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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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Contents

- FG APPROVES BAKASSI DEEP SEAPORT, \$2.27 BN. PAGE 3**
- ARMED FORCES REMEMBRANCE DAY: GOV. OTU DONATES N20M PAGE 5**
- GOV. OTU DECLARES FG-WORLD BANK 2-DAY BLUE ECONOMY UPSKILLING PROGRAMME OPEN IN CROSS RIVER PAGE 45**
- CROSS RIVER NIPR NEW EXCO BEGINS TENURE, HOLDS ONE DAY RETREAT, 1ST GENERAL MEETING; AS OKACHE HANDS OVER PAGE 51**
- GOV OTU UNVEILS ELDERS ADVISORY COUNCIL TO STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE IN CROSS RIVER PAGE 14**
- CRS MINISTRY OF JUSTICE PARTNERS WITH LAW CREST LLP FOR HIGH-IMPACT TRAINING ON PUBLIC LAW PRACTICE PAGE 20**
- CROSS RIVER, PRESCO SIGN MOU TO REVITALIZE BOKI, NSADOP OIL PALM ESTATES PAGE 26**
- 2026 BUDGET DEFENCE: LAWMAKERS HAIL MOI ON EFFECTIVE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION PAGE 30**
- CROSS RIVER INFORMATION COMMISSIONER VISITS CALABAR CENTRAL MOSQUE, REAFFIRMS STATE'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND SECURITY PAGE 36**



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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.

FG Approves Bakassi Deep Seaport, \$2.27 bn. //



THE PRESIDENCY



The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved three major transformative Public–Private Partnership (PPP) projects, unlocking over ₦6.43 trillion (approximately \$4.29 billion) in private capital investment for the Nigerian economy.

Among the

flagship approvals is the Bakassi Deep Seaport, a strategic maritime infrastructure project expected to attract about \$2.27 billion in private investment.

Speaking on the approval, the Director-General of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), Dr. Jobson

Osedion Ewalefoh, described the project as a game-changer for Nigeria's maritime and logistics ecosystem.

"The Bakassi Deep Seaport will serve as a new maritime gateway for Nigeria's North-Central and North-East regions, while also functioning as a major logistics



hub for West and Central Africa.

It is a greenfield development designed to accommodate large vessels and integrated with an industrial cluster and a Free Trade Zone. The project will create thousands of jobs and position Nigeria as a preferred maritime destination," he

stated.

The approval of the Bakassi Deep Seaport under the PPP framework underscores the Federal Government's commitment to infrastructure-led economic growth, regional trade expansion, and private-sector-driven development.

It is also

noteworthy that during his campaign tour of Cross River State, Mr. President promised to revisit the Calabar Deep Seaport project—a commitment now taking concrete shape through this strategic.

Armed Forces Remembrance Day: Gov. Otu Donates N20m

...directs government officials, residents to wear emblems throughout the remembrance period



The Governor of Cross River State, Senator (Prince) Bassey Otu has donated the sum of N20 million to support the 2026 Armed Forces Remembrance Day emblem appeal

fund, reaffirming his administration's commitment to strengthening security and honouring the sacrifices of Nigeria's fallen heroes.

Speaking during the launch of the 2026

Armed Forces Remembrance Day emblem at the Women Development Centre, Calabar, on Friday, Governor Bassey Otu, represented by his deputy, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey praised

the dedication of the military, paramilitary, Police, DSS, and other security agencies in protecting the state and the nation, as well as those who paid the ultimate price for national unity and peace.

Odey noted that the unwavering commitment and resilience of security personnel have made Cross River "the safest state in Nigeria," adding that the administration's achievements in security would not have been possible without their cooperation and professionalism. He emphasized that peace and security remain the foundation upon which meaningful growth and development are built.



He further highlighted recent gains recorded by the security agencies, including the apprehension of a dreaded kidnap kingpin, the rescue of kidnap victims, the arrest of bandits, improvements in

joint operations, and strengthened maritime security.

The Deputy Governor further announced that, as a mark of honour and respect for members of the armed forces, both fallen and serving,



all civil servants and political appointees in the state are directed to wear the Remembrance emblem throughout the period.

Earlier, the Commissioner for Social Welfare and Community

Development, Archbishop (Prof.) Margaret Ene-Ita, welcomed participants and described the event as a celebration of the courage and patriotism of the Nigerian Armed Forces. She noted that the emblem launch reaffirms collective gratitude

and responsibility and highlighted the governor's special fundraising initiative to support veterans, widows, and their children. She appealed to philanthropists, development partners, corporate bodies, and government organisations to



support the cause.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the Nigerian Legion, Cross River State Council, Comr. Daniel Ojugbo, said the event seeks to honour and raise funds for the welfare of veterans and families of fallen heroes. He described the emblem as a

symbol of remembrance and hope for a peaceful future.

He noted that the Armed Forces Remembrance Day is marked annually on January 15 and commended the Governor for his unwavering support toward hosting the event and for the assistance given to

the Legion since he assumed office.

The highlight of the ceremony was the formal launch and donations, followed by the decoration of the Deputy Governor by the Chairman of the Nigerian Legion.











MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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12th December, 2025

PRESS STATEMENT

**DESTRUCTION/STEALING OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY CRIMINAL
AND UNSCRUPULOUS ELEMENTS**

The Government of Cross River State has observed with dismay and total disappointment the inordinate stealing and destruction of Public Utilities recently installed by the "People First" administration of His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu for use by members of the Public, especially in this Yuletide Season of Sweetness.

These unscrupulous and criminal elements are surreptitiously destroying and vandalizing Solar Light Installations, Christmas Lights installed to light up the Calabar City Centre in the Spirit of Yuletide Season while some have taken their destructive tendencies too far by stealing Port-Harcourt Electricity Distribution Company's Meters, thereby obstructing Power Supply in some parts of the Calabar Metropolis. The Government in very strong terms, condemns these unwholesome trends which it should be noted, are alien to the Culture and tradition of our people. Besides, these destructive activities totally negate the robust infrastructural development of the State in line with the "People First" Agenda of Governor Otu, who is putting in place all these social amenities and facilities for use by the populace.

Accordingly, the Government has raised the RED FLAG and hereby directs all Security apparatus in the State to beam their search light on these criminal elements and miscreants with a view to arresting them to face the full weight of the Law. Government further directs the Special Adviser on Public Utilities and his team that have the mandate to protect, secure and provide services to collaborate with all relevant Government MDAs to embark on massive sensitisation of residents on safety, compliance and prosecution of defaulters.

Members of the Public are kindly advised to take note and report any suspicious activity and movement around these installations and amenities to: Engr. Jerome Egbe, Ph.D
Special Adviser to the Governor on Public Utilities
or to the nearest Police Station for prompt and necessary action.

Let us remain vigilant as we savour the best of the 2025 Calabar Festival. Merry Christmas and Happy New year-2026.

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

Gov Otu Unveils Elders Advisory Council to Strengthen Governance in Cross River



Governor Bassey Edet Otu on Thursday inaugurated the Elders Advisory Council of the Cross River State Consultative Forum (CRSCF), a strategic body created to offer guidance and strengthen feedback channels for the state's governance.

Represented by his Deputy, Dr. Peter Odey, the Governor reaffirmed the administration's commitment to participatory leadership, stressing that the establishment of the council reflects the government's belief in the wisdom and experience of senior citizens.

"Governments that have this quality of advisors cannot fail, and will not fail," Dr. Odey said. He described the Otu-led administration as "people-centred, an administration that believes in the people of Cross River State."

The Deputy Governor also revealed that



Governor Otu was unavoidably absent due to his firm commitment to the state's ongoing asset recovery efforts. "The Governor is out to reclaim all assets of Cross River State," he stated, adding emphatically: "Let it be on record that our oil wells will be restored."

Earlier, the Chairman of the Consultative Forum, Barr. Eyo Nsa Ekpo, explained that the Elders Advisory Council was created to sustain elite consensus across the state and galvanize support for the Governor's second-term bid. He further described the council as "a filter and feedback

mechanism to monitor how government policies and projects impact the ordinary citizen."

Barr. Ekpo also highlighted key achievements of the current administration, including the completion of over 200 kilometres of roads, employment



of more than 8,000 citizens, and the recovery of Tinapa from the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON).

In his inaugural address, former Governor Chief Clement Ebri, who serves as Chairman of the Elders Advisory Council, pledged total

commitment to the task ahead. He expressed delight that the government values constructive advice, noting that the Deputy Governor's assurances reflect genuine openness.

"I want to assure you that I am fully committed," Chief Ebri said. "If we constitute a body

here to go to Abuja, we will not feel inferior," he added, underscoring the council's national stature and capacity.

The inauguration also featured the unveiling of Coordinating Committees of the Consultative Forum across all 18 local



dignitaries, including the Minister of State for Industry, Sen. John Owan-Enoh; Member representing Obubra/Etung Federal Constituency, Rt. Hon. Mike Etaba; Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayambem; Chief of Staff to the Governor, Hon. Emmanuel Ironbar, among others.

Members of the Elders Advisory Council:

government areas. The event further witnessed the endorsement of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Governor Otu for second terms, as well as a celebration of Chief Ebri's 73rd birthday.

Goodwill messages were delivered by Chief Johnson Ekpo (Central), Prof. Stephen Odey (North), and Etinyin Dr. Asuquo Ekpenyong (South).

The ceremony was attended by several

NORTHERN
SENATORIAL
DISTRICT

YALA LGA:
Rt. Hon. Larry Odey; Senator Prof. Stephen Odey; Prof. Michael Okom; Dr. Mrs. Stella Odey; High Chief Higgins



Peters; Chief Mrs.
Matina Odom.

OGOJA:

Rt. Hon. Gabriel
Edi; Chief Wabilly
Nyiam; Chief Peter
Ojie; Mrs. Agatha
Kanjai; Hon. Torita
Odey; Chief Barth
Onyi.

BEKWARRA:

Hon. Legor Idagbo;
Chief Omang
Idiege; Mr. Odey

Ochicha; Barr.
Cecilia Adams.

OBUDU:

HE Prof. Ben Ayade,
CON; Chief P. J.
Ekunke; Chief Tony
Undiandeye; Dr.
Mrs. Katrin Agba-
Ajibeke.

OBANLIKU:

Ntufam Barr. Fidelis
Ugbo; Mr. Dave
Ashang; Hon. Tony
Ushie; Dr. Mrs.

Theresa Ikwen.

CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT

BOKI:

Chief Amb. Soni
Abang; Hon. Cletus
Obun; Hon. Sonny
Chris Eta; Barr.
Mrs. Banku Agbor;
Col. Paul Edeor Obi.

IKOM:

Senator Victor

Ndoma-Egba, CON;
Rt. Hon. Elvert
Ayambem; Chief
Chris Agara; Chief
Mrs. Mary Ekpere
Eta.

ETUNG:

HE Col. Pam Ogar
(Rtd.); Sen. John
Owan-Enoh; Prof.
Anthony Owan-
Enoh; Dr. Rose
Nyambi; Prince
Ebuta Ayuk;
Ntufam Gabe Odu-
Oji.

OBUBRA:

Hon. Alex Irek; Sir
Alfred Mboto; Barr.
Owa Owa; Min.
Mrs. Felicia Otubi
Eyaba; Hon. Chief
Ernest Irek; Chief
Johnson Ebokpo.

YAKURR:

HE Chief Clement
Ebri (Chairman);
Sir Patrick Iwara;
Chief Innocent
Eteng; Mrs. Esther
Bepeh; Chief Barr.
Utum Eteng; Dr.
Mbang Akpama.

ABI:

Chief Bolaji Anani;
Rt. Hon. John Gaul
Lebo; Dr. Betta Edu;
Ekwele Egube.

SOUTHERN SENATORIAL DISTRICT

BIASE:

HE Prof. Ivara Esu;
Chief Amb. Mrs.
Kate Okon; Rt. Hon.
Alex Ukam; Elder
Ogban Ekpei Ogban;
Chief Ogbodim
Ogbodim.

BAKASSI:

Sen. Florence Ita-
Giwa; AIG (Rtd.)
Ene Ene Okon; Hon.
Dominic Aqua; Hon.
Patrick Antigha Ene.

AKAMKPA:

Ntufam John Okon;
Prof. Patrick Asuquo;
Rt. Hon. Daniel
Asuquo; Princess Titi
Ndifon.

ODUKPANI:

Prof. Eyo Etim
Nyong; Etinyin
Asuquo Ekpenyong;

Etubom Amb. Nya
Asuquo; Mrs.
Winifred Oyo-Ita;
Dr. Ekpenyong Nsa;
Elder Dr. David
Okon.

CALABAR MUNICIPALITY:

Ntufam Hilliard
Etta; Ntufam Eyo
Nsa Whiley;
Ntufam Edim Inok;
Nkoyo Otu.

CALABAR SOUTH:

Prof. Offiong E.
Offiong; Engr.
Effiong Bassey;
Prof. Emmanuel
Eyo; Elder Mrs.
Christie Ise.

AKPABUYO:

High Chief Edem
Duke; Etubom Arc.
Bassey Ndem; Prof.
Mrs. Francisca
Bassey; Hon.
Patrick Ene Okon;
Engr. Bassey
Nkposong.

CRS Ministry of Justice Partners with Law Crest LLP for high-impact training on Public Law Practice

By: Kera Okem



The Cross River State Ministry of Justice has concluded a comprehensive five-day Professional Development Training Programme for Public Law Officers,

held in collaboration with Law Crest LLP and the Practical Training Academy.

The annual training, which took place in Cross River State Library Complex Calabar, brought together legal officers from across

the state to enhance their competencies, strengthen institutional capacity, and improve service delivery within the justice sector.

The Honourable Commissioner for



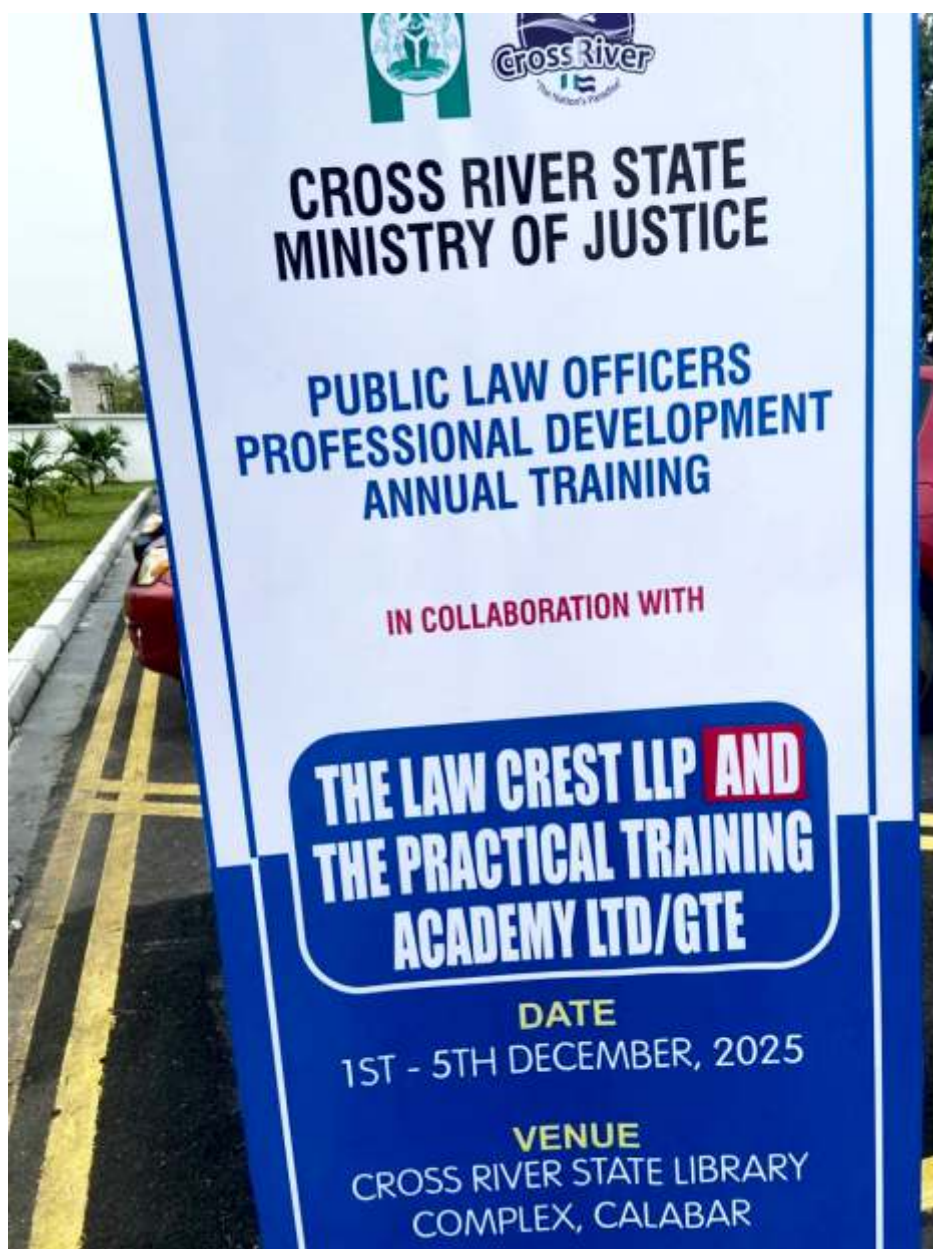
Justice and Attorney General of the State Mr. Ededem Ani Esq. declared the programme open with an inspiring welcome address. He emphasised the Ministry's commitment to continuous professional development, modernisation of legal practice, and the adoption of international best standards in justice delivery. He noted that the

legal landscape is evolving rapidly, especially with the integration of technology and emerging global legal trends, and charged participants to take full advantage of the sessions.

The Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Mr. Anthony Effiom Esq. led the introduction session, outlining the objectives of the training and highlighting the Ministry's drive for

structured learning, mentorship, and progressive reforms in public law practice.

The programme featured renowned legal practitioners Mr. Saheed Adebisi, Victor Opera, Mr. Tola Oshobi SAN, and others. Tobenna Erojikwe the Chief Facilitator, widely respected for his expertise in legal education and law office management, delivered high-impact lectures and



Development, Ethics, Professionalism amongst others.

The sessions combined lectures, interactive workshops, and practical simulations to ensure improved knowledge retention and real-world application.

At the end of the five-day training, participants expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Justice, its partners Law Crest LLP and the Practical Training Academy for investing in their professional growth. Certificates were issued, and officers pledged to apply the knowledge acquired to advance justice delivery in Cross River State.

practical exercises tailored to the needs of public law officers.

Participants received intensive training on critical areas essential to modern legal practice, Use of Technology in Public Law Office

Management, Criminal Procedure and Administration of Criminal Justice, Data Protection and Privacy Compliance, Contract Law and Drafting, Civil Litigation Practice and Case Management, Legislative Drafting and Policy

Gov. Otu Commends TACN for Support and Partnership with State Government



The Governor of Cross River State, Apostle Senator (Prince) Bassey Otu, has lauded The Apostolic Church of Nigeria (TACN) for their continued support and faith-based partnership that has sustained his 'People First' administration since its inception in 2023.

Governor Otu, represented by his deputy, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, PhD, made this commendation while speaking at

the grand finale of the 23rd Annual Field Convention held at the TACN Akpabuyo Field Headquarters, Ikot Nakanda, with the theme: "Behold, I Come Quickly" taken from Rev. 22:7.

Odey emphasized that the administration of Senator Prince Bassey Otu acknowledges the intercessory role the church plays in the state's progress, noting that the spiritual foundation of the people is a pillar upon which

the administration has been achieving impactful milestones.

Reiterating the government's commitment to improving the socioeconomic status of citizens, he announced that the Federal Executive Council, chaired by President Bola Tinubu, recently approved the Bakassi Deep Seaport project, which the Governor has vigorously pursued since assuming office. He



highlighted that the project is expected to stimulate economic growth in the area, across the state, and beyond Nigeria.

"I want to assure you that this administration will not fail you. I appeal to you to continue supporting and praying for the Governor of Cross River State, as your

prayers will stand in the gap and enable him to deliver more dividends of democracy," Odey added.

Earlier, in his remarks, Pst. Dr. Eta Edet, JP, Field Superintendent of The Apostolic Church, Akpabuyo, commended Governor Bassey Otu for his divinely inspired leadership, highlighting his

efforts to rebuild Cross River State and restore hope. He noted the peace in Akpabuyo and surrounding areas, attributing it to the governor's reliance on God and his dedication to the people, which has motivated citizens to actively contribute to the state's development and the success of his administration.



The Executive Chairman of Akpabuyo, Hon. (Prince) Effiom Bassey Effiong, took the first Bible reading from Revelation 20:11-15, while his Bakassi

counterpart, Hon. Effiong Etim Okon, took the second reading from Luke 12:35-40.

The event featured intercessory prayers for the Governor, his Deputy, other members of his

team, and the state at large, and also included a donation of N23 million for the TAC Farms Co-operative project.

Cross River, Presco Sign MoU to Revitalize Boki, Nsadop Oil Palm Estates



The Cross River State Government and Presco PLC on have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise a strategic partnership aimed

at revitalising the Boki and Nsadop Oil Palm Estates and repositioning the state as a major player in Nigeria's oil palm value chain.

The MoU signing ceremony, which

held at the Cross River State Privatization Council office in Calabar, weekend, marked a significant milestone in the state's agricultural and economic



reform agenda under the leadership of Governor Bassey Otu.

Speaking at the

ceremony, the Chairman of the State Privatization Council, Chief Bassey Okon, recalled the historic roots of oil palm

development in the former Eastern Region under the visionary leadership of Dr. Michael Okpara, assisted by renowned businessman Sir Odumegwu Ojukwu. He noted that Cross River State inherited a large number of oil palm estates following state creation in 1967 due to its vast landmass and forest resources.



He explained that successive administrations had pursued reforms to rescue the estates from decades of neglect, beginning with the privatization framework introduced during the administration of former Governor Donald Duke and sustained under Governor Liyel

Imoke. According to him, the current administration of Senator Bassey Otu is consolidating on those reforms by opening up the Boki and Nsadop estates to private-sector efficiency, guided by the principle of maximum social gains.

The council chairman said Presko PLC was

selected based on its proven track record across Edo, Delta and Rivers States, stressing that the company's investment would unlock massive employment opportunities, stimulate rural development and generate revenues through taxes, produce fees and ancillary economic activities. He added



that the project is expected to create thousands of direct and indirect jobs, reduce rural–urban migration and enhance security in host communities.

In his remarks, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Presco PLC, Mr. Reji George, described the MoU signing as a milestone for both the company and Cross River State. He thanked Governor Bassey Otu, the Privatization Council and other stakeholders for the trust reposed in Presco.

Mr. George said Cross River's

favourable soil quality, rainfall and long history of oil palm cultivation align with Presco's long-term strategy of expanding sustainable palm oil production to meet domestic demand. He assured that Presco would immediately commence environmental and social impact assessments, nursery development and plantation establishment, in line with global best practices.

He further reaffirmed the company's commitment to sustainable agriculture,

environmental protection and strong community partnerships, noting that Presco's operations would deliver shared value to host communities, employees, government and investors.

The event was witnessed by notable government officials including the Commissioner for Commerce, Dr. (Mrs.) Abigail Orok, Chairman of the State Civil Service Commission, Sir Maurice Effiwatt, and representatives of the Ministry of Justice.

2026 BUDGET DEFENCE: Lawmakers Hail MOI on Effective Information Dissemination

By Itam Offor



The Ministry of Information has been applauded for its efforts at effective dissemination of Information across the State and beyond.

The Chairman, House Committee on Finance and Appropriation, Hon Cyril James Omini gave the commendation during the 2026 budget defence of

the Information Ministry and its agencies.

Hon Omini commended the Commissioner of Information, Dr Erasmus Ekpang for his commitment to the Ministry's mandate which has accounted to a performance of over 75 percent budget performance in 2025.

He encouraged the Information Cluster to do more in 2026

fiscal year to achieve greater success.

Also speaking, the Chairman, House Committee on Information, Hon Thomas Aruku (Ogoja) and other Lawmakers commended the Information sector for its projects and programmes which according to them are "in line with global best practices".

The Lawmakers



however sought clarification on the plans to retain talents in Cross River Broadcasting Corporation (CRBC) through staffing of artists and casual staff amongst other issues.

The Commissioner for Information, Dr Erasmus Ekpang while

presenting his budget stated that renovation work at the State's Newspaper Corporation, publishers of the Nigerian Chronicle, is over seventy percent (70%) completed amongst other projects.

Ekpang expressed appreciation to the State Governor,

Senator Bassey Edet Otu for his passion for the information sector. He expressed confidence that the Newspaper Corporation Building will be commissioned in 2026 while other projects like the State's information hub, the News studio as well as staff welfare will be



given utmost attention.

The Commissioner was accompanied by the General Manager, CRBC Calabar, Mr Samuel Nsor, GM Chronicle, Ms Keyu Edet, Permanent Secretary, Mr Emmanuel Egban, GM CRBC Ikom as well as Directors of the Ministry.

CRIDCOM Pays Homage to Obong Ahead of Maiden Diaspora Day Awards

By Deborah-Oyo Oyo



The Cross River State Diaspora Commission (CRIDCOM) has paid a courtesy visit to the Obong of Calabar, His Eminence, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V, at his Palace, ahead of the maiden Cross River State

Diaspora Day Awards and Celebrations.

The delegation, led by the Chairman of the Cross River State Diaspora Commission, Chief Otu Okor, who was represented by the LOC Chairman, Pastor Eyobong Ita, described the visit

as a necessary mark of respect before commencing official engagements in Calaba

Chief Okoro thanked His Eminence for graciously receiving the team. "His Majesty's reception means a lot to us.



It shows that the palace recognises the diaspora community as partners in the future of Cross River,” he said.

The CRIDCOM Chairman also highlighted the State Government’s renewed commitment to diaspora engagements under Governor Prince Bassey Edet Otu, explaining

that the establishment of the Cross River State Diaspora Commission was part of the Governor’s promise to involve Cross Riverians abroad in the State development.

According to him, the Commission has begun implementing key programmes, including the recent Cross River Investment Forum

held in London. “That forum opened doors, and today some of those investors are here in Calabar exploring opportunities,” he said.

He added that the upcoming Diaspora Awards will honour seven distinguished Cross Riverians whose humanitarian and developmental efforts have



significantly impacted communities across the State.

Responding, the Obong of Calabar, His Eminence Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V expressed delight at the visit and commended the State Government for strengthening ties with its global diaspora community. "I am pleased to receive

this delegation," he said. "Your efforts abroad are vital to the development of our State. I urge you to continue promoting peace and unity, and to extend your goodwill and support to all parts of Cross River, so that together we can build a stronger and more harmonious State."

The delegation included CRIDCOM Commissioners Mr Ignatius Oli, Mrs

Emily Maduiké and Barr Anita Pascal; the President of Cross Riverians in Diaspora (CRID), Mr Christopher Lekan; one of the seven recipients of the maiden Cross River State Diaspora Day Awards, Pastor Eunice Ifeferi Chukwuemeka; members of CRID; Focal Point Officers, as well as management and staff of CRIDCOM.

Cross River Information Commissioner Visits Calabar Central Mosque, Reaffirms State's Commitment to Peace and Security



The Cross River State Commissioner for Information, Hon. Dr Erasmus Ekpang, has called for sustained peaceful coexistence among all communities in the state, especially during the festive season, reaffirming that Cross River remains one of the

safest and most welcoming states in Nigeria.

Dr Ekpang made the remarks during a courtesy visit to the Central Mosque in Calabar, where he met and interacted with members of the Muslim Hausa and Fulani community. He was warmly received by the Chairman of the

Cross River State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Imam Kabeer Olowolayemo.

Speaking after the visit, the Commissioner explained that the engagement was in furtherance of the administration's commitment to strengthening unity, mutual trust



and communal harmony.

"Earlier today, I visited the Central Mosque in Calabar, where I met with our Muslim brothers in the Hausa and Fulani community to reassure them that the administration of Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu remains committed to nurturing the cordial relationship we have enjoyed over the years," Dr Ekpang said.

He added: "Cross River State will continue to safeguard the lives and property of all residents and visitors. We remain the safest state in Nigeria, and the government will not compromise on security. I equally advise that anyone entering the state should be properly profiled in line with existing security protocols."

Dr Ekpang also took

the opportunity to debunk rumours circulating on social media regarding an alleged kidnapping incident in Bekwarra Local Government Area and claims of an unusual influx of Fulani migrants into Ogoja. He urged residents to exercise restraint, avoid panic, and always verify information before reacting in ways that could threaten communal peace.



"Misinformation is dangerous. We must avoid actions that may disrupt the peace we cherish. As a people, we must stay united and avoid spreading

unverified claims that could cause unnecessary tension," he cautioned.

In his response, Imam Kabeer Olowolayemo

commended Governor Bassey Otu for his inclusive leadership style and described Dr Ekpang's visit as a demonstration of goodwill and mutual respect.



"We appreciate the Governor's humane and accommodating nature. The Muslim community in Cross River State remains committed to peace and harmony, and we will continue to work with the government to promote unity," the Imam assured.

The visit ended with renewed pledges of collaboration between the Muslim community and the state government in the collective effort to preserve the peaceful atmosphere for which Cross River is widely known.



CRIDCOM Chairman Honoured with Second Efik Chieftaincy Title

By Deborah-Oyo Oyo



King of the Efik Kingdom, during a ceremony at the Obong's Palace in Calabar.

The honour recognises Chief Okor's leadership of CRIDCOM, his role in strengthening ties with the global Cross River diaspora, and his contributions to community development.

Translated as "War Leader of Efik Eburutu", the title is reserved for individuals whose courage, dedication, and service advances the welfare of the people.

The Chairman of the Cross River State Diaspora Commission (CRIDCOM), Chief Otu E. Okor, has been conferred

with a second chieftaincy title, "Otuekong ke Efik Eburutu", by His Eminence, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V, the Natural Ruler and Treaty

Chief Okor expressed



gratitude to the Obong and the Efik nation. "This honour deeply humbles me. I dedicate it to the people of our State and the mission of CRIDCOM. I will continue to work tirelessly to strengthen our diaspora relationships and support the

growth and well-being of our people." he said.

His Eminence, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi V welcomed Chief Okor into the Efik traditional fold, describing the honour as "a mark of trust, responsibility, and expectation". He emphasised the

importance of continuous service, humility, and dedication to the Efik people and the wider Cross River community, and offered blessings for Chief Okor's continued leadership.

The ceremony was marked by vibrant Efik



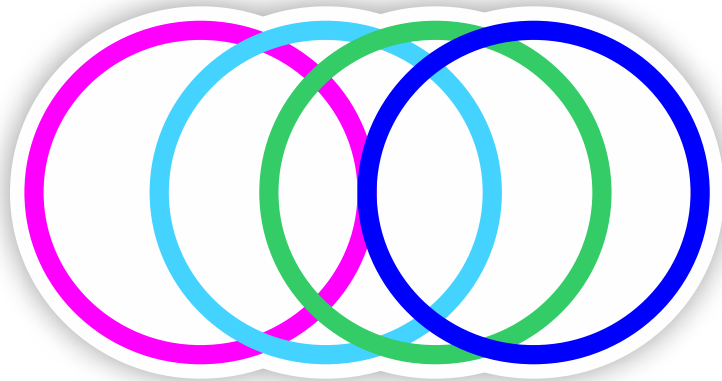
cultural displays, including traditional music, dances, and rites, highlighting the rich heritage and solemnity of the occasion.

Family members, friends, colleagues, well-wishers, and CRIDCOM officials joined in celebrating the milestone, acknowledging Chief Okor's efforts in diaspora advocacy, youth

engagement, community development, and the promotion of Cross River's cultural identity.

The conferment of this second chieftaincy title further strengthens Chief Okor's standing as a respected leader

and reinforces his role as a bridge between the diaspora and the homeland, championing unity, progress, and the preservation of the Efik cultural heritage.





Gov. Otu Declares FG–World Bank 2-Day Blue Economy Upskilling Programme Open in Cross River



In a bid to strengthen the State's position in Nigeria's emerging maritime and blue economy landscape, the Cross River State Governor, Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu, on Thursday declared open a 2-day Upskilling

Programme for stakeholders in the sector at the State Library Complex, Calabar.

In his keynote address, Governor Otu, represented by his deputy Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, described the event as a timely

intervention to build capacity and unlock economic opportunities in the state. He recalled that the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy was established in August 2023 and that Nigeria was re-admitted into Category C of the



International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council in 2025, after a 14-year absence- a feat he attributed to the vision and commitment of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu toward economic diversification.

Citing NBS data, Rt. Hon. Odey noted that Nigeria's maritime sector

contributed N113.59 trillion to the national GDP in Q3 2025, and referenced NIMASA's valuation of the country's untapped blue economy resources at about \$296 billion, calling the sector "the giant of the non-oil economy." He added that inspired by the President's efforts, his administration created the Cross River State Blue

Economy Agency in 2024 to harness the state's marine ecosystem, open new revenue streams, and align with the Federal Government's sustainable blue economy strategy.

He highlighted ongoing interventions in the state's maritime sector, including progress on the Bakassi Deep



Seaport, the distribution of over 100 motorized fishing boats in

2024, renovation of the Marina Resort, planned upgrade of the Calas Vegas

Resort, and revitalization of the KADA Cinema waterfront. Odey



emphasized that upgrading skills is vital in an era driven by rapid advances in science, technology, and AI, describing the programme as a valuable platform for stakeholders to gain relevant

knowledge and build the capacity needed to compete globally.

"This programme goes beyond a mere talk-shop," he said. "Our target is to produce a skilled maritime workforce capable of taking up global

opportunities."

He announced that the training-being the first of its kind under his administration-will become a routine feature in the state's human capital development agenda in line with the "People First" mantra, and encouraged all participants to put the knowledge they acquire into practice and contribute meaningfully to the growth of the state's blue economy.

Delivering the welcome address, Special Adviser to the Governor on Blue Economy, Barr. Melodie Lebo, described the initiative as the start of a new era where the state's rivers, coastline, and aquatic




resources become engines of growth, prosperity, and sustainable development. She lauded the Federal Ministry for Nigeria's re-entry into Category C of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council after 14 years-a milestone she called "a bold global statement" highlighting the nation's return to

the center of maritime decision-making.

Barr. Lebo emphasized that this achievement opens doors for Cross River State to fully harness its marine resources and build a competitive, globally relevant maritime sector. She noted that the programme aims to equip stakeholders with the knowledge

and skills needed to maximize the state's blue economy potential, while further strengthening partnerships between federal and state authorities to drive sustainable growth.

Earlier in his remarks, the Senior Special Adviser to the President on Marine and Blue Economy, Prof.



Busayo Fakinlede, acknowledged Cross River State's consistent support for national efforts in developing the marine and blue economy, highlighting its strategic coastal position and significant ecological and economic assets.

Prof. Fakinlede noted that these initiatives align with President Bola Tinubu GCFR's agenda on food security, economic diversification, youth empowerment, and sustainable marine resource utilization.

He further emphasized that Cross River State, as a coastal leader, has the highest commercial fisheries output among Nigeria's coastal states, jokingly adding that Cross River should be tagged the "fish basket of the nation."

The World Bank Team Lead also stressed that developing the blue economy is vital to the overall growth of the region and the nation, welcoming collaboration with federal and state authorities and other partners. He

assured that the World Bank would mobilize funds to support the success of this programme.

The event featured a special presentation by Prof. Francis Nwosu, Dean of the Faculty of Oceanography, University of Calabar, titled: "Unlocking the Potential of a Sustainable Blue Economy for Nigeria: Cross River State in Focus."

C'River NIPR New Exco Begins Tenure, holds One-day Capacity Building Retreat, 1st General Meeting, as Okache Hands Over



The newly sworn-in Executive Council members of the Cross River State Chapter of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (CRS-NIPR), led by Dr. Augustine Godwin Mboso, has commenced her tenure with the holding of a one-

day capacity building retreat for its members and the first General Meeting under the new leadership.

During the retreat at the State Library Complex, Calabar, the Chairman Dr. Augustine Mboso reaffirmed his commitment to elevate the Institute

while mentoring Practitioners to a Consultant level. He emphasized the importance of capacity building as a key pillar of his administration and called for support from members.

The retreat featured presentations from seasoned Public



Relations Practitioners, including Elder Obo Mesembe Edet, former Member of the NIPR Governing Council and two-term State Chairman of CRS-NIPR; Mr. Benedict Onah Okache, immediate past State Chairman

and Fellow of the Institute; and Dr. Icha Itomo Mbtor, immediate past State Auditor.

Topics discussed included the roles, duties, responsibilities, and expectations of EXCO members, as well as work

etiquette. Dr. Mboso urged members to show total support and commitment to achieve their mandate, fostering teamwork and a renewed spirit to build an exemplary chapter.

The new team, set



to lead the Cross River State Chapter of NIPR from November 21, 2025, to 20th November, 2027 includes Dr. Augustine Godwin Mboso, State Chairman (mnipr), Elder Deborah-Grace Eme-Ekanem Awatt (anipr), State Vice Chairman, Miss Esther Oden Okoi

(mnipr), State General Secretary, Mr. Nakanda Amboni Iyadim (anipr), State Assistant Secretary I/ICT Officer, Dr. (Mrs.) Margaret Innocent Okoi (gnipr), State Assistant Secretary II, Dr. (Mrs.) Agnes Edem Bassey (mnipr), State Public Relations Officer I, Mrs. Rachael Akpo Efoli (anipr), Public

Relations Officer II and Dr. Eric Ugor Ogri (anipr), State Financial Secretary.

Others are SP Nelson Aneji Okpabi (rtd, mnipr), State Treasurer, Mr. Peter Obi Okim (anipr), State Internal Auditor, Mrs. Nkoyo Orok-Ita Ashiru (anipr), State Welfare Officer I



and Mr. Godwin Ikorisho Inyambri (anipr), State Welfare Officer II

The team also includes three Ex-Officio

Members: Mr. Benedict Onah Okache (fnipr), immediate Past State Chairman as Ex-Officio I, Professor Patrick Ene Okon (fnipr), Ex-Officio II and Mr. Kris Bisong Nku, Ex-Officio III

Meanwhile, the

immediate past State Chairman, Mr Benedict Onah Okache fnipr has formally handed over the leadership of Chapter to Dr Mboso.

The handing over formalities took place at the December 2025 General Meeting held on Thursday, 11th December, 2025 at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Information Headquarters, Calaba

r.

Mr Okache thanked Members for the massive support given in the last four years, which was hugely responsible for the many achievements recorded under his leadership and charged members to stand by the new team to enable them do better in the years ahead.

ME TO



ION HEADQUARTERS
ER STATE

R BASSEY EDET OTU
ING PROJECT



Government Service
Complex



Renovated State



PUBLIC RELATIONS STATEMENT

By the Cross River State Chapter, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR)

December 2025

As the festive season begins and Cross River State hosts the 2025 Carnival Calabar, the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Cross River State Chapter, warmly greets residents, visitors, and all stakeholders involved in our state's cultural and tourism activities. This season offers a special opportunity for us to highlight the best of who we are, our unity, vibrancy, hospitality, and dedication to collective growth.

In line with the State Government's sustained efforts to enhance the visitor experience and maintain public welfare, we commend the intensified sanitation, environmental management, and safety measures introduced across the state. We implore all residents, event organisers, business owners, and visitors to complement these efforts by embracing responsible waste disposal, maintaining clean surroundings, and respecting public spaces throughout the festivities.

The Institute also affirms the peaceful and stable climate across Cross River State. We encourage citizens to rely on verified information from official channels before disseminating any news item since public confidence, trust, and accurate information are essential to sustaining harmony and ensuring an enjoyable, incident-free festive period.

Additionally, as the world marks International Volunteer Day this month, we encourage individuals, civil society organisations, corporate bodies, and community groups to demonstrate compassion through volunteerism and charitable outreach. December offers a timely reminder that the strength of our society is measured not only by celebration but by acts of kindness, solidarity, and support for the underprivileged.

Finally, while festivities bring joy and celebration, they also demand heightened civic responsibility. We urge all participants in Carnival Calabar and other seasonal events to adhere to safety guidelines, respect traffic regulations, avoid behaviours that could endanger lives, and conduct themselves in ways that preserve the dignity, peace, and cultural heritage of our state. Responsible celebration safeguards both our people and the global reputation of Cross River as Nigeria's premier tourism destination.

The Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Cross River State Chapter, remains committed to promoting credible communication, social responsibility, and the collective well-being of all who call our state home. We wish everyone a peaceful, safe, and memorable December.

Pastor Austin Mboso, PhD, mnipr
State Chairman
CRS-NIPR

SOCU Boss Yes for Increase Participation of Cross Riverians in on-going CBT Exercise

By Iloke Egbe



The State Coordinator, State Operations Coordinating Unit SOCU, Mr Bassey Effiong has called on Cross Riverians to participate actively in the on-going Community

Based Targeting exercise which is meant to include more persons into the State Social Register for social welfare interventions by Federal and State Governments including the private sectors.

Mr Effiong made the call in Calabar while evaluating the Impact of the CBT exercise in the 18 LGAs, stating that, there is a need for citizens to participate in government policies and



programmes for their own good, urging them to believe in Government programmes as it is for the good of the people.

The SOCU Coordinator affirmed that the present

administration ably led by His Excellency ,Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu has demonstrated enormous capacity and commitment to addressing the plight of Cross Riverians and all those residing in the State.

He expressed confidence in the State team to guide the CBT process without compromising the protocol required for a successful CBT which will lead to inclusive enumeration exercise to accommodate more persons into the State social register, adding his voice, the Head of Operations, SOCU, Mr. Godwin Ador admitted that the exercise was very successful in Northern Nigeria. Same was expressed by the Head M&E, MIS Mr. Nse Akonjom who supervised the exercise in part of Central Senatorial District of the State

In an interview with some key stakeholders, the Village Head of



Njagachang in Akamkpa, His Royal Highness, Ntufam Patrick Edet expressed appreciation to the joint team for the visit and described the exercise and choice of the community as very pleasing as it's the first time Government officials are engaging with the community for



such interventions.

The team was made up of 6 Staff from each LGA and a Staff from SOCU which were assigned

to move from one community to the other and featured questions and answers.



DG CRSEMA Remind Cross Riverians Of Extant Laws Against Indiscriminate Bush Burning

By David Akate



The Director General, Cross River State Emergency Management Agency CRSEMA, Mr Antigha Gill has reminded the people of the State of the extant laws against indiscriminate bush burning and its consequences.

The DG who was speaking in an interview with correspondents in his office emphasized that the State Government has activated all law enforcement apparatus including the traditional governing structure to keenly watch out for culprits for arrest and prosecution.

Mr Gill lamented the progressive destruction of the State flora and fauna in massive scale through indiscriminate bush burning especially during the dry season.

He disclosed that 2025 recorded large farm lands



and reserve forests as well as crops worth millions of Naira consumed by unwarranted inferno occasioned

by careless use of fire which has grossly affected the socio-economic landscape of the State.

According to him, while he acknowledged that rural farmers require discreet burning of farmlands for crop cultivation igniting portions not needed is uncalled for culminating in economic waste.

He challenged the leadership at the grassroots level to support government in the campaign against indiscriminate bush burning by monitoring their subjects with a view to checkmating the ugly trend.

The DG also expressed his worries over the high rate of urban fires which has in recent times consumed property worth billions of Naira leaving in it



trails lost of lives and massive displacement of people.

He attributed the causes of the incidences to electrical defaults, cooking gas explosions and improper handling of other combustible materials stressing that such sad situations can be controlled with

commitment by citizens.

Mr Gill said that in due course the consistent synergy with fire fighting outfits in the State will converge in intensive public training on the prevention and Management of accidental infernos.

The DG used the opportunity to commend the State

Governor Apostle Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu for his dogged efforts towards revamping the Fire Service architecture across the State.



PRESS RELEASE

RECRUITMENT OF 50,000 CONSTABLES INTO THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE: Portal opens; applications invited as PSC, NPF commit to a seamless process.

The Police Service Commission (PSC), in collaboration with the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) is pleased to announce the commencement of recruitment of Fifty Thousand (50,000) Police Constables into the Nigeria Police Force, as directed by His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR.

Following this Presidential directive aimed at strengthening community policing, enhancing internal security and expanding the manpower base of the Nigeria Police Force, the Commission has approved the opening of the recruitment portal for applications from eligible Nigerians.

Qualifications:

General Duty cadre applicants must be holders of GCE Ordinary Level, SSCE/NECO or their equivalents with a minimum of five (5) credits (including English Language and Mathematics) in not more than two sittings.

Specialists cadre applicants must be holders of GCE Ordinary Level, SSCE/NECO or their equivalents with a minimum of four (4) credits (including English Language and Mathematics) in not more than two sittings. A minimum of three (3) years' experience and Trade Tests in relevant fields/areas is required.

Eligibility:

Interested candidates must:

- Be Nigerian citizens by birth

- Be aged between 18 and 25 years for General Duty; 18 to 28 years for

Specialists

Be medically, physically and psychologically fit

Not be less than 1.67m (male) and 1.64m (female) in height (for General Duty only)

Meet other requirements as shall be specified on the recruitment portal

Application Period:

The recruitment portal will be open from Monday, 15 December 2025 to Sunday, 25 January 2026.

All applications must be submitted ONLINE through the official recruitment portal: www.npfapplication.psc.gov.ng.

The Commission wishes to emphasize that the recruitment exercise will be conducted in the most transparent, merit-based and credible manner. Application is FREE as there will be NO PAYMENT required at any stage of the process, and applicants are warned to be wary of fraudstars.

Detailed guidelines, requirements and the application link will be made available on the official recruitment portal: www.npfapplication.psc.gov.ng (to be activated on 15th December 2025) and on the official websites and social media handles of the Police Service Commission and the Nigeria Police Force.

The Police Service Commission urges all qualified and patriotic Nigerians to seize this opportunity to serve the nation.

In respect of the above advertorial, all interested Cross Riverians are advised to urgently apply and submit the printouts to the Desk Officer in the Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, Establishments Building, Murtala Mohammed Highway, Calabar.

For emphasis, printouts of the applicants should be submitted to the Desk Officer before Friday 28, 2025.

E-signed:

Patrick Egbede

Commissioner

Housing Ministry, Family Homes Funds Orient Beneficiaries Of Renewed Hope Indigent Homes In Calabar



The Cross River State Ministry of Housing, in collaboration with Family Home Funds Limited, has launched a two-day Entrepreneurship Training Programme for beneficiaries of the

Indigent Women Social Housing Scheme in Calabar.

Held at Obudu Hall, Prof. Eyo Ita House, Marian, the opening day saw a gathering of stakeholders and participants, marking the start of this significant

women-empowerment initiative.

The training aims to equip indigent women with practical skills for sustainable livelihoods and long-term economic



independence.

Honourable Commissioner for Housing, Dr. Beatrice Igwe, emphasized the programme's alignment with Governor Bassey Edet Otu's "People First" mantra. She stressed the need to provide women with entrepreneurial skills and financial knowledge to enhance their socio-economic status.

Dr. Igwe acknowledged the

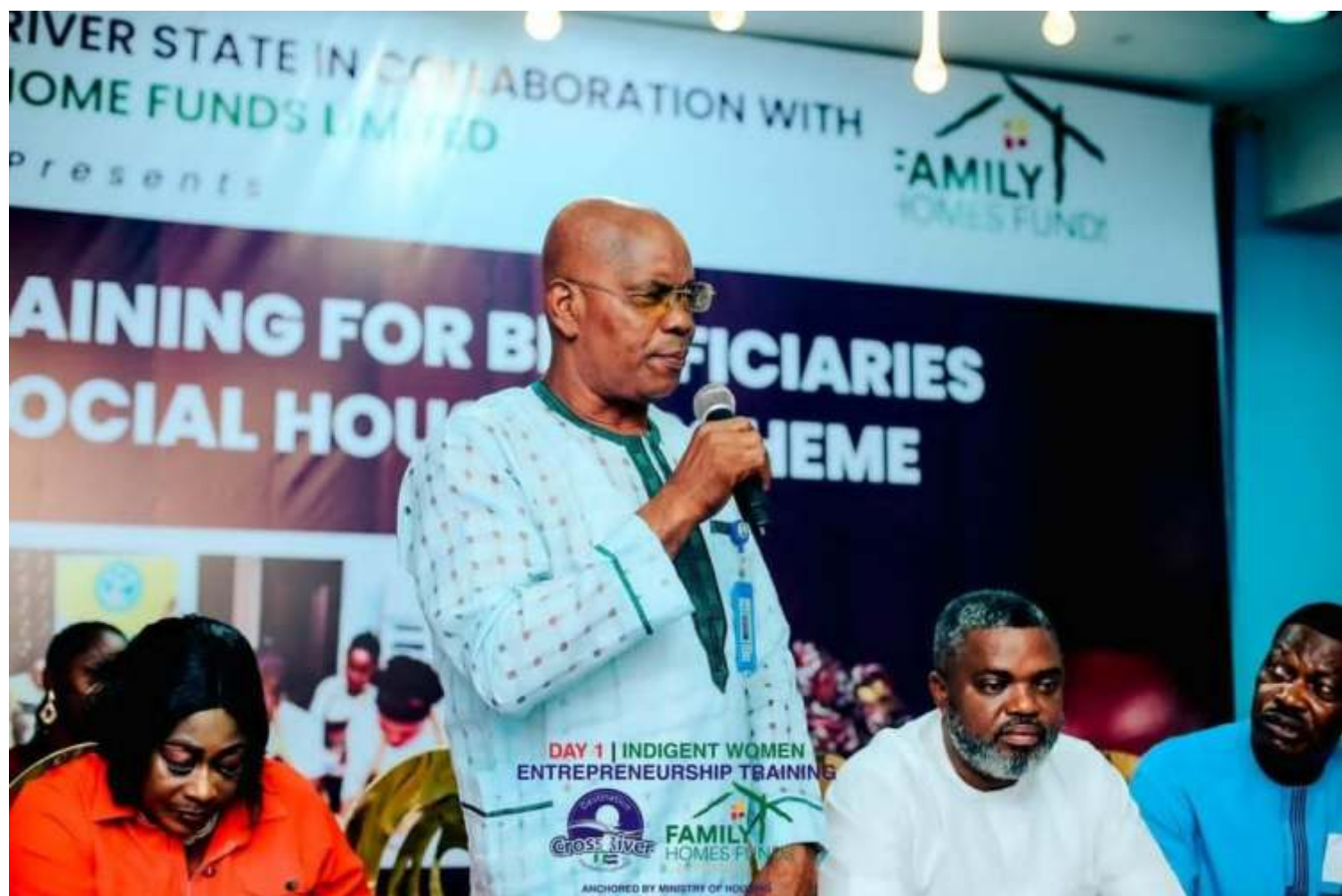
Federal Government's Renewed Hope Initiative and thanked key partners, including President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Family Homes Funds Limited's Managing Director, Mr. Abdulmutallah Mukhtar.

Participants engaged in hands-on training across various skill areas such as tailoring, hairdressing, soap making, and business development.

Beneficiaries like Miss Faith Emma Obum and Mrs. Angela Okon expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to learn new skills and improve their financial situations.

The event also attracted key government representatives, including Apostle Queen Eton, Mr. Samuel Ekanem, amongst others, reflecting strong institutional support for the initiative.









PUBLIC RELATIONS BYTE- DECEMBER 2025

AS CARNIVAL CALABAR 2025 BEGINS, CROSS RIVER STATE CHAPTER OF NIPR EXTENDS WARM GREETINGS TO ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS. WE COMMEND THE STATE GOVERNMENT FOR IMPROVED SANITATION, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES, AND URGE EVERYONE TO KEEP OUR SURROUNDINGS CLEAN AND RESPECT PUBLIC SPACES.

CROSS RIVER STATE, NIPR REMAINS COMMITTED TO CREDIBLE COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. WE WISH EVERYONE A SAFE, PEACEFUL, AND MEMORABLE DECEMBER.

***PASTOR AUSTIN MBOSO, PHD, MNIPR
STATE CHAIRMAN, CRS-NIPR***



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE 15TH MEETING OF THE CROSS RIVER
STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH
DECEMBER, 2025 AT THE STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE**

INTRODUCTION:

The 15th Meeting of the Cross River State Executive Council which took place on Wednesday, 10th December, 2025 was presided over by His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, Deputy Governor of Cross River State and attended by Honourable Commissioners and other key State Officials.

In his Welcome address , the Deputy Governor noted that the meeting was imperative in the unceasing quest by the Executive to continue providing for the wellbeing of the people of the State. Thus, the meeting was deliberately called to consider important intervention projects and procurements that impact significantly on the populace. He appreciated EXCO members for their hard work and dedication, urging them to as usual give close scrutiny to all matters for consideration.

At the meeting, Council admitted guests into the Chambers who made audio-visual presentation to Council at the instance of the Ministry of Transportation. The presentation focused on strategies for the emplacement of modern public transportation infrastructure to stimulate commerce and boost the economies of target locations, while easing movement of goods and persons across the State and

beyond.

Leading deliberations on the Memo seeking Council's approval to expand the scope of the direct purchase of electric vehicles for public transportation in the State, the Commissioner for Transportation noted that a review of the prior approval of Council became imperative in order to promote holistic deployment and growth of electric vehicles infrastructure in the State public transportation ecosystem. Council further approved increase in the fleet of electric vehicles which included the purchase of 10 inter-city buses and 50 Nos 14-Seater Shuttle Buses.

Council also considered and granted approval for emergency intervention works on Ephraim Street and Ebuka Street, both in Calabar South Local Government Area

. Also, approval was granted for the construction of Ndon Nwong/Atan Odot/Uwet Road in Odukpani Local Government Area.

Finally, His Excellency, the Deputy Governor, wished all Cross Riverians, residents and Visitors to our dear State a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year -2026.



Erasmus Ekpang *Ph.D., anipr, ftifuh*
Commissioner for Information.

Governor Otu Visits CAS, Seeks Stronger Security Partnerships For National Development



The Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Sunday Kelvin Aneke, on 8 December, 2025, received the Executive Governor of Cross River State, Prince Bassey Edet Otu, on an office call at

the Headquarters of Nigerian Air Force (NAF), Abuja.

They both reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening security cooperation for the peace and prosperity of the State and the

nation.

Welcoming the governor, the CAS noted that the visit reaffirmed the strong relationship between the Nigerian Air Force and the government of Cross River State;

noting that the operational presence of NAF units in Calabar and surrounding areas makes the state a significant partner in the collective efforts to preserve peace and stability.

Air Marshal Aneke emphasized the NAF's dedication to safeguarding Nigeria's territorial integrity, assuring the Governor of continued collaboration in internal security operations, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, and the protection of critical infrastructure.

He reiterated that "the Nigerian Air Force remains committed to providing airpower in support of national defence

and to deter and defeat threats to our sovereignty," while also highlighting the Service's readiness to deepen cooperation in training, logistics, information sharing, and welfare initiatives that benefit personnel and host communities.

Responding, Governor Otu commended the professionalism of the Nigerian Air Force and reaffirmed the state government's willingness to expand its partnership with the Service.

He noted that strengthening collaboration with the NAF was essential for maintaining stability and enabling development.

Otu assured that Cross River State would continue to work closely with the Nigerian Air Force to enhance security and create an environment where the residents of the state and the economy could thrive.

Both leaders agreed that a sustained synergy between the state government and the NAF remains critical for advancing collective security and national development.

Statehouse Press Release



President Tinubu: No Going Back On The Directive To Withdraw Police Officers From VIPs



President Bola Tinubu on Wednesday in Abuja said the

directive to redeploy police officers working with VIPs, VVIPs

and ministers was not negotiable, admonishing all ministers to ensure immediate compliance.

Speaking at the opening of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting in the State House Council Chamber, the President warned against non-compliance.

"If you have any problem because of the nature of your assignments, please contact the IGP and get my clearance," he said.

President Tinubu directed the

National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, Minister of Police Affairs, Sen Ibrahim Gaidam, and the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egebtokun, to follow up on the implementation of the order.

The President noted that police officers were trained to protect the lives and property of citizens, particularly the most vulnerable in society, and the protection of a select group of VIPs and VVIPs was not their responsibility.

President Tinubu said the Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, will make arrangements for the replacement of police officers

by the Civil Defence Corps.

"The National Security and Civil Defence Corps are trained for VIP protection, and they are armed too," he added.

The President noted that the police would be mobilised appropriately to tackle the country's security challenges.

He said the entire structure will be reviewed to better address vulnerable citizens and communities.

"We face challenges here and there of Kidnapping, banditry and terrorism. We need all forces utilised. I

know some people are exposed; we will make the exceptions. The Civil Defence is very much around," the President stated.

President Tinubu said ministers should meet the Inspector General of Police and get his clearance for special assignments that require police protection.

"NSA take this very seriously," he added.

The President also urged the Vice President Kashim Shettima, who is the Chairman of the National Economic Council (NEC), to further sensitise governors and



other stakeholders on the implementation of the reforms on ranching.

President Tinubu directed the Minister, Idi Muktar Maiha, to commence the mobilisation process, with particular emphasis on areas facing conflict.

"The Minister of Livestock, see which village or grazing area can

be rehabilitated for ranching. We must eliminate this area of conflict and make the livestock reform economically viable.

"The opportunity is there, let's utilise it. You should emphasise the constitutional requirement that the land belongs to the state," he added.

The President said villages and communities facing conflicts must be salvaged.

The President noted that implementing ranching will reduce conflicts between herders and farmers and attacks on the most vulnerable members of society.

C'River Assembly Removes Hon. Theresa Ushie as Bekwarra LG Chair, Orders Bye-Election Within 30 Days

By Itam Offor



CROSS RIVER STATE
HOUSE of ASSEMBLY



The Cross River State House of Assembly has removed the Chairman of Bekwarra Local Government Council, Hon. Theresa Ushie, following the adoption of the report of the House Committee on Judiciary and Public Petitions.

Her removal was affirmed after 19 out of 25 lawmakers voted in support during today's plenary.

The issue began on June 10, 2025, when the Assembly received a petition from eight councillors of the Bekwarra Legislative Council. After initial

debate, the House suspended Hon. Ushie for 90 days and mandated the Vice Chairman, Hon. Egbung Odama, to act in her stead while the Committee conducted a full investigation.

Presenting the report, the Committee stated that the petition

dated May 19, 2025, raised serious concerns about how the council was being run. According to the report, the councillors accused the suspended chairman of corruption, misuse of authority, arbitrary stoppage of their salaries, and operating the council without compliance with due process.

"After meeting with the petitioners, the suspended chairman, and various stakeholders in Abuochiche, the Committee found the allegations weighty and clearly established," the Committee Chairman said while presenting the findings. "The conduct of the chairman fell below the

expectations of her office, and the evidence before us supports her removal."

The report further noted that the Committee's visit to Bekwarra provided additional clarity. "Community members and officials gave testimonies that reinforced the concerns raised in the petition," the Chairman added.

Adopting the recommendations, the House resolved that Hon. Theresa Ushie be removed from office for gross misconduct.

The Assembly also directed the Cross River State Independent Electoral Commission (CROSIEC) to conduct a bye-election within 30

days to fill the vacant position.

In his closing remarks, the Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayambem emphasized the Assembly's commitment to accountability: "This House will always defend transparency and uphold the law. Our duty is to the people of Cross River State."

10th December, 2025



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION



Ph.D., anipr, ftifuh

Erasmus Ekpang

Commissioner for Information
Cross River State

Email: commissioner@moi.cr.gov.ng

<https://www.crossriverstate.gov.ng>



Happy
73RD

BIRTHDAY TO A WORTHY NIGERIAN

**His Excellency,
Chief Clement David Ebri**

Former Governor of Cross River State,
State Housing Estate,
Calabar.

Your Excellency Sir, on this special day of your 73rd Birthday anniversary, my family and I ; Management and Staff of the Ministry of Information, Cross River State heartily felicitate with you on this special day of your life.



Your life
indeed
enigma
great
of many
who
touched
of many
that came your

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man
parts
have
the lives
people
way.

As you March on into the next phase of your life ,we in the Ministry of Information will continue to celebrate you as our great leader that has impacted positively on the lives of many that passed through you.

73 Happy Cheers to our great father and Patriot of inestimable value. God bless your new age Sir.

Happy birthday Your Excellency!

Hoteliers Association Seeks Government Support to Revitalize Cross River's Hospitality Sector

By Obaseoyi Usang



The Hoteliers Association of Cross River State has called on the state government to provide strategic support to boost activities within the

hotel and tourism sector.

The appeal was made during a courtesy visit to the Ministry of Commerce headquarters, where

the Association leaders outlined key challenges affecting the industry and proposed measures to stimulate growth.



National Vice Chairman of the Association, Mr. Charles Ogar, emphasized the need for seefinancial assistance, improved infrastructure, and enhanced marketing efforts to attract more

tourists to the state. He appealed for government-backed grants or soft loans to help hoteliers upgrade their services. "We need support from the government, either through grants or soft loans. This will help us improve our

services," he said.

Mr. Ogar also commended Governor Bassey Otu for reclaiming the Tinapa Resort from the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON), describing it as a major step toward reviving one of the state's key tourism assets.

Responding, Commissioner for Commerce, Dr. (Mrs.) Abigail Duke Orok, acknowledged the critical role of the hotel industry in strengthening Cross River's tourism sector. She pledged to collaborate with the association to address its concerns and to implement effective, growth-oriented strategies. "We have



standards in Cross River State, and quality is one of them," she noted. "If a client pays for a special meal like Afang Soup, they expect quality. Let our visitors have value for their money. All hotels must ensure their environments remain clean to

promote our state positively." Dr. Orok encouraged the association to apply for funding through the Bank of Industry (BOI) or other microfinance institutions, assuring them of the government's readiness to support viable initiatives. She reaffirmed that

the goal is to build a more vibrant and competitive hospitality sector that will contribute meaningfully to Cross River State's economic development.



CROSS RIVER STATE MINISTRY OF HOUSING
IN COLLABORATION WITH
FAMILY HOMES FUNDS LIMITED



PRESSNTS

A 2-DAY
ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING FOR
BENEFICIARIES OF INDIGENT
WOMEN SOCIAL HOUSING SCHEME

SKILLS :

- **TAILORING**
- **HAIR DRESSING**
- **SOAP MAKING**
- **CONFECTIONARIES & CATERING**
- **SMALL SCALE BUSINESSES**



WED THURS
10 to 11
DEC 2025

8AM
PROMPT



OBUDU HALL, PROF. EYO
ITA HOUSE MARIAN





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



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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

8th December, 2025

PRESS STATEMENT

**ON-GOING 90TH REGULAR IN-TAKE RECRUITMENT
INTO THE NIGERIAN ARMY**

The Government of Cross River State wishes to remind young Nigerians resident in our dear State, especially indigenes of the 18 Local Government Areas of Cross River State that applied and were successfully shortlisted in the on-going 90th REGULAR Recruit intake that the recruitment exercise has since commenced on Thursday, 4th December and will end on Wednesday, 17th December, 2025 at the Eburutu Barracks of the Nigerian Army, Calabar.

Government, according to the Senior State Security Adviser, Major General Okoi Ubi Obono, Rtd hereby enjoins all concerned to take advantage of this recruitment exercise and get enlisted into the Nigerian Army to serve our dear father land and most importantly, to fill the quota allotted to the State.

Please, all concerned are kindly requested to take note and comply accordingly

Thank you

A green ink signature of Erasmus Ekpang, written in a cursive style.

Erasmus Ekpang *Ph.D., anipr, ftifuh*
Commissioner for Information.



theme
**TRACES
OF TIME**

CARNIVAL CALABAR

JUNIOR DRY RUN

SUNDAY
**14TH DEC.
2PM**

FLAG OFF
BOTANIC GARDEN





MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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

Ref: CR/MOI/AD/385/235

1st December, 2025

PRESS STATEMENT: UPDATED

REMINDER ON TOTAL BAN ON SHOOTING OF KNOCK-OUTS, BANGERS, FIREWORKS AND BURNING OF TYRES IN CROSS RIVER STATE

The Government of Cross River State wishes to remind all residents across the 196 Wards in the Eighteen Local Government Areas of Cross River State that the Federal Government of Nigeria has approved a total ban on shooting of Knock-outs, Bangers, fireworks and burning of Tyres across the Country, especially during the month-long Yuletide Season.

The State Government is making this crucial reminder as a follow-up to the recent Inspector General of Police's directives to all Police Formations across the Country to deal decisively with perpetrators of these heinous crimes against the people of Nigeria.

Government wishes to further note that this ban has become very imperative as a precautionary measure to assist Security Agencies to gauge and monitor security situations all round the clock and respond to emergencies accordingly.

Members of the Public are please requested to take note of this ban and strictly comply bearing in mind that huge consequences shall apply to all defaulters.

Government also wishes to remind the citizenry that burning of Tyres is very injurious to our health as well as destructive to the tarred roads and should be totally avoided.

Finally, the Government of Cross River State wishes all residents of our dear State a bumper Christmas Season of Sweetness and prosperous New Year 2026.

Erasmus Ekpang *Ph.D., anipr, ftifuh*
Commissioner for Information.



Our Ref: GO/HOS/4/VOL.III/277

December 5, 2025


The Hon. Speaker
The Hon. Chief Judge,
All Commissioners/Special Advisers,
The Secretary to the State Government,
The Chief of Staff,
All Chairmen of Commissions & Boards,
All Permanent Secretaries/Special Assistants,
The Clerk of the House/Chief Registrar,
The Accountant-General/Auditor-General (State/Local Govt),
The Head of Personal Staff to the Deputy Governor,
All Heads of Extra-Ministerial Departments/Parastatals,

HEAD OF SERVICE CIRCULAR NO: 6/2025
APPROVAL FOR YEAR-END LEAVE FOR CIVIL/PUBLIC SERVANTS

I am pleased to convey the approval of His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State, granting all Civil/Public Servants in the State leave with effect from Monday, December 15, 2025, to Monday, January 5, 2026.

2. The approval is to enable Civil/Public Servants fully participate in the Christmas festivities within the State.
3. However, officers on essential duties are hereby exempted from this leave and are expected to remain at their duty posts to ensure continuous delivery of critical public services.
4. Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments are requested to bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all staff and ensure strict compliance.

Please be guided accordingly.


Orok Bassey Okon
Head of Service





Join the Carnival Calabar Diaspora Band!

Hey! We're calling on YOU to join the Carnival Calabar Diaspora Band, register now, it's totally FREE. Click the link below to secure your spot:

Register here

<https://forms.gle/H2DQTovEseKQx2M46>



Welcome *To*



CARNIVAL CALABAR

20TH ANNIVERSARY

THEME:
TRACES *of* TIME

16

NOV. 2025
2ND
DRY RUN

07

DEC. 2025
FINAL
DRY RUN

14

DEC. 2025
JUNIOR
DRY RUN

26

DEC. 2025
CULTURAL
CALABAR

26

DEC. 2025
NIGHT OF
KINGS &
QUEENS

27

DEC. 2025
JUNIOR
CARNIVAL

28

DEC. 2025
BIKERS
CARNIVAL

29

DEC. 2025
CARNIVAL
CALABAR

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Ministry of Information
Cross River State

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(+234)9153823424
(+234)7047108136
01-4482998





.....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.crossriverstate.gov.ng E-mail: info@crgia.crossriverstate.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.

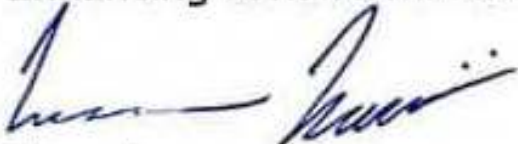
CALL OUR OFFICAL LINES

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

**IN-PERSON REGISTRATION
STARTS ON 25TH AUGUST, 2025**

*All 37 INEC State Offices or 774 Local
Government Area (LGA) Offices
Nearest to You*



New Voters 18+

Collect or Transfer your PVC

**Replace your lost or
damaged PVC**

No Multiple Registration



✉ iccc@inec.gov.ng

🌐 www.inecnigeria.org
www.inecnews.com

0700-CALL-INEC (0700-2255-4632)

INEC Short Code: 4632
09050858629, 09050858675,
09050858649

*INEC, Making your votes count...
Consolidating our democracy.*

📱📺📷 @inecnigeria

**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— FRSC —

CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND