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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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Contents

- SENATOR JARIGBE GRACES CALABAR CARNIVAL 2025, COMMENDS GOVERNOR OTU'S REVIVAL EFFORTS** **PAGE 3**
- NEWS COMMENTARY ON CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARNIVAL CALABAR -AFRICA'S BIGGEST STREET PARTY** **PAGE 6**
- CALASVEGAS BAND WINS 2025 CARNIVAL CALABAR FESTIVAL AND PARADE OF BANDS** **PAGE 3**
- PORTGUESE ENVOY, UZODINMA, APC NATIONAL CHAIR, OTHERS GRACE 20TH CARNIVAL CALABAR** **PAGE 10**
- EKPANG FAMILY THANKS GOD FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF LIFE, BLESSINGS** **PAGE 13**
- GOV OTU FLAGS OFF 2025 BIKERS CARNIVAL** **PAGE 15**
- CALABAR JUNIOR CARNIVAL: C'RIVER FIRST LADY TASKS CHILDREN ON PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE** **PAGE 21**
- 22 STATES, 18 LGAS, OTHERS GRACE CALABAR CULTURAL CARNIVAL** **PAGE 35**
- HEAD OF SERVICE CIRCULAR NO. 9/2025 RE-DESIGNATION OF THEINFORMATION CADRE TO THE INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER CADRE** **PAGE 31**
- GOV OTU SIGNS 2026 BUDGET INTO LAW, REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE GROWTH** **PAGE 78**



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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.

Senator Jarigbe Graces Calabar Carnival 2025, Commends Governor Otu's Revival Efforts



The Senator representing Cross River North Senatorial District, Senator Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe, has hailed the Calabar Carnival as a unique brand that deserves protection and promotion.

He made this remark at the 2025 Calabar Carnival grand finale, themed

"Traces of Time," held in Calabar.

The 20th edition of the Calabar Carnival (Africa's Biggest Street Party) featured vibrant displays of colors, creativity, and cultural expression by various bands, among other activities.

Senator Jarigbe noted that the event showcases

Nigeria's rich cultural heritage and commended Governor Otu's administration for reviving the carnival after years of decline.

He urged governments and the private sector to collaborate in protecting and promoting the Calabar Carnival as an international brand. The Lawmaker also



commended the State government's efforts in

sustaining the festival, which aims to position Cross River as a tourism

and hospitality hub in Nigeria and Africa.



News Commentary On Celebrating The 20th Anniversary Of The Carnival Calabar -Africa's Biggest Street Party

The iconic Carnival Calabar-one of the greatest tourism offerings of Cross River State, is marking a significant milestone this 2025, as it celebrates 20 years of showcasing Nigeria's rich cultural heritage christened "Africa's Biggest Street Party".

Founded by Governor Donald Duke in 2004 then as Carnival float before it later metamorphosed into Carnival Calabar in 2005 with the formation of five competing Bands including Bayside, Sea Gull,

Passion 4, Masta Blasta and Freedom Carnival Bands; the Carnival has grown into a premier tourism brand, boosting the



State's economy through encouraging the growth of small scale enterprises and promoting unity among Nigerians and indeed Africa as a whole.

In its revolutionary trajectory, under the leadership of Governor Liyel

Imoke, the Carnival from 2007, expanded its scope and appeal while solidifying its position as a major cultural event in the Calabar Festival programmes with the introduction of the Children Carnival, King and Queen Competition as well as the Miss Carnival Beauty Pageant.

Then came the tenure of Governor Benedict Ayade, who scrupulously continued to support and enhance the Carnival's activities with the introduction of

Miss Africa beauty Pageant alongside other innovative offerings to give it that African appeal as well as expand its scope and iced it with the introduction of two additional competing Bands- Diamond and Calas Vegas Bands.

In 2023, being his first outing, Governor Bassey Edet Otu introduced an innovative theme, "Season of Sweetness", which emphasized on the importance of community cohesion and people centred inclusiveness.

Building on this success, the 2024 edition focused on "Shared Prosperity", to highlight the benefits of

collaboration and mutual growth. Governor Otu went on to decentralised the Carnival celebration in the State through the introduction of the Ikom and Ogoja Carnivals, to accommodate residents of Local Government Areas in the Central and Northern Senatorial Districts of the State, respectively. In addition, the Governor through the Carnival Commission Law provided a legal framework for the operations of the Carnival as an entity in the State. His tenure has also witnessed the introduction of the Miss Humanity Beauty Pageant, the Diaspora Carnival Band as well as the massive light up of major Streets in

the Calabar Metropolis. This year's edition themed "Traces of Time", is the marking the 20th Anniversary of the Annual showpiece.

Over the years, Carnival Calabar has featured spectacular parades, live music performances and cultural exhibitions, attracting a large population of visitors from across the globe into Calabar for the annual extravaganza. The event has also provided a platform for local artistes, artisans and businesses to showcase their talents and products as well as advanced their enterprises.

Carnival Calabar is a testament to the power of culture in driving economic growth and social cohesion", said Governor Bassey Otu. "We are committed to sustaining this legacy and exploring new ways to promote our rich heritage."

As we celebrate two decades of Carnival Calabar , Tourism stakeholders in Nigeria are optimistic about its continued success following its rich history, vibrant culture and commitment to innovation, making it a shining example of Nigeria's cultural excellence.

Furthermore,examining its overall

gains, one will definitely agree that a 20 year milestone is significant for several reasons. Indeed ,the Carnival Calabar has played a crucial role in preserving and promoting Nigeria's cultural appeal showcasing it rich history, music and art.

As a major tourist attraction, it has contributed significantly to Cross River State's economy, generating substantive revenue and creating over ten thousand jobs through the craft, fashion and talent components.

In two decades, the Carnival Calabar has evolved, incorporating new themes at every

year's celebration. Today, it pride itself as one of the innovative institutions as well as an iconic global tourism brand ,ranking top fifth in the World.

More so,the Carnival's success is a testament to the visionary leadership of all former Governors of the State- Donald Duke, Liyel Imoke, Ben Ayade and now Bassey Otu who have supported and enhanced the event with continuous expansion in content and trending innovations.

Indeed the Carnival has gained international recognition, attracting visitors from around the



world to Calabar, showcasing Nigeria's cultural richness globally with over two billion television viewership annually.

These milestones celebrate the Carnival's enduring impact on Nigerian culture , economy and society paving

the way for continued growth and innovative expansion.

As we conclude the 2025 Calabar Festival and Carnival programmes,we extend our profound gratitude to all visitors for making this year's showpiece a remarkable one.It

can only get better in 2026.Happy New Year Nigerians

This News Commentary is Compiled by the Ministry of Information,Cross River State.

Portuguese Envoy, Uzodinma, APC National Chair, others grace 20th Carnival Calabar



From L-R: Her Excellency, Mrs Hope Uzodinma and her husband, Imo State governor, Hope Uzodinma; His Excellency, Cross River State governor, Senator Bassey Otu and wife, Bishop Eyoanwan Bassey Otu; Portuguese Envoy to Nigeria, Paulo Santos, at the 2025 Carnival Calabar

Imo State Governor, Senator Hope Uzodinma, National Chairman of All Progressives Congress, Prof Nentawe Yilwatda and wife, were among those who graced the 20th

anniversary of Carnival Calabar.

Others in attendance included Minister of State (industry), Senator John Owan Enoh and wife, some retired military officers,

Nollywood actors, among others.

Speaking while flagging off the event christened, Africa's biggest Street party, at the historical Millenium park in Calabar, Cross

River State governor, Prince Bassey Otu, charged the various bands to interpret the theme in a manner that the world will continue to remember the state.

"The Carnival you see today, what we are going to unveil is going to be some very explosive outcome and of course we want all the bands to understand the theme of this year's Carnival which happens to be the traces of time.

"We want to see it practicalized and come in a perfect way and manner that the world is going to remember Cross River," the governor said.

Otu affirmed that the Calabar Carnival remains one of the most important in the tourism calendar of the state as it translates two decades of ingenuity, resilience, continuity and sustainability.

Admonishing the competing and non competing brands to refine their skills and present the best in their presentation, he said: "I see a number of wants-to-be bands, your performance today will show whether you will be promoted to that vacancy, so put in a quintessential performance today and we will put you there.

The governor used the event to

recognise and applaud his predecessors including former Governors' Donald Duke for the vision of the Carnival, the sustainability by Liyel Imoke and the resilient nature of Ben Ayade, who in spite of COVID 19, still saw the event through.

Earlier, Chairman Cross River Carnival Commission, Gabe Onah, remarked that the event has tremendously transformed the commercial economy of the state.

Onah announced the presence of French and English speaking ECOWAS Commission, Spanish consul, Portuguese



Ambassador as well as other relevant local and international partners to the year's event.

For the Portuguese Envoy, Paulo Santos, he lauded the Cross River government for the success of the Carnival which is in its second decade.

Santos, overwhelmed by the organisation of the event, remarked that he would encourage other diplomats in Abuja and its environs to seek end of year holidays in Calabar.

Revellers after the flag off danced through the 12 kilometres Carnival routes, stopping at

the various adjudication points to interpret the theme in line with the guidelines of the competition.

Ekpang Family Thanks God For Another Year Of Life, Blessings

..As Family Holds Thanksgiving Mass, Celebrates Daughter's 9th Birthday in Calabar


By Rose Undie and Solomon Effiom



The family of Dr. and Mrs. Erasmus Ekpang has expressed profound gratitude to God for the gift of life and abundant blessings as they marked a special thanksgiving service and birthday

celebration in Calabar. The thanksgiving Mass was held on Sunday during the 9:00 a.m. service at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, drawing friends, relatives, associates, and well-wishers who gathered to share in the family's joy

and prayers. The occasion also marked the 9th birthday of their daughter, Eliana, whose celebration added colour and warmth to the event. The young celebrant was showered with love, goodwill messages, and gifts from family



members and guests, reflecting the joy of another year of growth and grace. Speaking during the mass, Dr. Erasmus Ekpang expressed heartfelt appreciation to God for life, good health, and the opportunity to serve humanity. He also thanked his Excellency Senator prince Bassey Otu the Governor of Cross River State and his wife for the opportunity given to him to serve. He noted that the

thanksgiving was an expression of the family's unwavering faith and gratitude for God's continual guidance and protection. "We are truly grateful to God for another year of life and His countless blessings upon our family," he said, adding that the celebration was also an opportunity to reaffirm their trust in God for the future. The celebration later continued at the family's residence, where

guests were treated to a warm reception, sumptuous meals, and a ceremonial cake-cutting in honour of Eliana's birthday. The thanksgiving Mass and birthday celebration highlighted the Ekpang family's deep commitment to faith, family values, and gratitude, as they look ahead with hope, joy, and renewed thanksgiving for the blessings they continue to enjoy.

Calabar Carnival



Gov Otu flags off 2025 Bikers Carnival

By Kingsley Agim



Cross River State Governor, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to safety, tourism promotion and global cultural exchange, as he flagged-off the 2025 Bikers Carnival in Calabar, one of the signature

events of the Carnival Calabar festival.

Represented at the event by his Deputy, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, who declared the Bikers Carnival open amid cheers from bikers, residents and visitors drawn from within and outside the state, the Governor assured

participants and the international community that Cross River State remains safe and well-prepared to host large-scale events. He disclosed that he personally inspected the carnival routes to ensure they were motorable and free of hazards.

“Let us tell the



world that Cross River State is safe. I have gone round the routes myself; there are no potholes and the roads are smooth," he said.

The Governor stressed the importance of strict adherence to safety protocols, urging all bikers to wear helmets, reflective vests and ensure

proper riding discipline to avoid accidents. He added that ambulances, medical personnel and insurance coverage had been put in place to guarantee a hitch-free event.

"With Doctors on ground, ambulances stationed, and insurance fully covered, we want

this carnival to be remembered only for positive reasons," he stated, before officially declaring the 2025 Bikers Carnival open to the glory of God.

Earlier, Chairman of the Cross River State Carnival Commission, Gabe Onah, described the Bikers Carnival as part of a broader effort to



preserve cultural heritage and reconnect younger generations with the values and creativity embedded in Carnival Calabar.

He also revealed the presence of the ECOWAS Commission, with representatives from 12 member nations, noting that their participation underscored the

growing business, talent and creative-sector opportunities associated with Carnival Calabar on the regional stage.



The event attracted strong international attention, with the Ambassador of Portugal to Nigeria, Paulo Santos, praising the organisation, professionalism and enduring legacy of the carnival. He described his presence in Calabar as both a cultural and historical

“homecoming.”

“Calabar means ‘the quiet harbour’ in my language,” the ambassador explained, recounting the historic ties between Portugal and the ancient city. He lauded the enthusiasm and scale of participation, saying the carnival looked as though it had been organised

for “200 or even 2,000 years,” rather than just two decades.

Ambassador Santos pledged to encourage other diplomats in Abuja to experience Carnival Calabar, urging them to forgo their usual end-of-year holidays to witness what he described as one of Nigeria’s finest



cultural showcases.

One of the emotional highlights of the event came from 86-year-old UK-based diasporan, Mr. Richard Nzerem, originally from Imo State, who expressed deep gratitude for witnessing what he called a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Having lived in the United Kingdom for over 60 years, Nzerem said the Bikers Carnival exceeded his expectations and left him fulfilled. He thanked the state government for granting him the opportunity to be part of the historic moment.



Calabar Junior Carnival:



C'River First Lady Tasks Children on Preserving Cultural Heritage

By Kingsley Agim and Esther Okoi



The Wife of the Governor of Cross River State, Archbishop Eyoanwan Bassey Otu, has charged children in the state to take ownership of the

preservation and sustainability of Cross River's rich cultural heritage, as she officially

flagged off the 2025 Calabar Junior Carnival.

The flag-off



ceremony, held at the Botanical Garden, Calabar, marked the commencement of children-focused carnival activities as part of events celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Calabar Carnival, themed "Traces of Time."

Speaking at the event, the First Lady explained that the theme





pride, discipline and a sense of responsibility in young participants as custodians of the state's cultural legacy.

According to her,

the vibrant energy, creativity and talents displayed by the children must be channelled towards sustaining the values, traditions and heritage handed

down by previous generations.

Archbishop Otu commended parents, teachers, educators, volunteers and band leaders for



their roles in grooming the children, stressing that the legacy of the carnival can only endure through intentional mentoring and value-driven guidance.

Reflecting on the history of the Calabar Carnival, she observed that many of the children were not yet born when the carnival began, but are now beneficiaries of a

legacy built through years of commitment and cultural pride, which they must continue to uphold.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Cross River State



Carnival Commission, Sir Gabe Onah, welcomed guests to the event and praised the First Lady for her consistent advocacy for children, education and

purposeful celebrations.

He noted that the transition from Children's Carnival to Junior Carnival aligns with the state's vision of responsible and sustainable

tourism, driven by human capital development and cultural continuity.













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DECEMBER 10, 2025

The Hon. Speaker,
The Hon. Chief Judge,
All Commissioner/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

HEAD OF SERVICE CIRCULAR NO. 9/2025

RE-DESIGNATION OF THE INFORMATION CADRE AS INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER CADRE

The Office of the Head of Service wishes to notify the Ministry of Information of the re-designation of the existing Information Cadre to the Information & Public Relations Officer (IPRO) Cadre with immediate effect.

2. The re-designation is in line with ongoing reforms aimed at strengthening professional communication functions, enhancing public engagement, and ensuring alignment with national and global standards of public information management.

3. Consequently, the following academic qualifications and professional certifications shall now be recognized and accepted for entry, progression, and professional practice within the Information & Public Relations Officer Cadre:

- a. Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication
- b. Bachelor's Degree in Journalism
- c. Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Arts
- d. Other related degrees and communication-based qualifications
- e. Professional certifications from the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR)
- f. Professional certifications from other recognized and reputable bodies in the field of communication, media, and public relations.

4. You are requested to take necessary steps to implement this directive, including updating all establishment records, scheme of service references, and relevant personnel documentation to reflect the new designation.

5. Please bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all officers and departments concerned for strict compliance.

Orok Bassey Okon
Head of Service



CRS-FWRO Pays Courtesy Visit To Commissioner For Information



The leadership of the Cross River State Forum of Ward Relation Officers (CRS-FWRO)* also paid a courtesy visit to the *Honourable Commissioner for Information, Cross River State, Dr. Erasmus Ekpang as part of its strategic engagement with key stakeholders

in the State.

The Honourable Commissioner warmly received the Forum and described the visit as a *timely and commendable step* toward building a *strong and effective synergy* between the *Ministry of Information* and Ward Relation Officers (WROs) at

the grassroots level.

Dr Ekpang assured the Forum that, going forward, the Ministry of Information would *communicate directly with Ward Relation Officers in every ward across the state*, recognizing them as critical partners in disseminating

accurate government information to local communities.

The Commissioner further charged the Forum to remain *focused, diligent, professional, and unbiased* in the discharge of their duties. He emphasized that *His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State, Apostle Sen. Prince Bassey Otu*, remains fully committed to ensuring that every community in the state *feels the tangible impact of his administration's "Season of Sweetness."*

He highlighted key areas where the Governor's administration is making deliberate efforts, including

infrastructure development, improved electricity supply, agriculture, education, quality healthcare delivery, human capacity development, security, and the *total eradication of poverty across all communities* in Cross River State.

As the state's powerhouse of information*, Dr. Ekpang noted that the Ministry of Information remains proactive and fully engaged in its responsibilities. He stressed that for the envisioned synergy to succeed, Ward Relation Officers must also remain alert, responsive, and committed to their roles as grassroots communicators of government

policies and achievements.

In response, the leadership of the CRS-FWRO expressed deep appreciation for the Honourable Commissioner's warm reception and positive assurances. The Forum reaffirmed its readiness to work closely with the Ministry of Information, pledging to serve as a reliable channel for *taking government information, policies, and programmes to the grassroots* across the State.



NOTICE TO ALL MDA's

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Sequel to directives from the Head of Service, and in view of the short notice, all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are hereby requested to nominate five (5) representatives each to participate in the Cross River State 20th Carnival.*

Details of the exercise are as follows:

- Date: 29th December, 2025*
- Time: 9:00AM*
- **Muster Point:** Millennium Park (also known as Eleven Eleven)
 - Dress Code: Blue or Black Jeans (T-shirts will be provided)

Kindly ensure strict compliance with this directive

22 States, 18 LGAs, others grace Calabar Cultural Carnival



A total of 22 out of the 30 accredited States across the country are in Calabar for the 2025 Cultural Carnival holding

Friday and tagged 'Traces of time.'

Also on ground to grace the yearly event are the six host communities in Calabar, the 18

local government areas troupes in the state and the newly introduced Diaspora band.

Flagging off the event at the



Millennium park roundabout in Calabar, the Cross River capital, the governor, Prince Bassey Otu, explained that the event was an opportunity to showcase the beautiful cultural heritage of Cross River and indeed the entire nation.

Otu, represented by his deputy, RT. Hon. Peter Odey said: "You will see

culture in clear display, you will see culture of the people of Cross River, you will see various cultural groups that would come across the country to showcase what we are known for.

"Calabar Carnival will again be in the eyes of the world that we are showcasing the best cultural carnival in the

world.

"We are the first to start the cultural carnival and every year we up the game," the governor stated.

Earlier, Chairman Cross River Carnival Commission, Gabe Onah, explained that the foundation of the said Cultural Carnival was laid by the culture and



heritage of the people of the state.

Reasoning that the African man is known to dance on the city streets, Onah noted that the European Union is equally advertising and associating with what Carnival Calabar is doing, through the 'Sticks arts.'

Going

philosophical, the Commission Chairman pointed out that, "in Africa arts and culture, everything is prominent, caused by the Sun and this is what the Sun has offered us here today, blessing this cultural efforts."

At the time of filing this report, Abia, Bayelsa, Kogi, Delta, Adamawa, Benue and Edo were among the

first arrivals into the state.

Others include, Ebonyi, Katsina, Kebbi, Nasarawa, Niger, Ondo, Osun, Rivers and Taraba.



















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12.26.2025 08:44



12.26.2025 08:42



















12.26.2025 07:51

















12.26.2025 09:17



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Wealth flows in
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historic stride,
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leads—forever
anew!
In influence
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banners fly true!

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***Dr. Peter
Oyeneye, fnipr
Chairman,
Conference of
Public Relations
Professionals
in Tertiary
Institutions
(NIPR Sector
Group)***

Senator Jarigbe Pledges Commitment to Sports Development as Obanliku Clinches Maiden JARI UNITY CUP Title



The Senator representing Cross River North Senatorial District, Senator Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe, has pledged more commitment to sports

development as Obanliku Local Government football team edged Ogoja Local Government to clinch the maiden JARI UNITY CUP.

Team Obanliku

emerged champions of the tournament following a thrilling final decided by penalties at the TTC football field in Ogoja Local Government Area.



The maiden tournament was sponsored by Champions of the North, led by Mr. Peter Mbata, as part of efforts to promote grassroots football

development, foster unity, and youth engagement in Cross River North Senatorial District.

Speaking at the event, Senator Jarigbe

congratulated the winners and runners-up for their resilience, dedication, and commitment which culminated in reaching the finals. He described the



competition as a growing platform that will add value to sports development, adding that it is the reason he facilitated the establishment of a mini sports stadium.

The colorful final attracted massive crowd and was graced by Hon. Mike Usibe, Hon. Rita Agbo Ayim, Barr. Adie Chilo, and other dignitaries and

special guests.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of awards to deserving participants, including the Most Valuable Player, Best Goalkeeper, and Highest Goal Scorer, and the presentation of medals to the winners, runners-up, organizers, match officials, and special guests.

The tournament

will serve as a veritable platform for discovering young talents while fostering unity, sportsmanship, and youth development in Cross River North Senatorial District.

Congratulations to Obanliku Football Team.

Gov Otu Signs 2026 Budget into Law, Reaffirms Commitment to Inclusive Growth

By Kingsley Agim



Governor of Cross River State, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, has formally signed the 2026 Appropriation Bill into law, describing the budget as “a statement of purpose and a solemn commitment to social stability,

inclusion, and shared prosperity.” The signing ceremony took place at the Government House before the Speaker of the House of Assembly and members of the House Committee on Finance and Appropriation.

Speaking at the event, Governor Otu said the budget was carefully designed to respond to the realities facing the state while laying a solid foundation for long-term growth. “This budget is more than a legal appropriation,” he declared. “It is our

blueprint for economic transformation, social protection, and the delivery of tangible dividends of democracy to our people.”

The governor commended the House of Assembly for what he described as “diligence, transparency, and patriotism” throughout the budget process. He noted that the legislature’s engagement with the executive, civil society organisations, and state economic managers reflected global best practices. “The successful implementation of this budget will continue to inspire confidence in governance and reinforce accountability in the

service of our people,” Otu said.

According to the governor, the ₦961 billion 2026 budget places strong emphasis on capital development, with significant investments in infrastructure, healthcare, education, energy, and social protection. “By prioritising roads, bridges, urban renewal, and rural connectivity, we are not just building infrastructure; we are unlocking new economic opportunities across our cities and communities,” he stated.

Governor Otu further stressed that human capital development remained at the heart of his administration’s agenda. “Our education sector remains central to our future,” he said,

adding that the budget provides for improved learning infrastructure, teacher development, and better educational outcomes to prepare young people for a modern economy.

He also underscored the importance of healthcare and social welfare, noting that the budget includes projects aimed at expanding medical facilities, improving service delivery, and protecting the wellbeing of citizens. “No one will be left behind as we strengthen social safety nets, empower citizens, and protect the most vulnerable among us,” the governor assured.

Earlier in his address, Speaker of the Cross River State House of

Assembly, Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayamben, said the legislature approached the budget with a deep sense of responsibility to the people. "This House has a duty to speak for every segment of our society," Ayamben said."

The Speaker explained that the House subjected the budget to rigorous scrutiny, including what he described as an "open review" process. "In the interest of transparency and redress, we reviewed the budget framework to ensure adequate allocation for institutional strengthening, security response, and citizen protection," he said, noting that the legislature's work was guided by constitutional

responsibility and public interest.

The Speaker highlighted the budget's strong capital orientation, which he said would translate into wealth creation and infrastructure expansion. "This strong capital organisation will drive prosperity across the state," Ayamben stated. "From roads and power infrastructure to education and healthcare, the House ensured that every allocation reflects the needs and aspirations of our people."

Both the governor and the Speaker paid special attention to women and youth empowerment. Governor Otu noted that women "play a critical role in shaping our future," while Ayamben affirmed

that the House supported targeted programmes in skills acquisition, entrepreneurship, sports development, and economic inclusion to meet "the immense demands of our people."

As he signed the budget into law, Governor Otu reaffirmed his administration's commitment to collaboration with the legislature. "Together, we shall advance financial harmony, accountability, and effective service delivery," he said. "Together, we will deliver on the promise of greatness for Cross River State."



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.





The **Editorial Team**
of the Ministry of
Information heartily
rejoices with the **Chief
Image Maker** of
Cross River State, **Dr.
Erasmus Ekpang**, on
this joyous occasion of
the **2025 Christmas
Celebration.**



We pray for God's
matchless grace in the
coming year.

**Merry Christmas,
Sir.**





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Ref: CR/MOI/AD/385/VOL.IV/236

25th December, 2025

PRESS STATEMENT

2025 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS: CRSG FELICITATES CHRISTIANS

The Government of Cross River State under the distinguished leadership of His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, and indeed the entire good People of Cross River State, warmly felicitates all Christians across the world as they celebrate the 2025 Christmas Day, which is a day set aside to commemorate the Birth of Jesus Christ -the only son of God.

Government wishes to enjoin all Christians, especially those in our dear State, to celebrate this special day with decorum, humility and all sense of decency, bearing in mind the reason for the celebration.

Jesus Christ was born into the world to salvage mankind from all forms of sinfulness and get ready for eternity in heaven.

In this regard, the Government wishes to remind all Christians to celebrate with total reverence to the authority of the Almighty Father by demonstrating total love for one another, peace and humility. In the spirit of the Yuletide, the State Government further urges residents to eschew hatred, bitterness, indiscipline and any form of untoward behaviours that do not represent the character of the New Born Child and are capable of disrupting the peace in this third Season of Sweetness that we are savouring across the length and breadth of our dear State.

Finally, the Government sincerely appreciates the massive support from the citizenry and Security Agencies in particular while also directing residents to report any suspicious movement or activity within their vicinity to the nearest Police Station for prompt response.

The government wishes all residents a memorable 2025 Christmas Season in this 20th Anniversary of our reputed Carnival Calabar-Africa's Biggest Street Party themed "Traces of Time".

Congratulations!! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year-2026.
God bless us all.

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



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Ref: CR/MOI/AD/385/VOL.IV/236

23rd December, 2025

PRESS STATEMENT

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND WORK-FREE DAY

The Government of Cross River State wishes to further remind all Cross Riverians and residents of our dear State that the Federal Government of Nigeria had declared Thursday, 25th and Friday, 26th December, 2025 as well as 1st January, 2026 as Public Holidays to mark Christmas Day-commemorating the Birth of Jesus Christ-the Son of God; Boxing Day and to welcome the new Year-2026 respectively.

In the same vein, the State Government has approved Monday, 29th December, 2025 as Work-Free Day for all workers in both public and private sectors to pave way for all residents to fully participate in the 2025 Edition of Carnival Calabar in which all Carnival Routes and Major Streets in the Metropolis will be closed to vehicular traffic.

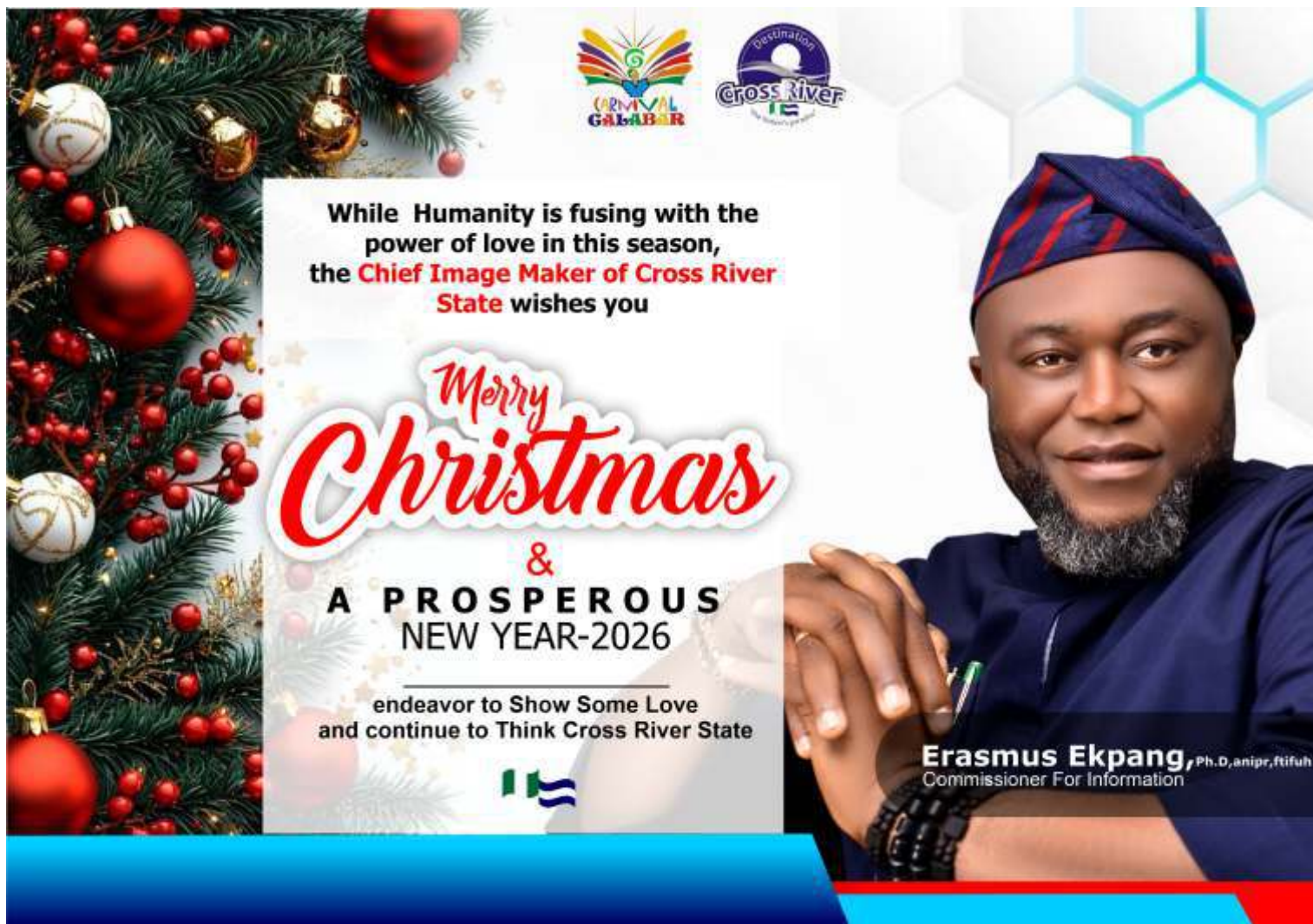
Similarly, on Sunday, 28th December, 2025, the Bikers Carnival shall take centre stage through all Carnival Routes in the Calabar Metropolis, thus disrupting free flow of human and vehicular traffic.

Accordingly, all residents and our esteemed Guests are please advised to use alternative routes on these days while Pedestrians are enjoined to take adequate precautions while using the walkways.

Cross River State wishes all residents of our dear State a memorable Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year-2026.

Congratulations and God bless

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



While Humanity is fusing with the
power of love in this season,
the **Chief Image Maker of Cross River
State** wishes you

Merry
Christmas

&
**A PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR-2026**

endeavor to Show Some Love
and continue to Think Cross River State



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



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Ref: CR/MOI/AD/385/VOL.IV/237

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 Ekpang 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



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Ref: CR/MO/AD/365/VOL.IV/

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.

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.



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***



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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, ftifuh
Commissioner for Information.

For more details and compliance, contact:

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



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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
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**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— FRSC —

CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND