement in Africa.

This year's edition witnessed the participation of various dignitaries, including governors and ministers, all united in celebrating the progress and innovations within the agricultural field.

Gov Otu Reactivate, Digitalize Ministry Of Mineral Resources Zonal Offices

By David Akate



The Cross River State Government has reactivated and digitalized hitherto moribund Zonal Offices located in the three Senatorial Districts of the State .

The offices have been renovated, furnished with modern tables and chairs, provided with brand new motorcycles of high capacity and equipped with the latest digital tools including scanners

and GPS machines, as well as safety boots, helmets and rain boots.

Delivering the work tools at the various offices ,Ogoja and Ikom , the Commissioner for Mineral Resources,



Ntufam, Hon. Effiom-Ekaha Otu said that the revamping of the Zonal Offices was necessitated by the pragmatic zeal of the State Government to maximally explore the vast natural endowments across the State.

Ntufam Hon. Effiom-Ekaha Otu

said that the provision of office furniture as well as the installation of the digital tools was aimed at revamping the offices which had in the past laid fallow denying the desired contributions to the growth of the Ministry.

While commending the State Governor, Apostle Senator

Prince Bassey Edet Otu for his pragmatism as displayed in the approval of the project, the Commissioner was optimistic that the present office status would ginger the staff to put in their best for optimal productivity .

He emphasized that with the



digitalization of the Zonal Offices and the provision of motorcycles, officers were expected to explore and navigate areas under their jurisdiction to scan and identify natural minerals that abounds and report to the headquarters.

The officers were also expected to monitor mining activities and report promptly to his office for immediate actions.

He advised that on no account should the equipment be put to personal use so as not to attract the wrath of the State government.

In his comment, the

Technical Consultant to the Ministry of Mineral Resources, Dr. Otu Archibong commended the Governor for his magnanimity and the Commissioner, Mineral Resources Ntufam Hon Effiom-Ekaha Otu for his visionary approach to the mineral resource development in the State.



Dr Otu expressed confidence that with the modern equipment, exploration of mineral deposits would enhance a comprehensive geographic mapping that would ease investors choice of interest.

Receiving the

items, the Zonal Heads of Ogoja , Genesis Ogidi and that of Ikom, Victor Mgbе commended the Commissioner for revitalizing their offices which have for several years been neglected.

They promised to work had to justify the procurement of the electronic gadgets and the motorcycles which

would propel efficiency in carrying out their mandates promising not to let the Commissioner and the State down.



C'River Enhances Nutrition Awareness and Data Collection in Etung LG

By Iloke Egbe



A one-day stakeholders' sensitization training on Food and Nutrition Interventions and Data Collection for the N774 Federal Government program took place at Effraya, Etung Council Secretariat.

Opening the training, the Etung LG Council chairman, represented by

Vice Chairman Hon. Innocent Assam, emphasized the importance of collaboration among stakeholders given the multisectoral nature of food and nutrition interventions. He expressed gratitude to the resource persons for their commitment and assured that the Etung LG Council is prepared to support the Local

Government Committee on Food and Nutrition to excel in the state.

State Nutrition Officer Mrs. Nkem Eyong Ubana highlighted that following the launch of the N774 initiative in Nigeria, states are required to establish local wings. Cross River State has adopted the National Policy on Nutrition, with



the State Planning Commission responsible for coordinating the food and nutrition response.

Inaugurated on May 7, 2025, the Etung Local Government Committee on Food and Nutrition aims to ensure food sufficiency and proper nutrition for

vulnerable populations, including children under five and expectant mothers.

Top on the agenda during the interactive exercise was to Sensitize stakeholders about the N774 programme, highlighting the importance of data collection, Providing

orientation on the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition interventions and Reviewing the nutritional landscape in Cross River State and Etung Local Government Area.

C' River Organizes 2-Day Capacity Training for Newly Employed Engineers

By Monica Ogar



In a significant effort to enhance the professional skills of the State workforce, the Cross River State Government has organized a 2-day workshop for newly recruited engineers.

Held at the Conference Hall of the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure in

Calabar, the workshop focused on engineering culture, safety, and civil service ethics, aiming to foster a more robust engineering community in the state.

Declaring the workshop open, the Head of Service, Orok Bassey Okon, emphasized the need to instill a culture of safety and

ethical responsibility among engineers in the State Civil Service. He stated, "As professionals entrusted with the development of State infrastructure, it is crucial that you hone your technical skills while embracing the ethical framework that governs the Service."



He encouraged participants to fully engage in the training, highlighting that, despite their successes in the private sector, adherence to civil service ethics is paramount.

In his goodwill message, the Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Hon. Pius Ankpo Edet, expressed gratitude to Governor Sen.



Prince Bassey Edet Otu for addressing the long-standing manpower gap. He noted that the recruitment of engineers signifies the state's commitment to addressing its

infrastructure deficit.

Permanent Secretary Engineer Paul Bepeh highlighted that the training aims to bridge the gap between theory





and practice by exposing engineers to workplace safety standard operating procedures. He commended the Head of Service for prioritizing the training of public servants, emphasizing that capacity building is essential for effective service delivery.

Engineer Ada Oken, a participant, remarked that the training serves as a valuable reminder



of existing knowledge, and she is committed to applying the insights gained to promote safety and ethical

practices in her profession for the benefit of the State.

Ogoja Chair Named Agro-Achiever Of The Year At 2025 African Food Heroes Awards



The Executive Chairman of Ogoja Local Government Area, Hon. Christopher Agbeh, has been honoured with the prestigious Agro-Achiever of the Year Award at the 2025 Africa Food Heroes Awards.

The recognition

celebrates his exceptional contributions to advancing agricultural productivity and strengthening food security in rural communities.

The event, held at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Center, Abuja, brought together key stakeholders in Africa's

agricultural sector. Organized by the Center for Agropreneurship and Green Economy, the ceremony highlighted outstanding leaders and institutions driving innovation, sustainability, and growth within the continent's food



systems.

"This award testifies to the hard work and dedication of our team in the agricultural sector and the entire people of Ogoja Local Government Area," he said.

He noted the significant progress made by his administration in promoting food security and supporting agricultural innovation.

"We are proud

to have made meaningful contributions to the state's food sufficiency drive and to the nation's agricultural development."

Chief Agbeh also used the platform to highlight the recent setback faced by farmers in Ogoja following a devastating hurricane flood that destroyed millions of acres of rice farms. He appealed to the Federal Government for urgent intervention to cushion the losses

through support, relief materials, and essential farm inputs.

The Agro-Achiever Award positions Ogoja as a rising agricultural hub and confirms Chief Agbeh's commitment to boosting food production, empowering farmers, and fostering sustainable development within the local government area

Gov Otu's LG Commissioner, Idem, Honoured by Duke Royal House

By Mary Okon



The Cross River State Commissioner for Local Government Affairs, Chief Victor-Felix Idem, has been conferred with an Award of Excellence by the

prestigious Duke Royal House, Calabar, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to grassroots governance and community development.

The honour was presented during the House's week-long celebration held at the Duke Royal House Council Hall, 63 Goldie Street, Calabar. This year's festivities



were anchored on the theme, "Transforming Duke Royal House for Impactful and Sustainable Development."

Chief Idem, who attended the event in a dual capacity, represented the Secretary to the Government of

the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume, and his wife, Hon. Mrs. Regina Akume, both of whom were unavoidably absent.

Speaking on behalf of all awardees, Chief Idem expressed deep appreciation to the Duke Royal

House for the recognition. He described the honour as a motivation to continue delivering effective leadership in the Local Government Affairs sector.

"I am profoundly grateful for this award. It



reinforces our commitment to strengthening grassroots administration and ensuring meaningful development reaches every community," he said.

The Commissioner further assured that he remains dedicated to



actualizing the mandate of his ministry while fostering stronger partnerships with

traditional institutions and community stakeholders.

Cross River Hosts First-Ever National Council on Health as Gov Otu Reaffirms Commitment to UHC

By Kingsley Agim



Cross River State on Monday welcomed delegates from across the country to the 66th Regular Session of the National Council on Health (NCH), marking the first time the nation's

highest health policy-making body is convening in the state. The five-day event is holding at the Calabar International Convention Centre (CICC).

Declaring the Council open,

Governor Bassey Otu, represented by his Deputy, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, described the hosting of the NCH as a significant honour for Cross River. He stated that the gathering carries immense implications for the



Renewed Hope Agenda and Nigeria's collective pursuit of a stronger, more equitable health system.

Delivering the Governor's message, he emphasized that the Council underscores the shared responsibility to protect the health and well-being of

all Nigerians, noting that its resolutions require the full attention and commitment of every stakeholder.

Held under the theme "My Health, My Right: Accelerating Universal Health Coverage through Equity, Resilience, and Innovation," the 66th NCH seeks to drive Nigeria's progress toward Universal Health

Coverage (UHC) by strengthening primary healthcare, expanding equitable access, and reducing financial barriers, especially for vulnerable populations.

Governor Otu highlighted major achievements recorded in the state. He disclosed that Cross River has renovated and equipped more



than 100 primary healthcare centres across all 18 LGAs, with support from the World Bank IMPACT Project, the Basic Health Care Provision Fund, the state government, and development partners. He also noted that the state's Primary Healthcare-Based Health Palliative Programme is currently targeting

pregnant women in rural communities, children under five, and elderly persons over 70.

The Governor reaffirmed that the state has fully implemented the Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS) for doctors and is currently constructing a modern general hospital in Ikom. He

added that the state is recruiting additional health workers and scaling up training programmes to improve service delivery. He also announced the establishment of four Colleges of Nursing to ensure a sustained pipeline of mid-level health professionals, and the creation of the Drug and Health Commodities Management



Agency to regulate medicine prices and improve access to essential health commodities. These reforms, he said, reflect his administration's unwavering commitment to transforming healthcare delivery and building a healthier, more prosperous Cross River State.

Speaking earlier, the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Muhammad Ali Pate, expressed deep appreciation to the Government and people of Cross River for what he described as exceptional hospitality. He noted that this year's NCH is taking place at a critical moment, two years after the

adoption of landmark reforms aimed at strengthening primary healthcare, expanding health insurance coverage, improving supply chains, modernizing hospitals, enhancing health security, and accelerating digital transformation.



Prof. Pate announced major federal strides that demonstrate the administration's renewed prioritization of health. These include the release of ₦68 billion for vaccine financing, already credited to the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, and ₦50 billion deployed to clear outstanding

arrears owed to health workers. He also disclosed that the Federal Government is working to increase health's share of the national budget by at least 0.6% in 2026, targeting a minimum of 6% of total federal expenditure, and urged states to raise their own health budgets by a minimum of 1% above 2025 allocations.

The Minister reported improvements in health outcomes nationwide, including reduced maternal mortality, increased access to essential services, and strengthened public confidence in the sector. He emphasized that current federal investments are ring-fenced to bolster frontline services, maintain

vaccine availability, secure reproductive health commodities, and equip hospitals and primary healthcare centres with tools required for effective service delivery.

The Minister of State for Health, Dr. Iziaq Adekunle Salako, said the NCH continues to provide a vital platform for advancing national conversations on quality of care, health financing, and Universal Health Coverage. He stressed that UHC is not merely about statistics, but about ensuring women receive skilled birth care, children get immunised, and families are protected from catastrophic health spending.

He noted that health insurance coverage has risen from 3% in 2019 to 17% in 2024, with over 20 million Nigerians now enrolled, and commended several states, including Cross River, for strong performances in PHC revitalisation and digital health innovation. He called for faster implementation of mandatory health insurance laws across all states, stronger funding for PHCs, innovative financing (including sin taxes and PPPs), and increased local production of medical supplies. Dr. Salako also appealed to striking health workers to return to duty in the national interest, reiterating that progress toward UHC demands equity, resilience, innovation, and collective effort.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Cross River State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, warmly acknowledged the presence of the Governor, represented by the Deputy Governor, as well as the Coordinating Minister of Health, the Minister of State, Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries, and other dignitaries. He assured delegates that the state government had put in place a fully enabling environment for a successful Council meeting, adding that Cross River was committed to ensuring that every participant enjoyed a comfortable and memorable stay in Calabar.

Dr. Ayuk encouraged guests to explore the city's rich culture and hospitality and thanked development partners, the WHO, Commissioners of Health, and all stakeholders for their unwavering commitment to improving health outcomes nationwide. He wished all delegates productive deliberations and a successful 66th National Council on Health.

In her vote of thanks, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Daju Kachallom, described this year's NCH as exceptional. She said the

deliberations over two days were frank, rigorous, and energised, reflecting a deep commitment to building a stronger and more resilient health system.

She expressed profound gratitude to the Government and people of Cross River State, noting that hosting an event of this scale required remarkable coordination and dedication. She commended Governor Otu for the warmth, hospitality, and preparedness that ensured the entire health sector community was well received in Calabar. She also acknowledged the Obong of Calabar for his support and the enduring relevance of traditional institutions in public health advocacy.

The Permanent Secretary praised the Ministers, Commissioners for Health, Permanent Secretaries, Directors, Heads of Agencies, and development partners for their depth, honesty, and forward-looking contributions. She further commended Sokoto, Jigawa, Zamfara, Taraba, Delta, FCT, Plateau, and Ekiti States for excelling in the implementation of the 65th NCH resolutions, saying their progress demonstrates what is achievable when political will aligns with competence.

C'River Commissions First Creche at New Secretariat Complex

By Iloke Egbe



The Cross River State Government has commissioned its first Creche Centre at the new Secretariat Complex in Calabar, encouraging nursing mothers among civil servants to utilize the facility, established by the people's first governor.

Speaking during

the commissioning, Dr. Uju Awukah, Special Assistant to the President on Public Health and Nutrition, expressed her enthusiasm to the Executive Governor, emphasizing that the approval of the creche demonstrates the government's commitment to its promises.

"This is the kind of leadership that Nigeria needs," she

stated, praising the initiative for fostering accountability and financing in public projects.

Dr. Awukah thanked Pastor Dr. Bong Duke, Vice Chair and CEO of SPC, for his role in coordinating nutrition activities in the state. She noted that the presence of key stakeholders indicates a



commitment to fulfilling requests made during the establishment of the creche.

The Head of Service, Barr. Orok Bassey Okon, highlighted that this facility complements the state's six-month paid maternity

leave, allowing mothers to care for their children while working.

Mrs. Nkem Eyong Ubana, State Nutrition Officer, mentioned that funds for the creche were provided by the state government, with efforts coordinated

by Pastor Dr. Duke.

The event was attended by various dignitaries, including the Permanent Secretary of the Public Service Office, Mrs. Glory Udo-Oji, and other key officials.



Ahead Of 2027: Cross River State Commission Commissioners' Forum Declare Support For Gov Bassey Otu Ahead

...ADVOCATE FOR UNIFORM SALARY STRUCTURE, IMPROVED WELFARE PACKAGE FOR COMMISSIONERS



State government appointees under the aegis of Cross River State Commission Commissioners Forum (CRSCCF), have declared support for the Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu ahead of 2027, commending his inclusive and proactive leadership style.

The endorsement was communicated during a courtesy call on the Chief of Staff, Chief Dr. Emmanuel Ironbar, by the leadership of the forum.

Speaking during the visit, the Chairman Hon. Friday Ntaji (Commissioner 3 Civil Service Commission), conveyed sincere gratitude to the

governor, for the appointing them to serve. He further disclosed that the forum and entire membership, is deeply committed to the second term of the governor promising that they will go all out, to mobilize for the success of the 2027.

The forum presented a three (3) point Agenda through the Chief of staff to the Governor as follows;

- Salary Disparity
- Mobility to all commission commissioners and
- Welfare

The forum further



commended Governor Otu for his people-first policy thrust which has rapidly transformed the state's infrastructural landscape, while calling on Cross Riverians to give maximum support to the Governor Otu led administration to enable him succeed.

In his response, the Chief of Staff thanked the commissioners for coming together under an umbrella body and the show of solidarity to the governor, charging them to continue in

that team spirit. He stated that projects are ongoing across the three senatorial districts that must be supported, while urging them to be patient and continually pray for the return of the 76 oil wells to the state which will ultimately improved the economy and livelihoods for all Cross Riverians.

Dr. Mrs Mary Julius, on behalf of the team, thanked the Chief of Staff for the warm reception and for giving them adequate audience. The visit climaxed with the presentation of a

portrait which was done by Mr James Bulem and Evang. Hon. Dr. Margaret Inde (Commissioner, Programme and Events Development in the Diaspora Commission), who also doubles as the acting Secretary and Publicity Secretary of the forum.

Christ The King Celebration, Unique To Christians

Sunday 23, 2025 was Christ the King.



A day set aside by the Catholic Church to commemorate Jesus Christ as the Universal King. The kingship of Jesus Christ which was predicted and

fulfilled in the Bible as recorded in several chapters portent the magnitude of God's love and mercy for mankind.

For the Catholic faithful, the

celebration which marks the end of the liturgical year elucidate the true presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and the worthiness of adoration.



At the St Anthony of Padua Quasi Parish, Basin Satellite Town, the officiating and Priest -in- Charge, Rev Fr Emmanuel Bassey processed along some streets of the town with the Monstrance accompanied by the parishioners who were adorned with multiple

uniforms representing the various organisations in the church.

In a sermon during Mass, Rev Fr Emmanuel Bassey x-rayed the essence of the celebration describing the event as unique and fundamental to the Catholic faith as it

relates to the strong believe in the actual presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

He said that the Universal King came with the purpose of instilling peace, forgiveness and love for God and mankind in the world.



The Priest charged the congregants to cascade the spirit behind the celebration into their families by trusting in God, instituting and sustaining peace as well as forgiveness.

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Bassey emphasized that every Catholic should be disposed to the the Eucharist which is the guarantee for eternal life.







C'River Assembly Urges State Gov't to Relocate Calabar Suya Arcade to Zoo Garden

By Itam Offor



The Cross River State House of Assembly has called on the State Government to urgently relocate the Calabar Suya Arcade from Bogobri to the Zoo Garden, citing

congestion, health concerns, and the need for a more organized business environment.

The motion, sponsored by Hon. Stanley Nsemo, member representing Calabar

Municipality, received the unanimous support of all members of the House.

Presenting the motion, Hon. Nsemo recalled that the Calabar Suya Arcade was established during the administration of former Governor Liyel Imoke as part of efforts to strengthen the state's image as a leading tourism hub. The arcade was created as a central point where suya vendors could operate in an organized setting while maintaining Calabar's reputation as one of Nigeria's cleanest and

greenest cities.

He noted that the arcade has, over the years, helped regulate indiscriminate suya-selling activities across the metropolis, serving both residents and tourists who frequent the popular spot.

However, Hon. Nsemo raised concerns about the rapid increase in the number of vendors and visitors, which has led to congestion and obstructed traffic flow in the area. He added that the environment has deteriorated due to the lack of sufficient space and proper waste-disposal channels, making the location increasingly unsafe and unhygienic.

Members agreed that relocating the arcade to the Zoo Garden would provide a more spacious and suitable environment for vendors and customers. The proposed site also offers adequate parking space, which is currently lacking at the Bogobri location.

After deliberations, the House resolved that the State Government should, as a matter of urgency, relocate the Calabar Suya Arcade to the Zoo Garden to ensure better organization, improved hygiene, and a safer commercial atmosphere for both sellers and patrons.

In his remark, the Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayambem,

commended the initiative, describing the motion as timely and essential for ensuring a cleaner, safer, and more organized Calabar. He noted that the Suya Arcade has served the city well over the years, but the current challenges demand proactive action to protect public health, strengthen security, and enhance the state's tourism appeal.

He emphasized that relocating the arcade to the Zoo Garden would not only improve traffic flow and sanitation but also provide a more secure and conducive environment for businesses to thrive.

C'River Distributes Solar Home Energy Systems in Odukpani LG

By Margaret Ita



The Cross River State Government has extended its rural electrification drive to Odukpani Local Government Area with the distribution of Solar Home Energy Systems to residents.

Governor Bassey Otu, who was represented at the

event by the Director-General of the State Electrification Agency, Hon. Francis Ekpo, reaffirmed his commitment to his people First Mantra Agenda.

He emphasized that the administration remains proactive in ensuring that rural communities across all local government

areas benefit from state projects and development initiatives.

On his part, the Chairman of Odukpani Local Government, Hon. Etim Asido, represented by the Council Secretary, commended the Governor for his continued investment in rural



development.

He stated that the people of Odukpani stand firmly with the Governor's agenda. We appreciate this

gesture, as it brings light, hope, and development closer to our communities.

The distribution exercise marks another milestone in

the Governor's ongoing efforts to expand access to clean and reliable energy in rural parts of the state.

NACA DG lauds Gov Otu 's HIV Response efforts ..as FG site three Oxygen Plants in the State

By Nakanda Iyadim



Director-General of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), Dr. Temitope Ilori, , has lauded Cross River State Governor Bassey Otu for his strategic initiatives in combating HIV/AIDS in the

State.

The DG gave the commendation during an interactive meeting with Implementing Partners, Civil Society Organizations, and other stakeholders held at the Cross River State Agency for the Control of

AIDS (CR-SACA) in Calabar.

Dr. Ilori expressed appreciation for the integration of individuals living with HIV/AIDS into the State's Health Insurance Scheme but emphasized that the local production of ARVs must adhere to



proper certification standards.

She stated, "We are pleased with Governor Otu's relentless efforts in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, especially his policy to include people living with AIDS in the Health Insurance Scheme, which provides them a sense of belonging."

She also acknowledged the

contributions of the Governor's wife, Bishop Eyoanwan Otu and Dr. Charles Iwara, DG of CR-SACA, highlighting their collective impact on infrastructure and response activities.

In response to funding cuts, she disclosed that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu had approved USD 200 million to maintain service continuity for essential health commodities, adding

that with global support, NACA has established an operational 10,000-liter oxygen plant at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital with three other plants sited in Ikom and Ogoja to ensure that the State is fully covered for all forms of emergency situations.

Dr. Ilori also announced plans by the Federal Government to



produce ARVs and other essential commodities locally by early 2026, ensuring sustainability in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The DG disclosed that the World AIDS Day 2025 will focus on sustaining national responses amid disruptions, reinforcing the need for government investment at all levels.

Earlier, in his welcome, the Director-General, Cross River State Agency for the Control of AIDS (CR-SACA), expressed gratitude to the Federal Government for its contributions to mitigate the impact of dwindling funds.

He assured the NACA DG that the Governor Bassey Otu-led administration is working tirelessly to ensure that citizens

receive care and treatment, with the goal of eliminating new infections.

While calling on the Federal Government to support the State with commodity provisions, the DG also thanked Implementing Partners (IPs) for their steadfast support and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Faith-Based Organizations



(FBOs) for their partnership and collaboration, which has made Cross River State a safer place in the pursuit of zero new infections by 2030.

Also speaking on behalf of Implementing partners, State Coordinator of the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS),

Mr. Uwana acknowledged the supportive environment created by the State, noting their operations in 64 facilities and reaching over 38,000 individuals with treatment.

The DG later performed a symbolic inauguration of a condom dispenser unit mounted at the entrance of CR-SACA

which is also strategically placed across the metropolis and urged the target population to utilize the free services which she noted is part of effort to prevent the spread of HIV in the State.



GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PRESS SECRETARY/SPECIAL ADVISER
MEDIA AND PUBLICITY TO THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE

November 19, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Gov Otu makes fresh appointments into Boards

His Excellency, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, has approved the appointment of distinguished professionals into the boards and management teams of the State Road Fund and the Rural Access Road Authority. Governor Otu's action fulfils key conditions precedent for Cross River State's participation in the World Bank RAAMP Scale-Up Project.

These appointments, drawn from critical sectors including engineering, agriculture, finance, transport, civil society, and traditional institutions, further demonstrate the Governor's commitment to strengthening institutional capacity for transformative rural infrastructure delivery and enhanced agricultural market access across the state.

STATE ROAD FUND – Nominees

1. Mr. Kelly Ayamba – CALCCIMA (Chairman)
2. Mr. Paul Akongwube Ushie – Ministry of Transport
3. Enang Paul Iwara – Ministry of Finance
4. Mr. Pius Edet – Ministry of Works
5. Francis Peters – Board of Internal Revenue
6. Hon. Yibala Inyang – ALGON
7. Hon. Uchuode Marcellinus Ebi – All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN)
8. Prince Sunday Ndor Odey – Organised Transport Union
9. Barr. Etim Inyang – Nigeria Bar Association
10. Obase Okanke Ofem Willie – Civil Society Organization



11. Engr. Bepaye Adie – Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE)
12. Engr. Okon Edem Inyang – State Road Fund (Director General/Secretary)

RURAL ACCESS ROAD AUTHORITY – Nominees

1. Engr. Felix Archibong – Nigerian Society of Engineers (Chairman)
2. Engr. Desmond Ewa – Ministry of Works
3. Dr. Hippolatus Lukpata – Ministry of International Donor Coordination
4. Dr. Bong Duke – State Planning Commission
5. Hon. Effiom Bassey – ALGON
6. Chief Sylvester Abila – AFAN
7. Pastor Edet E. Umoh – Organised Transport Union
8. HRH Chief Mrs. Henrietta Effa – CRS Traditional Rulers Council
9. Barr. Williams Itorok – Civil Society Organization
10. Mr. David Etim – CALCCIMA
11. Elder Odey Joseph Ikongha – Ministry of Agriculture
12. Chief Dr. Henry Igelle Onwe – CRS-RAAMP (Director General/Secretary)



Linus Obogo

Chief Press Secretary/Special Adviser on Media and Publicity



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

<https://www.crossriverstate.gov.ng> ■ Email: commissioner@moi.cr.gov.ng

Our Ref: CR/MOI/AD/162/Vol.IV/741

4th November, 2025

PRESS STATEMENT

ILLEGAL OPERATIONS OF LOTTERY AND GAMING BUSINESSES IN CROSS RIVER STATE

The attention of the Government of Cross River State has been drawn to the illegal and deceptive operations of some Lotteries and Gaming Companies and Organisations in Cross River State without proper registration and authorisation from the Cross River State Lotteries and Gaming Agency established by Law No 3. of 2024.

These illicit operations being perpetrated by some Lotteries and Gaming businesses, both those with physical office addresses and those operating online, are a flagrant violations of the Supreme Court Judgement of 22nd November, 2024 which nullified the National Lotteries Act 145 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2005 and vested the regulatory powers over Lotteries and Gaming businesses on States of the Federation of Nigeria.

The Government of Cross River State wishes to restate categorically here that by the Cross River State Lotteries and Gaming Law assented to by His Excellency, Governor Bassey Edet Otu on the 12th of May, 2025, only the Cross River State Lotteries and Gaming Agency is vested with powers to issue Licences and regulate Lotteries and Gaming businesses and Services in any part of the State, be it a physical office or online.

For the avoidance of any doubt, these Lotteries and Gaming activities include Online Sports Betting, Casino Games, Public Online Lotteries, Pools Betting, Raffle Draws, Scratch Cards, Interactive Games and any other game of chance where a stake and potential winning is involved.

Government hereby enjoins all Radio and Television Stations operating in the State to please liaise effectively with the Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON), the Cross River State Signage and Advertising Agency (CRISSAA) to demand for the Agency's Operational Permit before accepting to publicize their businesses on air as paid advertisements.

Finally, the Government sincerely appreciates and thanks all Lotteries and Gaming Companies and Organisations that have complied with the Law and solicits the understanding and cooperation of all concerned while also making it clear that violators/defaulters shall face the full wrath of the law.

**Thank you all as you continue to
"Think Cross River State", please.**

Erasmus Ekpang Ph.D., anipr, Rifu
Commissioner for Information.

For more details and compliance, contact:

The Director General
CRS Lotteries and Gaming Agency,
5E, Abang Odok Ogar Close, Off Mekenge Layout, Marian Road,
Calabar. **07070967372**
www.lotteryandgaming.crossriverstate.gov.ng/contact

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Cross River State

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.....Land Management and Beyond.....

30th October 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

CROSS RIVER GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AGENCY (CRGIA), INVITATION FOR FIRST PHASE OF RECORDS UPDATE AND OBTAINING OF CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY WITHIN THE SOUTHERN SENATORIAL DISTRICT

The **Cross River Geographic Information Agency (CRGIA)** is the primary agency tasked with land management in the State. The end point of all transactions on Government Land across the State is a Certificate of Occupancy signed by the Governor of Cross River State. In line with this, CRGIA invites all allottees of Government Land across the Southern Senatorial District to update their records with the State Government and obtain or Recertify their Certificate's of Occupancy

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

Participants are advised to take advantage of this exercise to

- Obtain Certificates of Occupancy (for those who were previously not issued)
- Recertify and obtain the new digital, bankable and tamper-proof C of O
- Resolve Conflicting Ownership Records
- Avoid Encumbrance and Encroachment
- Avoid Cancellation of Allocation or Revocation of C of O

Cross River State Geographic Information Agency (CRGIA)

Murtala Muhammed Highway, Opposite Metropolitan Hotel
Calabar, Cross River State

Tel: 234-464068, 234-8035238992, 234-08139716652

Website: www.crgia.crossriversstate.gov.ng E-mail: info@crgia.crossriversstate.gov.ng

EXERCISE DATES

The Records Update Exercise will take place from **1st November 2025** to **19th December 2025**.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Bring any supporting documents related to your land transactions in Cross River State, including but not limited to:

- Allocation letters
- Survey Plans
- Receipts
- Agreements
- Other relevant documents

VENUE

Visit Counter 5, CRGIA Office, Opposite Metropolitan Hotel, Calabar.

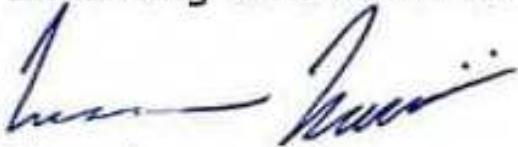
CALL OUR OFFICAL LINES

0707 469 3423

0707 469 3424

CROSS RIVER GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AGENCY (CRGIA)*

Enhancing Land Administration in Cross River State



Signed:

Director Operations

For: Director General

Cross River Geographic Information Agency.

Tips on Safe Speed Practices

1. OBEY SPEED LIMITS – THEY ARE SET FOR YOUR SAFETY.

2. ADJUST SPEED TO CONDITIONS

3. KEEP SAFE DISTANCE

4. AVOID OVERSPEEDING

5. KNOW YOUR VEHICLE SPEED LIMITS

6. WATCH OUT IN BUILT-UP AREAS

7. USE ENGINE BRAKING ON SLOPES

8. BE CAUTIOUS ON CURVES



13TH
DECEMBER 2025
5:PM

CROSS RIVER STATE **DIASPORA DAY & AWARDS** *Celebration*

 Channel View Hotels, Calabar

FOR REGISTRATION:

<https://forms.gle/ucmnetFMezBa5kLy9>



HER EXCELLENCY
BISHOP DR. (Mrs) Eyoanwan Bassey Otu
WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR OF CROSS RIVER STATE

HIS EXCELLENCY
SEN. PRINCE BASSEY EDET OTU
GOVERNOR OF CROSS RIVER STATE



STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

- 1** Obtain an Application Form at CRGIA's Office, Old Secretariat Road, Off Murtala Mohammed Highway, Calabar, Cross River State
- 2** Submit Application Form with Required Documents
Fill and submit the form along with necessary documents, e.g. Registered Title Document, survey plan, identification, etc.
- 3** Assessment and Payment of Fees.
The office will assess applicable charges, registration fees, processing fees, etc. Make the required payment.
- 4** Inspection and Publication (for private land)
Property is inspected by LUAC officials
Notice of application is published for 21 days to allow for objections.
After clearance, Governor's Approval in Principle is obtained.
- 5** C of O (Certificate of Occupancy) Engrossment and Signing
The Certificate of Occupancy is prepared (engrossed) and signed by the Governor or delegated authority.
- 6** Registration and Delivery
Final registration is completed at the Lands Registry.
Registered documents are delivered to the applicant (client).

NATIONWIDE CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (CVR)



Register to Vote

**ONLINE PRE-REGISTRATION
STARTS ON 18TH AUGUST, 2025**
www.cvr.inecnigeria.org

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STARTS ON 25TH AUGUST, 2025**

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Nearest to You*



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**Replace your lost or
damaged PVC**

No Multiple Registration



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www.inecnews.com

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09050858649

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**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— FRSC —

CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND