

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

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.

C'River to Decentralize Civil Service Housing Scheme; Launches Reforms for 2026

By Iloke Egbe



The Cross River State Head of Service (HoS), Barr. Bassey Orok, has announced that Governor Bassey Edet Otu has approved a decentralized housing scheme for civil servants, spanning all three Senatorial Districts of the

state.

Barr. Orok made this disclosure during the 2026 Solemn Assembly held at the New Secretariat Complex in Calabar.

The solemn assembly, themed "The Manifestation of God's Glory in Cross River State,"

served as a formal dedication of the state's workforce to God and marked the official resumption of full activities following the New Year break.

Addressing a large gathering of workers, the Head of Service emphasized that





2026 would be a "rewarding year" characterized by the Governor's goodwill.

He outlined several key policy reforms aimed at repositioning the State's civil

service.

According to him, "Training will begin this quarter for 2,000 civil servants to prepare for a new paperless service scheme designed to enhance efficiency

and reduce corruption."

He further disclosed that a rigorous audit will be conducted to identify and remove "ghost workers."





Barr. Orok noted that funds recovered from this exercise would be redistributed to increase the take-home pay of legitimate workers.

"The State will implement a strict verification process for credentials and closely monitor career progression to ensure meritocracy," he further disclosed

The Head of

Service also explained that the Office of the Head of Service will now centralize the payment of government utility bills. MDAs were directed to coordinate their utility needs



through his office.

On monthly sanitation, on what could be described as a notable policy shift, the HoS announced that the traditional monthly sanitation exercise for civil servants has been replaced with a health and wellness programme and that Starting this year, workers will participate in medical check-ups and aerobics at the U.J.

Esuene Stadium on the last Friday of every month.

The event featured spiritual ministrations and prayers for the state's prosperity. Key segments included a sermon delivered by Pastor Lawrence Agbata. Prayers for Cross River State and Nigeria led by Pastor Peter A. Ogbu, and prayers for the workforce led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Mrs.

Offiong Ani.

Praise and worship sessions featuring the House of Assembly Staff Choir. The assembly was attended by high-ranking officials, including the Commissioner for Establishments, Pensions, and Training, Hon. Lawrencina Ita, alongside various Permanent Secretaries, Directors, and staff from across the MDAs.

Measles-Rubella Vaccine: C'River, UNICEF Engage Stakeholders

By Daniel Bebia



Ahead of the introduction of the Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine scheduled for February 10- 14 for children between 9 months and 14 years across the State, the Cross River Primary Healthcare Development Agency (CRPHCDA), in partnership with UNICEF, has commenced an extensive stakeholder engagement

campaign to boost compliance.

The campaign is meant to sensitize community leaders, healthcare providers, religious groups, and other key stakeholders about the benefits and importance of the MR vaccine.

The meeting was designed to ensure widespread acceptance and successful immunization coverage, particularly among

children aged 9 months to 14 years.

In her opening remarks at the meeting held in Franphinas Hotel, Calabar, the Director of CRPHCDA, Dr. Vivien Mesembe Otu emphasized the urgent need to curb the incidence of measles and rubella diseases known to cause severe health complications and even fatalities in children.



She stated that Measles and rubella remain major public health concerns. Introducing the combined MR vaccine will significantly reduce childhood morbidity and mortality while advancing our trajectory towards measles elimination.

The DG stated that the State has



been in the forefront in issues related to immunization acceptability and compliance expressing faith in the State topping the chart on

completion of the immunization circle.

She urged all to be ambassadors of the agency by cascading the information to



ensure that the State maintained its pride of place.

In a goodwill message, UNICEF's Social Behavior Change Expert, Mrs Blessing Eberechukwu, reiterated the agency's commitment to support the government's immunization efforts.

She noted that meeting is expedient to get stakeholders

abreast of the introduction of Rubella vaccine into the already familiar measles vaccine stating that the vaccine is not only scientifically safe but has been tested and proven to be effective.

She further that Engaging traditional and religious leaders is critical in overcoming vaccine hesitancy and misinformation,

Giving an overview of Measles -Rubella Vaccine, the Cross River State Measles -Rubella Consultant, African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET), Dr. Inionong Joshua - Inyang, said the vaccine is not new but one that contend rubella virus adding that the first phase of vaccination was carried out in South western and North West region of Nigeria

with the south - south region taking the second phase.

Dr Joshua - Inyang emphasized that like other immunization circles the Measles -Rubella Vaccination it will be admitted in designated fixed post and temporary fixed post with children made to wait awhile after administration as to monitor reaction.

He said like the other oral immunization, the Measles -Rubella will be injectable expressing hope that the message will be conveyed to the parents in a simpler and comprehensible manner to encourage robust

participation and zero rejection.

Stakeholders commended the introduction of the MR vaccine posting that preventing children from these diseases is vital for the overall wellbeing of the State.

In their separate statements of commitment, the stakeholders pledged to leverage local media focused groups and other platforms to amplify awareness campaigns.

They expressed optimism for a productive outing to place Cross River on the health map for immunization compliance.

The imminent MR vaccination

campaign is scheduled to roll out statewide within the coming months. Health officials urge caregivers to have their children vaccinated during the campaign to ensure collective community immunity.

This proactive collaboration between CRPHCDA and UNICEF underscores a renewed commitment to safeguarding the health of Cross River children and moving closer to the eradication of vaccine-preventable diseases.



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2026 AFCR Week: Gov. Otu Reaffirms Commitment to Serving Personnel, Honours Fallen Heroes

By Kingsley Agim



to prioritise their welfare and support.

Governor Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu gave the assurance at an interdenominational church service held on Sunday at Christ the King Chaplaincy, 13 Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Calabar, as part of activities marking

The Cross River State Government has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to

the Armed Forces and the families of fallen heroes, assuring them of the administration's continued resolve



the 2026 Armed Forces Celebration and Remembrance Week. The Governor was represented at the service by the Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayambem.

He stressed that the bravery and sacrifices of fallen heroes, as well as those still serving, must never be forgotten or taken for granted,

describing their contributions as central to the peace and stability enjoyed in the state and the nation.

Governor Otu acknowledged President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his constitutional responsibility of safeguarding lives and property, commending his leadership and reassuring Nigerians of the Federal Government's

continued commitment to national security.

He described the gathering as multifaceted, noting that it provided an opportunity to commiserate with the families and widows of fallen heroes, offer thanksgiving to God for life, and strengthen collaboration between the state government and the Armed Forces.



Urging Nigerians not to lose faith in the country despite prevailing challenges, the Governor expressed confidence that Nigeria would overcome its security trials through resilience, unity and trust in the Armed Forces.

“Our Armed Forces have faced difficult moments in the past and prevailed. This is not the time to give up. With God

on our side, we will win,” Otu assured.

Reflecting on his assumption of office, the Governor noted that he inherited a state confronted by security challenges but, through sustained collaboration with the military, police and other security agencies, Cross River State has emerged as one of the safest states in the country.

He attributed the progress to the dedication and sacrifices of security personnel, assuring them of his administration’s continued concern for their welfare, including sustained improvements to barracks and other security formations across the state.

The Governor also offered prayers and words of

comfort to the families of fallen heroes, assuring them of divine consolation and the government's solidarity.

"To the widows and families, God Himself remains the greatest comforter. Peace will never depart from your homes, and help will rise for you in your time of need," he said.

Earlier, the Commander of the 13 Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Brigadier General Patrick Alimikhena, who read the message of the Chief of Defence Staff, General Olufemi Oluyede, paid glowing tribute to fallen soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in defence of

Nigeria's peace and unity.

Quoting from the Gospel of John 15:13, the message described the sacrifice of the fallen heroes as the highest expression of love, while also honouring serving personnel who continue to protect the nation under challenging conditions.

The Chief of Defence Staff further recognised the sacrifices of widows, children and families of fallen heroes, praying for divine comfort, strength and enduring peace for them and the nation at large.

In a homily, the Acting Assistant Director, Chaplain Services (Protestant), 13 Brigade, Nigerian

Army, Captain D. L. Wala, likened Goliath to the security challenges confronting the nation, while David represented the Armed Forces and security agencies confronting those threats.

Taking his text from 1 Samuel 17:32 with the theme "Nigerians, Let No One Lose Heart," the cleric urged Nigerians and the Armed Forces to remain steadfast, united and God-fearing, stressing that victory would come through faith, unity, government support and remembrance of the sacrifices of fallen heroes.



8th January, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Nigerian Army
Direct Short Service Course (DSSC) 29/2026

Join the Nigerian Army
... and serve your country

APPLICATION IS FREE

APPLICATION BEGINS FOR
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HOW TO APPLY:

- (1) Go online and visit the webpage at www.army.gov.ng to get the DSSC application form.
- (2) The form will be submitted to the page where you can read the qualification criteria for the ongoing DSSC course.
- (3) Click on the "Apply Now" button for the DSSC on your qualification and stage of choice.
- (4) At the present, you will be required to select if you are serving or have served in the Armed Forces of Nigeria. Choose the appropriate option and proceed.
- (5) If you do not have an account click on "Sign Up" as verification will be sent to your email or other email address and log in.
- (6) Fill out the form and upload all required documents listed below and upload:

- (a) Passport photograph.
- (b) Educational certificate.
- (c) Evidence of membership of any professional body.
- (d) Certificate of state of origin.
- (e) Birth certificate or age declaration.
- (f) NIN form.

Application Closes: **15 January 2026** Application Closes: **15 February 2026**
For further inquiries, please call 011-7000000 or 011-7000000 between 0800 - 1200 hours (Mon - Thurs only).

Command
Army Headquarters
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Defence

Cross Riverians wishing to be enlisted into the Nigerian Army are encouraged to take advantage of the information provided in the above advertorial to apply and submit the printouts (hard copies) to the Desk Officer, in the office of the Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment, Calabar for possible complementary actions.

Patrick Egbede

Commissioner,

Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, CRS

CR-SUBEB Chairman Visit Schools, Okay Issuance Of Queries For Absent Teachers



Executive Chairman of the Cross River State Universal Basic Education Board, SUBEB, Fidelia Okpo Ene, has directed that queries be issued to the teachers

and the head teachers in some schools in the state, who were absent at their duty posts when she embarked on an unscheduled visit to some schools in Cross River's Southern

Senatorial District, to deter others teachers from absenteeism.

Ene gave this approval in Calabar, the state capital, when she commenced unscheduled visits

to schools, as part of efforts by her board to ensure effective school management and continuous monitoring of teaching and learning activities in Cross River State public schools,

Accompanied by the Board Member II, Theresa Essien and Director of Quality Assurance, the Chairman first visited St. Patrick's Primary School Adiabo, Odukpani Local Government Area, and found only 12 out of 35 teachers in school at 7:59 a.m. 30 pupils could be counted at the time of the visit.

At St. Augustine

Primary School Ikot Omin, Calabar, the Chairman met 45 staff members out of 56, with 50 learners present at 8:40 a.m. A member of staff, Eunice Enyi, was issued a personal query for deceptively entering attendance for one Grace Eyong, who was visibly absent from duty.

She had high praise for Redeemer Lutheran Primary School, Calabar South, where all staff members were present and accounted for at the time of her visit. She commended staff of the school for their diligence and punctuality to work, as teaching and learning activities were in

progress.

The Executive Chairman came clear that the Bassey Otu administration is committed to revitalizing the state's education system, which requires collective efforts from everyone to achieve the desired outcomes.



GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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

January 12, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

The attention of the Cross River State governor, His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, has been drawn to actions by beneficiaries of the December 18, 2025 press release, which clearly announced the appointment of 196 persons into the 196 wards of the state as Ward Development Officers.

It has been observed that, in defiance of this approval, appointees have proceeded to document as Senior Special Assistants. This release reaffirms that their designation remains strictly Ward Development Officers, and any documentation to the contrary shall not be recognised by the Office of the Accountant-General or the Payroll.

Linus Obogo

Chief Press Secretary and Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to the Governor

Cc: SGS

Cc: Accountant-General



Nigerians: "let No One Lose Heart!" Capt. (rev) DL Wala Urges

By Glory Effiom



In a stirring Christian service held today at Christ the King Catholic Church, Akim Army Barracks, *Capt. (Rev.) DL Wala* delivered a fiery sermon titled "Nigerians, Let the One Lose Heart!" challenging the nation to rise above despair, honor sacrifice with action, and never surrender

hope.

Taking the Pulpit, Capt. Wala a military chaplain and ordained minister reminded worshippers that Nigeria's fallen soldiers did not die for a nation that gives up. He quoted Isaiah 40:31: _"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength..."_ and urged every Nigerian to become

a living monument to the fallen.

Representing Governor Bassey Otu, the Cross River State House of Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayambem announced a donation of *~~N~~10 million* toward welfare initiatives for widows and orphans of fallen soldiers.



In closing remarks, *Brigadier General P.O. Alimikhema*, Commander of 13 Brigade, thanked all attendees, especially the clergy, civilian leaders, Government officials for showing up in solidarity. He affirmed: "we are here to console and honor the family who bear the pains of lost" He reminded the congregation that we are to Console



the family of the fallen heroes, Celebrate and strengthen the Veterans. The service included hymns of praise, scripture readings, presentation by

CWF and moments of silent reflection, ending with a collective prayer for peace, unity, and renewed national purpose.

**NIGERIA****SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**9th January, 2026**PRESS RELEASE****CLARIFICATION OF ISSUES REGARDING THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT LOAN ANCHORED BY THE OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN, CROSS RIVER STATE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
SCHEME (YES)**

There has been some misinformation in the public space regarding the Federal Government Loan to Cross Riverians to start or expand their businesses. The loan, which is domiciled in Zenith Bank, is part of the Federal Government initiative in collaboration with the Cross River State Government through the Office of the Chairman Cross River State Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES).

The required statutory deposit of ₦13,000.00 (Thirteen Thousand Naira) only is authentic for all potential beneficiaries of the loan and it is used for Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) processes, opening of Account Numbers in Zenith Bank by the potential beneficiaries and the issuance of ATM card to each beneficiary.

The loan in question varies for different categories of businesses with a pegged maximum of ₦5,000,000.00 (Five Million Naira) only.

This is to notify Cross Riverians and the general public of the authenticity of the loans and the aforementioned bank charges. The public is therefore admonished to take advantage of the loans and benefit maximally.

Prof. A. Owan Enoch

Secretary to the Government of the State

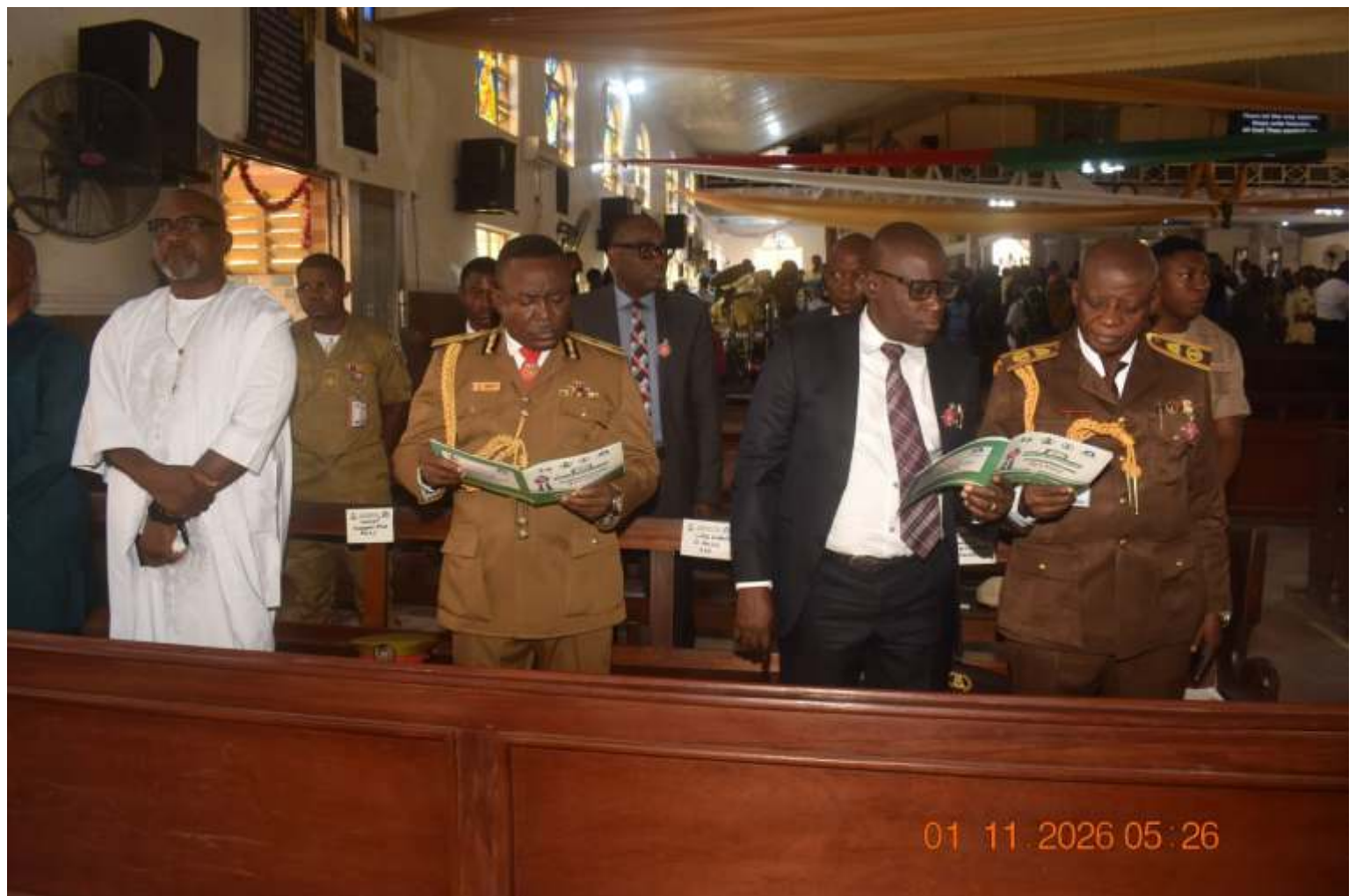


Armed Forces Remembrance Interdenominational Service At Christ The King Catholic Church, 13 Brigade, Nigerian Army, Akim Barracks, Calabar

















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Ekondo Microfinance Bank Opens Regional Office In Ikom



Dr Erasmus Ekpang represented His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State at the official opening of the Regional Office of Ekondo Micro Finance

Bank in Ikom Local Government Area of the State.

He lauded the Management of Ekondo Microfinance Bank for the initiative of expanding their businesses and assured of the

State Government's Commitment to continue to provide a conducive environment for businesses to thrive and attract more investments to the State





CRS Civil/Public Service Holds 2026 Solemn Assembly



The Cross River State Civil and Public Service on Monday 12th January held its 2026 Solemn Assembly, organized by the Office of the Head of Service, marking the first

Solemn Assembly under the current Head of Service.

The solemn gathering, which took place at the Head of Service Office Premises, brought together civil servants from various Ministries,

Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) across the State to seek divine guidance and spiritual renewal at the commencement of the 2026 service year.

Themed



"Manifestation of God's Glory in Cross River State," the Solemn Assembly focused on prayer, reflection, and rededication to public service, emphasizing integrity, diligence, unity, and excellence in the discharge of official responsibilities.



In his address, the Head of Service,

Mr. Orok Bassey Okon, described the Solemn

Assembly as a strategic spiritual platform designed to align the Civil/Public Service with divine purpose, while fostering a culture of accountability, discipline, and commitment to effective service delivery.



He emphasized that the theme underscores the need for civil servants to become vessels through which God's glory is revealed in governance and public administration across the state.

The programme featured powerful exhortations, prayers session facilitated by Mrs. Offiong Ani Offiong, Pastor Lawrence Agbata

who charged participants to uphold Godly values in leadership and service.

Special prayers were offered for the Governor of Cross River State, the State Executive Council, the Civil/Public Service, and the peace, growth, and development of the state.

The Solemn Assembly concluded with a

collective commitment by civil servants to uphold professionalism, ethical conduct, and renewed dedication to duty in line with the vision of the present administration.

“2027 Election Must Be Free And Fair, Eyes Of Entire Continent Are Upon Us” – INEC Chairman



Prof. Joash Amupitan, the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), has reaffirmed the commission's preparedness to deliver a credible and transparent election in the 2027 general polls.

Amupitan gave the assurance on Friday in Lagos during INEC's Induction and Strategic Retreat for national commissioners, the commission's secretary, resident electoral commissioners, administrative secretaries and directors.

He said the

responsibility before the electoral body was enormous, noting that public attention would be intense throughout the process.

“The eyes of over 200 million Nigerians and the entire continent are upon us. The work ahead is demanding, the



hours will be long and the scrutiny will be intense," he said.

According to the INEC chairman, the 2027 general election must be conducted to the highest standards and should mark a defining moment in the country's democratic journey

"The 2027 general election

must be free and fair and be a watershed moment in Nigeria's history. But we must even aim higher," Amupitan stated.

He urged staff to see the task beyond organising elections, stressing the need to build a globally respected electoral institution.

"I want us to build an institution that is globally

recognised, let it be that under our watch, INEC became the best election management body in Africa – a beacon of integrity, a model of technological efficiency and a fortress of democratic values," he said.

Cross River Hausa-Fulani Muslim Community Gets Official Stamp As Support Group



The Cross River State Hausa-Fulani Muslim Community has received its Certificate of Registration as a Support Group in the State marking a significant milestone as an official support group for the State Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu's re-election bid for a second term in

office come 2027

The Certificate was presented to the Leadership of the Group during the Community's 3rd meeting held at 520 Event Centre Calabar, with the theme "Unity and Togetherness", and was attended by members from Bogobiri and Nasarawa Hausa-Fulani Communities in Calabar Metropolis.

Speaking while presenting the certificate, Special Adviser, Support Group, Mr. Clement, and Special Adviser Religious Matters, Apostle Frank Umo, lauded the Hausa-Fulani Muslim Community for their unflinching support to Governor Otu, adding that their recognition as one of the Support Groups



will further solidify the Community's backing for Governor Otu to win a second term.

Sarki Hausa - Fulani and Muslim Community Leader, Sarki Garba Lawal, praised the

leadership for their efforts and urged for loyalty, transparency, and inclusiveness, emphasizing that the Support Group's commitment to the administration, reinforcing the community's dedication to unity and backing for

Governor Otu's agenda.

The meeting was a show of solidarity, with members turning out in large numbers to demonstrate their support for the administration of Governor Bassey Edet Otu.

Sights And Scenes from The Cross River State Chapter Of The Nigerian Institute Of Public Relations Thanksgiving At The Corpus Christi Catholic Church Calabar, Lemna, Calabar





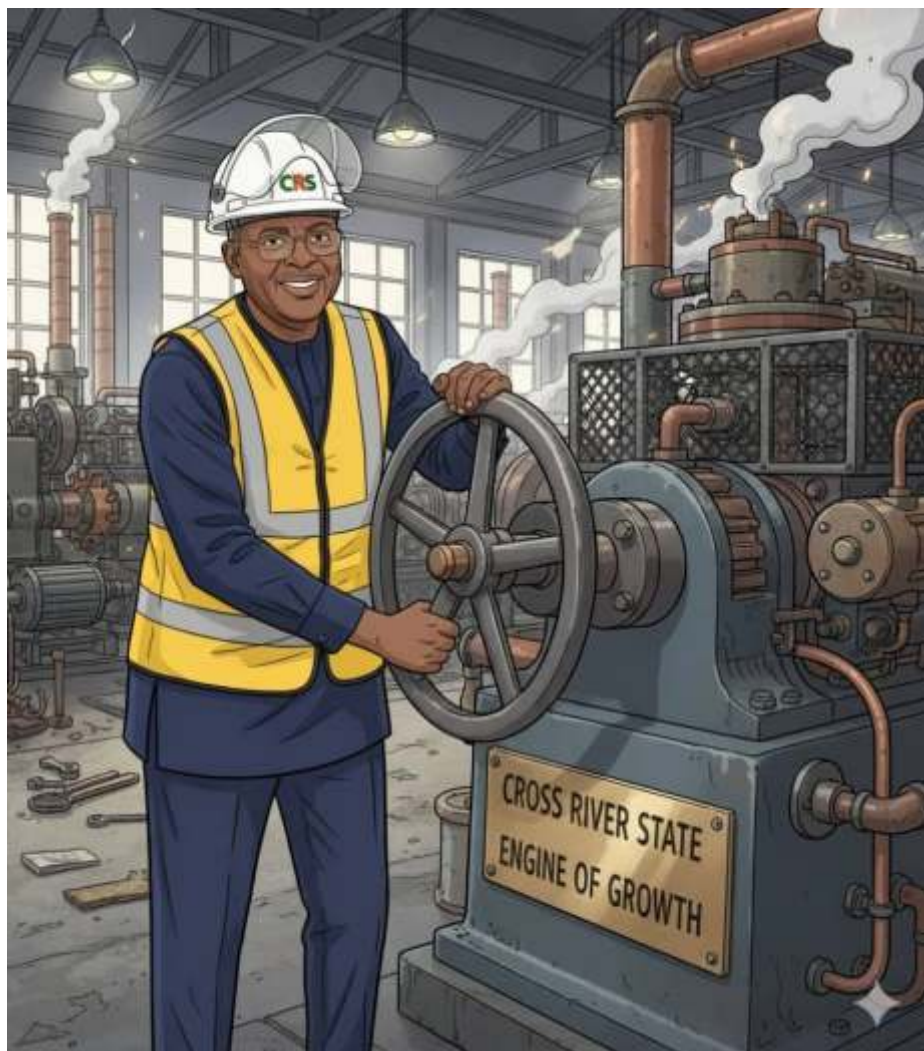






Cross River State 2025: A Year of Sustainable Growth

Antan Okor (Special Assistant on Public Orientation)



₦538.5 billion, which was later bolstered by a ₦104 billion supplementary budget in August 2025. This raised the total fiscal outlay to ₦642 billion, with a deliberate focus on capital expenditure (62%) over recurrent costs (38%).

Bakassi Deep Seaport: 2025 marked a definitive turning point for this project. In December, the state received the final Certificate of Compliance, paving the way for full-scale construction. This port is envisioned as the maritime gateway for the Gulf of Guinea.

The 2025 fiscal year in Cross River State was characterized by the theme "Sustainable Growth." By moving away from subsistence-based models and toward commercial

industrialization, the state has sought to reclaim its identity as the "People's Paradise."

1. Fiscal Strategy and Infrastructure
The state operated on an ambitious initial budget of

Lagos–Calabar Coastal Highway: In April 2025, the Federal Government officially flagged off Sections 3A and 3B of this monumental highway in Calabar. The project is expected to revolutionize trade by linking Cross River directly to the Western economic corridor.

Urban Renewal: Major rehabilitation projects were completed on the Ikom Urban Roads (Phase 3) and various inner-city roads in Calabar to restore the capital's aesthetic appeal.

2. The Agricultural Revolution
Agriculture contributed to over 42% of the state's economy in 2025. The administration transitioned from "talking farming" to

"practicing agro-business."

Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ): In April, a \$538 million SAPZ was launched in Adiabo. Supported by the African Development Bank, it focuses on cocoa, cassava, and rice processing.

Mechanization: The state distributed 108 mini-tractors to cooperatives, designed not only for tilling but also for generating electricity to power rural grinding machines and irrigation pumps.

Crop-Specific Clusters:
Cocoa: Regeneration of four government estates and development of new estates in six LGAs.
Coffee: A strategic partnership with Rwanda-based JR Farms saw the

distribution of 5 million coffee seedlings (Arabica and Robusta).

Cassava: Mechanized cultivation of 500 hectares began in preparation for a bio-ethanol factory.

3. Tourism: The Return of the "Season of Sweetness"
Recognizing that tourism is the state's comparative advantage, the government injected ₦18 billion into the sector in July 2025.

Asset Rehabilitation: Extensive work was carried out on the Obudu Mountain Resort, Kwa Falls, and Marina Resort.

Experience Calabar: The state launched new heritage tours and established a "Heritage Market"

to promote local arts.

20th Anniversary Carnival: December 2025 marked the 20th anniversary of the Carnival

Calabar, which saw record-breaking attendance and the debut of the "Experience Calabar" branding to attract global investors.

4. Social Intervention and Grassroots Empowerment Governor Otu's "People First" mantra was most visible in his rejection of "abstract statistics" in favor of tangible welfare.

Mobility as Empowerment: The government procured 150 mini-buses (Daihatsu Hijet) to be distributed across

the three senatorial districts, aimed at empowering vulnerable families to start micro-transportation enterprises.

Education: The state announced the completion of the 2025 BECE certificates for free distribution and began the upgrade of the College of Education to a University of Education and Entrepreneurial Studies.

Local Government Reform: The 2025 Local Government Amendment Bill was signed into law, increasing the number of departments from 7 to 12 to bring governance closer to rural communities.

5. Summary Outlook for 2026
As 2025 closes, Cross

River stands on a more stable economic foundation. The focus for 2026 is expected to shift toward:

Industrial Take-off: Moving from land clearing to factory-level production in the SAPZ.

Digital Integration: Training 1 million residents in digital skills to support the growing "Smart Calabar" initiative.

Revenue Diversification: Further reducing dependence on the Federal Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) through increased IGR from the new agricultural value chains.

Governor Bassey Otu



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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

Ref: CR/MOI/AD/356/VOL.IV/234

8th January, 2026

PRESS STATEMENT
CELEBRATION OF 2026 ARMED FORCES REMEMBRANCE WEEK IN CROSS RIVER STATE

The Government of Cross River State has concluded arrangements to commemorate the 2026 Armed Forces REMEMBRANCE Week in the State. According to the Honourable Commissioner for Social Welfare and Community Development, Bishop Mrs Margaret Ene-Ita, His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu has approved the following activities to celebrate the week in Cross River State:

Friday, 9th January, 2026

Special Muslim Jumat Service at Akim Navy Barrack Mosque, Akim, Calabar @1.00pm

Headquarters, Akim, Calabar
Time: 11.00am

Sunday, 11th January, 2026: Inter-Denominational Christian Service. at Christ the King Catholic Church, 13 Brigade

Thursday, 15th January, 2026: Parade by a detachment of the Armed Forces/Nigerian Legion/Laying of Wreath at the Tomb of the unknown Soldier @11-11 Millennium Park/Cenotaph
Time: 10.00am

Accordingly, His Excellency, the Governor, hereby invites His Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Cross River State, Rt. Hon. Dr. Peter Odey, Speaker and Members of the Cross River State House of Assembly, the State Chief Judge, Members of the National Assembly from the State, Caretaker Chairman of APC and Working Committee, Secretary to the Government of the State, Chief of Staff to Governor, Members of the Cross River State Executive Council, The Head of Service, Chairmen of Local Government Areas and their Vice, all Permanent Secretaries, Chairmen and Directors General of Boards, Commissions and Agencies, Senior Special Advisers, Special Advisers, Special Assistants, all other Political Appointees, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Service Commanders, Traditional Rulers, Religious Leaders, Chairmen of all Political Parties, Leadership of all Professional bodies, the Academia, Captains of Industry, Leaders of the Organized Labour/Trade Unions, leadership of all Market Women Groups, Youth Groups, Members of the Organized Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations/NGOs, Leadership of Student Union Groups and all Stakeholders of the Nigerian project to attend these activities to celebrate our heroes past and present.

Congratulations to all Nigerians on this auspicious occasion of commemoration of the 2026 Armed Forces Remembrance Week.. God bless Nigeria, God bless Cross River State.

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



-JUMAT SERVICE-

Honoring Nigeria's fallen heroes and celebrating the living members of the Nigerian Armed Forces

By Glory Effiom



15 JANUARY 2026 <<<<<<



01.01.2026 08:39

The service, which took place at the Akim Navy Barracks Mosque, brought together

military personnel, government officials, and members of the public to pay tribute to soldiers

who sacrificed their lives for national unity and peace. It kicked off a week-long series of events



culminating in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Millennium Park Cenotaph on January 15 now officially called, Armed Forces Celebration and Remembrance Day.

Governor Bassey Otu, represented by Commissioner for Social welfare and Community Development, attended the service alongside service commanders.

The event

featured intercessory prayers, hymns, and reflections from Islamic clerics, underscoring the interfaith unity that characterizes Nigeria's remembrance activities. This year's observance aligns with the Defence Headquarters'

directive renaming the day to reflect both celebration of active-duty personnel and remembrance of the departed









Stakeholders Brainstorm on Architectural Restoration of Chief Egbo Egbo Bassey House

By Carolyn Ugbor



Key stakeholders in the Arts industry in the State have converged on Calabar to brainstorm on the proposed architectural restoration of the

historic Chief Egbo Egbo Bassey House, a renowned cultural landmark in Calabar with deep historical significance to the Efik people and Cross River State at large.

This meeting, which was held at the Old Residency Museum, brought together government officials from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, National



identity while adapting it for sustainable use in the modern era.

Speaking at the meeting, Mrs Eme Affiah, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Arts And Culture, emphasized the importance of the house as a symbol of Efik heritage, noting that Cross River State is a port of History where everything including our waters tell a

Commission For Museums and Monuments, traditional leaders, heritage conservation experts, architects,

historians, and community representatives, focused on strategies for preserving the building's original architectural



story.

Affiah reaffirmed the Government's commitment, under the leadership of Senator Prince Bassey Otu, to protecting heritage sites across the state, describing the restoration of the Chief Egbo Egbo Bassey House as part of broader efforts to promote cultural tourism and historical education.

According to her, the project has the potential to boost tourism, preserve history for future generations, and strengthen community pride.

Speaking earlier, Mr Olugbile Holloway, Director General, National Commission For

Museums and Monument, represented by Mrs Garba Haruna said that the initiative is funded by Gerda Hankel Shiftung (Germany) in collaboration with Vernacular Heritage Initiative and National Commission For Museums and Monuments.

According to her, this pivotal gathering is meant to underscore the significance of our collective mission in preserving our cultural heritage describing the structure as not only an ancestral home or repository of history, but also a testament to the rich traditions and social fabric of our community whose walls have witnessed generations of stories, struggles

and triumphs.

Haruna posited that the restoration of this building is a commitment to safeguard our identity for future generations, create a significant opportunity for collaboration and innovation of not only the physical elements but also to enhance its role within our community.

The meeting concluded with architectural design presentation of the house under renovation by Dr Obafemi Olukoya after which stakeholders and some participants were led on a tour of the house.

Stakeholders Sensitized Ahead of the Measles-Rubella vaccination

By Offiong Itang



Cross River State Primary Health Care Development Agency (CRSPHCDA) organised an orientation programme to sensitize key stakeholders in

preparation for the upcoming Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign.

The Director General of the Cross River State

Primary Health Care Development Agency Dr Vivien Mesembe Otu, emphasised the importance of bringing



stakeholders together to engage in collective planning and coordination ahead of the Vaccination Campaign, scheduled to take place on the 3rd - 14th of February.

She noted that such meetings provide an opportunity to align strategies, address potential challenges and ensure effective implementation at all levels.

Dr Vivien Otu, urged local government chairmen across the state to cooperate fully in other to ensure the success of the Vaccination Campaign. "The commitment and active involvement of local government authorities are crucial to achieve widespread coverage, strengthen grassroots mobilisation and deliver the vaccine

efficiently to eligible children across all communities " she said

The State Health Education Officer, Mrs Nsa Ekpenyong outlined the objectives of the campaign. She stressed that effective social mobilisation and strong community engagements are key to achieve a successful Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccination Campaign across the state.

Cross River Targets Over 1.9 Million Children in Measles and Rubella Vaccination Drive



The Cross River State Government has announced plans to immunise more than 1.9 million children against measles and rubella as part of efforts to reduce childhood illnesses and deaths linked to vaccine preventable diseases.

The vaccination

exercise is scheduled to take place across the 18 local government areas of the state and will target children from nine months to 14 years of age. Health officials said the campaign is designed to reach children in urban, rural and hard to reach communities, and after the campaign, the vaccine will be

available for all children at 9 months and 15 months, as part of Routine Immunization.

The Director General of the Cross River State Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr Vivian Mesembe Otu, made this known during a one day media parley in Calabar. She

explained that the vaccination exercise aligns with Nigeria's national strategy to curb the spread of measles and rubella and described the media as critical partners in ensuring the success of the campaign. She noted that trained health workers will administer the vaccines at public health facilities, adding that the campaign is scheduled to run from 3 February to 14 February 2026, as part of intensified efforts to curb vaccine-preventable diseases.

Health partners supporting the exercise stressed that measles remains a leading cause of illness

among children, especially those who are not fully immunised. Rubella, while often mild in children, can cause serious birth defects if a woman becomes infected during pregnancy.

While delivering his goodwill messages, Mr. Christian Ogechukwu, State Coordinator of National Primary Healthcare Development Agency in Cross River State mentioned that the federal government has provided over 1.9 million doses of vaccine for Cross River, and want to achieve over 95 per cent of coverage and reduce the child mortality rate. He urged the media to integrate Measles and Rubella Vaccine messages in their

programs at strategic times and on all their programs, as news items and as Public Service Announcements.

Dr. Umoren Godwin, World Health Organization (WHO) Measles-Rubella Consultant for Cross River State, said measles and rubella are highly contagious viral diseases that pose serious risks to children but can be effectively prevented through timely vaccination.

He explained that the immunisation campaign is designed for children aged nine months to 14 years and will involve the administration of a combined vaccine that

protects against both diseases. According to him, children who receive the vaccine will be given vaccination cards as proof of immunisation.

Godwin appealed to parents and caregivers to cooperate with health officials by presenting their children for the exercise. He assured residents that vaccination teams would cover all parts of the state to ensure no eligible child is left out.

On her part, UNICEF's consultant on Social and Behavioral Change, Blessing Eberechukwu, urged media practitioners to key into the campaign for the

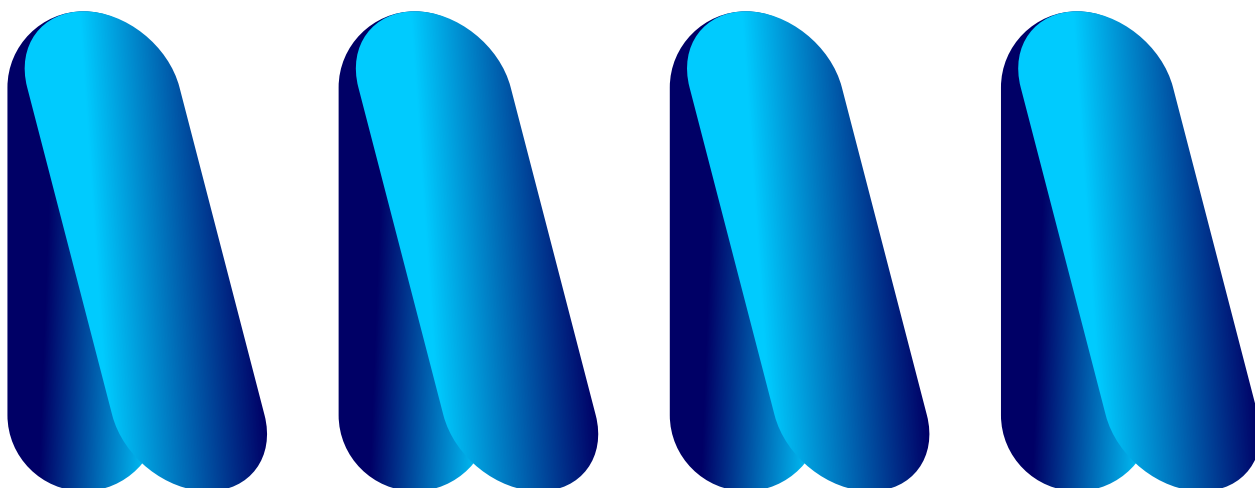
prevention and elimination of Measles and Rubella in Nigeria.

She said the parley with the media was to demand generation and spread the vaccination to grassroot and help dispel all negative and false narratives about immunization by publishing accurate and positive reports on immunization.

Other dignitaries in attendance were Dr Anastasia Isika, State Technical Assistant on Measles Rubella Vaccine introduction; Kasi Eyong, Director of Disease Control and Immunisation at the Cross River State Primary Health Care Development Agency; Bassey Etim, Director of

Community and Family Health Services at the agency; Dr Ita Lincoln F., State Technical Assistant with the Christian Health Association of Nigeria; and Dr Iniobong Joshua Inyang, the Cross River State Measles Rubella Consultant with AFENET. What the Measles and Rubella Vaccine Is

The measles rubella vaccine is a combined vaccine that protects against two viral diseases. Measles causes symptoms such as high fever, cough, runny nose and skin rash. In severe cases, it can lead to pneumonia, blindness or brain infection. Rubella causes mild fever



and rash but poses a serious risk to unborn babies if a pregnant woman becomes infected.

The vaccine works by helping the body build strong immunity against both diseases. Once vaccinated, children are far less likely to become infected or spread the viruses to others.

Who Is Eligible

Children aged nine months to 14 years are eligible to receive the

measles rubella vaccine during the campaign. Health officials advised parents to ensure their children are vaccinated, regardless of previous vaccination history, to ensure full protection.

The vaccine is given as an injection by trained health workers. After vaccination, children may have a small mark on their finger to show they have received the dose and to prevent double vaccination.

The Cross River State Government said the campaign is part of a wider national and global effort to eliminate measles and rubella and protect children from preventable diseases. Parents are urged to cooperate with health workers and take advantage of the opportunity to safeguard their children's health.

APC Cross River State Completes E-Registration Train-the-Agents Programme



The All Progressives Congress (APC) in Cross River State has successfully completed its E-Registration Train-the-Agents programme, which began in the Northern Senatorial District, as part of efforts

to strengthen party structures and enhance digital membership registration across the state.

Yesterday, the exercise was concluded in Calabar Municipality, which served as the centre for the

Southern Senatorial District.

The training was described as highly productive and successful, with participants demonstrating remarkable competence, enthusiasm, and commitment to mastering the E-



Registration process. Facilitators noted the trainees' readiness to effectively deploy the knowledge

gained in advancing the party's registration drive at the grassroots level.

The trained agents

are expected to commence the E-Registration exercise immediately at the ward level across the state.





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C'River, UNICEF Begins Conversation in 20 Communities in Odukpani LGA

By Nakanda Iyadim and Daniel Bebia



In a bold move to foster sustainable community development and enhance grassroots participation, the Cross River State Government, in partnership with UNICEF, has kicked off a series of community conversations across 20 communities in Odukpani Local Government Area with the aim of

engaging local stakeholders in developing 2026 actionable plans that address pressing social and developmental challenges in the area.

The community conversations, which commenced on Thursday, January 8, 2026 bring together residents, traditional rulers, youth groups,

pregnant women, nursing mothers and local government officials to deliberate on key issues such as birth registration, complementary feeding healthcare, water and sanitation, exclusive breastfeeding and child protection.

The objective is to harness community insights and



priorities to inform tailored action plans that reflect the unique needs of each community.

In his opening remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information,

Mr. Emmanuel Egban represented by the State Director of Information, Mr. David Akate emphasized the commitment of the State Government towards the health of not just Cross Riverians but all

residents especially pregnant women noting that a healthy child begins with a healthy mother.

Mr Egban expressed optimism about the potential



impact of the dialogue process. "We believe that lasting development is rooted in active community participation. By involving our people directly, especially at the grassroots level, we can design

effective interventions that improve the quality of life for our citizens," he said.

The representative of the National Orientation Agency and technical advisor to the programme, Ms

Juliana Achialekong, highlighted the importance of collaborative engagement in advancing child welfare and social services. "Creating spaces where communities can voice their concerns and



contribute to solutions is crucial for sustainable progress.

She stated that the essence of the discussion was to ensure that the Communities take ownership of the programme.

The conversations will span several days, with facilitators providing questionnaire to guide the communities to identify priority issues and develop actionable strategies. The outcomes will be consolidated into comprehensive community action plans, which will serve as blueprints for implementation engagement activities.

Community

members have expressed enthusiasm about the initiative, viewing it as an opportunity to have their voices heard and to influence development projects that directly affect them.

Traditional, youth and religious leaders have also committed to ensuring active participation and follow-up on the agreed action plans.

This collaborative effort represents a significant step towards inclusive governance and community-driven development in the State, aligning with broader goals of improved social services and enhanced wellbeing of the people.

Observations by the team revealed a case in Eseku of a seven-month pregnancy without Antenatal Care (ANC) and a general trend of low birth registration rates across the communities visited.

Among the communities visited so far are; Ikot Obong Eno, Ikot Essien and Eseku.

Gov. Otu's Aide Inaugurates Advocacy Group in Yala, restates support to APC Leadership



The Special Adviser to the Governor of Cross River State on Security Surveillance and Operations, Hon. Wonor Austin Ibu, has formally inaugurated his support group, the Wonor Austin Ibu Advocacy Group, in a colourful and well-attended ceremony that brought together political leaders, traditional rulers, women, youths

and key stakeholders from across Itega-Okpame and beyond.

The advocacy group, according to Hon. Ibu, was established essentially to strengthen grassroots support for His Excellency, Prince Bassey Edet Otu, the Governor of Cross River State and his principal, as well as other elective office holders of the All

Progressives Congress (APC), including the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu. He noted that the group would serve as a political and developmental platform to mobilize sustained backing for the APC's governance agenda at both state and federal levels.





January 6th, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

**NOTICE TO TRACTOR BENEFICIARIES WITH OUTSTANDING
COLLECTION**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development hereby informs all beneficiaries who have made the required down payment for tractors but are yet to take delivery from the Ministry's premises that they are required to do so on or before Thursday, 22nd, January, 2026.

Kindly note that any tractor not collected on or before the stated deadline will be reassigned to individuals on the waiting list.

Where such reassignment occurs, affected beneficiaries will be required to wait until the next batch of tractors is delivered to the Ministry before allocation can be reconsidered.

This notice is issued to ensure efficient allocation and optimal utilization of available tractors. All concerned beneficiaries are therefore urged to comply promptly.

Hon. Johnson A. Ebokpo KSM
Commissioner





JOHN OWAN-ENOH FOUNDATION MSME SUPPORT PROGRAM PHASE 2

The Minister of State for Industry, Dist. Sen. John Owan Enoh, hereby declares open the 2nd phase of the _John Owan Enoh Foundation MSME Support Program_ to mark the New Year Celebration!

Click the link below to apply online or print the physical Application Form and fill.

<https://hmindustry.com.ng/dashboard/application/create>

Wishing you all a Prosperous New Year!

A few things to note:

1. Beneficiaries from Phase 1 should not bother to apply in this phase. If you do, the system is built to identify you and you will automatically be disqualified from all related programs.
2. Those who applied in phase one and were not selected can simply log in and reapply. They no longer need to do the initial registration.
3. Note also that there is no lobbying, no political party connection and no recommendation whatsoever or from anyone, that will qualify any applicant. All applicants stand the same chance based on the viability of their business idea and available spaces.
4. The form for the informal sector added a few more details and will be available on this same space. Kindly note that any applicant who applies online and still fills the informal sector form will be automatically disqualified.

Thank you once again and have a happy new year celebration.

hmindustry.com.ng (<https://hmindustry.com.ng/dashboard/application/create>)

Account Login - Owan-Enoh Foundation MSME Support Program

Empowering businesses in Cross River and Cross Riverians worldwide with Owan-Enoh Foundation MSME Support Program.



Our Ref: GO/HOS/4/VOL. III/280

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





MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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

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
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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
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<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, rtifuh
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).

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CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND