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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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FOR MORE STORIES



# 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.

# Cross River: Best Congress Ever Conducted, Congress Committee Chair Declares Ikom Claim Unfounded

Blessing Enagu



The Chairman of the State Congress Committee, Mr. Samuel Yarnap, has declared the just-concluded ward and local government congresses in Cross River State as the most peaceful and best

conducted exercise in the country, emphatically dismissing claims that the process did not hold in Ikom Local Government Area.

Addressing journalists in Calabar at the close of the exercise

conducted between February 18 and 21, Yarnap described the congress as a model of transparency, discipline and unity. "Since we arrived on the 17th and monitored the ward congress on the 18th through



to the local government congress, what we have witnessed," he said, "might be the best congress

ever conducted in the entire country." He stressed that the exercise was devoid of rancour, violence or parallel

structures, noting that party members across the 18 local government areas conducted themselves with loyalty and decorum. "It has been very peaceful. The party members have shown uncommon coordination and



support. We are impressed, and I am very sure the National Chairman is equally proud," Yarnap stated, revealing that real-time updates and video evidence were forwarded to the national leadership.

According to him, the response from Abuja was both reassuring and celebratory. "He responded to us that he is proud and happy that Cross River State did not disappoint

at all," Yarnap disclosed, adding that the atmosphere of peace in the state under Governor Senator Bassey Edet Otu significantly contributed to the success of the exercise. "We have a peaceful, God-fearing governor, and the people love him. That spirit was evident everywhere."

Governor Otu, who monitored the proceedings, described the congress as smooth

and purposeful. "The exercise has been very smooth and peaceful," he affirmed. "There were no hitches or problems anywhere at all." He further emphasized that the unity displayed by party faithful reflected a shared commitment to national political objectives. "You can see that all our party members are peaceful. The officials who witnessed it are very satisfied with the exercise."

Against this backdrop of overwhelming commendation, claims by the Chairman of Ikom Local Government Area, Mrs. Mercy Nsor, alleging that the congress did not hold in Ikom, were strongly deprecated and categorically dismissed by party officials and members of the monitoring committee.

Multiple party stakeholders and accredited delegates from Ikom confirmed that the congress was duly conducted in line with approved guidelines. Attendance registers were completed, officials were present, and voting processes were carried out

peacefully. "The congress held in Ikom like every other local government," a senior party source asserted. "To suggest otherwise is to disregard documented facts and the testimony of those who participated."

Yarnap himself reaffirmed the comprehensiveness of the oversight process. "We went round before concluding. What we have seen is transparency and order," he said firmly. "Cross River State has conducted the best congress. It was peaceful, coordinated and credible."

Party leaders maintained that the claim that the congress did not hold in Ikom does not reflect the

general consensus across the state, where observers and participants alike have hailed the exercise as free, fair and transparent. They described the allegation as isolated and inconsistent with verifiable evidence on ground. As Mr. Samuel Yarnap succinctly put it, "This is the best congress ever".

# Bansara Community Set for Agric Boost as SPIN Project Takes Off

## Bansara Rice Set for Agro Boost with Flood Control and Irrigation Farming starting soon

Blessing Enagu



**B**ansara Community, located within the Ogoja rice belt of Cross River State, is poised for a major agricultural transformation through flood control and irrigation farming under the

Sustainable Power and Irrigation for Nigeria (SPIN) Project.

This development follows the successful conclusion of a technical verification visit by the Federal Project Management Unit

(FPMU) of the SPIN Project to Cross River State.

The federal delegation, led by the Head of Technical Unit on Irrigation and Drainage, Engr. Mrs. Hauwa Sadique, conducted a



comprehensive assessment of the proposed site to ascertain its technical feasibility and provide implementation recommendations.

At the project location, the State Project Coordinator, Engr. Mrs. Justina Ulafor, guided the delegation across

the expansive farmland spanning approximately 630 hectares. The site is naturally supported by River Ayar, which is expected to serve as a sustainable water source for the planned irrigation infrastructure, enabling year-round farming activities.

The State Project Engineer, Engr. Dr.

Ndifon Agbiji, presented detailed engineering designs outlining the proposed layout and key infrastructure components. The presentation facilitated in-depth technical discussions on feasibility, scope, and implementation requirements.



Beyond the physical site inspection, the delegation engaged extensively with community stakeholders, including the Council of Chiefs, youth and women leaders, and the Water Users Association (WUA),

which was constituted in accordance with project guidelines. The interactions highlighted the community's preparedness and institutional structures necessary to support effective implementation and long-term management of the

irrigation scheme.

Speaking on behalf of the community, Elder Simon Ebi expressed appreciation to both the Federal and State Governments for selecting Bansara as a beneficiary of the project. He noted that as a predominantly rice-producing community, irrigation-enabled all-season farming would significantly increase yields and improve household incomes.

The Youth Leader, Mr. Anthony Awum, pledged the full cooperation of the youths, assuring the team of adequate security and a conducive working environment for personnel deployed to the



of addressing challenges such as flooding and drought, Mrs. Mogbor, however, raised concerns regarding limited market access for rice, input supply constraints, and inadequate access to finance. She appealed to government authorities to integrate market linkages and broader value chain considerations into the project framework, while reaffirming the community's commitment to the project's success.

In her response, Engr. Mrs. Hauwa Sadique expressed satisfaction with the level of organization and preparedness demonstrated by the community. She emphasized

site.

The WUA Desk Officer, Barr. Mrs. Theresa Mogbor, commended His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, for his deliberate and people-oriented agricultural programmes. She

also appreciated the Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture, Hon. Johnson Ebokpo, for his dedication in advancing the state's agricultural mandate.

Describing the SPIN Project as a timely intervention capable



that firsthand site verification is essential for accurate technical reporting and informed decision-making at the federal level. She further assured stakeholders that the project would enhance livelihoods, stimulate economic growth,

and significantly boost agricultural productivity in Bansara and its surrounding communities.

With the technical verification successfully concluded, preliminary steps toward project commencement are set to begin,

marking the start of a new phase of agricultural growth, resilience, and sustainability for Bansara and the entire Ogoja rice belt.



# NIPR Emerges Global Public Relations Association of the Year



**T**he Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) has been named the winner of the Global Public Relations Association of the Year at the World Public Relations and Communication Awards 2025, organised by the Global Alliance for Public Relations and Communication Management.

The announcement was made in Lisbon, Portugal today, 19th February, 2026, following a highly competitive process that attracted 89 entries from 19 countries across the world.

The award recognises NIPR's outstanding leadership in professional regulation, reputation governance, ethical standards enforcement,

strategic communication advocacy, and its reform-driven agenda repositioning public relations as a strategic driver of national development.

Reacting to the announcement, the NIPR Ag. President, Prof. Emmanuel Dandaura described the recognition as "a defining global endorsement of

Nigerian professionalism and excellence in public relations”.

“This is not just a trophy. It is evidence that disciplined reform and institutional courage yield results. Nigeria is no longer observing global reputation conversations from the sidelines, we are influencing them,” he stated.

Prof. Dandaura extolled the NIPR President, Dr. Ike Neliaku, for what he described as purposeful and visionary leadership that has repositioned the Institute for greater national relevance and stronger international visibility.

The Ag. President

also congratulated Chain Reactions, a member-agency of NIPR, for emerging Winner in the “Internal Communication Campaign” category, with their ‘Next Era of Happiness: Managing Change and Employee’ entry.

He acknowledged the contributions of past leaders who laid the institutional foundation, current Council Members who have sustained the reforms momentum, and the young professionals across the country who represent the future of strategic communication.

The Global Alliance Awards celebrate excellence in public relations and communication worldwide,

recognising innovation, impact, ethics, and professional advancement across industries and regions.

The formal presentation of trophies will take place during the Global Alliance World Public Relations Forum (WPRF) 2026 scheduled for 15th - 21st November, 2026 in Abuja, Nigeria.

# Building a Future-Ready Institute: Dandaura Mobilises Chapters to upscale Reforms

In a clear signal that the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) is entering a new phase of institutional reform, the Acting President, Prof. Emmanuel Samu Dandaura, has charged Chapter Public Relations Officers (PROs) and Assistant Secretaries to embrace a more strategic and transformative role in the Institute's evolving administrative architecture.

Addressing officers from state chapters during a virtual

engagement on Wednesday, Prof. Dandaura framed their responsibilities not as routine functions but as levers of institutional renewal.

He anchored his remarks on Bye-Law No. 2 of 1992, as amended in 2024, describing the amendment as a deliberate recalibration designed to align chapter operations with the Institute's national reform agenda.

"The bye-law was not amended for formality," he stressed. "It was refined to

strengthen efficiency, accountability and synergy between the chapters and the national body."

He described Chapter PROs as more than communicators, they are custodians of reputation and architects of perception at the grassroots. Entrusted with designing and executing communication strategies, managing stakeholder relations, engaging the media and shaping public confidence, they

stand at the frontline of projecting the Institute's values and credibility.

Prof. Dandaura urged chapters to maximise digital platforms as instruments of integration rather than isolated publicity channels. Cross-posting activities, learning from sister chapters and amplifying local initiatives nationally, he said, would deepen professional cohesion and institutional identity.

The reform thrust, however, extends beyond communication. The Acting President highlighted the strategic redesignation of

the Assistant Secretary as the Officer in Charge of ICT at chapter level, a move he described as both symbolic and structural.

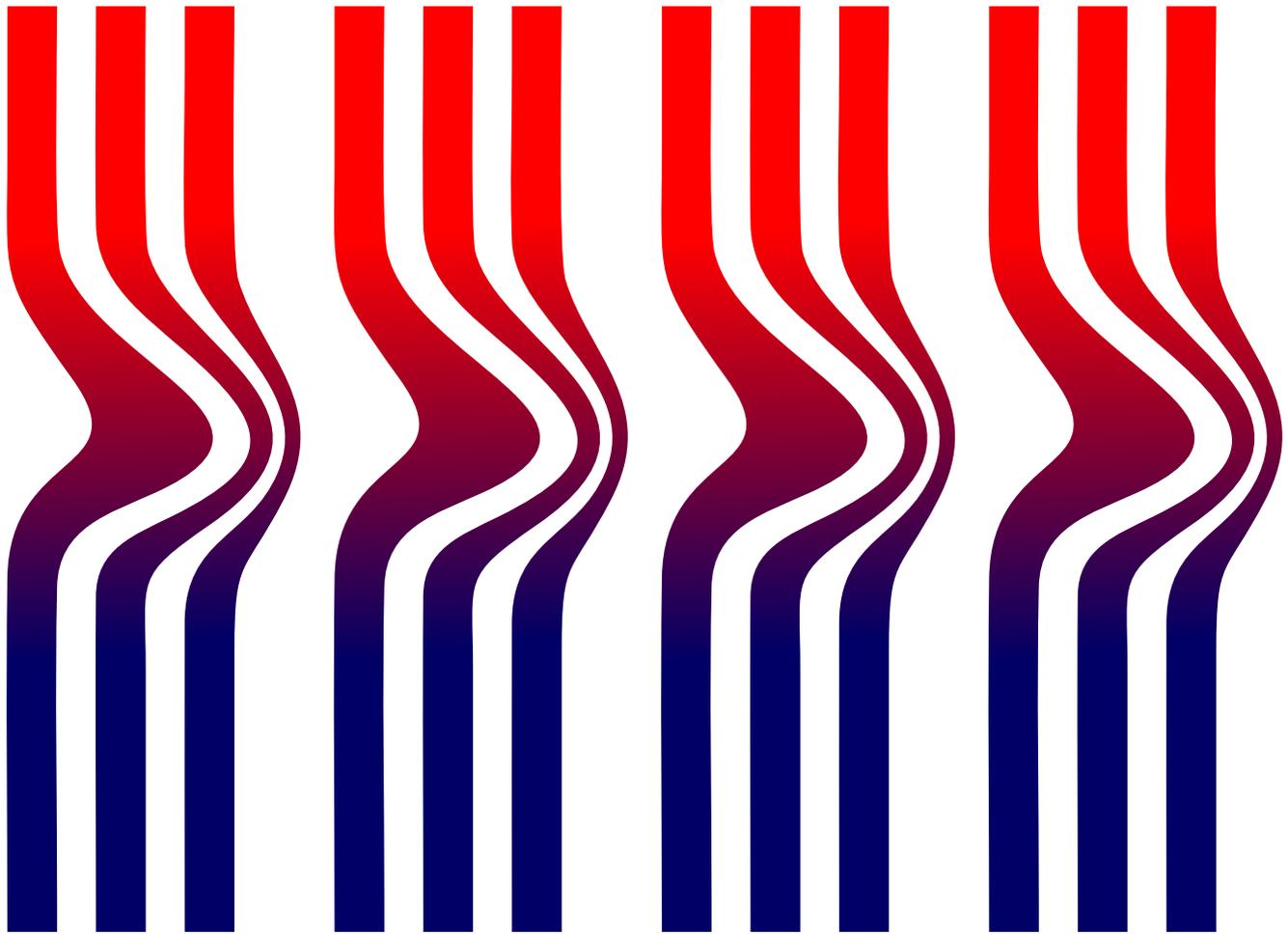
"This is a defining shift," he noted. "It ensures that every chapter becomes a contributor to the Institute's digital ecosystem, from membership processing to content development and data management."

With NIPR migrating key services online in pursuit of greater efficiency and transparency, Assistant Secretaries now occupy a pivotal position in driving digitisation at the grassroots. Their responsibilities include facilitating

swift screening of membership applications and strengthening the Institute's digital footprint across chapters.

Prof. Dandaura reaffirmed that the leadership of NIPR, under the President Dr. Ike Neliaku, remains committed to supporting chapters as indispensable stakeholders in the Institute's growth trajectory.

In his remarks, Registrar Chief Uzoma Onyegbadue commended chapters that have embraced the digitisation process and encouraged others to accelerate their alignment with the Institute's evolving systems.



The engagement underscored a broader message: NIPR is not merely updating its processes, it is reimagining its institutional culture. Chapter officers are no longer peripheral actors; they are

strategic nodes in a national network committed to professional excellence, digital integration and reputational leadership.

Responding on behalf of the chapters, the Public Relations

Officer of the Abia State Chapter, Mr. Promise Uzoma Okoro, described the meeting as a critical step toward strengthening collaboration and operational coherence across the Institute.

# Tinubu Signs Executive Order To Protect Nigeria's Oil & Gas Revenue



**P**resident Bola Tinubu has taken a major step to safeguard and enhance Nigeria's oil and gas revenues by signing an Executive Order aimed at stopping wasteful spending, eliminating overlapping

structures in the sector, and ensuring that resources are properly redirected for the benefit of Nigerians.

Under the new order, NNPC Limited will no longer collect the 30% Frontier Exploration Fund nor the 30%

management fee on profit oil and profit gas. Previously, these deductions meant that a significant portion of the Federation's oil revenue was being held back, despite existing funds being sufficient to cover NNPC's operational

needs. From now on, all payments — including royalties, taxes, profit oil, profit gas, and even gas flare penalties — will go directly to the Federation Account, ensuring that federal, state, and local governments receive their rightful share.

The Executive Order addresses concerns over the PIA's structure, which had created multiple overlapping deductions and allowed NNPC to influence costs while functioning as a commercial entity. By removing duplicative fees and funds, the government aims to increase transparency, reduce leakages, and reposition

NNPC strictly as a commercial operator.

President Tinubu emphasized that the reforms are urgently needed to support national budgeting, debt sustainability, economic stability, and social development, particularly in areas like security, education, healthcare, and energy transition projects. He also approved a review of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) in consultation with stakeholders to address structural and fiscal anomalies.

To ensure proper implementation, a committee composed of ministers, NNPC representatives, the Budget Office, and the Nigeria

Revenue Service will oversee execution. The reforms take effect from February 13, 2026, marking a new era of accountability, efficiency, and fairness in Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

This Executive Order is more than a policy update — it's a clear signal that Nigeria's natural resources will now be managed with greater transparency, efficiency, and benefit to the people.

# **RE: RESPONSE OF THE CROSS RIVER STATE ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE TEAM (CREIT) TO THE STATEMENT BY RMAFC ON THE IATC REPORT ON VERIFICATION OF DISPUTED CRUDE OIL AND GAS COORDINATES:**

## **ATTENTION:**

**DR M. B SHEHU  
CHAIRMAN REVENUE MOBILISATION ALLOCATION AND FISCAL COMMISSION.**

Dear Sir,

The Cross River State Economic Intelligence Team (CREIT) acknowledges the public statement issued by the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) concerning the report of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC) on the verification of crude oil and gas well coordinates between oil-producing states.

While we respect institutional processes, we consider it necessary, in the overriding national interest, to place the following observations, objections, and expectations on record.

### **1. STATUS OF THE IATC REPORT AS a PUBLIC DOCUMENTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY IMPORTANCE:**

The IATC exercise was a presidentially mandated inter-agency verification mission involving statutory technical institutions and state actors. The field verification, plotting, and reconciliation of wellheads and reservoir coordinates constitute national technical intelligence with direct implications for revenue derivation, maritime boundary security, and Nigeria's offshore resource governance.

Accordingly, the IATC Report is not a routine internal memo but a public document of national security relevance. Characterising it as "speculative" or merely "draft" undermines the credibility of the inter-agency process and

weakens public confidence in transparent governance.

## 2. SCIENTIFIC PLOTTING AND EVIDENTIARY OUTCOMES:

The plotting of 239 crude oil and gas wellheads and coordinates on the most accurate and current scientific base maps of Nigeria, using geodetic, hydrographic, and reservoir system references, produced clear, visible, and verifiable outcomes already contained in the IATC Report.

These outcomes demonstrate reservoir continuity, spatial attribution of wellheads, and the precise location of crude and gas accumulations within the maritime territory of Cross River State. These findings are evidence-based and cannot be displaced by administrative re-characterisation or procedural delays.

## 3. PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MARITIME BOUNDARY SECURITY AND STRATEGIC NAVIGATION CHANNELS:

The Cross River Estuary, adjoining offshore maritime spaces, and the unceded body of water at the estuarine mouth constitute strategic national maritime corridors for navigation, maritime security operations, and continental shelf entitlements.

Any attempt to alter, dilute, or administratively manipulate the technical findings of the IATC poses grave national security risks, including the compromise of Nigeria's maritime boundary integrity, exposure of sensitive hydrographic and navigation channels, and the weakening of Nigeria's strategic posture in the Gulf of Guinea.

## 4. PROTECTION OF ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE WELLHEADS AND RESERVOIR COORDINATES WITHIN CROSS RIVER STATE MARITIME TERRITORY:

The onshore and offshore wellheads and reservoir systems identified within Cross River State's maritime territory are critical national assets. These include reservoirs within the Calabar Estuaries, the Calabar Geological Flank, and formations linked to the Niger Delta petroleum system. CREIT emphasises that the protection of these coordinates is not merely a revenue issue but a matter of sovereign resource security, investment certainty, and national upstream petroleum governance.

## 5. OBJECTION TO POST-FACTO ADMINISTRATIVE INFLUENCE BY HEAFS OF FEDERAL AGENCIES, WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

While RMAFC, NBC, and OSGOF are statutory institutions with defined mandates, CREIT strongly objects to any attempt by the leadership of these agencies to influence, alter, dilute, or reframe the technical outcomes of the IATC after the conclusion of field verification and scientific plotting.

These agencies were represented within the IATC process. The integrity of the inter-agency framework requires that the Committee's technical findings stand on their own merit and are not subjected to post-facto administrative gatekeeping by the same institutions whose historical omissions necessitated this extraordinary inter-agency verification exercise.

## 6. INTERFERENCE AT THE IATC PLENARY OF 26 January 2025:

We wish to formally draw the attention of the Chairman of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission to the plenary session of 26 January 2025, at which a letter from the Chairman of the National Boundary Commission (NBC) was tabled, purporting to direct the Chairman of the IATC to compel the Committee to adopt a particular obsolete 2008 Oil Dichotomy Variant Map for the plotting of newly verified crude oil and gas coordinates within the Cross River State maritime territory.

The Chairman is respectfully invited to note that, on that date and in his presence, the Cross River State Economic Intelligence Team (EIT), alongside the Office of the Attorney-General of Ondo State, formally objected to this attempted interference.

These objections were supported by documentary evidence, including NBC correspondence of 2024 addressed to Cross River State and OSGOF correspondence of 2024, both of which discredited the continued use and technical validity of the 2008 map.

The subsequent attempts by the leadership of NBC and OSGOF to impose a predetermined cartographic outcome, in spite of the national maritime security implications and strategic risks involved, amount to an improper encroachment on the technical independence of the IATC.

The Chairman is accordingly urged to ensure that the Committee's scientific findings are protected from such interference and that this matter is clearly communicated to Mr President as part of the final transmission of the Report.

## 7. OUTSTANDING 2024 INTER-AGENCY REPORT AND THE HEIGHTENED NATIONAL SECURITY STAKES OF THE 2025 EXERCISE:

CREIT respectfully requests the Chairman of RMAFC to note that in May 2024, a similar inter-agency verification exercise reportedly recommended the attribution of 67 oil wells to Cross River State. To date, the Commission is yet to deliberate upon or transmit that report to Mr President for executive consideration.

The 2025 IATC Report, however, carries even more profound national maritime security implications for Nigeria and the Cross River Estuary than a mere question of oil well attribution. In view of the cumulative national interest involved, CREIT counts on the Chairman's understanding and leadership to ensure that both the 2024 and 2025 reports are transmitted to Mr President without further delay.

**8. DUE PROCESS AND IMMEDIATE TRANSMISSION TO MR PRESIDENT:**  
CREIT maintains that due process, in this context, is best served by the immediate transmission of the IATC Report to Mr President, together with any minority observations or technical reservations as annexes, rather than withholding, reworking, or sanitising the core findings.

The President is constitutionally positioned to receive, evaluate, and direct further actions on matters with profound national security, fiscal federalism, and inter-state equity implications.

**9. EXPECTATION OF OUTCOMES:**

CREIT therefore expects that:

The IATC Report will be preserved in its original technical integrity;

The scientific plotting outcomes on the 239 verified coordinates will be upheld as the evidentiary baseline for attribution;

The national maritime security implications of the Cross River Estuary and adjoining offshore boundary spaces will be expressly recognised; and

The Report will be transmitted to Mr President without delay for executive consideration and appropriate constitutional action.

**CONCLUSION:**

Cross River State's position is grounded not in sentiment but in science, verified coordinates, reservoir systems, and the overriding national interest.

The credibility of Nigeria's inter-agency governance architecture depends on

protecting technical truth from administrative dilution. The IATC Report represents a rare moment of evidence-based clarity in a historically contentious domain and must be preserved and transmitted in its full technical integrity.

**Signed:**

**Rt Hon (Bar) John Gaul Lebo.**

**Bar. Abang Odok Ogar, Esq.**

**For:**

**Cross River State Economic Intelligence Team (CREIT) at IATC- 2025**





16<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to notify the general public that the recently Inaugurated Cross River State Planning and Development Control Enforcement Team has commenced the enforcement of compliance with town planning and development control laws across the State.

To this end, all property owners, developers and contractors are required to make available their duly approved building plans issued by the State Ministry of Lands, Town and Urban Planning at all ongoing and completed project sites.

Likewise, persons who have developed and are occupying government land without proper documentation and approval, are advised to do so forthwith.

Any development without approved plans, or failure to present same upon request, will attract penalties including stop-work orders, fines and possible demolition.

The public is thereby enjoined to cooperate with enforcement officers in the interest of orderly, safe and sustainable urban development.

**Akiba .E. Akiba**

Chairman,

Cross River State Planning & Dev. Control



# **CROSS RIVER INDIGENES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (CRIDA) – ABUJA**

## **OFFICIAL RESPONSE**

### **RE: REPORT OF THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON THE VERIFICATION OF COORDINATES OF DISPUTED CRUDE OIL AND GAS WELLS BETWEEN OIL PRODUCING STATES**

The Cross River Indigenes Development Association (CRIDA), Abuja, wishes at the outset to express profound appreciation to His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for his visionary leadership and decisive initiative in approving the constitution of an Inter-Agency Technical Committee on the Verification of Coordinates of Disputed Crude Oil and Gas Wells between Oil Producing States.

This bold step demonstrates Mr. President's unwavering commitment to justice, scientific objectivity, national cohesion and the protection of Nigeria's sovereign and maritime interests, particularly around the strategic Calabar estuary. By instituting a technical and evidence-based process, the President has reinforced confidence in constitutional governance and strengthened Nigeria's capacity to assert full ownership of its maritime boundaries in accordance with law.

CRIDA also recognizes the institutional role of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) as a participating member of the Inter-Agency Committee. However, we respectfully emphasize that RMAFC is only one of several agencies constituted under the presidential directive and does not possess overriding authority over the Technical Committee's findings.

Given that the Committee was duly constituted by Mr. President, it is our considered position that the final technical report should be transmitted directly to him as the constituting authority. Any extended scrutiny, reinterpretation or procedural delay outside the original mandate risks creating institutional overreach and undermining the scientific integrity of

the exercise.

CRIDA states unequivocally that we disagree with any delay in forwarding the Committee's findings to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

This matter transcends routine administration. It directly impacts:

- The economic survival of Cross River State
- The constitutional rights of its people
- Nigeria's maritime and territorial clarity
- Fiscal justice among oil-producing states

The verification process has been conducted. The scientific coordinate exercise has been completed. The outcome has already entered public discourse. Cross Riverians are fully aware of the implications.

While we acknowledge the need for procedural compliance, we strongly maintain that:

1. The verification exercise has been concluded on technical grounds.
2. The findings are already widely known and discussed publicly.
3. Prolonged bureaucratic handling at this stage may generate avoidable suspicion and erode public confidence.

In the spirit of national interest, transparency, and institutional integrity, CRIDA calls on the RMAFC and all committee members to:

- Immediately transmit the report and its findings to Mr. President without further delay.
- Ensure that the report is forwarded in its original, unaltered and scientifically validated form.
- Refrain from any action capable of suggesting tailoring, dilution, reinterpretation or administrative modification of the Committee's findings.

Cross Riverians will not accept any tailored outcome or administrative maneuver capable of distorting verified technical realities on ground. The sanctity of this process must be preserved.

We reiterate that transparency strengthens institutions. It reinforces public trust and affirms the credibility of Mr. President's reform-driven leadership. Any unnecessary delay in transmission may inadvertently cast doubt on an

initiative that was clearly conceived in good faith and national interest.

CRIDA therefore respectfully but firmly calls all relevant institutions to act strictly within their constitutional boundaries and adhere to truth, objectivity and procedural fidelity.

The people of Cross River State deserve justice.  
Nigeria deserves transparency.  
History demands accountability.

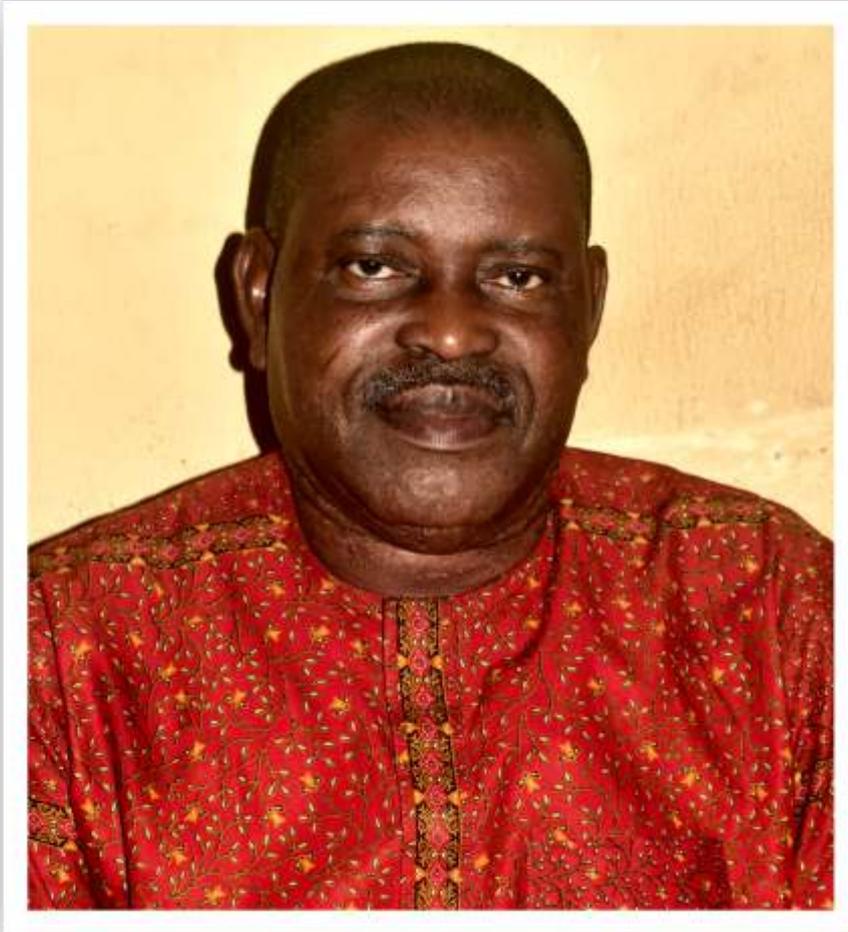
CRIDA remains vigilant and committed to protecting the collective interest of Cross Riverians within the framework of law, national unity, and respect for constituted authority.

Signed:

Chief Sankara Dickson Unung  
President  
Cross River Indigenes Development Association (CRIDA) Abuja.

# Information Director Charges Staff on Professionalism

By Rose Undie and Efiom Solomon



**T**he State Director of Information, Mr David Akate, has called on information officers to strengthen professionalism and improve news output to

enhance effective dissemination of news and government activities to the public.

He made the call during an emergency meeting of

information officers held, Tuesday at the ministry's conference room.

Addressing the officers, the director expressed concern over the low number of news stories submitted for publication by some information officers.

He noted that while some officers consistently file reports, others fail to do so,

He further cautioned officers against over-reliance on artificial



intelligence in news writing, stressing that such tools should only serve as guides to support credible, dependable and timely reporting rather than replace professional input.

Also speaking during the meeting, Benedict Okache advised staff yet to receive their Weigh-In allowance to submit their details for verification and

necessary documentation. He also encouraged information officers to adopt professional news writing practices, including preparing pre-event stories ahead of major event coverage.

During the interactive session, some information officers shared professional experiences, contributions and offered suggestions aimed at improving productivity, teamwork and

effective information management across ministries, departments and agencies. The meeting reaffirmed the critical role of information officers in shaping public perception, safeguarding government image and ensuring accurate and timely dissemination of government policies, programmes and activities to the public.



STATE PLANNING COMMISSION  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
NEW SECRETARIAT COMPLEX  
P.M.B.1104, CALABAR

Our Ref: GO/SPC/VC/VOL.1/202

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

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

**CROSS RIVER STATE PLANNING COMMISSION CIRCULAR NO. 3/2026**

**COLLABORATION WITH THE STATE BUREAU OF STATISTICS ON ALL STATISTICAL SURVEYS AND DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES**

In order to mend the observed fragmented and unco-ordinated data production across sectors in the State, it has become imperative to issue this circular, as a reminder of the need for compliance by all MDAs and other organizations with government's subsisting guidelines/Laws on the conduct of statistical surveys and data collection activities in the State.

It is noteworthy that the authorized Agency to provide overall strategic direction and clearance on the conduct of statistical surveys and data collection in the State is the State Bureau of Statistics.

Regrettably, most MDAs/Organizations embark on statistical surveys and data collection exercise in the state without collaboration with, or due clearance of the Bureau. Thus, undermining the State Bureau of Statistics Law, our commitment to producing high quality, productive and mutually acceptable data for evidence driven governance, and ultimately the socio-economic development of our dear State.

Accordingly, in order to strengthen the quality, comparability, and utility of any statistical data originating from the State, all MDAs and our development partners intending to



collaborate closely with the State Bureau of Statistics in planning, designing and implementation of their surveys and data collection activities.

Any data generated and disseminated at any level without due involvement or clearance of the State Bureau of Statistics shall not be accepted as official statistical data of Cross River State.

The Planning Commission in collaboration with the Bureau of Statistics is committed to supporting in building MDAs Institutional Capacity for data collection.

The contents of this circular should be brought to the notice of all concerned.

This circular takes immediate effect.

Thank you, and please, be assured of our esteemed regards.



**Dr. Bong Duke**

Vice Chairman/CEO

Cross River State Planning Commission

# Lale, Lale: Nigeria Public Relations Week 2026



**N**igeria Public Relations Week (NPRW) 2026 is poised to make a remarkable impact in Kaduna!

Tagged #CrocCity2026, this year's edition will take place at the Umaru Musa Yar'adua Centre, Murtala Square from the 19th to the 25th of April 2026.

With over 2,000 delegates expected, NPRW 2026 stands as one of Africa's largest gatherings of PR professionals, a premier platform for networking, collaboration, and peer-to-peer learning.

Take advantage of the early bird registration, ending 28 February 2026, by signing up today:

<https://nprweek.niprng.org.ng/>

NPRW 2026 offers a rich lineup

of workshops, masterclasses, panel sessions, and breakout discussions led by top industry experts.

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- ✓ Certificate of participation + MCDP certification
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**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
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OBUBRA - CROSS RIVER STATE  
*Shaping Leaders for Sustainable Development*

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
OBUBRA  
CROSS RIVER STATE

# CALL FOR ADMISSION INTO **ND & HND** PROGRAMMES FOR 2026/2027 ACADEMIC SESSION

## Purchase of Admission Forms

This is to inform all prospective applicants seeking admission into College of Agriculture, Science & Technology Obubra, that application forms are now available on the College website. Applicants are required to pay a non-refundable application fee of **Twenty-Five Thousand Naira (N25,000.00)** only into the College Account with **United Bank for Africa (UBA), Account No: 1028613027, Account Name: College of Agriculture.** Proof of payment, completed application form and credentials should be uploaded via the College portal at [www.castobubra.ng/applications](http://www.castobubra.ng/applications)

## Available Programmes

- National Diploma (ND) Animal Health and Production
- National Diploma (ND) Forestry and Environmental Technology
- National Diploma (ND) Fisheries Technology
- National Diploma (ND) Horticulture and Landscape Technology
- National Diploma (ND) Computer Science Technology
- National Diploma (ND) Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Pre-National Diploma/Remedial Programme
- Higher National Diploma (HND) Animal Production Technology
- Higher National Diploma (HND) Crop Production Technology
- Higher National Diploma (HND) Fisheries Technology
- Higher National Diploma (HND) Forestry Technology
- Higher National Diploma (HND) Agri-Business Management
- Higher National Diploma (HND) Agricultural Extension & Mgt.

## Certificate Programmes

- Veterinary Clinic Assistant
- Forest/Game Management
- Beekeeping/Honey Production
- Fingerlings Productions
- Mushroom Production
- Snail Farming

## Requirements for Obtaining Admission Form

Prospective Applicants are kindly requested to visit the College website at [www.castobubra.ng/requirements](http://www.castobubra.ng/requirements) to peruse admission requirements before completing the application form

## Contact Lines

+234 813-191-3864, +234 706-108-0676

Technical Support: +234 812-393-4461

Email: [enquires@castobubra.ng](mailto:enquires@castobubra.ng)

**Visit the College at Ovonum-Obubra  
for Further Enquiries**

Purchase of Form commences on  
**Monday 16th February, 2026** and ends on  
**Tuesday 17th March, 2026 @ 12Midnight**  
Visit: [www.castobubra.ng/applications](http://www.castobubra.ng/applications)

Signed: **Dr. Gabriel Ojie Osang** - Registrar

Connect with us on our Social Communities     @castobubra



CROSS RIVER STATE GOVERNMENT

- P R E S E N T S -

# SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

» SEASON 7 «

THEME: **GREAT IS HIS FAITHFULNESS**

LAMENTATIONS 3:23

SATURDAY  
21st Feb.  
2026

9:00am  
prompt

Calabar International  
Conference Centre



THEIR EXCELLENCIES  
SEN. APST. DR. PRINCE BASSEY OTU &  
BISHOP DR. MRS. EYOAWAN BASSEY OTU  
»HOST

ALL GUESTS TO BE SEATED BY 8:30AM BEFORE THE ARRIVALS OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES  
FOR ENQUIRIES, CALL: +2348034064979, +2347031921300, +234 8164350429

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

<https://www.crossriverstate.gov.ng> ■ Email: [commissioner@moi.cr.gov.ng](mailto:commissioner@moi.cr.gov.ng)

Ref: CR/MOI/AD/356/VOL.IV/239

30th January, 2026

**PRESS STATEMENT**  
**CROSS RIVER WILL RECOVER ALL OIL WELLS  
LOST AND MORE**

Cross River State Government had on 28th July, 2025 issued a Press Statement titled "RE:76 OIL WELLS, RESTATEMENT OF FACTS" where all the emerging facts regarding the surreptitious allocation of Cross River State 76 Oil Wells to Akwa Ibom State and all related matters thereto were clearly enunciated for public information.

In 2025 Cross River State petitioned the President and RMAFC, NBC, NUPRC and OSGOF with evidence of 245 new Oil Wells derivation allocation with a comprehensive scientific, geological and Legal EVIDENCE justifying Cross River State's Oil producing Status.

An Inter-Agency Committee was constituted by Mr. President and exercise conducted in November 2025 confirming additional Oil Wells derivation allocation for Cross River. The current Inter-Agency Committee opened a public hearing for the presentation of the report having shared the coordinates to both States.

The result is obvious, Cross River State is an Oil producing State with Oil Wells within its maritime territory beyond, 67 or 76 Oil Wells.

As at today, Cross River still maintains that position which necessitated the writing of the petition in the first Instance to the President, His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, over the injustice meted to us as a State.

We bore the brunt of handing over a part of Bakassi to the Republic of Cameroon all these years. It baffles our imagination how only a portion of Bakassi was ceded to Cameroon while the Oil Wells found their way to Akwa Ibom that was not part of the dispute in the first place.

Thanks to Mr. President, the Federal Government Inter-Agency Technical Committee was set up to look into the emerging matters.

Comprehensive visits, mappings and findings have been made to the area in dispute by all concerned and new discoveries have emerged in the area which was not demarcated, boundaries have been set between the Cross River State estuaries and the Cameroon.

Therefore, the Committee should be allowed to present their findings to show the actual location of the Oil wells within both States. Cross River State deplores every divisive plot to disrupt the conclusion of this findings, report and implementation.

We have absolute confidence in the joint Committee and urge them to remain resolute in rewriting the wrongs of the past.

Cross River State under the Administration of Sen. Prince Bassey Otu is governed by God. What is truly ours will be returned to us.

We are hopeful of getting back all our Oil Wells.



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

# NPRW

Nigeria Public Relations Week

## Croc City 2026

April 19-25th



"Food Security: From Policy Paper to Public Plate; the Imperatives of Public Relations."

Umaru Musa Yar'Adua  
Centre (Murtala Square),  
Kaduna State



### REGISTRATION FEES:

**NIPR  
MEMBERS:**

EARLY BIRD:  
**₦95,000**

1ST DECEMBER 2025 - 28TH FEBRUARY, 2026

**NON NIPR  
MEMBERS:**

EARLY BIRD:  
**₦135,000**

1ST DECEMBER 2025 - 28TH FEBRUARY, 2026

**NIPR  
MEMBERS:**

REGULAR:  
**₦120,000**

1ST MARCH - 10TH APRIL, 2026

**NON NIPR  
MEMBERS:**

REGULAR:  
**₦170,000**

1ST MARCH - 10TH APRIL, 2026

**NIPR  
MEMBERS:**

LATE REGISTRATION:  
**₦170,000**

11TH - 19TH APRIL, 2026

**NON NIPR  
MEMBERS:**

LATE REGISTRATION:  
**₦200,000**

11TH - 19TH APRIL, 2026

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National has approved a 20% discount for WPRF registration for those who register for NPRW



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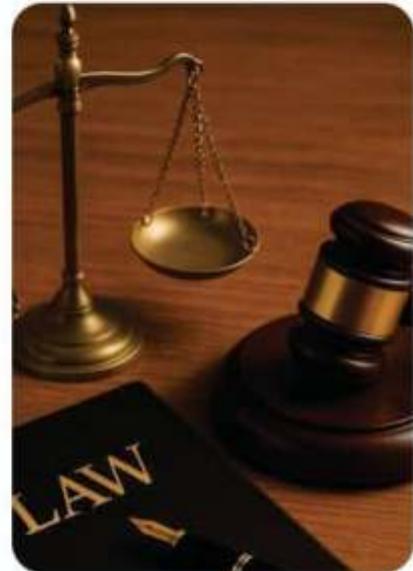
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# WHEN CITIZENS DO RIGHT, GOVERNANCE WORKS



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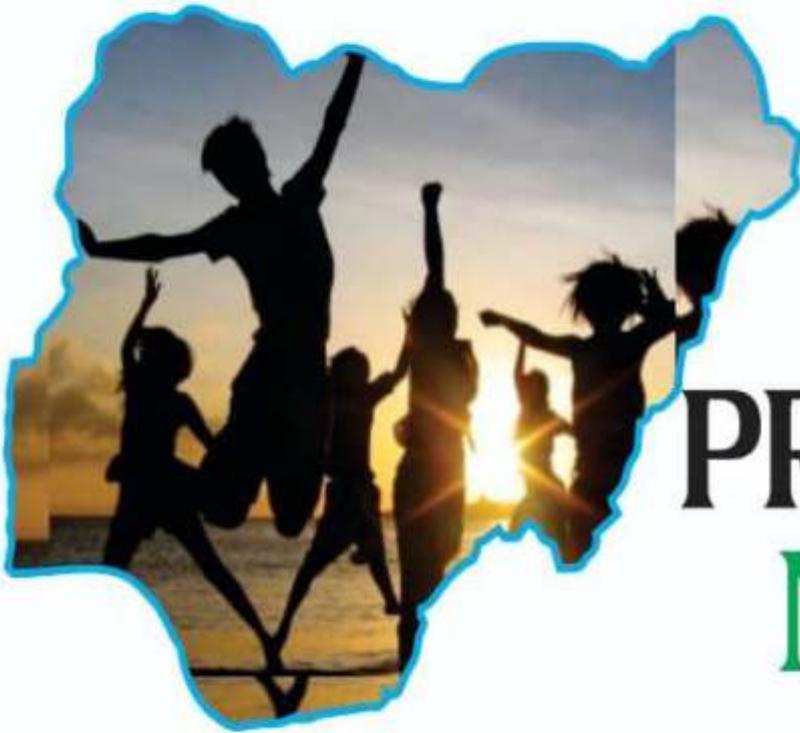
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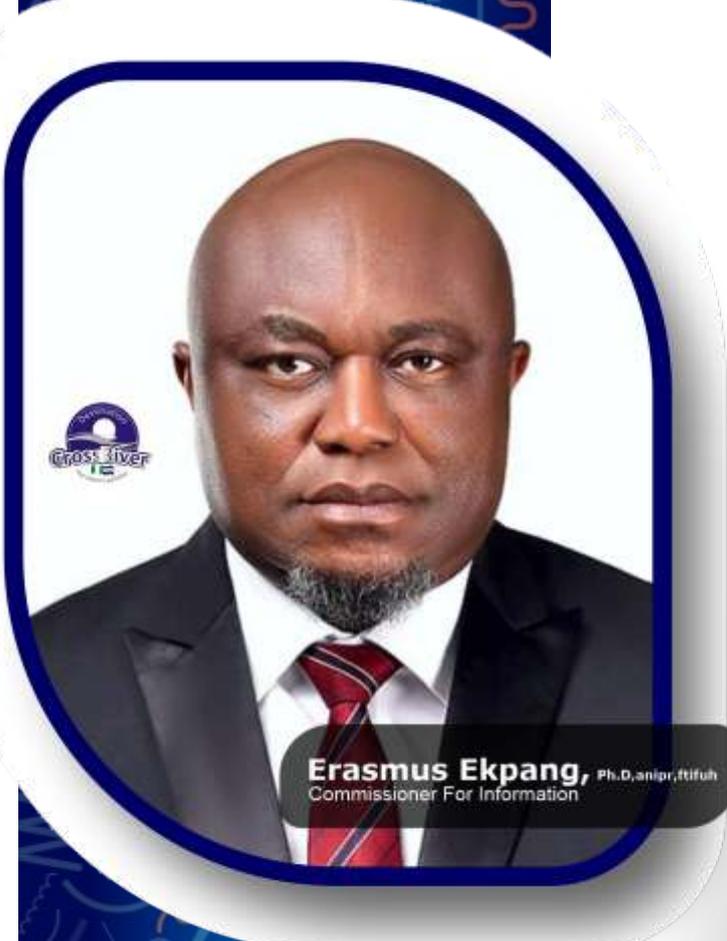
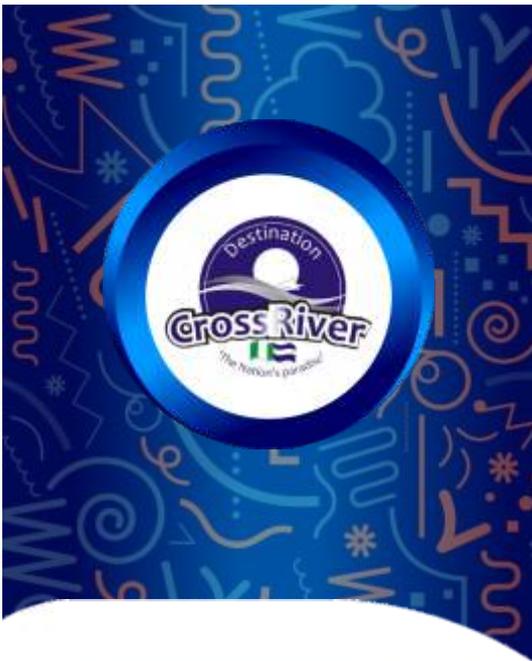
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**Erasmus Ekpang**, Ph.D, anipr, ftifuh  
Commissioner For Information



*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*



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.

  
**Orók Bassey Oken**  
Head of Service





# PGF VALUE REORIENTATION CAMPAIGN

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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.

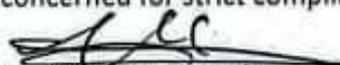
2. The re-designation is in line with ongoing reforms aimed at strengthening professional communication functions, enhancing public engagement, and ensuring alignment with national and global standards of public information management.

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





**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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## 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](http://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*



- i** New Voters 18+
- Collect or Transfer your PVC
- Replace your lost or damaged PVC
- No Multiple Registration

✉ [iccc@inec.gov.ng](mailto:iccc@inec.gov.ng)

🌐 [www.inecnigeria.org](http://www.inecnigeria.org)  
[www.inecnews.com](http://www.inecnews.com)

**0700-CALL-INEC (0700-2255-4632)**  
INEC Short Code: 4632  
09050858629, 09050858675,  
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*INEC, Making your votes count...  
Consolidating our democracy.*

📱📺📷 @inecnigeria

**Avoid  
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills  
But Kills.**

**Always obey  
speed limits**

**— FRSC —**

**CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND**