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Daily InfoNews...

Daily News Bulletin is a daily publication of the Cross River State Ministry of Information and Orientation for the entertainment and Education of all Cross Riverians and the general public about the daily events, activities and programmes of government and the private sector operating in all parts of the State.

Articles and stories in this publication may be reproduced.

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CROSS RIVER STATE

VISION STATEMENT

To become a leading Nigerian State with prosperous, healthy and well educated citizens; living in harmony with people and nature, and pursuing legitimate interest in freedom moderated by good governance.

MINISTERIAL MANDATE

To project and protect the image of Government and act as Chief Image Maker/Spokesman for the State as well as supervision of the State Media Organisation.

VISION

To be the best organ of the State for the promotion of positive values, its image and overall endowment to Cross Riverians, Nigerians and the Diaspora.

Mission

To utilize in harmony all apparatus of government media to effectively disseminate information, educate and entertain the public, using the electronic, print media and interpersonal communication channels.

C'River TCTI Secures World Bank IDEAS TVET Grant to Train 300 Youths in Tech Skills



In a major boost to the state's human capital development, the Cross River State government has launched a comprehensive skill acquisition program for 300 indigenous youths, funded by

a ₦90 million World Bank IDEAS TVET grant after a competitive bidding among several institutions in the country.

The initiative, facilitated by the Director-General of the Cross River State government-

owned Teachers Continuous Training Institute (TCTI) Biase, Professor Taoheed Adedoja, is designed to tackle youth unemployment by equipping young Cross Riverians with industry-standard technical



skills.

The six-month intensive program soon to be launched by the World Bank in conjunction with the Federal Ministry of Education-Abuja, will focus on high-demand ICT system sectors such as computer and telephone hardware repairs and maintenance, network system

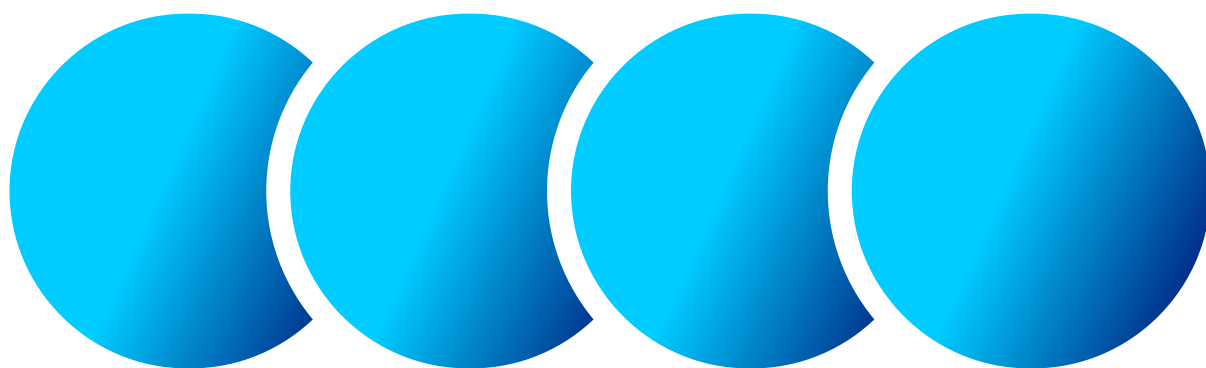
installation and ICT-related technical training.

Speaking on the rollout, Professor Adedoya confirmed that the first phase of the project has already commenced. Last week participants underwent a rigorous three-day orientation, accreditation and finalization process and are scheduled to begin formal

training within the week.

Unlike traditional short-term training, this World Bank-funded Innovation Development and Effectiveness in Acquisition of Skills (IDEAS) project offers a sustainable path to entrepreneurship.

"The exercise will



happen simultaneously over six months and the TCTI is the Training Service Provider (TSP)," Professor Adedaja stated.

"Upon completion, beneficiaries will receive professional certification and startup kits to enable them to operate independently as business owners."

To further support the trainees, the program includes a monthly monetary stipend for the duration

of the course, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their learning progress.

The 300 participants were selected through a collaborative process involving indigenous stakeholders from Biase Local Government Area. The project is being managed by Dr. Emmanuel Omini, TCTI's Acting Director of ICT as the service training manager.

Beyond the immediate benefit

to the 300 youths, the successful execution of this phase will open doors for TCTI to a larger strategic purpose due to the world class records set by the Director-General of the institution.

A verified track record of the successful exercise will qualify Cross River State for an even larger World Bank funded project focused on training teachers on youth skill acquisition statewide.

Police Announce Routine Firearms Training Exercise in Akpabuyo, Assure Public of Safety

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Police Command has announced a routine shooting range exercise scheduled to hold in Akpabuyo Local Government Area, as part of ongoing efforts to enhance professionalism, operational

readiness and public safety.

In a statement issued on Monday, January 26, 2026, by the Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Sunday Eitokpah, the exercise is slated for Tuesday, January 27, 2026, beginning at 8:00am, at

Asabanka, Anyanganse Community.

The Command explained that the training forms part of continuous capacity-building for police personnel, including the retraining of officers and

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- **ALWAYS** keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
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- **ALWAYS** keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

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- Know your target and what is beyond.
- Know how to use the gun safely.
- Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
- Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.
- Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
- Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.
- Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
- Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

Prepared by: The Nigeria Police Service Commission

inspection of service arms and other operational equipment, in line with standard policing practices.

Residents have been assured that

the exercise is strictly routine and should not cause alarm, despite the anticipated increase in police presence or the sound of gunfire during the training.

However, the Police advised residents, farmers and passersby to keep away from the shooting range and its immediate



surroundings for the duration of the exercise, noting that the precaution is necessary to prevent accidental exposure to stray bullets and to reduce psychological distress.

The statement

stressed that adequate safety measures have been put in place to ensure the exercise is conducted in a controlled and professional manner, with public safety remaining the Command's top priority.

The Cross River State Police Command thanked members of the public for their understanding and cooperation, while reaffirming its commitment to safeguarding lives and property across the state.

C'River Govt Celebrates Undiandeye's Elevation, Reaffirms Commitment to Unity, Service



The Cross River State Government has congratulated the Chief of Defence Intelligence, Emmanuel Undiandeye, on his promotion to

the rank of Lieutenant General, describing the feat as a historic milestone for the state and a testament to excellence, dedication, and selfless service to

the nation.

Governor Bassey Edet Otu, represented by his deputy, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, made this known during a thanksgiving service held on



Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bedia, in Obudu Local Government Area, to celebrate the senior military officer's elevation.

According to the Deputy Governor, the event was an opportunity for the state to honour one of its illustrious sons whose distinguished

military career has brought pride and recognition to Cross River State.

"We are here to celebrate excellence and a man whose journey in the Nigerian Army has been long, remarkable, and inspiring. This is the first time in the history of our state that one of our own has attained the rank of

Lieutenant General in the Nigerian Army, and we are truly proud of him," Odey said.

He commended Lt. Gen. Undiandeye for his unwavering commitment and dedication to the Nigerian Armed Forces, praying for God's continued protection, wisdom, and



guidance as he serves the nation at the highest level.

"As a state, we will continue to support him and remember him in our prayers. The same God who

protected him from the Nigerian Defence Academy to his present position will continue to guide and preserve him," the Deputy Governor added.

Addressing the

nation's security challenges, including banditry, kidnapping, and insurgency, Rt. Hon. Odey prayed that God would grant the Chief of Defence Intelligence the strength, insight,



and resources required to support President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in confronting the threats effectively.

He also underscored the importance of peace, unity, and responsible leadership, stressing that politics must never be a justification for violence.

"I have always preached peaceful coexistence. I would rather quit politics than promote violence. Leadership is an opportunity to serve the people, not to harm them," he stated, adding that true leadership demands resilience in difficult times, humility in moments of success, and constant reverence

for God.

In his thanksgiving remarks, Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Undiandeye offered an emotional testimony of God's faithfulness throughout his military career, noting that every act of gratitude at the altar had been followed by divine elevation.



"When I thought I had reached my ceiling as a Major General, God proved me wrong," he said. "Last year, my course mates and I were preparing for retirement, but instead of retirement, God said, 'You have not yet reached where I want you to be.' He not only retained me in service but elevated me to

the rank of Lieutenant General."

The Chief of Defence Intelligence expressed profound gratitude to God for His grace, protection, and unending faithfulness, describing the promotion as both humbling and a renewed call to greater service, all to the glory of God.

Earlier, the Wife of the Chief of Defence Intelligence, Mrs. Jane Ekor Undiandeye, delivered a vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to all who joined the family to celebrate the milestone and for their support and goodwill.









Senator Eteng Williams Inaugurates Mkpani Road Project to Boost Rural Development



In fulfillment of his campaign promises to provide basic infrastructure capable of driving economic growth and rural transformation, the Senator representing Cross River

Central Senatorial District, Senator Eteng Williams, has inaugurated the construction of the Mkpani Ring Road in Yakurr Local Government Area of Cross River State.

Speaking at the

ground breaking ceremony, Senator Williams said the project forms part of his deliberate efforts to address infrastructure deficits across the senatorial district, add value to rural communities and

improve the living standards of his constituents.

He noted that access roads remain critical to economic growth, particularly for agrarian communities that depend on efficient transportation to move farm produce to markets. The senator assured residents that the Mkpani Ring Road was only one of several projects lined up to drive growth and transform communities across the district.

The inauguration ceremony, which attracted community leaders, traditional rulers and residents,

marked the official commencement of the two kilometre ring road linking the Aduma, Afaben and Ajere communities. The arrival of heavy duty construction equipment at the project site generated widespread excitement among residents, who described the initiative as timely and impactful.

Residents and stakeholders expressed optimism that the road would ease transportation challenges, improve market access for farmers and stimulate urban and commercial development within Mkpani and its surrounding communities.

In separate interviews, traditional rulers, community leaders and political stakeholders commended the initiative, describing it as a demonstration of responsive and people focused leadership that prioritizes grassroots development.

The Mkpani Ring Road is expected to complement the ongoing Mkpani to Agoi Road project being executed by the Cross River State Government and serve as a catalyst for broader economic activities in the area. With improved connectivity, the road is projected



to boost agricultural productivity, reduce transportation costs and support sustainable livelihoods.

Observers noted that the project aligns with Senator Williams' key campaign commitments to

improve rural infrastructure across the Cross River Central Senatorial District.

Other road projects facilitated by the senator include the grading of access roads in Iyamoyong, Okumurutet and Iyamitet in Obubra Local Government Area, the grading

of Agba One and Agba Two rural roads in Boki Local Government Area, the rehabilitation of Okundi, Irruan and Wula roads also in Boki, as well as the grading of the Abia to Bakassi Road in Etung Local Government Area.

Cross River State Showcases Urban Mobility Vision at National Transportation Forum

By Irene Bassey



The future of urban mobility in Cross River State took center stage at the recent National Transportation Stakeholders' Forum, convened in Transcorp

Hilton, Abuja by the Nigeria Governors' Forum with support from the World Bank.

Honourable Commissioner for Transportation, Hon. Pst. Ekpenyong

Cobham, presented a compelling case study detailing the state's ambitious plans and the findings of a crucial pre-feasibility study on its public transportation



current state of public transportation across four key urban centers.

These strategic locations – Calabar, the State Capital; Ikang in the Southern Senatorial district; Ikom in the Central district and Abakpa in the Northern district—were chosen to represent the diverse needs and challenges across all three senatorial districts of Cross River State.

Discussions also delved into various aspects of the study, including the procurement of needed infrastructures, such as acquisition of electric city buses, tricycles

sector.

The presentation, titled "CASE STUDY BRIEF FOR CROSS RIVER STATE URBAN MOBILITY PROGRAM," offered a comprehensive overview of the state's commitment to modernizing its

transportation networks, encompassing both land and marine components.

The core of the discussion revolved around the outcomes of a detailed pre-feasibility study that meticulously examined the

and motorcycles, with recharging stations already put in place for the adoption of best practices in transportation management.

Hon. Pst. Ekpenyong Cobham articulated the state's vision for an integrated, efficient, and sustainable urban mobility system.

The study aimed to provide a clear and data-driven understanding of the existing infrastructure, operational efficiencies, and areas requiring significant intervention.

The pre-feasibility study's findings highlighted the critical need for strategic investments and

policy reforms to enhance the quality, accessibility, and safety of public transportation for the citizens of Cross River State.

The presentation underscored the potential for a revitalized transport sector to drive economic growth, improve quality of life, and foster greater connectivity within the state and abroad.

The National Transportation Stakeholders' Forum provided a vital platform for Cross River State to share its innovative approaches and to engage with national and international partners.

The collaborative environment fostered by the Nigeria Governors' Forum and the World Bank allowed for constructive dialogue and the potential to forge partnerships that could accelerate the implementation of the state's urban mobility programs.

The participation of Cross River State at this high-level forum signals a proactive stance in addressing the complexities of urban transportation and a dedication to building a more connected and prosperous future for its residents.



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C' River, Submit Bank Begin Talks For Calabar Branch

The Cross River State Government has taken a significant step toward expanding financial services in the State, following high-level discussions with Submit Bank on the establishment of a branch in Calabar.

The State Commissioner for Commerce, Dr. Abigial Orok Duke, disclosed this shortly after a meeting with the Managing Director of Submit Bank, Alhaji Sirajo Salisu, in Abuja, where both parties explored opportunities for strengthening

commercial and banking activities in Cross River State.

Discussions at the meeting centered on improving access to financial services, supporting small and medium-scale enterprises, and enhancing the overall business environment in the state. The talks align with the Cross River State Government's broader strategy to attract private sector investment and stimulate economic growth.

Following the meeting, Alhaji Salisu assured the State Government of Submit Bank's commitment to

proceed with plans to establish a branch in Calabar.

He noted that the move would bring banking services closer to residents and business owners, while also contributing to the state's economic development.

The proposed Submit Bank branch is expected to boost local commerce, create employment opportunities, and provide improved financial inclusion for individuals and businesses across Cross River State.

CRGIA Kicks Off 2026 with Solemn Assembly, Puts God at the Centre

By Sylvia Okoi



The Cross River Geographic Information Agency (CRGIA) has held its annual Solemn Assembly for the year 2026, committing the activities of the agency into the hands of God.

Speaking at the

event, the Director General of CRGIA, Mr. William Archibong, said the gathering was aimed at reverencing God for His faithfulness over the agency's activities in the previous year. He thanked God for sustaining the entire staff of the agency, noting that

CRGIA finished strong and successfully accomplished its mandate despite several challenges, hence the need to continually seek God's guidance.

The Director General further announced that in 2025, the agency



tripled its Internally Generated Revenue and expressed optimism that the current year would record even greater achievements.

Mr. Archibong admonished staff to give their best in service delivery, shun unethical practices, and remain dedicated to their duties.

Earlier, in an exhortation, the Resident Pastor of Christian Central Chapel, Pastor Christopher Effa, charged staff of the agency to work together as



one family in achieving set goals and to always depend on God in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Pastor Effa, who made reference to Acts chapter 1 verse 3, noted that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is evidence of the infallible power of God, adding that CRGIA would remain infallible because its activities have

been anchored on God.

He prayed for God's glory and divine grace to distinguish the agency and enable it attain greater heights in the year ahead.

The Solemn Assembly featured praise and worship, intercessory prayers for the state, management and staff of the agency, as well as prayers for preservation, safety, wisdom and good health for the

Governor of Cross River State, Senator Prince Bassey Otu.

The spiritual exercise underscored the agency's total dependence on God, with participants expressing confidence that, through divine guidance, CRGIA will record a successful year for the agency and the state at large.

Osogi Boosts Education with N15 Million Scholarship for Yakurr Students

By Sylvia Okoi



No fewer than 150 students from Yakurr Local Government Area have benefitted from a N15 million educational scholarship scheme sponsored by the Cross River State Commissioner for

Environment, Dr. Moses Osogi.

The beneficiaries received the scholarship on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at the Sir Thompson Egbe Educational Foundation, Anong, Abi Local Government Area, in what was

described as a memorable moment for students of Yakurr origin.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Osogi said the scholarship award was a fulfilment of the vision he unveiled in October 2025,



during which similar support was extended to students from Abi Local Government Area.

According to him, the initiative was driven by his passion for education and commitment to giving back to society. "I consider it a privilege to

support students, not because I have so much, but because giving is an innate part of who I am," he said.

Making reference to biblical principles, the Commissioner described himself as one of the righteous entrusted with leadership, adding that the

scholarship programme represents the dividends of democracy.

Dr. Osogi expressed appreciation to the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, for empowering appointees to reach grassroots communities.



"The Governor cannot be everywhere, so we are encouraged to replicate his people-oriented gestures, especially his commitment to the welfare of citizens," he stated.

He stressed that the scholarship

scheme was not driven by political ambition but by a deep understanding of the challenges faced by students who struggle to pay tuition and meet basic academic needs. The Commissioner charged beneficiaries to remain studious and disciplined,

while commending them for meeting the set criteria. He reaffirmed his commitment to sustaining the programme and announced plans to extend future scholarship support to medical and postgraduate students within the year.



Earlier, the Founding Coordinator of the Sir Thompson Egbe Educational Foundation, Engr. Dr. Pringle Egbe, said the selection

of beneficiaries was strictly merit-based, noting that applicants were required to meet a minimum CGPA of 3.5, among other conditions.

In separate

interviews, beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Commissioner for the support. Mr. Usani Onen, a 200-level Accounting student of the



joy upon receiving the scholarship funds of one hundred thousand naira and commended Dr. Osogi for his benevolence.

The event was attended by members of the Traditional Rulers' Council of Abi, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Barr. Mrs. Rosemary Onah, members of the All Progressives Congress (APC), stakeholders from the Abi/Yakurr constituency, parents of beneficiaries, as well as family members, friends and well-wishers.

University of Calabar, described the scholarship as timely relief, especially as a self-sponsored student. Similarly, Miss Goodness Usani, a 200-level student of Language and Education,

UNICAL, appreciated the gesture and prayed for God's blessings upon the Commissioner. Ayomobi Etim, a 200-level Civil Engineering student of the University of Lagos, said he was overwhelmed with

Youth Commissioner, Ukam Strengthens APC Bond with New Year Largesse in Ijom



It was a sunny Sunday morning in Ijom as APC Abayong Ward members

gathered at the local party headquarters, buzzing with excitement. The air was filled with

anticipation as they waited for the arrival of their esteemed guest, Barr. Odum-Ijom Ukam, the

Honourable Commissioner for Youth Development and Skills Acquisition. As he walked in, the crowd erupted in cheers and applause, grateful for the recognition of their hard work.

Barr. Ukam took the stage, flashing a warm smile as he began to hand out New Year largesse to the members. The gifts, a thoughtful gesture of appreciation, were met with beaming smiles and heartfelt gratitude. As he moved from one person to the next, shaking hands and exchanging words of encouragement, it was clear that he was more than

just a leader – he was a true champion of the people.

The Commissioner took a moment to address the crowd, his words dripping with sincerity and passion.

He reaffirmed his commitment to the party and its members, emphasizing the importance of unity and collective growth. His message resonated deeply, strengthening the bond between him and the ward members.

As the event drew to a close, the members expressed their gratitude, pledging their unwavering support for Barr. Ukam's leadership. The atmosphere was electric, filled

with hope and optimism for the future. It was clear that this gesture would go a long way in solidifying the party's presence in Ijom.

The Commissioner left the venue to thunderous applause, his visit a resounding success. As he drove away, he couldn't help but feel a sense of pride and fulfillment, knowing that he had made a tangible difference in the lives of his people. It was a day that would be etched in their memories for a long time to come.

C'River Intensifies Drive To Improve Education, Shuts Down More Illegal Schools

By Patricia Ogbeche



The Cross River State Government has sustained its commitment to improving the quality of education with the shutdown of more illegal schools across the 18 Local

Government Areas of the State.

The ongoing enforcement exercise, led by the State Ministry of Education, is part of the government's broader education reform agenda

aimed at sanitizing the sector and ensuring that only duly approved schools operate within the state.

Speaking on the exercise, the Commissioner for Education,



Senator Professor Stephen Odey Esq, said the action aligns with the Ministry's directive to clamp down on schools operating without the mandatory

Approval to Operate (ATO).

According to him, the initiative is designed to safeguard the academic future of pupils and

students, noting that many unapproved schools fail to meet the minimum standards required for effective teaching



and learning.

Professor Odey disclosed that over one hundred and fifty six (156) illegal schools were shut down across the state in 2025, adding that the exercise would continue this year to ensure full compliance with government regulations.

"The sanitization of illegal schools is for the betterment of our children. Every school proprietor must do the right

thing by obtaining the Approval to Operate (ATO). Any proprietor who reopens a closed school without authorization will be duly penalized," the Commissioner warned.

As part of the ongoing exercise

- Peculiar International Nursery and Primary School, Efut Uwanse Layout, Calabar South, was shut down for operating illegally.

The Commissioner reaffirmed the

Cross River State Government's unwavering commitment to restoring quality education and ensuring that all schools in the state meet approved standards, in line with the administration's vision of providing a sound and competitive educational system for all.

Governor Otu Flags Off Construction of Phase II of 17km Boki East-West Road



As part of ongoing efforts to enhance connectivity and stimulate socio-economic development in rural communities, and in fulfillment of his administration's commitment to

improving road infrastructure across Cross River State, Governor Bassey Otu on Thursday performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the second phase of the 17-kilometre Boki East-West Road at Onitsha Farm in

Boki Local Government Area.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Governor, who was represented by his deputy, Rt. Hon. Dr. Peter Odey, described the road project as a critical intervention designed to open



up rural areas and address long-standing transportation challenges. He noted that the road would significantly improve access between communities, ease the movement of people and goods, and support agricultural activities, which remain the mainstay of the local economy.

Rt. Hon. Odey emphasized that improved road infrastructure would not only reduce transportation costs but also increase the income-generating capacity of rural households by enabling farmers to transport their produce to markets more efficiently. He further reaffirmed the Otu-led administration's commitment to

delivering people-oriented projects that promote inclusive growth and improve the quality of life, particularly in hard-to-reach communities.

Revealing that the state government has provided counterpart funding for the construction of major rural roads under the Rural Access and



Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP), including roads in previously unreachable communities in Boki LGA and other parts of the state, Odey called on traditional rulers, youth, and stakeholders of the benefiting communities to take ownership of the project by supporting the contractor in executing it

according to schedule. He also urged the contractor to prioritize local content by utilizing local materials, labor, and services to boost economic growth.

In her welcome address, the Executive Chairman of Boki LGA, Hon. Mrs. Beatrice Etta Nyiam, praised Governor Otu for fulfilling his

campaign promises. She described the road as a gift that carries "hope, progress, and promise" for the people of Boki, noting that it will transform lives by opening up communities, easing the transport of farm produce, boosting trade, creating jobs for youths, and attracting new economic



opportunities.

Hon. Nyiam further emphasized that the road symbolizes unity by connecting communities and strengthening social bonds within the LGA. She expressed gratitude to the Governor, highlighting that the people of Boki recognize leadership that

delivers on its commitments and assured that they are ready to show their appreciation in the 2027 elections.

On his part, the Commissioner for Works, Engr. Pius Ankpo, appealed to the Council Chairman, traditional rulers, and youth to ensure adequate security and support for the contractor, assuring

that his ministry would carry out routine supervision to guarantee timely completion in line with agreed standards and specifications.

In separate goodwill messages, the House of Representatives member for Boki/Ikom Federal Constituency, Hon. Victor Abang,



House of Assembly members for Boki 1 and 2, Hon. Bette Obi and Rt. Hon. Dr. Hilary Bisong, Commissioner for Information, Dr. Erasmus Ekpang, and the Paramount Ruler of Boki, HRM Otu Fredaline Akando, all expressed appreciation to Governor Otu for prioritizing rural development and economic

People First
in Action

empowerment through strategic infrastructure investments across the state and pledged their continued support for his administration.

The high point of the ceremony was the ribbon-cutting

by the Deputy Governor, symbolizing the commencement of the project, which will cut across Onitsha Farm-Boje-Katabang and terminate at Kanyang Junction along the Ikom-Obudu highway.











HOS Flags Off Security Surveillance and Patrol for MDAs in CRS in Partnership with Nigeria Legion and Peace Corps

By: Kera Okem



The Cross State

Head of Service Orok Bassey Okon Esq. has officially flagged off a comprehensive security surveillance and patrol initiative in collaboration with the Nigeria Legion and the Peace Corps of Nigeria, as part of efforts





to strengthen the safety of government facilities and assets.

The flag-off ceremony marks a renewed commitment by the Office of the Head of Service to proactive security management across government premises. The

initiative is designed to enhance monitoring, early detection, and rapid response to security threats affecting public property.

Speaking during an interview with members of the media, the Deputy Commandant of the Nigeria Legion

Corps, D.C. Ntiedo Akpan, alongside Inspector Okweche Odey Dominic of the Peace Corps of Nigeria, explained that the surveillance and patrol exercise is aimed primarily at safeguarding government properties and critical infrastructure.



According to them, the partnership underscores a shared responsibility in supporting existing security frameworks and ensuring a secure environment for public service operations. They both assured the public of their unwavering commitment to duty, pledging to remain alert, disciplined, and vigilant at all times

in the discharge of their responsibilities.

In further demonstration of support for the initiative, the Head of Service has also provided essential security gadgets to aid effective surveillance, communication, and patrol activities. The provision of these tools is expected to significantly improve operational

efficiency and responsiveness on the field.

The Head of Service reaffirmed that the collaboration with the Nigeria Legion and the Peace Corps of Nigeria forms part of a broader strategy to protect government assets, promote safety, and reinforce confidence in public institutions.



Sights and Scenes from Cross River IRS 1-Day New Tax Reform Sensitization for Cross River Central Senatorial District in Ikom Local Government Area.







Senator Jarigbe Attends APC Stakeholders' Meeting in Obudu, Supports with N10 Million



The Senator representing Cross River North Senatorial District, Senator Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe, earlier today attended a stakeholders' meeting of the All

Progressives Congress (APC) in Obudu Local Government Area of Cross River State.

The meeting, held alongside Distinguished Senator Eteng Jonah

Williams, was aimed at reinforcing collective commitment to party unity, strengthening strategic organization, and promoting economic development within



the party and the Local Government Area.

Senator Jarigbe expressed his heartfelt

appreciation to party leaders and stakeholders for their sacrifices, dedication, and unwavering support. He urged all members to remain

united, be their brother's keeper, and work collectively for the growth and success of the party in Obudu LGA. In



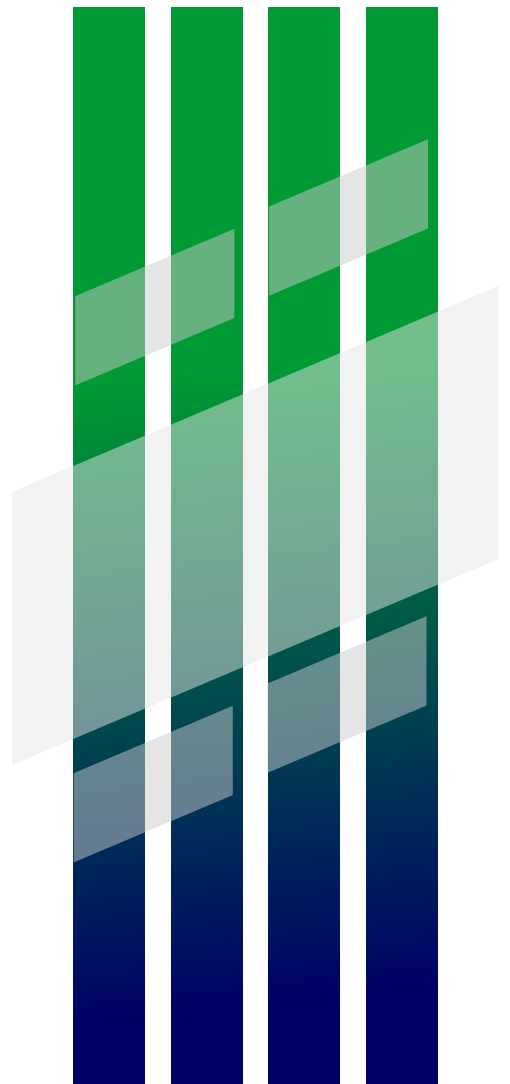
furtherance of this commitment, he supported the meeting with the sum of ₦10 million, while Senator Eteng Jonah Williams contributed ₦1 million.

The lawmaker also called on stakeholders to intensify efforts toward mobilization for the party's e-registration

exercise, emphasizing that data-driven approaches are critical to effective political planning, mobilization, and electoral success.

The meeting was graced by several dignitaries, including the Deputy Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Hon. Sylvester Agabi; the

Executive Chairman of Obudu LGA, Hon. Peter Undiandeye; Hon. Martins Orim; Hon. Kjay Agba; Chief Tony Undiandeye; Hon. Boniface Eraye; Hon. Ken Aklah; Dr. Mathias Angioha; and many other party leaders and stakeholders.





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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



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



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
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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





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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 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 081-7000000 or 081-0000000 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



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





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

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

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STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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

NATIONWIDE CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (CVR)



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STARTS ON 18TH AUGUST, 2025**
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www.inecnews.com

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**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— FRSC —

CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND