



Daily InfoNews Bulletin

A Publication of the Cross River State
Ministry of Information, Calabar



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 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.

MANAGEMENT

Commissioner for Information

Erasmus Ekpang, Ph.D, anpr, ftfuh 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



Contents

- NIPR ARMS INEC WITH STRATEGY TO TURN SKEPTICS INTO VOTERS AHEAD OF 2027 ELECTIONS** **PAGE 4**
- C'RIVER TO PARTNER NIPR ON TAX EDUCATION DRIVE ... AS IRS GETS CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP FROM THE INSTITUTE** **PAGE 9**
- GLOBAL FUND DONATE FIVE SETS OF PORTABLE DIGITAL X-RAY MACHINES TO THE C'RIVER** **PAGE 15**
- CROSS RIVER MAGISTRATE JUDGES TO UNDERGO TRAINING ON ELECTRONIC EVIDENCES** **PAGE 19**
- PROF. ODEY INTERACT WITH EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS TO ENFORCE REFORMS** **PAGE 25**
- AYUK CHAMPIONS PROACTIVE SCHOLARSHIP MODEL TO BOOST SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN ETUNG** **PAGE 42**
- CAN AKAMKPA CHAPTER ELECTS NEW OFFICERS** **PAGE 93**
- SENATOR JARIGBE FACILITATES THE UPGRADING OF NKUM SECONDARY SCHOOL IBIL, TO TECHNICAL COLLEGE** **PAGE 21**



CHECK INSIDE

FOR MORE STORIES



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.



CROSS RIVER STATE GOVERNMENT

- PRESENTS -

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

» SEASON 7 «

THEME: **GREAT IS HIS FAITHFULNESS**

LAMENTATIONS 3:23

SATURDAY
21st Feb.
2026

9:00am
prompt

Calabar International
Conference Centre

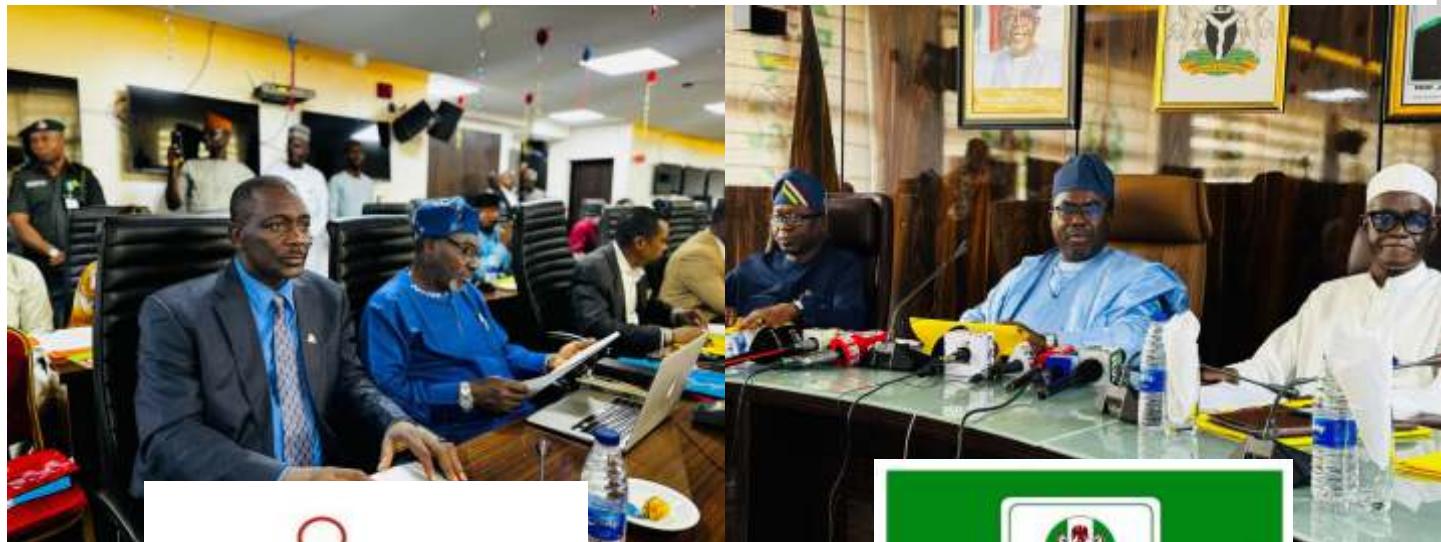


ALL GUESTS TO BE SEATED BY 8:30AM BEFORE THE ARRIVALS OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES
FOR ENQUIRIES, CALL: +234 803 406 4979, +234 703 192 1300, +234 818 435 0429

FREE BUS SERVICES
TO AND FRO

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

NIPR Arms INEC with Strategy to Turn Skeptics into Voters Ahead of 2027 Elections



The Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) has unveiled its homegrown Strategic Electoral Intelligence Framework to help the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) tackle eroding public

trust and revive voter turnout, which has fallen sharply since 2023.

"This framework goes beyond technology, providing INEC with targeted insights and strategic tools to restore confidence, manage perceptions, and

strengthen engagement across all stakeholders," NIPR Acting President, Professor Emmanuel Samu Dandaura said.

Professor Dandaura, made the recommendation



on Wednesday at INEC headquarters in Abuja during the Commission's first-quarter consultative meeting with media executives.

Prof. Dandaura emphasised that successful elections are achieved not through technology alone,

but through a holistic communication strategy that addresses credibility concerns and strengthens citizens' confidence in the

process. "Unmet expectations from past elections have created a perception challenge that





cannot be solved by technology alone. We need a deliberate communication strategy that restores trust and positively shapes public perception,” he said.

While acknowledging INEC’s progress in technological innovation during

the 2023 elections, Prof. Dandaura noted that glitches during the process heightened public scrutiny and lowered citizens’ confidence.

“As an Institute, we are pleased that INEC is taking steps to bridge the trust gap that widened after 2023. Improvements to

the IRev system address some operational gaps, but they cannot alone restore confidence. We must engage the minds of Nigerians and international observers whose past experiences have eroded trust in the electoral process. Ahead of the 2027 elections, a carefully



designed strategic communication approach is essential to measure and manage public perception,” he explained.

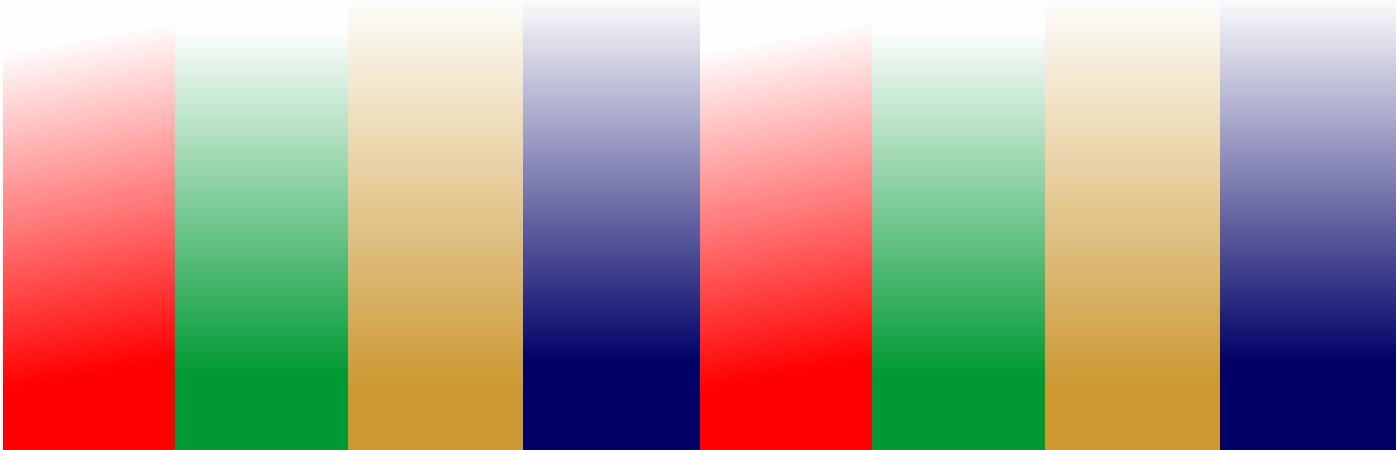
Prof. Dandaura cautioned INEC against using propaganda to protect its reputation and outlined the

Strategic Electoral Intelligence Framework.

The framework he noted will map low-confidence “Reputation Desert Zones,” provide region-specific insights, a National Electoral Perception Index, and dashboards to guide communication and counter

misinformation. A three-wave longitudinal survey he added will track changing perceptions, enabling proactive, data-driven interventions.

Responding, INEC Chairman Professor Joash Amupitan commended NIPR for the initiative



and expressed the Commission's readiness to collaborate.

"I am confident this framework will strengthen INEC's reputation through a homegrown dashboard that enhances our capacity to assess regional risk profiles, deploy data-driven messaging, and establish early-warning systems against misinformation. Such strategic communication will boost public trust and deepen the credibility of future elections," he said.

Last month, NIPR, in partnership with Reputation Perception Services (RPS), unveiled the Nigeria Reputation Perception Index (NRPI) Report 2025, which highlighted gaps contributing to the nation's low RPI score of 35.2, showing how electoral cycles significantly influence national reputation.

The consultative forum drew media executives from over 160 institutions, all National INEC Commissioners, the

Secretary of the Commission, Mrs Rose Oriaran-Anthony, fnipr, Resident Electoral Commissioners, and other senior INEC officials.

During the meeting, Prof. Dandaura presented Prof. Amupitan with copies of the Nigeria Reputation Perception Index Report 2025 and the Strategic Electoral Intelligence Framework document.

C'River to Partner NIPR on Tax Education Drive

.. as IRS gets Corporate Membership from the Institute

By: Nakanda Iyadim & Achiane Adams



The Cross River State Government has announced plans to partner with the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) to

educate taxpayers on their civic responsibilities, particularly in relation to the new tax reforms.

The initiative is

aimed at promoting voluntary tax compliance and deepening public awareness across the State.



The Executive Chairman of the Cross River State Internal Revenue Service (CRIRS), Prince Edwin Okon, disclosed this during an interactive session with the Cross

River State Chapter Executive and members of NIPR led by its Chairman, Pst. Augustine Mboso, Thursday, at the CRIRS Headquarters in Calabar.

According to Prince Okon, such collaborations are key to properly inform taxpayers about the new tax regime, reducing misinformation, and improving voluntary



compliance, noting that partnerships with professional bodies like NIPR will drive effective communication, public sensitization, and grassroots engagement.

He further added that the Service is also open to training opportunities that will strengthen

communication capacity, enhance stakeholder engagement, and support the effective dissemination of tax-related information to the public.

Earlier, Dr. Augustine Mboso, State Chairman of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR),

Cross River State Chapter, lauded the Executive Chairman's digitalization efforts which he noted has contributed immensely to the drastic surge in revenue generation for the State.

Dr. Mboso assured the State's tax Boss that, as a



professional training institution, the NIPR was ready to explore every possible avenue to ensure eligible taxpayers are fully educated on their civic obligations.

The Chapter Chairman also called on the Executive Chairman to extend this "sanitization" process to all revenue-generating agencies. This move according to him would ensure administrative uniformity and put

an end to the unwarranted harassment of taxpayers across the State by revenue collecting agents and assured him of their readiness to partner the service in the area of training.

Also speaking, the immediate past State Chairman of the Institute, Mr. Benedict Okache, thanked the Executive Chairman and IRS for being a consistent partner of the NIPR for over 20 years and appealed for the robust partnership to continue in the

years ahead.

On behalf of the National President of the Institute, Dr. Ike Neliaku, the Cross River State Chapter Chairman, Dr Augustine Mboso, later conferred Corporate Membership on the Service and charged the agency to live up to the expectations of its new status when engaging with the citizens of Cross River.





Global Fund Donate Five Sets of Portable Digital X-ray Machines to the C'River

By Iloke Egbe



An International Development Partner operating in the State, Global Fund through indigenous Nongovernmental Organizations KNCV has donated five sets of portable digital x-ray machines to the Cross River State Government.

Receiving the items on behalf of the State Government at the State Planning Commission building, New Secretariat Complex Calabar. The Commissioner, Ministry of International Donor Coordination, Dr Hippolatus Ogar Lukpata expressed delight with the

donation facilitated by KNCV to support the State efforts in the elimination of TB and related diseases.

According to the Commissioner, he feels fulfilled with the support the State has received to address TB prevalence, adding that there should



be sustainability plans through manpower training in the Management of the equipments and maintenance in case of breakdown.

He requested that a monitoring and

evaluation component be activated in the various Hospitals that will benefit the machines to enhance maintenance and sustainability to prolong the lifespan of the machines and appreciate the

management of KNCV Nigeria for their support to the State.

Earlier, the Senior Programme Officer, KNCV Project Cross River State Dr. Cynthia Onwuteaka said KNCV is an



indigenous Nongovernmental Organization that is into the control of Tuberculosis and other diseases of public health importance.

That the machines are for use in both primary and

secondary health facilities and will be delivered to five high-borden facilities which will be used for free TB diagnosis. Adding that it can be taken out to communities to do community outreaches to cater for those who have

poor health-seeking behavior.

According to Mrs. Onwuteaka, the machines comes with inverters and batteries that allow them to be used in communities for long hours and for sustainability sake,



Staff are trained in the facility, asserting that even at the close of their project, the Staff trained remain human resource for the State Government and will continue to operate the machines.

The items donated are five sets of portable digital x-ray machines and accessories, five high quality inverters and five units of high quality 10-watt battery. Presenting the items, Mrs

Onwuteaka informed that the machines were sponsored by Global Funds and thanked the State Government for providing an enabling environment for their operations.

In his contributions, the Permanent Secretary MIDC, Dr. Ofegobi. Balingwo thanked the facilitators for the show of love and management of the Ministry for the cordial relationship. In attendance were Dr. Asuquo Enoch,

Program Officer KNCV Global Fund, CPPM Project , Elder Mrs Ajom Odey Ikongha Program Manager, State TB, Leprosy and Buruli ulcer control Program(STBLCP) while some Directors and heads of Departments in the Ministry were present.

Cross River Magistrate Judges To Undergo Training On Electronic Evidences

By Benedict Okache



Magistrate Judges of Magistrate Courts across the 18 Local Government Areas of Cross River State are expected to undergo a specialised one-day training on the Principles and Practice of Electronic Evidence in Judicial Proceedings.

The one -day Complementary Virtual Lecture ,which is targeted at Magistrates of the Cross River State Judiciary is to take place on Friday,6th February,2026 at Court 5, inside the State Judiciary Headquarters, Mary Slessor Avenue, Calabar from 10am

A statement released in Calabar from the office of the State Chief Judge, His Lordship, Honourable Justice Akon Ikpeme, the specialised virtual Training is part of the State Chief Judge's efforts aimed at strengthening Judicial capacity at



all levels of the State Judicial Systems.

"The Proposed Lecture will address contemporary issues related to electronic and digital evidence with emphasis on practical adjudication in overcoming the complexities of

Electronic Evidence under the Evidence Act 2011 as amended", the Statement read in parts, adding that the Virtual Lecture will be handled by accredited experts from the Forensic Electronic and Digital Law Consultants(FEDLAC)

The State Chief

Judge enjoins all Magistrates in the Cross River State Judiciary to attend this specialised virtual Training without fail as it promises to be impactful as well as add great value to existing knowledge.

Senator Jarigbe Facilitates the Upgrading of Nkum Secondary School Ibil, to Technical College



The Senator representing Cross River North Senatorial District, Senator Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe, has facilitated the upgrading of Nkum Secondary School, Ibil, Ogoja, to a Government Technical College through the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF).

The intervention

will enable the construction and installation of modern technical training facilities in the institution, aimed at enhancing vocational and technical education in the area.

Acting on behalf of the Senator, the Constituency Officer, Mr. Egar Mgbantul, earlier today formally handed over the institution to Wishnefisky Global

Limited, the company awarded the contract for the construction works and installation of technical equipment. This handover marks the official commencement of the project which is designed to provide students with vocational and technical education, equipping them with the practical skills required to



competently perform specific job-related tasks.

It will also offer specialized, hands-on training to

prepare students for careers in various skilled trades and professions, including Information and Communication

Technology (ICT), healthcare, automotive technology, culinary arts, and other technical fields. The



initiative is expected to improve employability, promote self-reliance, and contribute to human capital

development within Cross River North Senatorial District.

Speaking on behalf of the host community, Mr. Emmanuel Adima

expressed deep appreciation to Senator Jarigbe for his unwavering commitment to the development of Cross River North Senatorial District.



He noted that the upgrading of the school to a technical college would have lasting positive impacts on education and youth empowerment in not just Ogoja but the entire Cross River North, while joining other well-meaning constituents in commending the lawmaker for his continued dedication to the progress of the Senatorial District.

Prof. Odey Interact with Education Stakeholders to Enforce Reforms

By Patricia Ogbeche



The Cross River State Commission for Education, Senator Professor Stephen Odey, has held the first stakeholders' meeting of the year with management and





critical partners in the education sector at the Ministry of Education headquarters in Calabar.

Welcoming stakeholders and management staff, the Commissioner described the meeting as a





strategic platform to assess progress and chart a clear course for the year. He noted that education remains one of the most critical sectors in the country and the state, stressing that "if education fails, every other sector will fail."

He emphasized that a lot is expected of the sector under the leadership of His Excellency, Senator Dr. Bassey Edet Otu, and called for collective responsibility in meeting those expectations.

Senator Odey expressed concern

over the slow pace of registration for Primary Six Placement, Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), and SS2 Mock Examinations, describing the trend as unacceptable. He warned school



heads against withholding pupils' and students' registration fees in a bid to extort additional charges, directing that such practices must stop immediately.

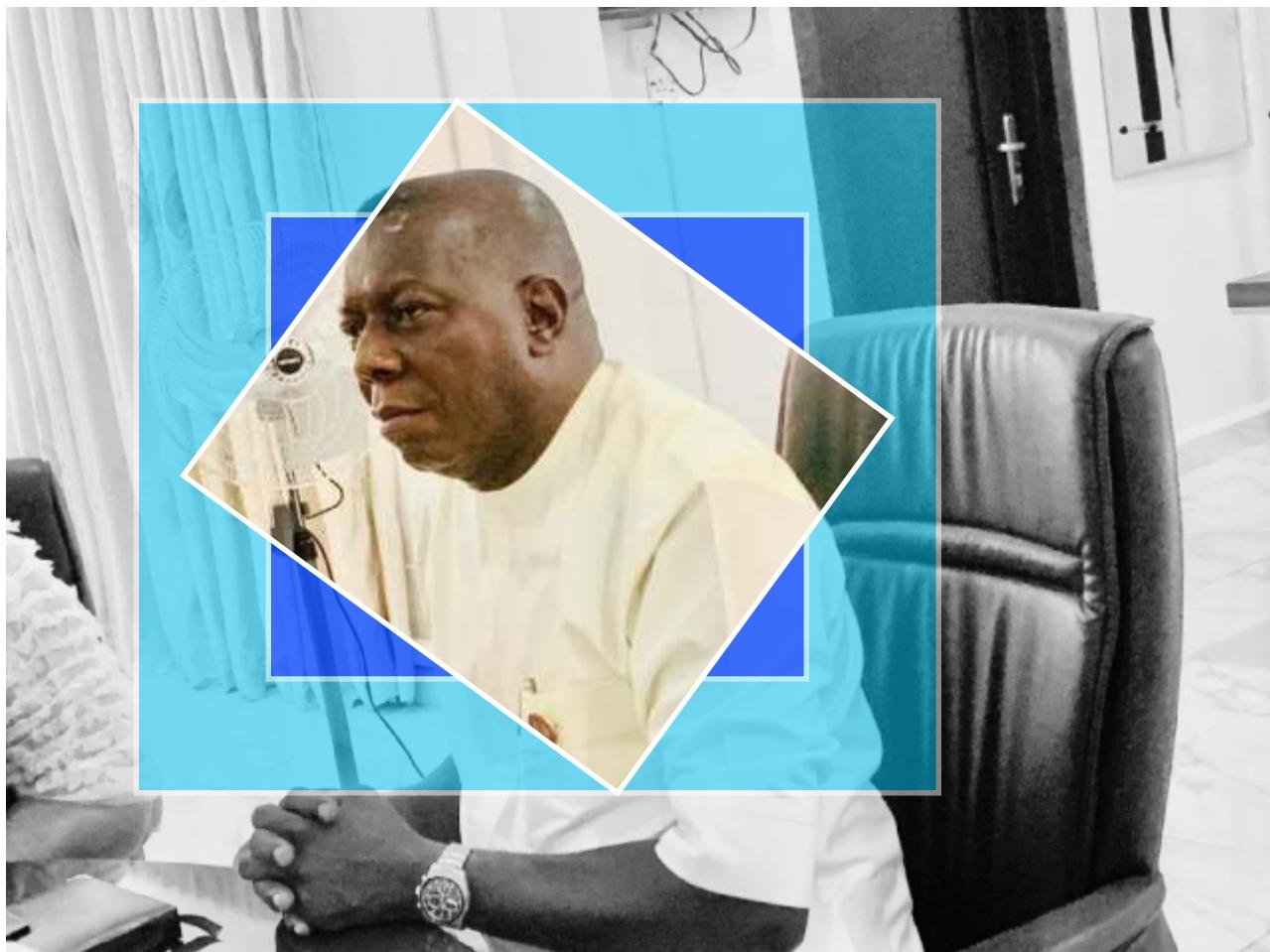
He further announced that henceforth, both public and private schools that

admit students into JSS1 without valid Primary Six Placement slips will be sanctioned, as part of efforts to strengthen transparency and curb malpractice in the system.

The Commissioner disclosed that the Ministry has completed the compilation of 13,289 indigenous

SS3 students for the 2026 state government-sponsored WAEC registration, noting that the list is awaiting the approval of the Governor.

He also informed stakeholders that the Federal Ministry of Education has directed that there will be no



transfer or admission into SS3 during the 2026/2027 academic session, urging school administrators to strictly comply.

On performance, Senator Odey revealed that 2025 analysis shows that 70.8% of students

recorded five credits and above, including Mathematics and English, expressing optimism that the state would record even better results in the coming year.

The Commissioner expressed displeasure over the failure of some Executive

Secretaries to submit accurate enrolment data for pupils and students, warning that any Executive Secretary who fails to comply will be queried. He urged all officers to step up and discharge their responsibilities

diligently.

Senator Odey called on all stakeholders to sustain and deepen the ongoing reforms in the education sector, noting that other states are already emulating Cross River State's education reforms, a clear indication that the state is on the right path.

During the meeting, the Commissioner formally introduced the new Head of Department, Quality Assurance, Dr. (Mrs.) Fanni, and presented her letter of appointment.

He also issued a stern warning against leakage of WAEC

examination question papers, stating that any local government, school, or individual found culpable would face the full weight of the law. According to him, examinations are meant to prepare students for a better future, not to teach them how to cheat.

A special presentation was also made on the newly introduced Student Index Number, explaining its operations and importance. The technical presenter, Mr. Victor, explained that the index number will be used to track students from primary school through secondary education, enhancing data integrity and

accountability.

Stakeholders at the meeting, including Comrade Olayi, Dr. Anthony Ngban (Chairman, Senior Secondary School Board), Pastor Abraham Osok, and Dr. (Mrs.) Afiong Ugbaja (Special Assistant to the Governor), commended the Commissioner for his unwavering commitment to repositioning the education sector and making it one of the best in the country.

NG-CARES Target Vulnerable and Less Privileged in our society –State Coordinator, Chief Egbelo

By Iloke Egbe



The Cross River State Coordinator, Nigeria Community Action for Resilience and Economic Stimulus, NG-CARES, Chief Henry Egbelo, has asserted that as a matter of strategy for effective and positive impact on the people, the poor, vulnerable and the less

privileged in the society are the primary targets as beneficiaries amongst delivery units and not the drivers of the programme.

He stated this at Dannic Hotel, Ekorinim, Calabar, when he declared open a two-day training workshop for Technical Staff of the State CARES

Coordinating Unit (SCCU) and other delivery platforms under NG-CARES.

He emphasized that the strength of any programme lies not only in its design but in the capacity of the people implementing it, and alluded that the theme for the workshop, which is *Strengthening



Institutional Capacity for Results-Based Performance, Accountability and Sustainable Service Delivery* aimed at bringing critical stakeholders to a round table for a proper reflection

on the status of NG-CARES 2.0 and to update and energize all delivery units to execute their responsibilities timely in accordance with their project plans.

Some of the papers that were presented

include: NG-CARES governance structure. Programme reporting, documentation and knowledge management. NG-CARES Independent Verification Agent (IVA) protocol and



reimbursement. Tools and techniques for managing stakeholders in development projects. Environmental and Social Safeguard-principles and compliance. Financial Management System and retirement of

advances.

In an interview with some participants who admitted that the standard of the workshop was very satisfactory and that the resource persons were also very knowledgeable in the topics they handled, while

others affirmed that they have gained much from the training.

All heads of delivery units under NG-CARES were in attendance, as well as Technical Staff from the units.

Cross River Deploys AI-Powered Digital X-Ray Machines to Strengthen TB Detection

Kingsley Agim/Jessica Ubi



Cross River State has recorded a major breakthrough in its fight against Tuberculosis (TB) with the deployment of five state-of-the-art, Artificial

Intelligence-enabled portable digital X-ray machines aimed at strengthening active case-finding, particularly in high-burden communities.

The milestone initiative was

formally unveiled by the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, PhD, alongside the Senior Program Officer for the KNCV TB-LON Project, Dr. Cynthia Onwuteaka,



marking a significant leap in the state's respiratory health response.

The intervention, facilitated by the Global Fund through the National Tuberculosis, Buruli Ulcer and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP), is

designed to accelerate early detection and treatment of TB, thereby reducing transmission and mortality. The advanced equipment has been strategically stationed at five key public health facilities across the state, with trained radiographers already deployed to

ensure effective and efficient use of the technology.

Speaking during a technical briefing, Dr. Onwuteaka described the deployment as a game-changer in TB control, noting that the AI-powered machines enable pre-symptomatic diagnosis, a



departure from the traditional symptom-based screening approach.

"This machine does a form of pre-symptomatic diagnosis where the X-ray is now used for screening," she explained. "Once lesions of TB are detected, even

when the patient has no symptoms, we are able to identify and manage the case. It is a major step forward in active case-finding within the community."

In his remarks, Dr. Ayuk commended the Global Fund and KNCV for their sustained partnership with the state, stressing that

the deployment aligns with global efforts to eliminate TB and other major epidemics by 2030.

"Universal Health Coverage is fundamental. The world is fighting against all forms of diseases, and government alone cannot do this," the Commissioner stated. "We are



deeply grateful for this support, and we will ensure that the personnel trained for this purpose are utilized maximally for the benefit of our people."

He further assured that the Ministry of Health would provide the necessary leadership to guarantee proper utilization and maintenance of the equipment, adding that a comprehensive

briefing would be presented to the State Governor to highlight the technological advancement and its public health impact.

The engagement concluded with a firm commitment to fully integrate the AI-enabled digital X-ray technology into the state's public health framework as part of broader efforts to strengthen disease surveillance, early diagnosis, and

effective response.

Also present at the meeting were the State Program Officer for the KNCV Global Fund GC7 Project, Dr. Enoch Asuquo; the State TBLCP Program Manager, Elder (Mrs.) Ajom Ikongha; and senior directors of the Ministry of Health, underscoring the collective resolve to scale up TB control efforts across Cross River State.

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

By David Asu



In 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.

Ayuk Champions Proactive Scholarship Model to Boost School Enrollment in Etung

By Jessica Ubi



No fewer than 291 JSS 1 students in public secondary schools across Etung Local Government Area have benefitted from a proactive scholarship charity model initiated by

the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, in a strategic push to eliminate financial obstacles to education.

The initiative took a significant step

forward on Tuesday during a high-level engagement between Dr. Ayuk and the Teacher Okongor Asu Ayuk Education Foundation team at the Ministry of Health



headquarters in Calabar. The meeting focused on the successful disbursement of the first tranche of scholarship support for 291 JSS 1 students across public schools in Etung, the formal presentation of the 2025/2026 scholarship template, and the

adoption of an innovative “Enrollment-First” strategy designed to drive early and sustained school attendance across the LGA’s ten political wards.

Commending the Foundation’s committee for developing a transparent and technically sound

roadmap, Dr. Ayuk explained that the initiative, established in honour of his late father, is deliberately structured as a sustainable best-practice model capable of attracting future stakeholders and development partners.

"I deeply appreciate the effort put into this, especially the successful payment for the first term of the 2025/2026 academic session," Dr. Ayuk said. "We are building a system where any partner can come in and clearly see where their support is going. We will ensure that the structures created are utilized maximally for the benefit of Etung children."

In his welcome address, the Chairman of the Foundation's Committee, Hon. Inok Kuti Ebak, PhD, reaffirmed education as the cornerstone of genuine societal development, noting that the committee remains committed to

ensuring that school fees are settled at the beginning of each term to encourage enrollment in public secondary schools.

"Whatever concerns education, I am passionate about it," he stated. "It is the bedrock for true growth and development. What we are doing may seem modest today, but the long-term impact on these students and the community will be immeasurable."

Providing further insight, the Committee Secretary, Hon. Prince Asu Ebam, outlined the 2025/2026 budget framework, which, he said, guarantees equitable coverage of beneficiaries across all ten political wards of Etung. He noted

that funds are being proactively directed to high-priority public community secondary schools, including Government Science School, Ekimkae, and Community Secondary School, Abijang, among others, to ensure that financial hardship does not disrupt attendance or learning.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to integrate modern data tracking systems and robust stakeholder engagement mechanisms into the Foundation's operations, further strengthening transparency, accountability, and scalability.

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

By Mary Okon

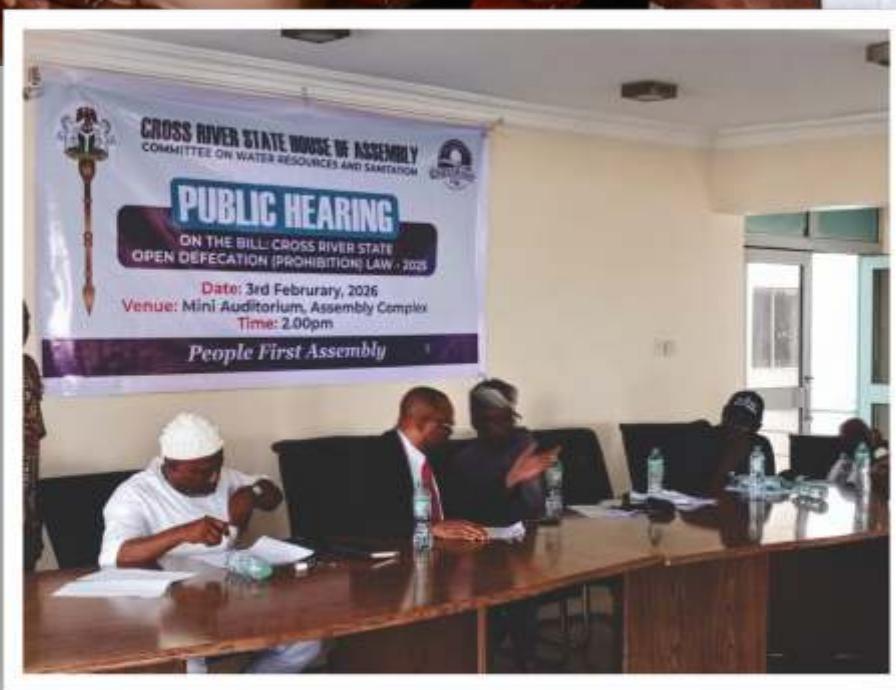


In a strategic move to overhaul public health and sanitation, the Cross River State House of Assembly held a public hearing on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, regarding a bill to prohibit open defecation across the State.

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



allowed stakeholders which cut across different strata of the

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

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



(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



The 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, Ndodem 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

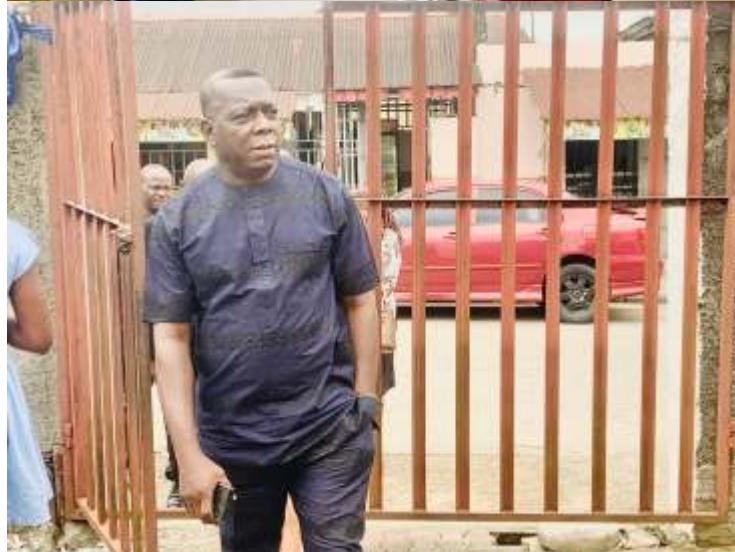


the opportunity to appeal to parents to ensure timely pickup of their children after school hours. He emphasized that

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

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.





Our Ref: GO/HOS/4/VOL.III/286

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, Ndidiem Usang Iso Road, Calabar, within the stipulated period of **Monday, 2nd February to Wednesday, 11th 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



The 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

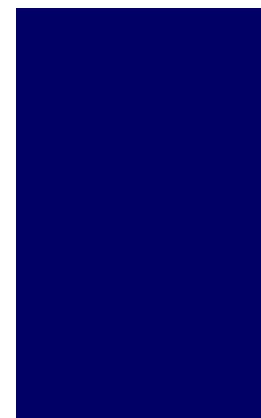
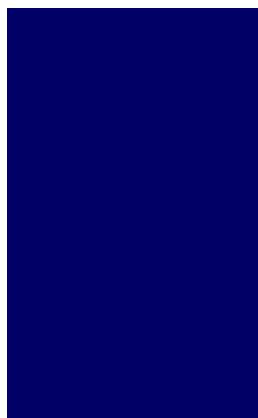
an award night on February 13 at the Metropolitan Hotel.

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.

The 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



The 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



As 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



In 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.



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

By Kingsley Agim

The 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,

CAN Akamkpa Chapter Elects New Officers

By Omang Ekong



Christian Association Of Nigeria Akamkpa Chapter Wednesday elected and Inaugurated new officers that will pilot its affairs for the next five years.

The Election which was held at New Covenant Baptist Church, Base Camp Akamkpa was monitored by a delegation from the state CAN office Calabar, the delegation was led

by Apostle Trinity Ogar, the State Vice Chairman of CAN.

The newly elected officers are Bishop David Anyawara as the Coordinator Akamkpa LG. Rev



Fr. Vincent Udoh as Assistant Coordinator, Pst. Celeokpa Itachor as secretary. Also elected was Pastor Emmanuel Denis as Treasurer and Pst. Ezra Amos as Assistant Secretary.

The oath of office was administered by Barr. Helen

Edem Ndoma Egbe of Ebri and Co chambers Barracks road Calabar.

Speaking, the leader of the Delegation, Vice Chairman, CAN, Apostle Trinity Ogar admonished the newly elected officers to serve with the mentality of servanthood not Lording themselves

over the people.

He observed that God is looking for people with a servanthood mentality.

The Chairman of the Care taker/ transition commissioner Rev. Daniel Oko Odey, was satisfied with the conduct of the



election tagging its "transparent" applauding the Prophet Charles Ikpembe led electoral committee.

In his acceptance speech, The newly elected Coordinator Bishop David Anyawara, appreciated the CAN Akamkpa for seeing him worthy to lead them and promised not to let them down.



He promised an inclusive and people oriented leadership by the Grace of God.





MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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

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

**THE PEOPLE FIRST RETIREE
ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE**

REDI PHASE 2

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

For registration visit:
bit.ly/MEDAREDI2



4th Floor,
Prof. Eyo Ita House,
Marian Rd., Calabar

More Information ↗
info@meda.crossriverstate.gov.ng



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

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



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: N95,000**

1ST DECEMBER 2025 - 28TH FEBRUARY, 2026

NON NIPR MEMBERS: | **EARLY BIRD: N135,000**

1ST DECEMBER 2025 - 28TH FEBRUARY, 2026

NIPR MEMBERS: | **REGULAR: N120,000**

1ST MARCH - 10TH APRIL, 2026

NON NIPR MEMBERS: | **REGULAR: N170,000**

1ST MARCH - 10TH APRIL, 2026

NIPR MEMBERS: | **LATE REGISTRATION: N170,000**

11TH -19TH APRIL, 2026

NON NIPR MEMBERS: | **LATE REGISTRATION: N200,000**

11TH -19TH APRIL, 2026

Scan me



0803 353 8883
08022239908



www.nprweek.niprng.org.ng



@nprweek



@nprweek



partnerships@nprweek.niprng.org.ng



victoria@nprweek.niprng.org.ng

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





Signed:

Erasmus Ekpang, PhD, anpr, ftifuh
Honorable Commissioner for Information

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, amongst 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!





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. Lawrencia E. Ita, (Mrs)
Commissioner**

Ministry of Establishments, Training and Pensions



PGF VALUE REORIENTATION CAMPAIGN



PEACE IS A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY.

For more information:

Website: www.pgf.ng

E-mail: info@pgf.ng

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

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

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

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

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



PGF VALUE REORIENTATION CAMPAIGN

CLEAN COMMUNITIES, HEALTHY NATION.



For more information:

Website: www.pgf.ng

E-mail: info@pgf.ng

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

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

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

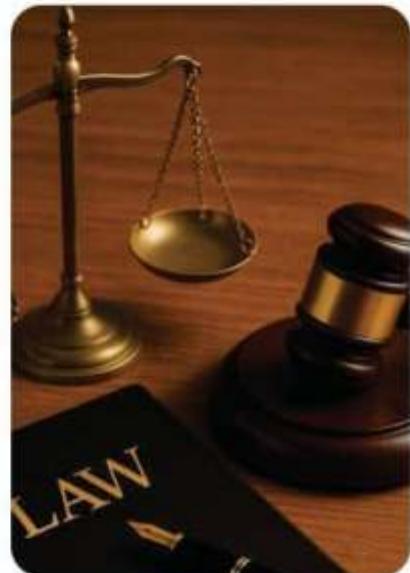
YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@ProgressiveGovernorsForumPGF>

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



PGF VALUE REORIENTATION CAMPAIGN

WHEN CITIZENS DO RIGHT, GOVERNANCE WORKS



For more information:

Website: www.pgf.ng

E-mail: info@pgf.ng

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

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

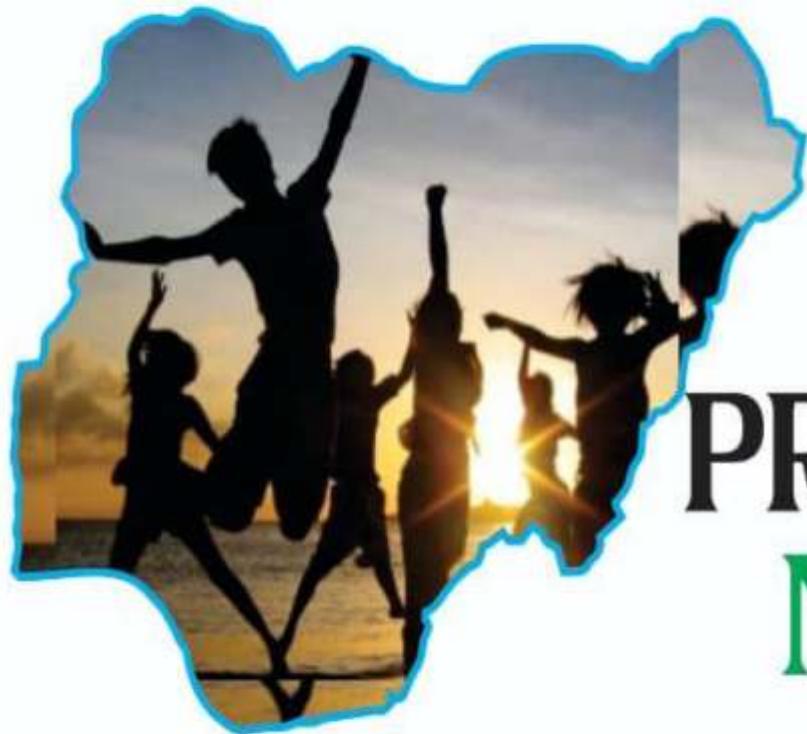
Tiktok: https://www.tiktok.com/@pgf_2023

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

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



PGF VALUE REORIENTATION CAMPAIGN



POSITIVE
YOUTH,
PRODUCTIVE
NIGERIA.

For more information:

Website: www.pgf.ng

E-mail: info@pgf.ng

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

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

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

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

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



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

Date: 19th January, 2026

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

STATE PLANNING COMMISSION CIRCULAR No. 1/2026**2026 MDAs ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT, PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT TIMETABLE**

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

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

1. 2026 MDAs ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT & APPROVAL PROCESS

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

2. QUARTERLY MDAs PERFORMANCE REVIEW SCHEDULE (2026)

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

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



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

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

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

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

4. 2026 MDAs PERFORMANCE & STRATEGIC RETREAT

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

Focus Areas:

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

5. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

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

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This timetable takes effect from **20th January 2026**.

Kindly accord this circular the seriousness it deserves.



Dr. Bong Duke

Vice Chairman/Chief Executive Officer
State Planning Commission



12th January 2026

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

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

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

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

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

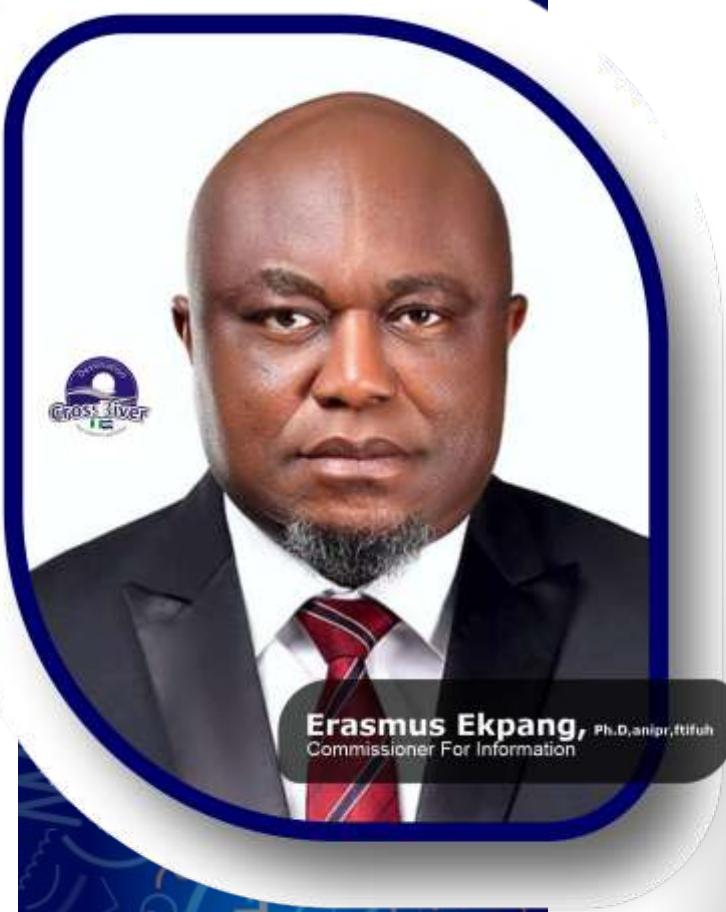
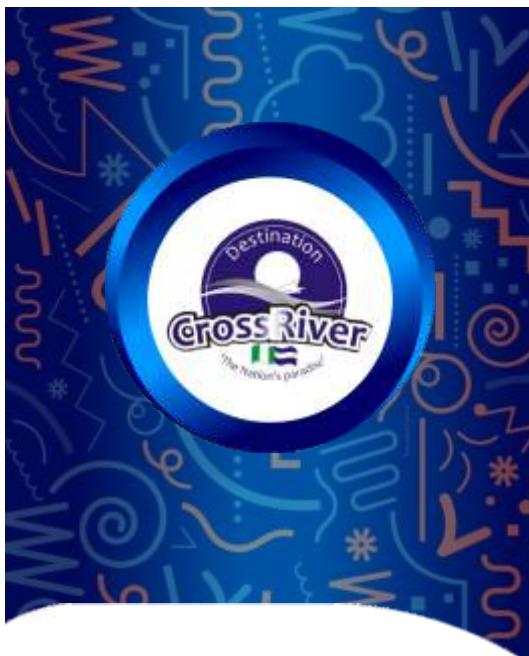
Please be assured that all vaccines are **free, safe, effective, and already paid for by the Government**. The vaccination teams will work closely with local health authorities and educational stakeholders to ensure a seamless, respectful, and child-friendly process.

For enquiry call: 08065153097 or 0703 669 6010.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. (Mrs) Vivien Mesembe Otu
Director General
CRSPHCDA





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



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





PGF VALUE REORIENTATION CAMPAIGN

Responsible Citizens. Responsive Nation.



For more information:

Website: www.pgf.ng

E-mail: info@pgf.ng

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

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

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

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

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



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

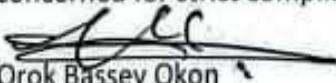
DECEMBER 10, 2025

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.**

Cally Air

Fly with Cally Air to:

LAGOS

CALABAR

ABUJA



Book Now On:

www.flyvaluejet.com

OPERATED BY
ValueJet

Flights Commencement From
15th October, 2025



Ministry of Information
Cross River State

For Enquiries
Call Customer Care:
(+234)9125950403
(+234)9153823424
(+234)7047108136
01-4482998





STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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

NATIONWIDE CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (CVR)



Register to Vote

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

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION
STARTS ON 25TH AUGUST, 2025
All 37 INEC State Offices or 774 Local
Government Area (LGA) Offices
Nearest to You

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



✉ iccc@inec.gov.ng

🌐 www.inecnigeria.org
www.inecnews.com

0700-CALL-INEC (0700-2255-4632)
INEC Short Code: 4632
09050858629, 09050858675,
09050858649

INEC, Making your votes count...
Consolidating our democracy.
f X @inecnigeria

**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— **FRSC** —
CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND