

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026**

## Daily InfoNews...

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

Articles and stories in this publication may be reproduced.

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### Commissioner for Information

**Erasmus Ekpang**, Ph.D, anipr, fctfuh **Publisher**

Permanent Secretary  
**Emmanuel Egban**

**David Odey Akate** **Editor-in-Chief**  
State Director of Information

**Benedict Okache** **Deputy Editor-in-Chief**

**Nakanda Iyadim** **Editor**

**Esther Okoi** **Production Editor**

## SUB-EDITORS

**Kingsley Agim**  
**Achiane Adams**  
**Daniel Bebia**  
**Blessing Enagu**  
**Nchajeno Richard-Odu**

## ICT/PRODUCTION MANAGER

**Uno Hinang-ovai**

## PHOTOGRAPHS

**Daniel Williams**  
**Joe Alah**

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info@crossriverstate.gov.ng



crossriverinfo@yahoo.com



www.info.crs.gov.ng

# 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.

# SEMA Partners with NDLEA to Combat Drug Abuse and Enhance Disaster Mgt.

By David Asu



**I**n a strategic move to integrate paramilitary support into disaster management and curb the rising prevalence of drug abuse among youths, the Cross River State

Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) has announced a formal partnership with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

The Director-General of SEMA, Mr. Antigha Edem

Gill, disclosed these plans on Wednesday during a courtesy visit from the NDLEA State Commandant, Mr. C.N. Anteyi John, and his team at the SEMA headquarters in Calabar.





While commending the NDLEA for its proactive stance against narcotics, he also briefed the visiting team on SEMA's ongoing efforts to decentralize emergency response,

specifically the inauguration of Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMC) across all 18 Local Government Areas of Cross River State.

To solidify this synergy, Gill extended an

invitation to the NDLEA to participate in the upcoming training sessions for LEMC personnel.

According to Mr Gill, this collaboration aims to create a unified front for handling





emergencies that often intersect with drug-related issues.

Earlier in the meeting, Commandant C.N. Anteyi John emphasized that

both agencies are ultimately in the business of preserving human life.

He noted that the visit was an exploratory step toward keeping the

State safe from illicit substances and managing the fallout of drug-induced disasters and promised the work with SEMA.

The visit concluded with a mutual



pledge to deepen the working relationship between the two organizations.

Experts believe

that by combining SEMA's logistical reach with the NDLEA's enforcement expertise, the state aims to create a

more resilient and drug-free environment for its citizens.





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



FREE BUS SERVICES  
TO AND FRO



# C'River Assembly Moves To Ban Open Defecation... Held Public Hearing In Calabar

By Mary Okon

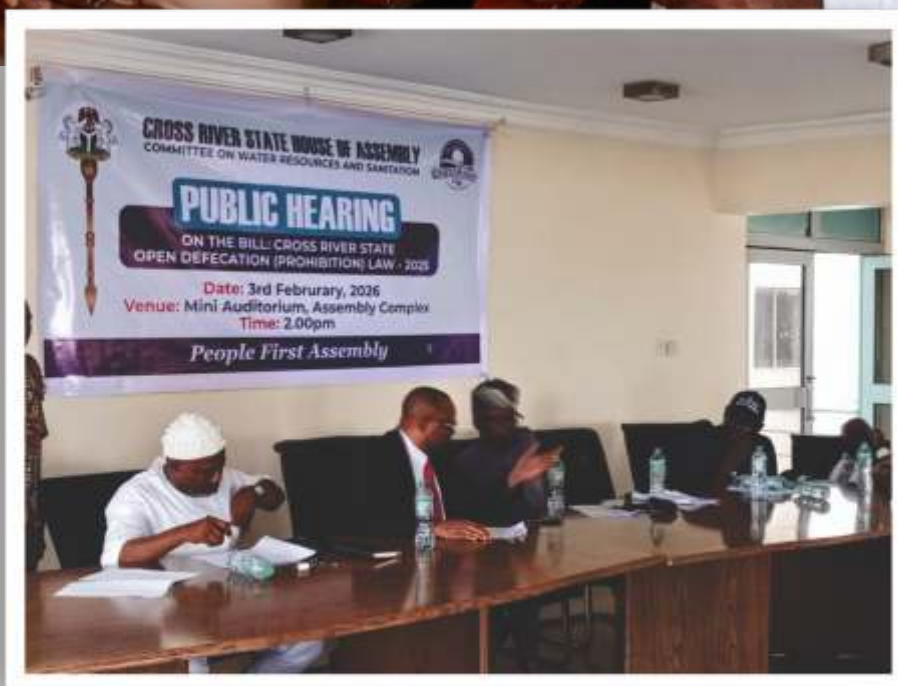


**I**n a strategic move to overhaul public health and sanitation, the Cross River State House of Assembly held a public hearing on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, regarding a bill to prohibit open defecation across the State.

The session, held at the Assembly Complex's Mini Auditorium, aimed to refine a legal framework that will strengthen Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) structures and improve overall public health outcomes.

The hearing was organized by the House Committee on Water Resources and Sanitation, led by its Chairman, Hon. Kingsley Ntui (Etung Constituency).

The well attended interactive session



urban and rural areas and Mandate the use of proper sanitation facilities as well as Strengthen hygiene standards state-wide.

The hearing also saw high-level participation from committee members, including: Rt. Hon. Hillary Bisong

allowed stakeholders which cut across different strata of the

society to contribute to a law designed to: Prohibit open defecation in both





(Boki-2), Hon. Bassey Bassey (Akpabuyo), Hon. Thomas Aruku (Ogoja), Hon. Neji Abang (Ikom-2), Hon. Linus Etim (Akamkpa-2) and Hon. Francis Ogban (Biase).

Also in attendance were members of the State Executive Council, including the Commissioner for Information, Dr Erasmus Ekpang and his Int'l Donor Coordination counter, Dr Lukpata and the State Task Team

on WASH(STG-WASH), alongside various community stakeholders who provided constructive suggestions to ensure the bill is both practical and enforceable.

**Why This Bill Matters**  
Sponsor of the bill argue that once passed into law, the State will see significant benefits: including Lowering the transmission of waterborne diseases.

Other benefits

include enhancing the safety and dignity of children and women as well as bringing Cross River in line with national and international sanitation goals.

Experts in the WASH sector opined that this process underscores the government's commitment to transparency and ensures that citizens are active participants in decision-making that directly affects their well-being.





# Commissioner Idem Assures NULGE of Inclusion in Reforms, ...Reaffirms Commitment to Workers' Welfare

By Mary Okon



The Cross River State Commissioner for Local Government Affairs, Chief Victor-Felix Idem, has assured the Nigerian Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) of the Ministry's readiness to

actively involve them in government reforms, policy formulation, and key developments affecting the local government system, particularly as they relate to workers' welfare.

Chief Idem gave the assurance

during a crucial stakeholders' meeting with NULGE leadership held recently at the Ministry's Conference Room in Calabar. He commended the union for its constructive engagement and reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to





inclusive governance in line with the “People First” policy thrust of Governor Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu.

According to the commissioner, effective governance at the grassroots level requires constant dialogue and collaboration with critical

stakeholders, stressing that the ministry would continue to carry the union along in decision-making processes.

He encouraged the NULGE leadership to maintain direct and open communication with the ministry to strengthen coordination, ensure efficient allocation of

resources, and facilitate timely resolution of issues affecting local government workers.

Earlier, the NULGE State President, Comrade Obol Otame, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage directly with the ministry, describing the union as a key stakeholder in the





local government system. He outlined several welfare-related concerns affecting members and called for sustained engagement to address them.

Issues raised by the union included the need for regular interface meetings with the ministry, procurement of a bus to support union activities,

inclusion of NULGE Day in the ministry's official calendar, provision of international training opportunities for capacity building, and concerns



over delays in salary payments.

Despite the concerns, Comrade Otame commended Chief Idem for his consistent engagement with workers, particularly his show of solidarity during the May Day celebrations, describing it as a demonstration of the administration's worker-friendly disposition.

The NULGE delegation included the State Vice President,

Comrade Itamu Edet; Calabar Municipal Branch President, Comrade Francis Effiong; Calabar South Branch President, Comrade Ukah; Akamkpa Branch President, Comrade Peter Esiri; State Secretary, Women Committee of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Onora Obu, alongside other members of the State Executive Council.

Also present at the meeting were key officials of the

ministry, including the Director of Administration, Mr. Essien Akiba; Director of the Joint Allocation Account Committee (JAAC), Mr. Jacob Udie; and the Director of Human Resources, Mr. Dennis Agbam.



# CRIRS Sensitizes LPG Retailers on New Tax Reform

By: Achiane Adams



The Cross River Internal Revenue Service (CRIRS) today took its New Tax Reform sensitization campaign to members of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Retailers (LPGAR), Cross River State Chapter, a branch of the National

Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG).

The engagement was led by the Director, Informal Sector and New Growth Areas, Mr. Peter Ikpa, alongside the South Zonal Director, Mr. Bassey Uwem. The team was supported by the

Head, Revenue Assurance, Dr. Patience Egwu; Head, Direct Assessment, Mrs. Comfort Okoma; Head, Corporate Communications, Achiane Adams; and Head, Tax Education and Enlightenment, Mrs. Barbara Odey.

During the session, members





were educated on the implications of the new Tax Acts on their businesses, the harmonization of taxes, and the processes for filing annual

returns under the new reform framework.

Assuring the Union of the long-term benefits of the Reform, Mr. Peter Ikpa encouraged

members to disregard fears fueled by misinformation and to engage the Service for clarifications whenever necessary.





In his remarks, the LPGAR Chapter Chairman, Mr. Udeke Emmanuel, commended the CRIRS team for sensitizing members and reinforcing the importance of fulfilling their civic and tax responsibilities.



# Education Reforms: Prof. Odey Monitors Compliance In Calabar Metropolis

By Patricia Ogbeche



**T**he Cross River State Commissioner for Education, Senator Professor Stephen Odey, Esq., on Wednesday, January 4, 2026, carried out an unscheduled inspection visit to

selected schools in Calabar, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen education reforms and promote the wellbeing of learners.

The visit was aimed at monitoring compliance with the

state's recently introduced policy which mandates primary schools to close by 1:00 p.m. and secondary schools by 2:00 p.m., in order to reduce learning fatigue and enhance pupils' overall welfare.





Schools visited by the Commissioner included Auntie Margaret International Nursery, Primary and Secondary

School, Ndidem Usang Iso Road, Calabar, as well as God's Grace International Nursery and Primary School, Old Ikang, Calabar.

During an interactive session with teachers, the Commissioner observed that some pupils and students were still





on school premises as late as 3:00 p.m. School authorities explained that the children had

concluded classes on time but were waiting for their parents and guardians to come and pick them up.

Senator Professor Odey commended the schools for adhering to the policy and used





activities.

The Commissioner reaffirmed the state government's commitment to creating a child-friendly learning environment that balances quality education with the physical and mental wellbeing of learners across Cross River State.

the opportunity to appeal to parents to ensure timely pickup of their children after school hours. He emphasized that

prompt pickup would allow pupils and students adequate time to rest, relax, and recover from the day's academic









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January 30, 2026

The Hon. Speaker  
The Hon. Chief Judge,  
All Commissioners/Special Advisers,  
The Secretary to the State Government,  
The Chief of Staff,  
All Chairmen of Commissions & 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,

**RETIREE ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (REDI)**

The Head of Service hereby directs all Civil and Public Servants due for retirement in the years 2026 and 2027 to obtain application forms for the Retiree Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (REDI).

2. Eligible officers are to pick up the REDI application forms at the Prof. Eyo Ita House, Ndidem Usang Iso Road, Calabar, within the stipulated period of Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February to Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2026.
3. Please note that officers who have benefited from REDI Phase I are not eligible to apply and should therefore refrain from collecting the forms.
4. All concerned officers are advised to comply strictly with this directive, as no applications will be entertained outside the stated period.

Thank you.

  
Eyo, Edem E.  
Director of Administration  
For: Head of Service





# World Broadcasting Day: CRIDCOM Pledges Support in Cross River

Deborah-Oyo Oyo



**T**he Cross River State Diaspora Commission (CRIDCOM) has pledged technical support for the 2026 World Broadcasting Day celebration in the State, as

preparations for the event gather momentum.

Chairman of CRIDCOM, Otuekong Chief Otu Okor, gave the assurance while receiving the Senior Special Assistant to the

Governor on Broadcast Media, Miss Thelma Benson, and her team during an official visit to the Commission.

“When we were appointed, we understood that the only way to



project our initiatives and programmes is through the media. We are happy to support this programme and be part of it," Okor said.

The World Broadcasting Day celebration, scheduled for February 12 and 13, will feature a symposium on February 12 and

an award night on February 13 at the Metropolitan Hotel.

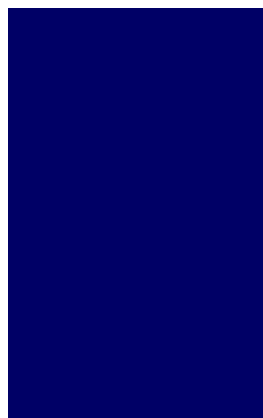
Miss Benson said the celebration is aimed at honouring both veteran and serving broadcasters who have contributed to shaping the media industry in Cross River State.

"Our goal is to celebrate

broadcasters, not just the ones of today, but the veterans who paved the way for others. We also want to recognize government officials who are media-friendly, because without the media, the public cannot know what is being done," she said.

Miss Benson also





called for support to fund the event, noting that while the celebration is not for profit, financial backing is essential to

make it successful. "We cannot do this event without money. This is the beginning of the year, and it must

be done on the day because the entire world is celebrating broadcasters," she added.





# Ogoja Chair Lauds Gov Otu On Project Grow



Government Area.

He described Project GROW as a timely initiative designed to reposition the agricultural sector for sustainable growth and food security, noting that proper implementation would significantly improve farmers' productivity and livelihoods.

**T**he Chairman of Ogoja Local Government Council, Chief Hon. Christopher Agbeh, has commended the Cross River State Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu for introducing people-oriented programmes aimed at boosting economic

development across the State.

Chief Agbeh, who was represented by the Secretary of the Council, Chief Alex Atem, made the commendation during a one-day interactive session on Project GROW held for farmers, traditional rulers, and women groups in Ogoja Local

Speaking at the event, the Agribusiness Manager of Project GROW, Dr. Peter Obuo, explained that the programme was structured to support farmers through the provision of improved farm inputs, agricultural mechanization,

and assistance up to the point of sales of farm produce.

He disclosed that the state government has secured a structured loan facility domiciled with Zenith Bank, stressing that the loan will not be physically disbursed to farmers. Instead, inputs will be directly deployed to beneficiaries to support agribusiness operations.

Dr. Obuo further revealed that the government plans to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with relevant stakeholders for digital services, adding that anticipated yields are expected to be

high.

According to him, the bank will be responsible for managing output to ensure sustainability and improved living standards for participating farmers.

Expressing the readiness of farmers in Ogoja to embrace the programme, the Paramount Ruler of Ogoja, His Royal Majesty, Oti Matthias Odey Abua, lauded the administration of Governor Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu for implementing programmes aimed at reducing hardship and alleviating poverty among the people.

The Royal father urged farmers to always take advantage of

government initiatives by cooperating, supporting, and partnering with government to achieve set goals.

The event was attended by the Project Director, Mr. Denis Ikpali, the Director PPDP of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Charles Ofolue, Mr. Timothy Udeme, Procurement Manager, Param Benson, Communication Officer as well as the Supervisor for Agriculture, Hon. Clement Oti; the Supervisor for Finance, Mr. Fidelis Atambi; the Special Assistant on Chieftaincy Affairs, Mr. Magbado; also clan heads, farmers, and women groups across the local government area.



**PELICAN STARS FC**



# Coach Screening Exercise

The management of **Pelican Stars Football Club**, led by **Chairman Mrs. Sefia Francis Aribiah**, invites qualified and competent coaches to a screening exercise in **Calabar, Cross River State**.



**Date:** 9th – 12th February, 2026



**Time:** 10:00 a.m. daily



**Venue:** VIP Lounge,  
Swimming Pool, Calabar



**Note:** Applicants must come with relevant credentials.



**Signed:**

**Vivien Inyang**

Secretary, Pelican Stars FC





# Etung Lawmaker Hosts Stakeholders in Calabar, Calls for Unity, Political Participation



**T**he Member representing Etung State Constituency in the Cross River State House of Assembly, Evang. Hon. Kingsley Ntui Isong, has hosted

stakeholders of Etung Local Government Area resident in Calabar as part of activities to mark the New Year celebration and to further strengthen unity

among his people.

The gathering, held at Hon. Isong's Waterboard residence in Calabar, was organized for





stakeholders who were unable to attend an earlier New Year celebration on January 5, 2026, at the residence of Prince Ebuta Ayuk in Effraya, headquarters of Etung Local Government Area, where bags of rice and cash gifts were distributed to Etung indigenes

and party members.

The meeting was aimed at fostering greater cooperation among Etung stakeholders and encouraging sustained support for Hon. Isong's leadership and the administration of Governor Prince Bassey Edet Otu, in recognition of the Governor's people-

oriented policies and commitment to good governance.

Speaking at the event, Hon. Isong called on Etung stakeholders, particularly members of the All Progressives Congress (APC), to actively participate in and promote the ongoing APC e-

registration exercise ahead of the forthcoming party congresses. He emphasized that strong political participation is critical to effective representation and meaningful development.

The lawmaker also congratulated Governor Otu on his determined efforts toward the recovery of the 36 oil wells for Cross River State, describing the achievement as a significant milestone that would promote economic growth, equity, and justice for the state.

Chairman of the occasion, Mrs. Enigbe Gilbert Ntui, commended the stakeholders for responding positively to the

call for unity and peaceful coexistence, urging them to consolidate their support for the Governor and remain committed to the development of Etung Local Government Area.

The event attracted prominent sons and daughters of Etung, including Barr. Gilbert Ntui, Special Adviser to the Governor on Asset Management and Recovery; Hon. Cyprian Abang Attah, former Leader of Etung Legislative Council; Hon. Michael Kajang Obaji and Hon. Roland Oku Agbor, former Deputy Leaders of the Council; Dr. Cyril Abang Agbor, former Adviser to the Governor; Nji Patrick, Director, Road Maintenance Agency; Ojong Edi, former Member of

the Local Government Service Commission; Major Owan, Special Assistant to the Governor; Ejen Ebam, immediate past Manager of Rovers FC Calabar; Emmanuel Ndum (Monika), Secretary of Etung Council; Ntufam Mgboki Emanaghe, former gubernatorial appointee; and Barr. Daniel Enagu Mgbe, Legal Adviser of Etung Council, among others.

The meeting ended on a note of solidarity, with stakeholders reaffirming their commitment to unity, development, and collective progress in Etung Local Government Area.



# C'River Honours Diaspora Awardee Sunny Igri Ogar

By Deborah-Oyo Oyo



**A**s part of efforts to honour outstanding Cross Riverians in the diaspora, the Cross River State Government has presented the Diaspora Award of

Excellence to Mr Sunny Igri Ogar, one of the seven awardees from the inaugural Diaspora Day Celebration.

The award was presented by the Chairman of the

Cross River State Diaspora Commission (CRIDCOM), Otuekong Chief Otu Okor, as part of the State Government's ongoing initiatives to celebrate and



promote diaspora-driven development.

Presenting the award, Otuekong Chief Otu Okor commended Mr Ogar for his commitment to service and his contributions to community development across the State.

"This award is in recognition of your selfless service and positive impact on communities

across Cross River State. As a Commission, we encourage our people in the diaspora to continue giving back and partnering with the State Government for sustainable development," he added.

Speaking after receiving the award, Mr Ogar expressed gratitude for the honour and pledged to intensify his efforts towards supporting development in

Cross River State.

He reaffirmed his commitment to continued service and to initiatives that promote community development and humanitarian support.

"I am grateful for this award, and I promise to do even more for the good of Cross River State," he said.









# C'River Assembly Suspends Ogoja Vice Chairman

By Itam Offor

The Cross River State House of Assembly has suspended the Vice Chairman of Ogoja Local Government Council, Hon. Emmanuel Idi Yakubu, for a period of ninety days.

The suspension followed an impeachment notice forwarded to the House and signed by the Leader of the Ogoja Legislative Council, Dr. Elizabeth Mbim, alleging gross misconduct and abandonment of duty.

Invoking Section 14(3) of the Cross

River State Local Government Law, the House unanimously resolved that Hon. Yakubu be suspended pending the outcome of an investigation by its Committee on Judiciary, Public Service Matters, Public Petitions and Conflict Resolution.

The motion for the suspension was moved by the Leader of the House, Rt. Hon. Francis Bassey Asuquo (Odukpani), and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Rt. Hon. Davies Etta (Abi).

In their separate

contributions, lawmakers stressed the need for strict adherence to the provisions of the Cross River State Local Government Law by councils, emphasizing that due process and accountability must be upheld at all levels of governance.

The impeachment notice, unanimously agreed upon by the ten councillors of the Ogoja Legislative Council, was read on the floor of the House by the Clerk of the Assembly, Barr. Catherine Ubi, during plenary. The notice cited



allegations of abandonment of duty for private business, breach of the Oath of Secrecy, disregard for constituted authority, among other infractions, which were said to have affected the smooth running and development of Ogoja Local

Government Council.

In a remark, the Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayambem, said the House would not tolerate actions capable of undermining effective local government

administration, adding that the Assembly remains committed to upholding due process and ensuring that elected officials discharge their responsibilities in accordance with the law and the expectations of the people.



# HOS Moves To Reposition Civil Service

## ...To Reflect The Values Of Equity, Discipline, And Professionalism

By Kera



**I**n a bid to revolutionize the Civil/Public Service in Cross River State to match with World Best Practices in line with emerging Service Technologies, the

Cross River State Head of Service has made a proposition to the Cross River State House of Assembly. The Head of Service stated that his overarching goal is to reposition the

service to reflect the values of equity, discipline, and professionalism that defined it in earlier years, stressing that legislative cooperation would be critical



to the successful implementation of the reforms. He also emphasized the need for a more humane and responsive public service, capable of improving citizen engagement and service delivery.

In his remarks, the Deputy

Leader of the House, Rt. Hon. Davies Etta, congratulated Barrister Bassey on his appointment and commended him for presenting a clear and well-structured reform agenda. He described the Head of Service's blueprint as timely, expressing

confidence in his capacity to restore the civil service to acceptable standards.

Etta observed that the civil service had suffered significant decline over the years but maintained that recovery was





possible with deliberate and focused leadership. He urged Barrister Bassey to remain resolute in the implementation of the reform agenda.

Responding, Speaker Ayambem welcomed the Head of Service and his team, describing the proposed deployment of technology in service management as a progressive step. He advised that the reforms be supported by a

competent and credible ICT structure to prevent system abuse and ensure sustainability.

The Speaker reaffirmed the commitment of the State Assembly to the present administration's people-first governance approach, noting that policies and reforms must be inclusive and beneficial to all segments of society. He pledged that the House would give prompt attention to any legislative requests required

to support the reform process.

"As we continue to pursue a society built on fairness and equal opportunity, the innovations you are introducing must reflect inclusiveness and accountability. The House of Assembly remains ready to support you in carrying out this important assignment," Ayambem said.

# Cross River Flags Off Measles–Rubella Campaign, Reaffirms Strong Health Partnerships

By Kingsley Agim/Offiong Ikpeme



The Cross River State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to sustaining strategic partnerships with development partners and key stakeholders as part of efforts to strengthen healthcare delivery across the state.

The Deputy Governor, Rt.







Hon. Peter Odey, stated this during the official flag-off of the Measles–Rubella Vaccination Campaign (MRV) on Tuesday, February 3, 2026,

at the Primary Health Care Centre, Ikot Ansa, Calabar.

Speaking on behalf of the Deputy Governor, the Commissioner for

Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk said the Bassey Otu administration places high priority on collaboration as a foundation for building a resilient







and responsive health system, noting that partnerships cut across governmental and non-governmental institutions, including the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA).

He assured development partners of the







state government's commitment to providing a conducive operating environment, stressing that the administration is determined to sustain trust, rebuild confidence, and ensure the effective utilization of

resources deployed to the health sector.

Dr. Ayuk also highlighted significant milestones recorded in the health sector, including the first-ever procurement of family planning commodities for community use by a Cross River State

government, describing the move as a landmark policy decision aimed at improving access to essential health services.

He emphasized the critical role of community participation in improving vaccine uptake, calling on traditional rulers,



community leaders, market women, and caregivers to mobilize support for the measles-rubella vaccination campaign to ensure optimal utilization of vaccines.

"This campaign is a system-strengthening measure designed

to ensure that vaccines provided are fully utilized and that our children are adequately protected," he said.

In a goodwill message, the Chairman, House Committee on Health Services, Nutrition and Food Security, Rt. Hon. Hilary Bisong,

Ph.D, described immunization as one of the most effective public health interventions for preventing childhood deaths and cervical cancer, noting that the integration of the MR campaign, HPV vaccination for adolescent girls, and strengthened





routine immunization reflects a comprehensive public health strategy under

Governor Bassey Otu's leadership.

Also speaking, the Director General of the Cross River

State Primary Health Care Development Agency (CRSPHCDA), Dr. (Mrs.) Vivien





Mesembe Otu, described the flag-off as historic, disclosing that Cross River State is among the Phase 2b implementing states for the newly introduced Measles–Rubella vaccine in Nigeria.

She explained that the campaign

targets children aged 9 months to 14 years, aims to prevent Congenital Rubella Syndrome, and seeks to strengthen herd immunity across communities.

“By vaccinating our children today, we are not just preventing fever; we are protecting

unborn children from lifelong disabilities such as blindness, deafness, heart defects, and intellectual impairments,” she said.

Dr. Otu assured parents and caregivers that all vaccines are safe, potent,





government-funded, and provided free of charge, adding that vaccination teams would be deployed to health facilities, schools, religious centres, markets, and other public spaces to ensure no child is left behind.

Delivering a goodwill message

on behalf of the First Lady of Cross River State, Bishop Eyoanwan Bassey Otu, her Special Adviser on Administration, Dr. Comfort Oko, urged parents and caregivers to embrace immunization as a proven and effective means of safeguarding children's health and securing a

healthier future for communities across the state.

In his goodwill message, the Commissioner for Information, Dr. Erasmus Ekpang, encouraged parents to take full advantage of the exercise by bringing out their children for vaccination, noting that Cross



River State recently emerged Nigeria's best-performing state in routine immunization in the 2024 National Demographic and Health Survey. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to expanding health policies and programmes that attract international support and pledged sustained media collaboration to ensure

widespread public awareness, while also calling for improved access to anti-snake venom to curb avoidable deaths from snake bites.

The event also featured goodwill messages from the Special Adviser to the Governor on Health, Dr. Ekpo Ekpo Bassey, and representatives of the NPHCDA, UNICEF, WHO, and other partners, who commended the administration

for its sustained commitment to healthcare reforms and pledged continued support towards improved health service delivery in Cross River State.







# C' River Concludes Orientation Workshop for Newly Employed Officers



The Cross River State Government, through the Ministry of Establishment, Training and Pensions has successfully concluded the fourth and final batch of a two-day orientation and induction

workshop for newly employed officers into the State Civil/ Public Service.

The Workshop which held at the College of Health Technology, Calabar, was designed to equip new officers with the requisite knowledge, ethics, and skills required

for effective public service delivery.

Declaring the workshop on Monday, January, 26, 2026, the Parmanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mr. Donatus Ejemot Esu, who represented Commissioner,





Hon. Lawrencina. E. Ita, emphasized the importance of discipline, professionalism, and adherence to service rules in building a responsive and accountable Civil Service.

On day One, Elder Chief Bassey Kooffreh delivered insightful lectures on Ethics in the Civil Service and the Code of

Conduct for Public Officers, and Security in Government, stressing integrity, loyalty, and confidentiality in public duty. Elder Ogu Omini, further enlightened participants on Understanding the Public Service Rules and Financial Services in Government, highlighting compliance, due process, and

prudent financial engagement.

Activities on Day Two, Tuesday, January, 27, 2026, featured Barr. Emmanuel Enamhe, who spoke extensively on Harmonious Relationship and Conflict Resolution and Essentials of Due Process and procurement, underscoring transparency and lawful procedures



in government operations. Pro.Roibito Ekanem rounded off the lecture sessions with engaging presentations on Personal Effectiveness and Managing your Boss for Efficiency, as well as Effective Communication and Teamwork, encouraging productivity, collaboration, and positive workplace relationships.

The programme concluded with

interactive session between participants and facilitators, followed by the reading of the Communique by the Chairman of the Communique Drafting Committee. Barr. Daniel Ekpo. A vote of thanks was delivered by one of the participants. Mr . Marshal Bassey Ekanem.

In his closing remarks, the Head of Service, Barr. Orok Bassey Okon, charged the newly employed officers to uphold the values of

the Civil Service and contribute meaningfully to the development of Cross River State. Closing prayer was offered by Mr. Achibong-Achibong.

The Workshop marked the successful completion of all the induction exercise for all the newly employed officers across the State.



# Otu, Jarigbe Appointed Members APC Convention Central Planing Committee



The leadership of APC recently released schedule of activities for the 2026 ward, local government, zonal and national convention in pursuant to Article 11 of the party constitution.

According to the time table, Ward Congress will hold on Thursday, February 19, 2026, local government Congress February 19, 2026, State Congress Saturday, March 7, 2026, Zonal Congress Saturday, March 18, 2026 and National Convention Wednesday, March 25, 2026 - Saturday, March 28, 2026.

**G**overnor Bassey Otu of Cross River State and Sen Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe, representing Cross River North Senatorial district have been appointed into the 73- man All Progressives Congress (APC) national Convention Central planning

Committee.

The 2026 APC Convention committee is headed by Governor Hope Uzodimma with all APC Governors, Senate President, Chief of Staff to the President, Ayim.Pius Ayim and other party stalwarts as members.

# Cocoa Allocation Chairman, Nku, Celebrates Gov. Otu's Double Honours, Hails His Agricultural Revolution

By Kingsley Agim

**T**he Chairman of the Cross River Cocoa Allocation Committee, Hon. Cosmas Ebori Nku, has extended heartfelt congratulations to the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, on his historic receipt of two prestigious national honours, the Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa) conferred by Modibbo Adama University, Yola, and The Sun Newspaper Governor of the Year Award.



Hon. Nku described the twin honours as a fitting tribute to a leader whose administration has redefined governance

through vision, courage, and deliberate action, particularly in repositioning agriculture as a cornerstone of Cross River



State's economic rebirth.

According to him, Governor Otu's bold and strategic interventions in the agricultural sector, most notably the revival and expansion of cocoa production through the opening of new plantations across different parts of the state, have restored confidence in Cross River's capacity to reclaim its place as a major agro-export hub in Nigeria.

"Governor Otu has gone beyond rhetoric. He has taken agriculture from policy documents to the soil," Hon. Nku said. "By expanding cocoa cultivation beyond

its traditional belts, he has unlocked new economic opportunities for farmers, youths, and rural communities, while laying a solid foundation for sustainable wealth creation."

He noted that the governor's agricultural drive reflects a deeper understanding of inclusive development, where prosperity is built from the grassroots and value chains are strengthened to benefit ordinary citizens.

Hon. Nku further stated that the national recognition accorded the governor mirrors the growing admiration for his People First governance

philosophy, which prioritises productivity, food security, job creation, and long-term economic resilience.

"The fact that these honours came on the same day is symbolic. It confirms that Cross River State is on the right path and that the nation is watching the steady transformation taking place under Governor Otu's leadership," he added.

The Cocoa Allocation Committee chairman commended Governor Otu for dedicating the awards to Cross Riverians at home and in the diaspora,



## ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS

National Secretariat (Buhari House) 40 Blantyre Street, Wuse II, Abuja, Nigeria

### 2026 APC NATIONAL CONVENTION Central Coordination Committee

The National Working Committee (NWC) of the All Progressives Congress (APC) has constituted the following as the Central Coordination Committee for the 2026 National Convention of the All Progressives Congress.

S/N	NAME	POSITION
1.	H.E. Sen. Hope Uzodinma, CON (Imo)	Chairman
2.	H.E. Alh. AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, CON (Kwara)	Vice Chairman
3.	H.E. Hon Mai Mala Buni, CON (Yobe)	Secretary

4.	H.E. Umo Bassey Eno, PhD, (Akwa Ibom)	Member	34.	H.E. Sen. Godswill Akpabio, GCON	Member
5.	H.E. Douye Diri, (Bayelsa State)	Member	35.	Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, GCON	Member
6.	H.E. Fr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia (Benue)	Member	36.	Sen. Barau I Jibrin, CON	Member
7.	H.E Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum (Borno)	Member	37.	Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu, CON	Member
8.	H.E. Sen. Bassey Otu (Cross River)	Member	38.	H. E. Sen. Anyim Pius Anyim, GCON	Member
9.	H.E. Rt. Hon. Sheriff F. Oborevwo (Delta)	Member	39.	H. E. Sen. Ken Nnamani, GCON	Member
10.	H.E. Rt. Hon Francis Nwifuru (Ebonyi)	Member	40.	H. E. Sen Ahmed Lawan, GCON	Member
11.	H.E. Sen. Monday Okpebholo (Edo)	Member	41.	H.E. Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari, CFR	Member
12.	H.E Abiodun Abayomi Oyeboji, (Ekiti)	Member	42.	Rt. Hon. Patricia Etteh	Member
13.	H.E. Peter Mbah, (Enugu)	Member	43.	Rt. Hon. Dimeji Bankole	Member
14.	H.E Alh Muhammed Inuwa Yahaya (Gombe)	Member	44.	Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara, CFR	Member
15.	H.E. Umar Namadi (Jigawa)	Member	45.	Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR	Member
16.	H.E. Abba Kabir Yusuf (Kano)	Member	46.	Sen. Michael Opeyemi Bamidele, CON	Member
17.	H.E. Sen. Uba Sani, CON (Kaduna)	Member	47.	Sen. Mohammed Tahir Mungono	Member
18.	H.E. Dikko Umaru Radda (Katsina), Ph.D., CON	Member	48.	Sen. Oyelola Yisa Ashiru	Member
19.	H.E. Dr Nasir Idris	Member	49.	Sen. Nwebonyi Onyeka	Member
20.	H.E Ahmed Usman Ododo (Kogi)	Member	50.	Sen. Adeola Solomon Olamilekan	Member
21.	H.E. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu (Lagos)	Member	51.	Sen. Ovie Omo-Agege, CFR	Member
22.	H.E Engr Audu Abdullahi Sule (Nasarawa)	Member	52.	Rt Hon. Idris Wase	Member
23.	H.E. Hon Mohammed Umar Bago (Niger)	Member	53.	Hon. Babangida S. M. Nguroje (OFR)	Member
24.	H.E. Prince Abiodun Adedapo Oluseun, CON (Ogun)	Member	54.	H.E. AbdulAzeez Abubakar Yari	Member
25.	H.E Lucky O. Aiyedatiwa (Ondo)	Member	55.	Sen. Sani Musa	Member
26.	H.E Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang (Plateau)	Member	56.	Sen. Leonard Agom Jerigbe	Member
27.	H.E Sir Siminalayi Fubara, GSSRS (Rivers)	Member	57.	Senator Uche Ekwunife	Member
28.	H.E. Alh Ahmed Aliyu (Sokoto)	Member	58.	Hon. Prof. Julius Ihonvbere, CON	Member
29.	H.E. Agbu Kefas (Taraba)	Member	59.	Hon. Usman Bello Kumo	Member
30.	H.E. Chief Bisi Akande, CFR	Member	60.	Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali Halims	Member
31.	H.E. Sen. Adams Oshiomhole, CON	Member	61.	Hon. Ibrahim Ayonkunle Isiaka	Member
32.	H.E. Sen. (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu, CON	Member	62.	Hon. Abubakar Kabir Abubakar Bichi	Member
33.	H.E. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, PhD, CON	Member	63.	Hon. Jimi Benson	Member
			64.	Hon. Abiodun James Faleke	Member
			65.	Hon. Boma Goodhead	Member
			66.	H. E. Philip Shuaibu	Member
			67.	Rt. Hon. Akintunde Adegboye	Member
			68.	Hon Bala Mustapha	Member
			69.	Hon. Ibrahim Kabiru Masari	Member
			70.	Senator Atiku Bagudu	Member
			71.	Gen. Christopher Musa, Rtd.	Member
			72.	Alhaji Mohamed Idris Malagi	Member
			73.	Senator Ibrahim Gaidam	Member

**NOTE: Details of the inauguration of the Central Coordination Committee for the 2026 National Convention of the All Progressives Congress will be announced in due course.**

**Signed:**  
**Senator Surajudeen Ajibola Basiru, Ph.D., BL**  
**National Secretary**





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**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.





**Deadline:**  
**16/02/2026**

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## **CRSMEDA Announces Phase 2 of the People First Retiree Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (REDI)**

Following the success of its inaugural phase, the Cross River State Microfinance and Enterprise Development Agency (CRSMEDA) is proud to announce the official commencement of Phase 2 of the People First Retiree Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (REDI).

Under the visionary leadership of His Excellency, Sen. Prince Bassey Otu, the Executive Governor of Cross River State, this initiative is designed to transition retired civil servants from years of dedicated public service into active participants in the state's vibrant MSME sector. REDI Phase 2 aligns with the administration's People First mandate by providing retirees with the tools, training, and financial roadmaps necessary to build sustainable businesses.

"Retirement should not be the end of one's contribution to the economy, but rather a new chapter of impact," said Great Ogban, Director-General/CEO of CRSMEDA. "Through REDI, we are ensuring that the wealth of experience held by our retirees is harnessed to drive inclusive enterprise growth across the state".

**Eligible retirees are invited to register online via [bit.ly/MEDAREDI2](https://bit.ly/MEDAREDI2)**

The deadline for applications is on the 16th of February, 2026.



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

# Cross River Non-Indigenes Back Gov. Otu's Efforts to Reclaim 76 Oil Wells

By Bello Audu



**Mazi Okey Maduekwe**  
SA Non Indigenes Affairs  
Cross River State

**T**he Special Adviser on Non-Indigenes Affairs, to Governor Bassey Otu of Cross River State, Mazi Okey Maduekwe has thrown his weight behind the Cross River State Government's

renewed push to reclaim the 76 oil wells disputed with Akwa Ibom State.

Maxi Okey also called for the full release of the 13% derivation fund from the oil wells which has accumulated over

the years.

Mazi Okey stated this in Calabar while reacting to the conclusion of work by the Inter Agency Committee set up by the Federal Government to look into the





disputed Oil Wells between Cross River State and Akwa Ibom State and commended the administration of Governor Prince Bassey Edet Otu, saying the Non-Indigenes Community in the State, is ready to support the second term re-election bid of Governor Otu and other Political heavyweights in the forthcoming 2027 General Elections.

The Special

Adviser urged the National Boundary Commission and the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation, and Fiscal Commission to conduct their deliberations with transparency, fairness, and objectivity, guided by facts, equity, and constitutional provisions while at the same time resisting all forms of devisive tendencies to change their reports.

Mazi Okey also used the

opportunity to encourage Non-Indigenes across the 18 Local Government Areas of the State to register massively in the on-going voters' registration in order to get their PVCs as well as participate in the on-going All Progressives Congress - registration by those interested to joining the Party.

Sights and Scenes from **Hit FM 95.9 Radio, Calabar - Best Talk, Best Music Radio Station's** 10th Anniversary Celebration  
Thanksgiving held on Sunday, 1st February, 2026 at  
St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Ikot Ansa, Calabar.









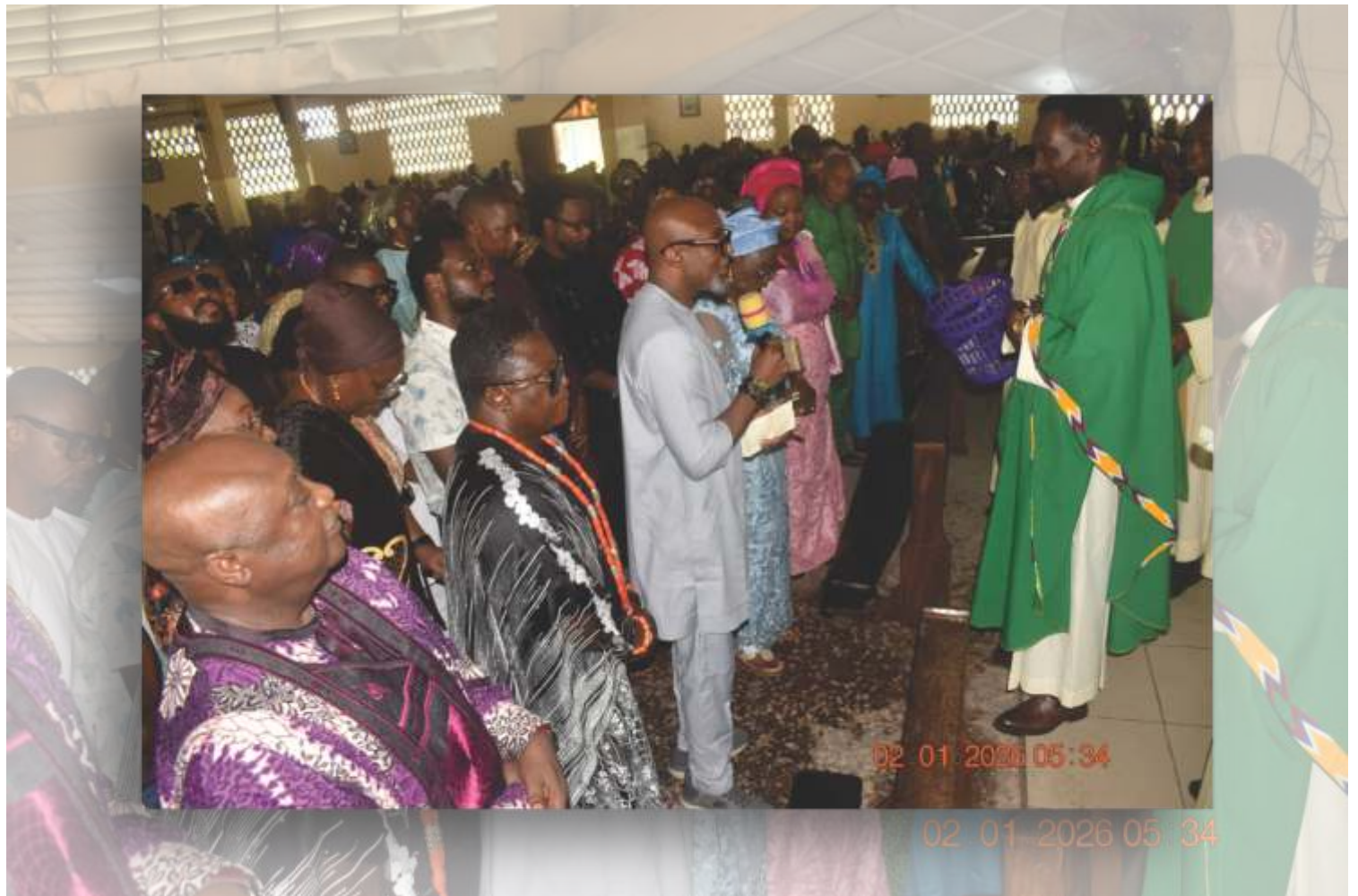


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# Double Honours: Dr. Ayuk Felicitates Gov. Otu, Commends Visionary Leadership

By Kingsley Agim



double honours as a fitting recognition of purposeful leadership and people-centred governance.

Dr. Ayuk noted that the two prestigious recognitions, earned on the same day, reflect Governor Otu's unwavering commitment to service, inclusive development, and the steady repositioning of Cross River State on the national stage.

The Commissioner for Health, Cross River State, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, has warmly congratulated Governor Bassey Edet Otu on his

conferment with a Doctorate (Honoris Causa) by Modibbo Adama University, Yola, and the 'Governor of the Year' Award by The Sun Newspaper, describing the

According to him, the governor's decision to dedicate the awards to Cross Riverians at home and in the



diaspora, as well as partners who have contributed to the state's progress, illuminates his humility, gratitude, and deep sense of collective responsibility.

"These honours are not just personal accolades; they are a celebration of the shared aspirations and collective efforts of the people of Cross River State under a leader who has consistently demonstrated vision, compassion, and resolve," Dr. Ayuk said.

He described the awards as a strong affirmation that the policies and reforms being

implemented across sectors by the Otu-led administration, especially in the health sector, are receiving deserved national recognition.

Dr. Ayuk further praised Governor Otu's declaration that the honours serve as a renewed call to greater service, noting that such a mindset reflects true leadership and reinforces confidence in the administration's commitment to delivering more dividends of democracy.

"As members of the State Executive Council, we are further inspired by His Excellency's renewed energy and dedication to do more for our people," he added.

"These recognitions strengthen our resolve to continue working diligently to actualise the administration's vision of a greater Cross River State and contribute meaningfully to a bigger and better Nigeria."

Dr. Ayuk concluded by wishing Governor Otu continued strength, wisdom, and success as he leads the state into a new phase of growth and transformation.

# C'River Education Commissioner Resolves TCTI–NASU Dispute, ..calls For Sustained Peace

By Patricia Ogbeche



**T**he Cross River State Commissioner for Education, Senator Professor Stephen Odey, has mediated a peace meeting between the management of the Teachers Continuous Training Institute (TCTI) and officials of the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU).

The meeting, held at the Ministry of Education Headquarters, Calabar, was convened to address and resolve all outstanding issues between the management of the Institute and its non-academic staff. The management and NASU delegation was led by the Director

General of TCTI, Professor Taoheed Adedaja, while key officials of the Ministry of Education were also in attendance.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Ntunkae Mrs. Offiong Ani Offiong, welcomed all stakeholders





and management staff, commending their willingness to engage in dialogue in the interest of peace and institutional progress.

While mediating

the discussions, Senator Odey ensured that all matters were thoroughly examined, stressing that every issue raised must be adequately addressed and fully

resolved. He emphasized that resolution should not be cosmetic, but driven by the right actions and the right outcomes.

The Commissioner charged all parties





to act responsibly and ensure that only lawful and proper procedures guide their actions going forward.

He further urged the Director-General and the management team

of TCTI to work closely with the union leadership, carry them along in decision-making processes, and promote absolute and sustained peace within the Institute.

According to him,

any action capable of undermining the prevailing peace would attract decisive intervention, with responsibility clearly placed on those involved.

Senator Odey also





noted that Governor Senator Dr. Bassey Edet Otu is a peace-oriented leader who remains committed to harmony and development across the state. He stressed that the Governor would not be pleased with conflicts arising from an institution that has significant developmental plans and a promising future.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with all parties reaffirming their commitment to dialogue, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence in the interest of institutional growth and staff welfare.

The meeting was attended by Dr. (Mrs.) Afiong Ugbaja, Special Adviser to the Governor on Education; Mrs. Offiong Ani Offiong,

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education; Professor Taoheed Adedoja, Director-General of TCTI; Chief Obeten Obeten, Director of Administration; as well as other key stakeholders, management staff of the Ministry of Education, management staff of TCTI, and officials of the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU).

# Asset Recovery Adviser, Agbor, Celebrates Gov. Otu's Dual Honours

By Kingsley Agim



and The Sun Newspaper's 'Governor of the Year' Award, as national recognition of a leadership style rooted in good governance, institutional strength, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

Barr. Agbor said the simultaneous honours reflect an administration that has prioritised structure over spectacle and systems over shortcuts, particularly in the deliberate effort to restore value, order, and accountability to the management of state-owned

**T**he Special Adviser to the Governor of Cross River State on Asset Management and Recovery, Barr. Gilbert Agbor, has

described the twin honours earned by Senator (Prince) Bassey Edet Otu, the conferment of a Doctorate (Honoris Causa) by Modibbo Adama University, Yola,



assets.

According to him, Governor Otu's approach to governance has redefined how public assets are viewed, not as expendable holdings, but as strategic instruments for development, service delivery, and intergenerational equity.

"These recognitions affirm that sustainable governance is built on strong institutions and careful stewardship," Agbor stated. "Under His Excellency's leadership, Cross River State has chosen to strengthen systems, enforce responsibility, and

ensure that public assets work for the people."

He noted that the administration's asset management and recovery drive has been guided by clarity of purpose, transparency of process, and a commitment to converting dormant or mismanaged assets into productive contributors to the state's economic and social development.

Barr. Agbor further observed that Governor Otu's dedication of the honours to Cross Riverians at home and in the diaspora reflects an understanding that governance is a collective enterprise and that public resources

must be managed in trust for the people.

"In dedicating these honours to the people, the governor reaffirmed that leadership is stewardship," he said.

"It is about safeguarding commonwealth today while securing opportunity for tomorrow."

The Special Adviser emphasized that the governor's insistence on strengthening institutions has created a governance environment where policies are implemented with continuity, accountability, and measurable outcomes.



"These honours are not endpoints but reinforcements," Barr. Agbor added.

"They reinforce the responsibility to deepen reforms, optimise public assets, and institutionalise

governance practices that will endure beyond individuals and administrations."

He concluded by congratulating Governor Otu on the double honours, expressing

confidence that the administration's legacy will be defined by systems strengthened, assets recovered, value restored, and public trust renewed.





# *A Hearty* *Congratulations* to the **People First** GOVERNOR

On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Cross River State Ministry of Information, I extend our warmest felicitations to our indefatigable Governor and the father of the New Cross River State, His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, on his remarkable "Triple Crown" of honors.

Your recent recognitions are not just accolades; they are a resounding validation of your visionary leadership trajectory

- \* Sun Man of the Year 2025 (The Sun Newspapers)
- \* Governor of the Year 2025 (Silverbird Group) and
- \* Honorary Doctorate Degree (Modibbo Adama University, Yola)

These honors recognize your outstanding contributions and humanitarian services that have resonated far beyond the borders of Cross River State.

Your "People-First" Agenda has sparked an unprecedented transformation, evidenced by Infrastructural Revolution as attested to in Comprehensive road networks stretching across all three Senatorial Districts.

Worthy of note also is your unending Human Capital Development: Massive employment opportunities and a renewed focus on social welfare empowerments, Radical improvements in healthcare delivery and educational standards, among others.

Your commitment to sustainable growth has truly turned the "Season of Sweetness" into a reality for every Cross Riverian. Your awards serve as a beacon of excellence, proving that when leadership is centric to the people, the world takes notice.

Congratulations, Your Excellency!



Signed:

**Erasmus Ekpang**, PhD, anipr, ftifuh  
Honorable Commissioner for Information





## **CONGRATULATIONS TO HIS EXCELLENCY, APOSTLE SENATOR PRINCE BASSEY EDET OTU ON THE CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE OF HUMANITY AND THE 2025\_ SUN AWARD**

I heartily congratulate you, Your Excellency, Apostle, Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu on your double awards of Honorary Doctorate Degree of Humanity by Maddibo Adama University, Adamawa State and The Sun Governor of the Year Award by The Sun Newspapers.



This apparently stands firmly as a colossal testimony to your endearing acumen in piloting the affairs of the State as Governor of Cross River State.

May God continue to give you the buoyancy to soar in the service to humanity.

**Once again, Congratulations!**



**Hon. Lawrencina E. Ita, (Mrs)  
Commissioner**

Ministry of Establishments, Training and Pensions





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

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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





**ALL  
PROGRESSIVES  
CONGRESS**

# *Join the* **APC PARTY MEMBERSHIP**

***E-Registration Exercise***

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

**Requirements:**

**Must be 18+**

**Must Have Valid NIN**

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

***Be A Part Of The Winning Party***

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





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

**HEAD OF SERVICE CIRCULAR NO. 1/2026**

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

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

The exercise is aimed at:

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

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

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

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

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

  
**Orok Bassey Oken**  
Head of Service





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**For more information:**

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

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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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**15th October, 2025**



Ministry of Information  
Cross River State

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(+234)7047108136  
01-4482998





## STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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



# NATIONWIDE CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (CVR)



## Register to Vote

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



**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,**  
**09050858649**

*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**