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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.

Articles and stories in this publication may be reproduced.

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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.



Their Excellencies, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State and his dear wife-Bishop Dr. Mrs Eyoanwan Bassey Otu warmly welcome our esteemed Guests, Holiday Makers, Visitors and our Diaspora Family to the Super-Climax Week of the 2025 Calabar Festival extravaganza, featuring the 20th year Anniversary of Carnival Calabar-Africa's Biggest Street Party, with the theme "Traces of Time".

We celebrate our "People First" Governor, Senator Otu for making this annual showpiece Bold, Thicker, Bigger and Better as well as for also extending participation in the Fiesta to Central and Northern Senatorial Districts with the introduction of Ikom and Ogoja Carnivals. Come and be part of the Climax in this **Super Week** of the **Traces of time**:

| Friday, 26th December, 2025 | Monday, 29th December, 2025 |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Feel the Heartbeat of Culture & Royalty @ Cultural Carnival *Night of Kings and Queens of the Carnival Calabar Bands *Be at the Glittering Governor's Ball | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *See Calabar transform into a living rainbow with Carnival Calabar and Parade of Bands - Africa's Biggest Street Party *Watch the Night of thrilling Feather Concert |
| Saturday, 27th December, 2025 | 30th December, 2025 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Junior Carnival (Future Assured) *Feel the thrills at Calabar Street Party *Go Back in time with Calabar Old Skool Cocktails and Costumed Concert | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *See History come alive with the vibrant Nyoro Ekpe Cultural Parade *Followed by the Electrifying energy of Insomnia Night |
| Sunday, 28th December, 2025 | 31st December, 2025 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Watch the Bikers Carnival shake the City *Then be at the Queen of Humanity Cross River Pageant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The Sky lights up with spectacular Fireworks to welcome the New Year-2026 |

CROSS RIVER STATE IS GETTING BETTER UNDER GOVERNOR OTU:

- *Expanded Agricultural Programmes
- *The Project Grow initiative
- *Special Agro-Processing Zone project
- *The Re-acquisition of Tinapa Business and Leisure Resort from AMCON
- *Two more Airplanes for CallyAir Project
- *The Introduction of Social Investment Programmes to attend to the Less Privileged and most vulnerable in the society
- *Remodeling, Reconstruction and Recalibration of major State edifices

- *FG approval of Bakassi Deep Sea Port Project
- *The Diaspora Engagements initiatives
- *The Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway project
- *Sustenance of past Administration's mega projects
- *Expanded Tourism and Cultural Initiatives
- *And many other deliverables in two and half years.

Congratulations Your Excellency! It can only get better!
Celebrate Christmas in Cross River State and you will be glad you did.

Savour our third Season of Sweetness!

Destination Cross River!!

Welcome Home!!!


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



Odey Meets Northern Leaders, Receives Stakeholder Groups Amid Yuletide Festivities



As part of his Yuletide engagement s, the Deputy Governor of Cross River State, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, on Sunday met with Paramount Rulers, members of the Elders Advisory Council of the Cross River



State Consultative Forum (CRSECF) from the Northern Senatorial District, and other stakeholders at his residence in Igoli,

Ogoja Local Government Area.

Addressing the groups, Rt. Hon. Odey thanked them for their steadfast support for the People First administration of Governor Senator Prince Bassey



Edet Otu, whom he described as an intentional and people-focused leader. He urged them to sustain their support in 2026 and beyond, noting that the governor has continued to demonstrate goodwill towards Cross River North through ongoing infrastructural development across the state.



In their remarks, stakeholders commended Governor Otu and his deputy for their inclusive and people-oriented

leadership, evident in development across the three senatorial districts, particularly the



North. They also praised the Governor's Christmas initiatives, including free transport services and the

transparent distribution of rice and cash, describing the gestures as a reflection of the administration's commitment to the

welfare of all citizens, regardless of political affiliation.



Ironbar, 93 Others Scale NIPR EMC TrainingGets Chartered into Institute

By Benedict Okache



The Chief of Staff to Governor Bassey Edet Otu of Cross River State, Chief(Dr) Emmanuel Bassey Ironbar, anipr was among Ninety-three other Chief Executives, top Management of blue-Chip

Companies and high ranking Federal and State Government officials that scaled through the week-long 4th Quarter Executive Membership Class (EMC) of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) .

The successful candidates of the hybrid training programme were subsequently confirmed by the Governing Council of NIPR and inducted into Chartered Membership Status of the



Professional Body in line with the Institute's establishment Law-Decree 16 of June 1990 now an ACT of the National Assembly quoted as CAP N114 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria.

Speaking at the colourful induction ceremony held physically at Bolingo Hotels and Towers, Abuja

with many other joining Virtually, the President and Chairman of Governing Council of NIPR, Dr Ike Neliaku, fnipr, said their induction into the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations marks a significant turning point in their lives as they are now great Brand Ambassadors of their respective organisations, emphasizing that

they must strive at all times to strictly adhere to the ethics of the Profession and avoid falling prey of the law, which could resort to outright dismissal from the Institute.

Dr Neliaku admonished the new inductees as very special people in the society to know that henceforth, the



eye of the public is on them in all they say or do, adding that becoming a chartered Public Relations Practitioner confers on them a huge image which they must jealously protect as well as that of the organisations or Bosses they represent.

He congratulated and welcomed



them into Institute after the Oat of allegiance to the Profession as prescribed by the NIPR Act was administered on

them by the NIPR Registrar and Secretary to Council, Chief Uzoma Onyegbadue, fnipr.



Earlier while presenting the successful candidates for induction, the Chairman of the Education and Membership Services Committee and a member Governing Council of the Institute, Hajia Maryam Sanusi noted that the applicants were

trained on the different aspects of Public Relations including establishment Law, Strategic Communication, Reputation Management, Crisis Management, Protocol and Events , Government and Community Relations, Image moulding and Branding, amongst other topics.

"My brand new Professional Colleagues, after a week long rigorous training and assessment, the following Ninety-four candidates have been found worthy in character and learning to be inducted into the hallowed Chartered Membership of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations".

Presenting the NIPR Paraphernalia to the Chief of Staff, Chief Dr Emmanuel Bassey Ironbar in his office, having participated virtually in the ECM training, the State Chairman of the Cross River State Chapter of the Nigerian



Institute of Public Relations, Dr Austin Godwin Mboso, backed by the immediate past State Chairman of the Chapter, Mr Benedict Onah Okache, lauded Chief Ironbar for the bold step to embrace Public Relations, among many of his schedules, noting that the profession will add

great value to his potentials and a fresh dimension to performing his assignments and urged him to take advantage of the many strategies Public Relations offers to bolster the overall image of Cross River State Government ..

Dr Mboso pointed out that with the Chartered Membership

already attained, Chief Ironbar is now entitled to a Professional Practice Identity Number, Certificate, NIPR broche, Institute's Ceremonial Gown and to always write the suffix "anipr", after his name in all correspondences..

A life etched in culture, service: Gov Otu honours Edem Duke @ 70



Cross River State governor, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, has showered effusive praise on High Chief Edem Duke as the former Minister of Culture and Tourism marks his 70th birthday, describing him as "a colossus of culture, patriotism and visionary

service whose footprints are boldly etched on Nigeria's cultural and tourism landscape."

In a goodwill message released by his Chief Press Secretary and Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mr. Linus Obogo, to commemorate the milestone, Governor Otu hailed Duke as

"a distinguished son of Cross River State whose life exemplifies rare dedication, intellect and grace," noting that his contributions in public service and private enterprise have continued to resonate nationally. "At 70, High Chief Edem Duke stands tall as a beacon of purposeful leadership and creative excellence," the governor said.

Reflecting on Duke's years in government, Otu recalled his transformative role in culture and tourism, stressing that "his tenure brought strategic clarity, global visibility and

renewed pride to Nigeria's cultural heritage." He added that Duke "understood culture not merely as tradition, but as a powerful instrument for national unity, economic growth and global engagement."

The governor further described Duke as "a patriot in the truest sense," whose service was anchored on national interest and innovation. "His passion for Nigeria was evident in every assignment he undertook, and his vision helped reposition Cross River State as a foremost tourism destination in the country," Otu stated.

Beyond public

office, Otu noted that Duke has remained an influential voice and mentor, saying, "Even outside government, he continues to inspire generations through his ideas, counsel and unyielding commitment to national renewal." According to him, Duke's life journey "offers enduring lessons on leadership, resilience and service."

"As he attains this noble milestone, I celebrate a life of purpose, creativity and statesmanship," the governor declared, emphasizing that Duke's 70th birthday is "not just a celebration of years, but a celebration of impact."

Governor Otu expressed optimism about the years

ahead for the elder statesman, noting that "his wealth of wisdom remains invaluable to our state and nation." He added: "We are confident that his passion will continue to elevate our cultural heritage and shape meaningful conversations about development."

He summed up his tribute with warm prayers and goodwill, saying, "May his years ahead remain crowned with strength, fulfilment and enduring relevance," even as Cross River State and Nigeria join family, friends and admirers to honour High Chief Edem Duke for "a lifetime devoted to culture, country and service to humanity."

DEPUTY GOVERNOR ODEY VISITS OLD FAMILY CHURCH

Yuletide: Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, Deputy Governor of Cross River State, Pays Surprise Visit to His Family Church, Assemblies of God Church, Igoli, Amid Cheers from Congregation.









C'River To Clampdown On Abuse On Green Areas By Automotive Dealers

By David Akate



Automobile Technicians Regulatory Department, ATRD, Chief Ndem Effiong during an interaction with newsmen in his office in Calabar.

Irked by the activities of some Automobile Technicians who have continually disregarded government directive to steer clear of government designated green areas, the SA said that a mechanism has been put in place to deal with the perpetrators according to the law.

The Cross River State Government has again sternly advised against the use of green areas mapped out for esthetics as motor sales and

machine workshops across the State.

The stance of government was recently re-echoed by the Special Adviser to the Governor on

He described the attitude of the mechanics and



motor dealers as direct affront to government aimed at jeopardizing the honest efforts to improve and sustain the esthetics of the city centers pointing out that authorities shall no more look the other way but decisively bring the culprits to

book.

Chief Effiong used the opportunity to highlight teething problems associated with the sale of substandard and expired motor parts and lubricants which he attributed to the increased rate of accidents and the breakdown of machines

revealing that ground work to unmasked the syndicates are on top gear. The SA also warned against the theft and illegal dismantling of Automobile equipments in the State by criminals.

Cross River Adopts 2026 BERAP ...As Stakeholders Score Reforms High

By Benedict Okache



Cross River State Government, along with critical Stakeholders of the Cross River State Enabling Business Environment Council and the Ease of Doing Business Council have adopted the 2026 Cross River State Business Enabling Reform Action Plan.

The adoption of the Business Enabling Reforms Action Plan for 2026, followed several presentations at a well attended Stakeholder's Engagement on the design of the Action Plan, which took place at the SABER Conference Hall, Cross River State Enabling Business Environment Council Secretariat,

Fabrication Academy on Bishop Moynagh Avenue, State Housing Estate, Calabar.

Declaring the Stakeholders' Engagement open, Cross River State, Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu restated his administration's commitment to guarantee a



conducive Investment climate to thrive in the State, pointing out that since the beginning of the programme, Cross River State had been in the lead in delivering on her responsibilities to ensure the success of the laudable initiatives.

Governor Otu, who was represented by the State SABRE Champion and



Accountant General of Cross River State, Dr Mrs Glory Effiong, maintained that the extension of the Programme has further provided opportunity to institutionalised the initiatives with broader benefits for the people of the State.

The Governor

enjoined stakeholders to scrutinized all the designed Action Plans, make their inputs with a view to making them workable plans for 2026 in order to realise the objectives of the Programme, assuring that the State Government will continue to strictly adhere to



the rules of engagement in line with international best practices.

According to the Cross River State S SABER Programme Manager, Mr Cyril Nyong, the 2026 Cycle of the Action Plan is expected to focus on Six Reform



areas, covering improved Land Administration and

Land Improvement processes; Increased Fibre

Optic Network Development and Access to Broadband; Increased Sustainable Large-Scale Investment; Enabling Firm Operations and Regulatory Reforms; Quick Determination of Commercial Disputes and; Improved Security of Lives and Property.

Stakeholders were unanimous in their endorsement of the Six Reforms Areas, with a strong commitment to work together to ensure that the deliverables are in tandem with targeted objectives.

On the sidelines of the BERAP Stakeholders engagements, the Cross River State

Enabling Business Environment Council in collaboration with the State Investment Promotion Bureau engaged Business Communities with presentations on other thematic areas: "After Care and Retention Programme" as well as the Access to Credit workshop where First Bank of Nigeria Plc, Zenith Bank Plc and Fidelity Bank Plc engaged participants on available funding arrangements for Business outfits such as Retail Temporal Overdraft; Contract Finance Facility; Invoice Discount Facility and Local Purchase Order Finance, amongst others.

The Stakeholder's engagements drew

participants from Civil Societies, Non-Governmental Organisations, Business conglomerates, Contractors, Individual investors, Professional Bodies and relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies such as Ministries of Land, Justice, Agriculture, Information, Commerce, Industry, Cross River Geographic Information Agency, Cross River Internal Revenue Service, amongst others.



President's Wife Supports 250 Elderly Citizens in Cross River with Cash, Food Items

By Esther Okoi



The Wife of the President, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, has extended financial and welfare support to 250 elderly citizens across the three

senatorial districts of Cross River State, with each beneficiary receiving the sum of ₦200,000 in recognition of their invaluable contributions to nation-building.

The support was delivered under the third edition of the Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI) Social Investment Programme for the elderly, themed "Finding



Joy in Old Age.” The event, held at the Office of the Wife of the Governor, Cross River State, forms part of a nationwide intervention designed to support 250 vulnerable senior citizens aged 65 years and above in each of the 36 states of the federation, the Federal Capital

Territory, as well as veterans from the Defence and Police Officers’ Wives Association (DEPOWA).

Speaking through the Wife of the Governor of Cross River State, Bishop Eyoanwan Bassey Otu, Senator Tinubu said the initiative reflects her continued commitment to honouring and

caring for elderly Nigerians who laboured tirelessly to build the nation.

“Through this scheme, we have continued to express our gratitude and care for the men and women who have laboured to build the Nigeria we are all proud to be part of today,” she said.



She emphasized the need to prioritise the welfare of senior citizens, especially during the festive season, noting that they endured difficult paths so that younger generations could enjoy better opportunities. According to her, it is both a moral duty and a privilege to ensure

that elderly citizens live their later years in comfort, good health, and dignity.

The President's wife encouraged the beneficiaries to find joy and purpose in old age by remaining active, nurturing their bodies and minds through regular exercise, meaningful engagement, and

charitable acts. She also urged them to continue praying for the nation while staying surrounded by love, care, and respect.

In a welcome address delivered on her behalf by the Wife of the Chief of Staff, Dr. Virginia Ironbar, Bishop Eyoanwan Bassey Otu



warmly received the elderly citizens and commended them for their sacrifices and resilience, describing them as torchbearers who have lit the path for younger generations to follow.

In their separate goodwill messages, Rev. Grace Ekanem and Chief Mrs.

Christy Ise praised the Wife of the Governor for her compassion towards the aged, describing her as a gift to senior citizens and humanity at large. They also expressed gratitude to Senator Oluremi Tinubu for her steadfast commitment to the welfare of elderly Nigerians, praying for divine blessings

upon her.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mrs. Rosemary Ekppenyong and Mr. Edwin Nyong expressed heartfelt appreciation for the gesture, which also included 20kg bags of rice, vegetable oil, tomatoes, and other condiments. They prayed for



RENEWED Hope

good health and continued strength for the President's wife and the Wife of the Governor, thanking them for bringing joy and relief to the elderly during the

yuletide season.

The Elderly Support Scheme, an annual programme of the Renewed Hope Initiative, is aimed at celebrating the festive season with senior citizens,

restoring hope, and encouraging healthy living so they can enjoy a dignified and fulfilling old age.

IAR's Historic Footprint Reaches Cross River State ...As Gov. Otu Approves the set-up of Outstations Across the State



The establishment of an Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR) outstation in Cross River State represents one of the most visionary steps in the history of

agricultural research in Nigeria. Beyond the symbolism of geography, this milestone speaks loudly to national inclusion, ecological relevance, and the deliberate extension of research impact to

the extreme end of the country—from the savanna landscapes of the North to the lush rainforest belt of the South. A major highlight of this historic partnership is the approval by the

Cross River State Government in this December 2025 for the construction of an administrative building for the IAR outstation, a clear demonstration of the State's strong commitment to hosting and sustaining research-driven agricultural development. This approval provides a solid institutional foundation for IAR's pilot operations in the State and reinforces the seriousness with which Cross River views this collaboration. This achievement is anchored on purposeful leadership and institutional synergy. The Executive Director of IAR, Prof. Ado

Yusuf, has continued to chart a bold course for the Institute—one that expands IAR's relevance beyond traditional boundaries and positions it as a truly national research institution. His strategic engagement with state governments and stakeholders has translated vision into tangible infrastructure and enduring partnerships. Equally significant is the role of the Vice Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University Prof. Adamu Ahmed, who formally wrote a letter of appreciation to the Governor of Cross River State, acknowledging the State Government's support, hospitality, and approval for the construction of the IAR

administrative building. This gesture not only reflects academic diplomacy at its finest but also underscores the University's deep appreciation of Cross River State's commitment to agricultural research, innovation, and national development. The Governor of Cross River State, His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, deserves special commendation for his foresight and openness to collaboration. By approving infrastructure development for IAR, he has demonstrated that sustainable agriculture, food security, and youth empowerment are best achieved



when science and governance work together. The leadership of the Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture and Irrigation Development, Cross River State Hon. Johnson Andiambey Ebokpo, is also acknowledged for providing the necessary institutional support that made this milestone possible. The IAR outstation in Cross River State is more than a physical expansion—it is a

strategic bridge between research and ecology, designed to generate solutions tailored to the rainforest environment. It holds immense promise for adaptive research in cereals and legumes, horticulture, climate-smart agriculture, and sustainable land management, while also creating opportunities for capacity building and youth engagement. From Samaru in Kaduna State to Nyanya in Cross

River State, IAR is redefining national service through research, planting seeds of innovation, partnership, and progress across Nigeria's diverse landscapes. With visionary leadership, supportive state governance, and strong university backing, this outstation stands as a powerful testament that when institutions collaborate with purpose, national development knows no boundaries.



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18th December, 2025

PRESS STATEMENT

CLARIFICATION ON REGULATIONS FOR TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS AT THE CROSS RIVER STATE LIBRARY COMPLEX

The attention of the Government of Cross River State has been drawn to the unregulated and uncoordinated taking of photographs and making of Videos by users and visitors to the recently re-opened Cross River State Library Complex.

These unwholesome trends have continued to remain an issue of great concern to the Management of the Cross River State Library and the Government wishes to address them in the overall interest of the Public as follows:

1. The Cross River State Library Complex remains a public institution owned by the Cross River State Government. It has not been sold, leased, or transferred to any individual or private entity.
2. Government wishes to however note that certain sections within the State Library Complex -such as the Café and Multi-Purpose areas; are managed spaces established to promote sustainability, orderliness, and the protection of public assets.
3. The already introduced guidelines regulating photography and videography within designated areas of the Library Complex were introduced solely to preserve a conducive learning and research environment for users. These measures were further intended to reduce overcrowding, limit noise and distractions as well as prevent the misuse or damage of Library facilities.
4. Government wishes to emphasize that as a public Library, maintaining quiet study conditions and safeguarding resources remains a core responsibility of Management of the Library.
5. Again, Government recognises the fact that unrestricted filming and photography can lead to congestion and disruption of services for other Library Users.
6. In the light of the above, all clients-group or Individual, MUST give prior

notification and receive formal approval from the Library Management to guarantee seamless identification and Commercial Photography in the Complex.

7. Government further directs all clients and users to strictly adhere to the guidelines to correct all noticeable inconsistencies, enhance engagements and avoid congestion in the Library. They are also to note that these standardised guidelines are not intended to penalise Library Clients and Visitors but to make the Library more accessible, orderly, serene and beneficial to all members of the public.

Finally, Government sincerely appreciates the support so far and solicits for continued cooperation so that together with the Library Management, improved service delivery and transparency will be achieved in line with international best practices.

Thank you, as Government wishes you all a merry Christmas and a happy New year -2026.



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





Indiscriminate

**BUSH
BURNING**

**is still outlawed
in Cross River State.**

**Do not indulge in indiscriminate bush
burning. Avoid the wrath of Government.**

CRSEMA



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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

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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.

C'River Deputy Governor Odey Attends Wedding Reception of Obanliku Chairman's Son



On Saturday, shortly after attending the funeral mass in honour of the late Thomas Abang Ojie at Mbube, Ogoja Local Government Area, the Deputy Governor of Cross River State, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, PhD, attended the wedding reception ceremony of Mr. Godspower Ayang and his heartthrob, Deborah, at the Obanliku Civic Centre, Sankwalla.

The groom is the son of the Executive Chairman of Obanliku Local Government Area, Hon. Chief (Dr.) Sunny Ayang, JP.

The reception, chaired by the Executive Chairman of Obudu LGA, Ntufam Hon. (Amb.) Peter Undiandeye, PhD, KSM, was attended by Senator Jarigbe Agom, represented by Mr. Timothy Adah, House of Representatives member for

Obanliku/Bekwarra/Obudu Federal Constituency, Hon. Peter Akpanke, Deputy Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Hon. Sylvester Agabi, member representing Obudu State Constituency, Hon. Engr. Thomas Aruku, Vice Chairman of Obanliku LGA, Hon. Glory Awowoh, top government officials, APC leadership, and other dignitaries.







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.

Governor Otu Mourns Late Thomas Ojie at Funeral Mass in Ogoja



The Governor of Cross River State, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, has described the late Mr. Thomas Abang Ojie as a devoted public servant whose life of service and integrity will be long remembered.

Governor Otu made this remark on Saturday at the funeral mass of the late Mr. Ojie, held at St. Martin De Porres Catholic Church, Odajie-Mbube, in Ogoja Local Government Area.

In a condolence

message, the Governor, represented by his deputy, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, expressed profound sorrow over the passing of Mr. Ojie, who died at the age of 49. He described the loss as painful not only to the family



but also to the state and the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH), where the deceased served.

"Mr. Tom devoted his life to the service of others as a valued staff member of the University of

Calabar Teaching Hospital. He left an indelible mark through his exceptional dedication to duty, a legacy that will long be remembered," the Governor said.

Odey further described the deceased as a loving brother, husband,

and father whose love and guidance profoundly impacted his family. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the Ojie family, assuring them of his prayers and support, and urged them to draw strength from the



fond memories of the departed.

Reading the biography of the late Mr. Thomas Abang Ojie, his

daughter, Miss Winifred Thomas Ojie, noted that he was born on October 27, 1976, hailed from Odajie, Mbube, Ogoja LGA,

and was educated at Christ the King Primary School, Odajie-Mbube, St. Patrick's College, Calabar, and the University of Calabar, where he earned a B.Sc. in Policy Studies and Administration. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Cecilia Ojie, and their three children.

In their separate tributes, the Member



representing Ogoja State Constituency in the Cross River State House of Assembly, Hon. Thomas Aruku, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Calabar, Prof. Zana Akpagu, and other

dignitaries described the late Thomas Ojie as a disciplined, humble, and community-oriented individual whose commitment to service and development was worthy of emulation. They also consoled

his elder brother, Chief Dr. Peter Ojie, KSJI, and the entire family.

In his vote of thanks, Chief Dr. Peter Ojie, KSJI, elder brother of the deceased, expressed gratitude to the Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, his deputy, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, church leadership and members, friends, and well-wishers for their prayers, support, and solidarity with the family during their time of grief, praying that God would grant eternal rest to the soul of his late brother.



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

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

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.



Join the Carnival Calabar Diaspora Band!

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<https://forms.gle/H2DQTovEseKQx2M46>



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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
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Cross River State

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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



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**

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Nearest to You*



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damaged PVC**

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**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— FRSC —

CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND