

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 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.

Group Commends Cross River Deputy Governor, Confers Grand Patron Title



A humanitarian and sociocultural group, Mbea Mbea, has commended the Deputy Governor of Cross River State, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, for his outstanding contributions to the growth and development of

the state, as well as his consistent support for humanitarian causes, during a courtesy visit to his office at Government House, Calabar, on Tuesday.

In his opening remarks, the Public Relations Officer of the group, Dr.

Cornel Elah, said the delegation, made up of like-minded friends drawn from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds across Nigeria, undertook the visit to formally appreciate the Deputy Governor's people-oriented leadership and his



supportive role in the Governor Bassey Otu-led administration, as well as to identify with Governor Otu's vision for a more inclusive and progressive Cross River State.

He explained that "Mbea" is an Ibil word meaning friend, while Mbea Mbea signifies double friendship, symbolizing unity, loyalty, and collective responsibility. Although the Ibil people are located in Ogoja Local Government Area, he emphasized



that the group's membership transcends tribe, tongue, and religion.

The PRO further outlined the group's key interventions, which include career and guidance counselling programmes in schools across the state, as well as civic enlightenment and voters' rights

education, aimed at empowering young people and strengthening democratic participation.

Also speaking, Dr. Edmund Odok, Chairman of Mbea Mbea and immediate past Head of the Department of Mathematics, University of Cross River State



(UNICROSS), said the honour was in recognition of the Deputy Governor's exemplary leadership, humility, and commitment to human capital development. He added that the group looks forward to strategic collaboration under his patronage.

In his response, the Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Dr. Peter Odey, expressed gratitude for the honour and

commended the group for its selfless service to society. Accepting the title of Grand Patron, he assured members of his readiness to continually support their humanitarian and enlightenment programmes across the state.

Odey also reiterated the government's commitment to promoting synergy between public office holders and civic organizations in advancing unity, social responsibility, and sustainable development in

Cross River State.

The high point of the visit, which was also attended by the Chairman of Bekwarra Local Government Council, Hon. Egbung Odama Egbung, among other dignitaries, was the formal conferment of the title of Grand Patron of Mbea Mbea on the Deputy Governor by the group's chairman.

Obudu General Hospital set for Commissioning Soon

By Kingsley Agim and Jessica Ubi



The Cross River State Government, through the Ministry of Health, has commenced the final preparations for the unveiling

of the newly completed General Hospital, Obudu, signaling a major boost to healthcare delivery in Obudu and its surrounding communities.

Located along Ogoja Road, the facility is being positioned as a premier centre for healing, equipped to deliver quality, people-centred



medical services. The project, spearheaded by the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, PhD, represents a significant stride in the state government's resolve to bridge healthcare gaps through modern infrastructure and improved access to care.



Following a recent site inspection, key project leaders converged to fine-tune the operational roadmap ahead of the hospital's formal take-off.

The inspection focused on ensuring that all wards, laboratories and critical service areas are fully ready for immediate clinical



use, with the overarching goal of transitioning the facility into a fully functional medical institution without delay.

Speaking to newsmen during the inspection, Dr. Ayuk emphasized the urgency attached to the project, stressing the administration's readiness to commence operations as soon as final

preparations are concluded. "Once everything is put in place, I will not waste time to come and start the operation," the commissioner assured.

Dr. Ayuk said staffing and security featured prominently in the review process. "The hospital has already secured a core team of professionals, including trained nursing graduates

and an experienced laboratory technician, as efforts intensify to close remaining personnel gaps. Particular attention is being given to establishing a robust 24-hour security system to safeguard the hospital's modern medical equipment and ensure uninterrupted service delivery. Plans are already



underway to strengthen security staffing to guarantee round-the-clock protection.”

In a bid to entrench community ownership and trust, the commissioner revealed that the Ministry of Health is mobilizing a wide network of stakeholders ahead of the hospital’s launch, adding that engagements are ongoing with the Obudu Local Government Council, faith-based

organizations such as the Catholic Church, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), and Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), as well as the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), youth councils, and traditional leaders from Obukpa and Gbara communities of Obudu local government area.

“By drawing in these diverse groups, the Ministry aims to ensure broad awareness, collective

responsibility and sustained patronage of the facility. With final legal and administrative processes nearing completion, the General Hospital Obudu is poised to usher in a new era of accessible, and quality healthcare, accentuating the Cross River State Government’s commitment to improving the wellbeing of its people,” Ayuk concluded.

Hos Leads Drive For Monthly Aerobics And Medical Checks

By: Kera Okem



In line with HOS Circular No. 7/2025, which replaces the Monthly Sanitation Exercise with Aerobic Exercise and Medical Checks, the Head of Service of Cross River state Orok Bassey Okon Esq. has taken the lead in advancing the

initiative aimed at promoting the health and wellbeing of civil servants.

As part of efforts to ensure the smooth implementation of the programme, the Chairman of the Cross River State Sports Commission, Mr. Etta Lawrence, and

the Director of Sports, Mrs. Rosemary Usang, paid a courtesy visit to the Office of the Head of Service to conclude final arrangements. Discussions during the engagement focused on stadium assessment, medical and



health screening, the deployment of professional aerobic instructors, and other critical logistics required for the successful actualisation of the exercise.

The Head of Service emphasised that the Monthly Aerobics Exercise

will hold on every last Friday of the month, stressing that the initiative is designed to encourage healthy living, physical fitness, and improved productivity within the public service.

The Head of Service further reaffirmed the administration's

commitment to reforms that prioritise the wellbeing and efficiency of the Cross River State workforce, noting that the collaboration with relevant stakeholders remains key to the success of the programme.

Otu's Quick Response Saves Parliamentary Extension from Ravine Disaster



members, and commuters had become largely impassable, turning everyday travel into a high-stakes gamble amid constant erosion threats.

For years, desperate appeals to various authorities echoed unanswered, allowing the gully to widen unchecked. Rainy seasons transformed the street into an impenetrable quagmire, isolating homes and amplifying risks to lives and structures in the community.

The Parliamentary Extension road by Calabar's Christian Church was a disaster waiting to happen—deplorably dilapidated,

riddled with gaping potholes, and scarred by a deepening ravine that relentlessly invaded adjacent properties. This vital artery for residents, church

Governor Bassey Otu's personal visit marked the



turning point. Confronted with firsthand accounts of the suffering, he wasted no time, issuing immediate directives for comprehensive road reconstruction and robust ravine containment measures. This decisive intervention silenced the long-standing neglect.

Residents now celebrate this as a shining example of proactive, people-centered leadership. The forthcoming works promise not only restored motorable access but also a permanent halt to erosion, fortified protection for affected compounds, and a safer environment overall. With

implementation underway, the community breathes easier, their faith in Otu's administration renewed through tangible commitment to infrastructure and welfare.

CRSG to Commence 2026 Measles-Rubella and HPV Vaccination Campaign February 4



The Cross River State Government has announced the commencement of the 2026 Measles-Rubella (MR) Vaccination Campaign, alongside the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination, across the state.

The announcement was made by the Cross River State Primary Health Care Development Agency (CRSPHCDA) in

collaboration with the Ministry of Health and development partners. The vaccination exercise is scheduled to take place from Wednesday, February 4, to Sunday, February 15, 2026, across all 18 Local Government Areas of the state.

Speaking on the campaign, the Director-General of CRSPHCDA, Dr. (Mrs.) Vivien Mesembe Otu, disclosed that the Measles-Rubella

vaccine will be administered to children aged 9 months to 14 years, while the HPV vaccine will be given to adolescent girls aged 9 years to protect them against cervical cancer. She added that routine immunization services for children aged 0–23 months will also be provided during and after the campaign.

Dr. Otu explained that measles and rubella remain



major public health concerns, capable of causing severe fever, congenital malformations, blindness, miscarriage in pregnant women, and even death if not prevented. She emphasized that vaccination remains the most effective means of protecting children from birth against these diseases.

The campaign, she noted, forms part of a nationwide vaccination exercise by the Federal Government of Nigeria, aimed at strengthening immunity among

children and reducing the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases across the country.

According to the Director-General, vaccinations will be administered at health facilities, schools, churches, mosques, markets, recreational centres, palaces, motor parks, shopping malls, and other public locations where eligible children can easily be reached.

The agency assured residents that trained health workers will be deployed to all designated vaccination posts to

ensure a smooth, respectful, and child-friendly process. Parents and caregivers have been urged to seize the opportunity and ensure that no eligible child is left unvaccinated.

"All vaccines to be administered during the campaign are free, safe, effective, and fully funded by the government," the agency stated.

She advised members of the public seeking further information to contact 08065153097 or 07036696010.

Executive Secretary Conducts Unscheduled Visit to Technical Colleges in Southern Cross River

By: Joy Ndoma



The Executive Secretary of the Cross River State Science and Technical Education Board Dr Archibong Emmanuel Etim has carried out an unscheduled inspection visit to all technical colleges in the Southern Senatorial District of the state, as part of efforts to strengthen

effective school management and ensure continuous monitoring of teaching and learning activities.

The visit, which took place across the technical colleges in the zone, was aimed at assessing teachers' commitment, classroom delivery, and overall compliance with educational

standards. He was accompanied by the Director of Schools, Mrs. Ufuah

Addressing teachers during the inspection, the Executive Secretary warned against truancy and indolence, stressing that the Board would not tolerate any form of laxity in the discharge of duties. He urged



teachers to take their responsibilities seriously and be proactive in delivering quality education to students.

He further encouraged teachers to do their best in

impacting knowledge on students, noting that commitment and dedication to duty were key to achieving positive learning outcomes. According to him, any teacher found wanting in the course of duty would be removed

from the payroll.

The Executive Secretary also disclosed that His Excellency, Governor Prince Bassey Otu, has ensured the regular payment of teachers' salaries, adding that there was no



justification for absenteeism or negligence. He commended the Governor for his love, care, and commitment to the welfare of the people of Cross River State.

While interacting with school administrators, he directed principals

to issue queries to teachers who were yet to resume duty and ensure strict compliance with attendance and performance standards.

During the visit, the Executive Secretary inspected teachers' lesson notes to ascertain

preparedness and adherence to the approved curriculum, reaffirming the Board's commitment to improving the quality of technical and vocational education in the state.



Our Ref: GO/SPC/ADM/111/VOL.I/87

Date: 19th January, 2026

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

STATE PLANNING COMMISSION CIRCULAR No. 1/2026

2026 MDAs ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT, PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT TIMETABLE

The State Planning Commission hereby issues the official timetable guiding all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on the development, submission, presentation, implementation monitoring and performance review of 2026 Action Plans, in line with the State Development Framework and the policy direction of His Excellency, the Governor.

This circular also provides timelines for the Governor's 3rd Anniversary Performance Scorecard and the 2026 MDAs Performance and Strategic Retreat.

1. 2026 MDAs ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT & APPROVAL PROCESS

Period	Activity
20 – 24 January 2026	Issuance of 2026 Action Plan Circular
26 – 30 January 2026	Submission of 2026 Action Plans
2 – 28 Feb 2026	MDAs Presentation

2. QUARTERLY MDAs PERFORMANCE REVIEW SCHEDULE (2026)

All MDAs shall submit quarterly performance reports strictly based on approved Action Plan activities.

Quarter	Period Covered	Submission Window	Review Session
Q1	Jan – Mar 2026	6 – 10 April 2026	13 – 17 April 2026



Q2	Apr – Jun 2026	6 – 10 July 2026	13 – 17 July 2026
Q3	Jul – Sep 2026	5 – 9 October 2026	12 – 16 October 2026
Q4	Oct – Dec 2026	11 – 15 January 2027	18 – 22 January 2027

Outputs shall include the MDAs Performance, variance analysis, challenges and corrective action plans (possible solution).

3. GOVERNOR'S 3RD ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE SCORECARD (29 MAY 2026)

Period	Activity
6 – 17 April 2026	Call for MDAs Performance Data
20 – 30 April 2026	Data Verification and Validation
4 – 15 May 2026	Development of Governor's Scorecard Report
18 – 22 May 2026	High-Level Review and Approval
29 May 2026	Public Presentation of Scorecard

4. 2026 MDAs PERFORMANCE & STRATEGIC RETREAT

Period	Activity
9 – 13 November 2026	MDAs Annual Performance & Strategic Retreat

Focus Areas:

- ❖ Review of 2026 performance outcomes
- ❖ Implementation challenges and solutions
- ❖ Cross-MDA coordination and synergy
- ❖ Policy, budget and development alignment
- ❖ Strategic priorities for 2027 planning cycle

5. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

1. All MDAs are required to strictly comply with the timelines outlined in this circular.
2. Submissions must follow the State Planning Commission approved templates.
3. Performance review outcomes shall inform budget credibility, leadership assessment and policy decisions.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This timetable takes effect from 20th January 2026.

Kindly accord this circular the seriousness it deserves.



Dr. Bong Duke

Vice Chairman/Chief Executive Officer
State Planning Commission

Free Viewing Centre Launched in Calabar South to Strengthen Youth Participation in Community Security

By Kingsley Agim



Residents and stakeholder s in Calabar South Local Government Area have welcomed a new community-driven initiative aimed at fostering unity

and keeping youths positively engaged, following the commissioning of the Sweetness Free Viewing Centre in Ward 12.

The facility, located at Atamunu, was

formally opened amid praise from community leaders, government officials and party stakeholders, who described it as a strategic intervention to



keep youths constructively engaged and off the streets.

Speaking at the event, the APC Ward Chairman of Ward 12 said the project was the result of sustained collaboration between the community and the Cross River State Homeland Security and Safety Agency. He disclosed that the proactive

involvement of youths in community security had attracted official recognition, leading to the absorption of 20 to 30 youths from Ward 12 into the Homeland Security structure.

He revealed that the free viewing centre was fully funded by the Director — South, Homeland Security and Safety Agency, Hon. Michael Orok

Nsan, noting that the facility comes with a one-year paid subscription and would be accessible to residents at no cost.

Community leader HRH Muri (Dr.) Archibong Ika said the centre would strengthen unity and social cohesion in the area, describing it as a platform that fosters interaction, understanding

and peace among residents.

Also speaking, the Special Adviser on Public Affairs to the Governor, Nsa Gill, urged residents to safeguard the facility against vandalism and reminded party members that the APC e-registration and revalidation exercise was ongoing.

Gill stressed that community-owned projects thrive best when residents take collective responsibility for their protection and sustainability, noting that the viewing centre symbolises trust between government and the people at the grassroots.

On his part, Hon. Michael Orok Nsan said the project was facilitated because of its potential to promote grassroots peace and security. He confirmed that all decoders had been subscribed for one year, with plans underway to install solar panels to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

He linked the initiative to the state's broader security and economic goals, particularly in anticipation of the Bakassi Deep Seaport project, stressing that a peaceful grassroots remains key to attracting investment and sustaining development.

The event ended

with calls for collective ownership of the project, as stakeholders agreed that the viewing centre would also serve as a hub for social interaction and community bonding in Ward 12 of Calabar South local government area.

Deputy Speaker Agabi Advocates Mass Participation in APC E-Membership Registration/Revalidation



The Deputy Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Sylvester Agabi has called on eligible residents to participate in the ongoing All Progressives Congress e-registration exercise and formally enroll as party members.

Rt. Hon. Agabi urged Cross Riverians aged 18 and above who possess a National Identification Number to complete the digital process and obtain their party membership, describing it as an important step toward strengthening the APC at the grassroots.

He noted that broad participation in the exercise would reinforce the party's base across the state, support the re-election of Governor Bassey Otu and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and deepen citizen involvement in the democratic process.

CRSG reaffirms its commitment to Diasporians Welfare in Benin Republic



The Cross River State Government has reaffirmed her "People First" Mandate solidly in grand style by dispatching an

official delegation to Benin Republic over issues involving one of its citizens, Pastor Benjamin Egbaji.

The delegation

which included the Honourable Commissioner for Finance, Hon. Michael Odere alongside the the Honourable Attorney General,



Barr. Ededem Ani, with a mandate to engage relevant authorities and ensure that due process and the welfare of the citizen were fully protected.

Following the engagement and intervention from the Federal Government of

Nigeria through the office of Amb. Bianca Odumegwu-Ojujwu, Pastor Benjamin Egbaji returned to Nigeria and was formally received by the Government delegation in Lagos, where further briefings and consultations were held.

The Cross River State Government reaffirms its commitment to the protection of its citizens, adherence to the rule of law, and the use of lawful and diplomatic channels in resolving cross-border matters.



12th January 2026

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION FOR 2026 MEASLES-RUBELLA VACCINATION CAMPAIGN AND HUMAN PAPILLOMA VACCINATION (HPV) IN CROSS RIVER STATE

The Cross River State Primary Health Care Development Agency in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and development partners announces the commencement of the Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign for children 9 months to 14 years, Human Papilloma Virus Vaccination (HPV) for adolescent girls aged 9 years and routine immunization for children 0-23 months across the 18 Local Government Areas of the state from 4th to 15th February, 2026.

From the day a child is born vaccines stand as a shield of protection. Measles and Rubella can cause severe fever, blindness, miscarriage in pregnant women and even death. That is why every child from 9 months to 14 years must receive the measles-Rubella vaccine and every 9 year old girl must receive the HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer as the Federal Government of Nigeria will conduct a nationwide vaccination campaign to protect children across the country from these deadly diseases. The vaccination will take place at all health facilities, schools, mosques, churches, recreational centres, markets, palaces, motor-park, shopping malls and all places where eligible children can be found.

Routine vaccination continues after the campaign in all health facilities as health workers will be available at all designated posts in our various Communities. Don't wait or leave any child behind, visit your nearest health facility or any vaccination site nearest to you.

DATE: WEDNESDAY 4TH - SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY, 2026

Please be assured that all vaccines are **free, safe, effective, and already paid for by the Government**. The vaccination teams will work closely with local health authorities and educational stakeholders to ensure a seamless, respectful, and child-friendly process.

For enquiry call: 08065153097 or 0703 669 6010.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. (Mrs) Vivien Mesembe Otu
Director General
CRSPHCDA





Sight and scene at the
January meeting of the
Cross River State
Chapter of the
**Nigerian Institute of
Public Relations**





CRSEMA/ Stakeholders Condemn Attack On Fire Fighting Truck In Calabar



The Cross River State Emergency Management Agency and its Stakeholders have vehemently condemned the unwholesome attitude of some misguided residents of Goldie Street in Calabar South Local Government Area who for no reason obstructed

a fire disaster rescue operation along the street by pelting dangerous objects on a firefighting truck deployed to address the situation causing substantial damage to the truck and injuring some of the rescue team.

The condemnation which was part of

the resolutions taken at the recent Cross River State Emergency Management Agency Stakeholders Meeting held at the State Planning Commission hall in Calabar described the action of the misguided residents as not only embarrassing



but unwholesome, uncultured, unpatriotic and absolutely alien to the highly responsible people of the State.

The document noted that due to the obstruction preventing the fire fighters to gain access to the incident scene, property worth

millions of Naira were destroyed displacing scores of occupants.

Also contained in the resolution was a strong advice to relevant security



operatives to investigate the incident and bring the culprits to book to serve as deterrent to others.

Cross River State Emergency Management Agency and the stakeholders resolved to maintain dexterity, zeal and commitment towards the service delivery of it's statutory mandates and called on the public for support.

The general

public was also advised to avoid resolving to self help before making emergency calls as such could cause unnecessary delays for seamless interventions

Taking cognisance of the emergency status of the Agency, the public were advised not to hinder the access of any disaster operation but to give a free pass for it's machinery and rescue teams at every emergency situation.

The following emergency numbers were provided for calls for intervention ,

1. NCC.
112
2. Police Control Room
07067977330
,07053355415
3. Federal Fire Service
07063083865
4. State Fire Service
08064028394

CRIDCOM Commits 2026 to God in Solemn Assembly



In a move to align its operations with faith and purpose, the Cross River State Diaspora Commission (CRIDCOM) has held a Solemn Assembly at its office in Calabar to dedicate its plans, programmes, and vision for the year

2026 to God.

The Chairman, Otuekong Chief Otu Okor, emphasised the importance of prayer and spiritual guidance in the Commission's work. "I solicit that prayer remains a key part of our daily work. Let us dedicate all our plans, goals,

and visions to God, trusting that He will guide us in service to our people," he said.

Commissioner for Programs and Events, Evang. Dr. Mrs. Margaret Nde, delivered a word of exhortation centred on trusting



God. She urged staff to place full trust in God as they implement the Commission's programmes, noting, "Our plans and programmes can only succeed if we place them in God's hands. Let faith guide our actions and commitment shape our results."

The assembly featured

thanksgiving, worship, and intercessory prayers, as staff united to dedicate the Commission's objectives and initiatives to God, setting a reflective and purposeful tone for the year ahead and expressing hope for continued growth and positive achievements throughout 2026.

Also present were

senior officers of the commission, including Commissioner for Finance and Accounts, Mrs Emily Maduiké; Head of Administration, Mrs Ekanem Ukpa; Head of Accounts, Mr Ofem Ugbe, as well as other members of staff.



PRESS RELEASE

VAT ON BANKING FEES WAS NOT INTRODUCED BY THE NIGERIA TAX ACT

The Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS) wishes to address and correct misleading narratives circulating in sections of the media suggesting that **Value Added Tax (VAT)** has been newly introduced on banking services, fees, commissions, or electronic money transfers. This claim is categorically incorrect.

VAT has always applied to fees, commissions, and charges for services rendered by banks and other financial institutions under Nigeria's long-established VAT regime. **The Nigeria Tax Act did not introduce VAT on banking charges**, nor did it impose any new tax obligation on customers in this regard.

The Nigeria Revenue Service urges members of the public and all stakeholders to disregard misinformation and to rely exclusively on official communications for accurate, authoritative, and up-to-date tax information.

Signed
Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS)



**ALL
PROGRESSIVES
CONGRESS**

Join the **APC PARTY MEMBERSHIP**

E-Registration Exercise

**TO BE A CARD CARRYING
MEMBER OF OUR PARTY**

Requirements:

Must be 18+

Must Have Valid NIN

***Old members MUST
Revalidate their
MEMBERSHIP***

Be A Part Of The Winning Party

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



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

HEAD OF SERVICE CIRCULAR NO. 1/2026

PAYROLL AUDIT, CREDENTIALS/PROGRESSION VERIFICATION FOR SERVING OFFICERS AND PENSION VERIFICATION FOR PENSIONERS

The attention of all Civil Servants in the State Public/ Civil Service is hereby drawn to the approval of His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State, authorising the Office of the Head of Service to conduct a comprehensive Payroll Audit and Pensioners Verification for the State Public Service.

The exercise is aimed at:

- Ensuring the integrity and accuracy of the State payroll.
- Verifying Staff credentials, appointments, promotions and progression records.
- Eliminating payroll irregularities and strengthening personnel management systems.

The Payroll Audit will be conducted simultaneously with Credentials and Career Progression Verification for serving officers. While a Pension Verification Exercise will be carried out for pensioners. The Nigerian Union of Pensioners (NUP) is hereby notified accordingly.

All serving officers are directed to immediately collate and present copies of their service records to the administrative heads of their MDAs, but not limited to:

- Letter of First Appointment
- Letter of confirmation of appointment
- All Promotion Letters up to current grade level
- All Educational Certificates used in the course of service
- Any other official personnel records as may be required

Further details on the schedule, modalities and documentation requirements for the exercise will be communicated in due course.


Orok Bassey Oken
Head of Service





Our Ref: GO/HOS/4/VOL. III/285

14th January, 2026

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

HEAD OF SERVICE CIRCULAR NO. 2/2026

DEPLOYMENT OF SECURITY PERSONNEL AND CENTRALIZED ELECTRICITY PAYMENT

This is to inform all Ministries, Departments and Agencies that His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State, has approved the deployment of the Nigerian Legion and Peace Corps for security patrol around State government facilities.

Their role is strictly external security surveillance and does not extend to activities within the inner precincts or offices of MDAs.

Furthermore, MDAs are hereby advised that with effect from February 2026 electricity bills, MDAs shall cease direct payment to PHED. The Office of the Head of Service has been mandated to centrally settle electricity bills for all State MDAs.

The contents of this Circular are for information and strict compliance by all concerned.

Orok Bassey Okon
Head of Service





PGF VALUE REORIENTATION CAMPAIGN

**Responsible
Citizens.
Responsive
Nation.**



For more information:

Website: www.pgf.ng

E-mail: info@pgf.ng

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pgfnigeria/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ProgressivePGF>

Tiktok: https://www.tiktok.com/@pgf_2023

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@ProgressiveGovernorsForumPGF>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pgfnigeria>



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
Direct Short Service Course (DSSC) Course 29/2026

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 certificates.
- (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

For further inquiries, please call 011-7000000 or 011-7000000 between 0800 - 1800 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

**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



IS GOD PROUD OF YOU ? - Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Bassey Challenge Christians



The search light for purity has been beamed on Catholic faithful to assess themselves in line

with the dictates of God.

The Priest in charge of the St. Anthony of Padua Quasi Parish,

Basin, Satellite Town, Calabar, Rev Fr Emmanuel Bassey in a sermon emphasized that living by the

tannate of God illuminates light that attract God's favours.

Referencing the Biblical episode of the devine encounter between Jesus Christ and John the Baptist who recognized Jesus through Holy inspiration, he noted that Christians of good character radiate attractions for special spiritual endowments.

Rev Fr Bassey pointed out that everyone has the potentials to be righteous to warrant God's special attention, but that concerted efforts must be focused on identifying and addressing moral deficiencies to guarantee such status.

According to him, faithfals should as a matter of priority denounce all tendencies capable of fertilizing oneself with questionable character for the devil to operate leading to the highway of spiritual death.

The Priest admonished church leaders as well as those in other capacity especially the family unit heads to prioritize on their statutory mandates by injecting the spirit of harmony, understanding, peace and the pursuance of a common goal as prescribed by the Church.

Highlight of the Holy Mass was the interactive nature

of the sermon, a significant shift from the hitherto mono dialogue.

The style was apparently pleasing to the congregants as they inhaled freshness in the new positive dimension.



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
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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Ministry of Information
Cross River State

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





STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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

NATIONWIDE CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (CVR)



Register to Vote

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

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

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



New Voters 18+

Collect or Transfer your PVC

**Replace your lost or
damaged PVC**

No Multiple Registration



✉ iccc@inec.gov.ng

🌐 www.inecnigeria.org
www.inecnews.com

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

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09050858629, 09050858675,
09050858649

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

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**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— FRSC —

CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND