



# Daily InfoNews Bulletin

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



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## Daily InfoNews...

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

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# CROSS RIVER STATE

## **VISION STATEMENT**

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

## **MINISTERIAL MANDATE**

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

## **VISION**

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

## **Mission**

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

# C'River Judiciary Set To Formalise Rules And Guidelines For Electronic Evidence Proceedings

By.Benedict Okache & Rose Undie



**C**ross River State Chief Judge, His Lordship, Honourable Justice Akon Bassey Ikpeme has announced plans by the State Judiciary to set up a high

powered Committee to develop a formal set of rules and guidelines for the operations of Electronic Evidences procedures in Magistrate Courts

in the State.

Honourable Justice Ikpeme stated this in High Court 5, Judiciary Headquarters, Calabar last Friday while declaring open a one-day



**Virtual specialised training Workshop for Magistrates in Cross River State Judiciary on the Principles and Practice of Electronic Evidences in Judicial Proceedings".**

The State Chief Judge maintained that the workshop is a strategic

initiative aimed at strengthening the administration of justice in the digital age, emphasizing that the training underscores the importance of clear rules and guidelines to ensure electronic service is properly understood and applied.

Honourable Justice Ikpeme, who is also the Chairman of the Cross River State Judicial Service Commission cited instances where disputes arose due to changes in email addresses, stressing the necessity for timely notification to Registries



whenever contact information changes.

The Chief Judge further noted that the establishment of this Committee to develop formal rules and

procedures for electronic services is a reflection of the Judiciary's commitment to modernising legal processes in line with technological advancements.

She also expressed gratitude to Hon. Justice Prof. Alaba Omolaye Ajileye for delivering the lecture and emphasised the need for similar training programs



to be extended to Judges across the State Judiciary..

In her opening remarks, the Chief Registrar of the Cross River State Judiciary, Mrs. Iquo Bassey, welcomed participants and acknowledged the presence of the virtual lecture, held at High

Court Number 5 under the directive of the Honourable Chief Judge, which brought together Chief Magistrates, Senior Magistrates, and other Judicial officers for a refresher session focused on the practical application of electronic evidence provisions under the Evidence Act

2011 (as amended).

The training emphasized the increasing reliance on digital devices, electronic communications, and online records in both civil and criminal proceedings, highlighting the need for



Magistrates to carefully assess issues of admissibility, authenticity, and evidential weight when handling electronically generated materials

Justice Prof. Alaba Omolaye Ajileye, in his lecture, traced the historical

challenges Courts faced when electronic documents first emerged at a time when traditional evidence laws were primarily designed for physical documents. He highlighted how judicial attitudes and legislative reforms, including the introduction of

Section 84 of the Evidence Act, have expanded the legal definition of documents to include electronic records, enabling courts to admit computer-generated evidence under defined conditions.

Section 84, as



Prof. Ajileye explained, provides a framework requiring proof that a computer system was functioning properly, that the information supplied was accurate, and that the document had not been tampered with. The lecture emphasized the importance of

certificates of compliance, which must identify the electronic document, describing its production process, and provide details of the device used, all signed by a responsible official.

The training also examined recent legal developments recognizing electronic records as valid documents

which can be accessible for future reference. Prof. Ajileye cautioned against the potential for digital evidence manipulation, stressing strict adherence to legal safeguards to prevent fraudulent materials from being admitted in court. Participants were urged to carefully evaluate the foundation of



each electronic exhibit and ensure proper demonstration in open court.

The workshop explored practical courtroom applications, including laying proper foundations before tendering electronic evidence, demonstrating digital exhibits in court, and understanding judicial precedents guiding electronic evidence admissibility, the

conditions for admitting electronic evidence in court under Section 84(2) of the Evidence Act.

The computer system must have been functioning properly when the document was produced, the information contained in the document must have been accurately supplied to the computer, the computer system must not have been affected by any malfunction or virus that could impact the document's

accuracy. The document must not have been tampered with or altered in any way.

The one day training workshop also featured questions and answers from Participating Magistrates.

# Governor Bassey Otu Joins Distinguished League as Silverbird Man of the Year 2025



On Sunday, March 1, 2026, Nigeria's political, business, creative, and cultural elite will converge at the Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos, for the 2025 Silverbird Man of the Year and Special Awards, commencing at 6:00 p.m.



At the heart of the celebration, the most prestigious honour of the night — Silverbird Man of the Year 2025 — will be presented to

Governor Bassey Otu of Cross River State, following an emphatic endorsement by Nigerians nationwide.

Governor Otu was



officially declared winner on January 1, 2026, after securing over 70 percent of total votes,

cast via WhatsApp and text messaging platforms. The outcome reflected broad-based public

confidence in his leadership style, performance, and people-focused governance.



## A Landmark Year for a Landmark Award

The 2025 edition of the Silverbird Man of the Year is especially significant, marking the 20th anniversary of the award, which was instituted in 2005 by media entrepreneur Senator Ben Murray-Bruce to recognise Nigerians whose work has shaped the nation's socio-

economic trajectory.

Over the past two decades, the Silverbird Man of the Year platform has honoured some of Nigeria's most influential and transformative figures, including:

- Prof. Dora Akunyili (2005), for her courageous public service and reform-driven leadership
- Nuhu Ribadu (2007), for redefining the anti-

corruption fight

- Adams Oshiomhole (2008), for governance impact
- Mike Adenuga Jr. (2009), for business excellence
- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (2011), for economic leadership
- Aliko Dangote and Godswill Akpabio (2013), for industry and public service
- Bola Ahmed Tinubu, honoured

## as Extraordinary Personality (2015)

- Nyesom Wike (2018), Seyi Makinde (2022), Prince Dapo Abiodun (2023), and Biodun Oyebanji (2024)

By joining this distinguished lineage, Governor Bassey Otu's selection situates him among leaders whose influence extends beyond office into lasting national relevance.

## A People's Mandate, Earned Through Service

Reacting to the recognition, Governor Otu described the honour as deeply humbling and reflective of collective effort.

"This award belongs to the people of Cross River State and to Nigerians who believe that leadership must translate into real impact," he said. "To receive this level of support from citizens across the country is both an encouragement and a responsibility."

The nomination process began with the Silverbird Editorial Board, chaired by Mr. Jacob Akinyemi-Johnson, the Chief Creative Officer of the Silverbird group before proceeding to a nationwide public vote — reinforcing the award's reputation as both editorially credible and people-driven.

## Healthcare at the Grassroots: Leadership That Touches Lives

One of the most visible hallmarks of Governor Otu's administration has been the renewed focus on primary healthcare, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

Through the rehabilitation and upgrading of primary health centres, access to quality healthcare has been expanded, preventive care strengthened, and pressure reduced on tertiary facilities.

"Healthcare is most effective when it is closest to the people,"

the Governor noted.

"Our goal has been to ensure that no Cross Riverian is left behind because of location or circumstance."

## Education: Building Tomorrow, Today

Education reform has equally remained a cornerstone of the administration. Across the state, schools have been renovated, new learning facilities constructed, and educational infrastructure strengthened.

Governor Otu's conviction is clear:

"Education is the

foundation of any lasting development. When we invest in schools, we invest in the future of our children and the stability of our society."

This commitment has rekindled confidence among parents, teachers, and students alike.

## Tinapa and the Reawakening of Tourism

The revival of Tinapa Business and Leisure Resort stands as one of the administration's most symbolic interventions. Long regarded as a sleeping asset, Tinapa is now being repositioned as a catalyst for tourism, commerce, and job

creation.

"Tinapa represents opportunity — for investors, for young people, and for the state's economy," Governor Otu explained.

The move forms part of a broader strategy to reclaim Cross River State's identity as Nigeria's premier tourism destination.

## Progress in the Face of Financial Constraints

Despite significant fiscal challenges — including the loss of oil wells following boundary adjustments with Akwa Ibom State — the



administration has continued to deliver key projects through discipline, prioritisation, and innovation.

By strengthening internally generated revenue and adopting prudent financial management, the government has demonstrated that effective leadership is defined not by abundance, but by wise stewardship.

As Theodore Roosevelt once observed, "The best executive is the one who has

sense enough to pick good people to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling while they do it."

### A Legacy Still Being Written

Leadership, as the Silverbird Man of the Year platform has consistently affirmed, is not measured by promises alone, but by impact.

With calm vision, firm execution, and a deep commitment to service, Governor Bassey Otu has

restored confidence, momentum, and purpose across Cross River State.

In this milestone 20th anniversary year of the Silverbird Man of the Year Award, his recognition stands as both a celebration of progress achieved and a statement of belief in leadership that truly serves the people.

**Governor Bassey Otu — Silverbird Man of the Year 2025.**

# Drug Abuse: CR Assembly Seeks Enforcement Of Drug Laws As Son Beheads Father

By Itam offor



The Cross River State House of Assembly has urged the state government, through its relevant agencies, to urgently enforce drug laws to curb

the rising menace of drug abuse across the State.

The House adopted this resolution following a matter of urgent public importance on the need for

proactive action against drug abuse in the State presented by the Member representing Yakurr 1 State Constituency, Hon Cyril James omini.

Omini recounted a tragic incident that occurred on February 2, 2026 where a 23 year old man Ubi Bassey, allegedly under the influence of drugs, beheaded his father, Bassey okoi in Ugep, Yakurr Local Government.

The Yakurr Lawmaker reiterated that drug abuse has become prevalent among the youths adding that, the commonly abused substances are alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, tramadol amongst others.

Omini further observed that, "despite warnings by government agencies like WHO most people still get involved in the sale of illicit drugs. The effect of drug abuse has sent

many people mostly youths to their early graves or sometimes leads them to taking away the lives of innocent people".

Continuing, Omini stated; " The incident of this boy killing his own father has caused horror and unrest in Ugep..If proactive action is not taken, the danger of having a more perverse society can not be eroded".

He however commended the efforts of the State Security Adviser, Major General Okoi Ubi Obono (RTD), towards restoring peace in the area.

Members unanimously emphasised the need for sustained drug sensitization and youth focused

campaigns. They urged government to strengthen partnerships with NGOs and other stakeholders to intensify the fight against drug abuse as well as the enactment and enforcement of laws targeting both drug peddlers and users.

The Speaker of the Assembly, Rt Hon Elvert Ayambem expressed sadness over the incident and called on the State Security Adviser to wade into the matter and bring the perpetrator to book as a deterrent to other unscrupulous youths.



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  
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HOST

# Nigeria Steps Up Preparations for World Public Relations Forum 2026 as NIPR Delegation Inspects Key Venue



In a major stride toward hosting the World Public Relations Forum (WPRF) Abuja 2026, the Acting President of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Professor

Emmanuel Dandaura on Saturday led a powerful delegation on a facility tour of the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, one of the prime venues proposed for the global event.

The delegation included Dr. Ike Neliaku, Nigeria's lead Board Member of the Global Alliance for Public Relations and Communication Management; Chairman and Vice



Chairman of the National Planning Committee (NPC), Dr. Suleiman Haruna and Mrs. Maryam Sanusi respectively; Chairman of the Security Sub-Committee, CP Emmanuel Ojukwu

(Rtd); and some staff of the NIPR National Secretariat.

The inspection aimed to evaluate the suitability of Transcorp Hilton's facilities for hosting various sessions and high-level

engagements during the Forum. The visit also provided an opportunity to review logistics and coordination plans in line with international standards.

During the visit, Professor Dandaura emphasised that hosting the WPRF in Nigeria is not a commercial venture but a strategic platform to showcase the nation's potentials, creativity, diversity, and professional competence before the global communication community.

"This Forum is Nigeria's moment to shine, to tell our authentic story and project our strengths to the world. It's about confidence,



reputation, and redefining perception through excellence," he said, reaffirming that the Institute will leverage the event to enhance Nigeria's reputation capital.

He commended the GA Board Member and substantive President of the NIPR, Dr. Ike

Neliaku for accepting to join the inspection team despite being on his annual vacation, describing the gesture as a profound demonstration of leadership commitment and national pride.

Professor Dandaura further stressed the need to streamline the venues for the

Forum to ease logistics and ensure operational efficiency, assuring that the NIPR is working closely with all partners to deliver a world-class experience in secure and comfortable venues.

The World Public Relations Forum Abuja 2026 is scheduled to hold



from November 16th to 21st, 2026 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

The global gathering will feature several landmark events, including the Africa Day Celebration on

Wednesday, 18th November 2026, hosted as part of the African Public Relations Association (APRA) Conference and AGM which Nigeria is also hosting, 25th Anniversary of the Global Alliance and the historic

inauguration of the world's first specialised University of Public Relations and Leadership on Friday, 20th November 2026 at its permanent site in Gudi, Nasarawa State.

# Gov. Otu Launches WASH Policy to Boost Public Health and End Open Defecation

By Nakanda Iyadim



Hygiene (WASH) Policy.

The policy was unveiled on Friday at the Channel View Hotel in Calabar during a well attended event that drew a wide array of stakeholders, including senior government officials, lawmakers, development partners, and civil society organizations.

In a decisive move to improve public health and expand access to safe water and sanitation, the

Cross River State Government, in collaboration with Self Help Africa, has officially launched its Water, Sanitation, and

The Cross River State Governor, Prince Bassey who was represented by the Commissioner for Establishment,

Training, and Pension, Dr. Lawrencia Ita, described the policy as a momentous milestone.

He noted that the initiative is designed to enhance the living conditions of the citizenry and drastically reduce waterborne diseases across the State.

The Governor assured stakeholders of his administration's readiness to ensure full implementation at all levels while calling on development partners and relevant stakeholders to maintain their momentum in building a society

where quality water and sanitation services are a right, not a privilege.

In his welcome address, the Commissioner for Water Resources, Barr. Bassey Mensah, emphasized that the launch was more than just a ceremony.

"This is a celebration of a shared vision and a renewed commitment to improving the health outcomes of our people," Mensah stated.

He highlighted that the policy review process was inclusive, involving the State Legislature, private sector, and international partners to ensure it responds to both

current realities and future challenges.

Mensah noted that the State Executive Council's approval of the document underscores WASH as an essential driver of human development.

On his part, Chairman of the House Committee on Water Resources, Hon. Kingsley Ntui, stressed that robust legislation is the backbone of the program's success.

He disclosed that the Open Defecation Prohibition Bill has cleared its public hearing phase and assured the public that the bill was expected to be



passed into law by the end of next week.

Country Director of Self Help Africa, Dr. Joy Aderele, marked the launch as a significant chapter in the organization's 26-year partnership with the state.

She reminded the audience that Cross River recorded Nigeria's

first Open Defecation Free (ODF) local government area in 2016.

"This policy is not the end of the journey; it is only the beginning," Aderele said, urging the government to back the policy with consistent funding and political will to achieve state-wide ODF status.

The Commissioner for Information, Dr. Erasmus Ekpang, described the policy as a "major breakthrough," signaling that Cross River is on the verge of making history in the delivery of WASH services.

# CRIDCOM Charts Global Path for Cross River's Investment Potential

By Deborah-Oyo Oyo



The Cross River State Diaspora Commission (CRIDCOM) is intensifying efforts to project the State's investment potential to a global audience through structured diaspora engagement and strategic partnerships.

Speaking on the African Diaspora Podcast Channel on the Cross River Broadcasting Corporation (CRBC), Chairman of CRIDCOM, Otuekong Chief Otu Okor described the Commission as a vital link between the government and

Cross Riverians living outside the State and the country. "We are a bridge between the government and the diaspora. We take government programmes, initiatives and policies to the diaspora, and we also take their ideas back to the



Carnival, which enabled diaspora visitors to participate actively rather than observe from the sidelines. Despite initial logistical and visa-related challenges, he said last year's programme provided valuable lessons for future improvements.

Looking ahead, the Chairman disclosed plans to establish a Cross River State Diaspora Trust Fund to channel diaspora contributions into priority development projects across the State. He

government," he said.

Chief Otu Okor highlighted that these engagements are already generating a measurable

economic and social impact, particularly in the tourism and culture sectors. He cited the introduction of the Carnival Calabar Diaspora Band during the 2025 Calabar



emphasised that the initiative will be a public-private partnership, with diaspora representatives involved in ensuring transparency and accountability.

He further noted that diaspora trade missions and related initiatives have sparked investor interest in sectors such as

agriculture, renewable energy, tourism, and social development, with some projects already underway. Chief Otu Okor also reaffirmed the strong backing of Governor Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, describing him as deeply committed to the Commission's mandate.

Closing the

discussion, he urged Cross Riverians abroad to see themselves as ambassadors of the State. "Wherever you are, remember you are an ambassador of Cross River State. Do good, because whatever you do will either make or mar the State," he said.



## ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS

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

### 2026 APC NATIONAL CONVENTION Adjusted Central Coordination Committee

In further consultation with the leadership and national stakeholders of the All Progressives Congress (APC), the Central Coordination Committee for the 2026 National Convention has been reconstituted as listed below. Sub-committees of the Central Coordination Committee will be constituted and announced in due course.

S/N	NAME	POSITION
1.	H.E. Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari, CFR	Chairman
2.	H. E. Sen. Anyim Pius Anyim, GCON	Vice Chairman I
3.	H.E. Alh. AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, CON (Kwara)	Vice Chairman II
4.	H.E. Sen. Hope Uzodimma, CON (Imo)	Treasurer
5.	H.E. Hon Mai Mala Buni, CON (Yobe)	Secretary
6.	H.E. Sen. Godswill Akpabio, GCON	Member
7.	Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, GCON	Member
8.	Sen. Barau I Jibrin, CON	Member
9.	Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu, CON	Member
10.	H.E. Chief Bisi Akande, CFR	Member
11.	H.E. Sen. Adams Oshiomhole, CON	Member
12.	H.E. Sen. (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu, CON	Member
13.	H.E. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, PhD, CON	Member
14.	H. E. Sen. Ken Nnamani, GCON	Member
15.	H. E. Sen Ahmed Lawan, GCON	Member
16.	H.E. Chief Olusegun Osoba	Member
17.	Rt. Hon. Patricia Etteh	Member
18.	Rt. Hon. Dimeji Bankole	Member
19.	Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara, CFR	Member
20.	Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR	Member
21.	H.E. Umo Bassey Eno, PhD, (Akwa Ibom)	Member
22.	H.E. Douye Diri, (Bayelsa)	Member
23.	H.E. Fr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia (Benue)	Member
24.	H.E. Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum (Borno)	Member
25.	H.E. Sen. Bassey Otu (Cross River)	Member
26.	H.E. Rt. Hon. Sheriff F. Oborevwori (Delta)	Member
27.	H.E. Rt. Hon Francis Nwifuru (Ebonyi)	Member
28.	H.E. Sen. Monday Okpehoholo (Edo)	Member
29.	H.E. Abiodun Abayomi Oyebanji, (Ekiti)	Member
30.	H.E. Peter Mbah, (Enugu)	Member
31.	H.E. Alh Muhammed Inuwa Yahaya (Gombe)	Member
32.	H.E. Umar Namadi (Jigawa)	Member
33.	H.E. Abba Kabir Yusuf (Kano)	Member
34.	H.E. Sen. Uba Sani, CON (Kaduna)	Member
35.	H.E. Dikko Umaru Radda, Ph.D., CON (Katsina)	Member
36.	H.E. Dr Nasir Idris (Kebbi)	Member
37.	H.E. Ahmed Usman Ododo (Kogi)	Member
38.	H.E. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu (Lagos)	Member
39.	H.E. Engr Audu Abdullahi Sule (Nasarawa)	Member
40.	H.E. Hon Mohammed Umar Bago (Niger)	Member
41.	H.E. Prince Abiodun Adedapo Oluseun, CON (Ogun)	Member
42.	H.E. Lucky O. Aiyedatiwa (Ondo)	Member
43.	H.E. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang (Plateau)	Member
44.	H.E. Sir Siminalayi Fubara, GSSRS (River)	Member
45.	H.E. Alh Ahmed Aliyu (Sokoto)	Member
46.	H.E. Agbu Kefas (Taraba)	Member
47.	Sen. Michael Opeyemi Bamidele, CON	Member
48.	Sen. Mohammed Tahir Mungono	Member
49.	H.E. Senator George Akume, CON	Member
50.	H.E. Otunba Niyi Adebayo	Member
51.	H.E. Sen Simon Bako Lalang CON	Member
52.	Sen. Oyelola Yisa Ashiru	Member
53.	Sen. Nwebonyi Onyeka	Member
54.	Sen. Adeola Solomon Olamilekan	Member
55.	H.E. Senator Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko CON	Member
56.	Senator Abu Ibrahim, CFR	Member
57.	Sen. Ovie Omo-Agege, CFR	Member
58.	Rt. Hon. Idris Wase	Member
59.	Hon. Babangida S. M. Nguroje, OFR	Member
60.	H.E. AbdulAzeez Abubakar Yari	Member
61.	Sen. Sani Musa	Member
62.	Sen. Leonard Agom Jarigbe	Member
63.	H.E. Senator Dave Umahi	Member
64.	Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba	Member
65.	Senator Ayo Adeseun	Member
66.	Senator Ibrahim Yahya Oloriegbe	Member
67.	Senator Uche Ekwunife	Member
68.	Hon. Prof. Julius Ihonvhere, CON	Member
69.	Hon. Usman Bello Kumo	Member
70.	Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali Halims	Member
71.	Hon. Ibrahim Ayonkunle Iyiaka	Member
72.	Hon. Abubakar Kabir Abubakar Bichi	Member
73.	Hon. Jimi Benson	Member
74.	Hon. Abiodun James Faleke	Member
75.	Hon Usoro Akpabio	Member
76.	Hon. Boma Goodhead	Member
77.	H.E. Philip Shuaibu	Member
78.	Rt. Hon. Akintunde Adegboye	Member
79.	Senator Mpigi Barinada	Member
80.	Hon. Bala Mustapha	Member
81.	Hon. Ibrahim Kabiru Masari	Member
82.	Senator Atiku Bagudu	Member
83.	Gen. Christopher Musa, Rtd.	Member
84.	Alhaji Mohamed Idris Malagi	Member
85.	Senator Ibrahim Gaidam	Member
86.	Senator I.D. Gyang	Member
87.	Hon. Bunmi Tunji Ojo	Member
88.	Hajia Ramatu Tijani	Member
89.	H.E. Senator Alli Modu Sherrif	Member
90.	Hon. Stella Okotete	Member

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

# NIPR Acting President Leads Strategic Inspection of Secretariat Building Project in Abuja



The Acting President of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Professor Emmanuel Dandaura, on Saturday led members of the

National Secretariat Building Committee on an inspection visit to the ongoing construction site of the Institute's permanent secretariat complex called the Nigeria "Public Relations

Place" located at the Radio House, Abuja.

The visit was part of the Committee's periodic assessment to evaluate progress and ensure that work on the



landmark project aligns with approved specifications and timelines.

During the briefing session, the Site Engineer informed the delegation that the casting of the building's frame and beams would be completed by 12th April 2026, all things being equal.

He, however, stressed the need for the release of the next tranche of payment to sustain the current momentum of work.

In his response, Prof. Dandaura expressed satisfaction with both the quality and pace of work, commending the contractor for maintaining high

construction standards. He assured that the Institute led by Dr Ike Neliaku places a high premium on the project so would ensure timely payment of certified milestones as soon as expected funds are received from relevant stakeholders.

"This project



symbolises the renewed strength and identity of the NIPR especially as we work towards hosting the Global Alliance World Public Relations Forum, WPRF Abuja 2026. Beyond the physical structure, it reflects our collective vision to institutionalise professionalism and create a home for public relations excellence in Nigeria," the Acting President stated.

Accompanying the Ag. President were Committee Members Maryam Sanusi, Olubunmi Badejo; Professor Uche Mbanaso; Engr. Francis Okoh; and the Acting Director of Public Relations, Mr. Duke Imandu, who was joined by Alexandra Eke from the Directorate of Public Relations.

The NIPR National Secretariat project, scheduled for

commissioning in October 2026, is expected to serve as a hub for strategic communication, research, and professional development, cementing the Institute's role as the nation's foremost authority in public relations practice.



# Ekpang Lauds NTA Calabar for Comprehensive Facility Upgrade

By Effiom Solomon Bassey



The Cross River State Commissioner for Information, Dr. Erasmus Ekpang, has commended the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Channel 9, Calabar for the extensive facility upgrades currently underway at the station.

Speaking during a working visit to the Calabar station on Friday, Dr. Ekpang expressed gratitude to the Federal Government for investing significant resources into the modernization project in NTA Calabar.

He noted that the transition to a more digitalized

environment would allow the station to better serve the State by disseminating Government policies and programmes, alongside its statutory roles of education, entertainment, and information.

According to the Commissioner, the renovation underscores the Federal Government's commitment to strengthening public communication infrastructure.

While highlighting NTA's extensive reach as a vital tool for improving the quality of information



dissemination across Cross River, Dr. Ekpang further praised the station for maintaining its broadcast operations despite the ongoing construction.

He emphasized that a functional, modern media outfit is essential for Effective public enlightenment, Transparency in governance and Promote the State's development agenda and assured the management of the State Government's continued support,

noting that the renovation will significantly enhance staff productivity and elevate broadcast quality to meet contemporary global standards.

Earlier, the General Manager of NTA Calabar, Mr. Ajibola Samuel, guided the Commissioner through the studios, offices, and technical units currently undergoing rehabilitation.

The excited General Manager thanked Governor Bassey Otu for his consistent support, describing him as a

"talk-and-do" Governor.

He characterized the Commissioner's visit as a major morale booster and reaffirmed the station's commitment to professional journalism and timely reporting of government activities.

Once completed, the renovation project is expected to reposition NTA Channel 9 as a leading broadcast hub within the South-South geopolitical zone.

# Cross River Empowers Para-Athletes with New Equipment Ahead of 2026 Games

By Iloke Eabe



In a move to champion inclusivity and athletic excellence, the Cross River State Government has donated brand-new

wheelchairs to two para-athletes.

Chairman of the State Sports Commission, Hon. Etta Lawrence, who made the

presentation, Friday at the Commission's office in Calabar, said the gesture was to enhance the mobility and performance of physically challenged athletes.

He disclosed that the donation was also part of Preparation for the Niger Delta Games (Edo State) and the National Para-Games (Abuja) which he noted reflects Governor Bassey Otu's "People-First" agenda, ensuring no athlete is left behind.

Hon. Etta Lawrence emphasized that



the tools were essential for the athletes' comfort and competitive edge.

"The gesture is aimed at improving the athletes' mobility and performance... helping them give their best at the forthcoming national

competitions." — Hon. Etta Lawrence.

The recipients expressed their heartfelt thanks to the State Government, noting that the timing of the donation was perfect for their training schedules.

They pledged to deliver strong

performances to honor the State's investment in their careers.

By providing the necessary gear, the State aims to foster an environment where athletes of all abilities can thrive and bring home medals.



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

January 30, 2026

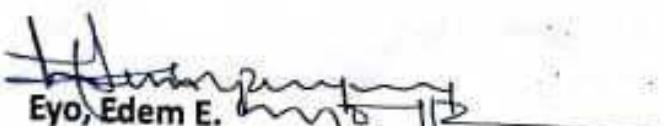
The Hon. Speaker  
The Hon. Chief Judge,  
All Commissioners/Special Advisers,  
The Secretary to the State Government,  
The Chief of Staff,  
All Chairmen of Commissions & Boards,  
All Permanent Secretaries/Special Assistants,  
The Clerk of the House/Chief Registrar,  
The Accountant-General/Auditor-General (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, 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



# 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



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

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

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

30th January, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We are hopeful of getting back all our Oil Wells.



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



Deadline:  
16/02/2026

**THE PEOPLE FIRST RETIREE  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVE**

# **REDI PHASE 2**

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

For registration visit:  
[bit.ly/MEDAREDI2](https://bit.ly/MEDAREDI2)



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

More Information ↗  
[info@meda.crossriverstate.gov.ng](mailto: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](http://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



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[www.nprweek.niprng.org.ng](http://www.nprweek.niprng.org.ng)



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[partnerships@nprweek.niprng.org.ng](mailto:partnerships@nprweek.niprng.org.ng)



[victoria@nprweek.niprng.org.ng](mailto:victoria@nprweek.niprng.org.ng)

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





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## PEACE IS A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY.

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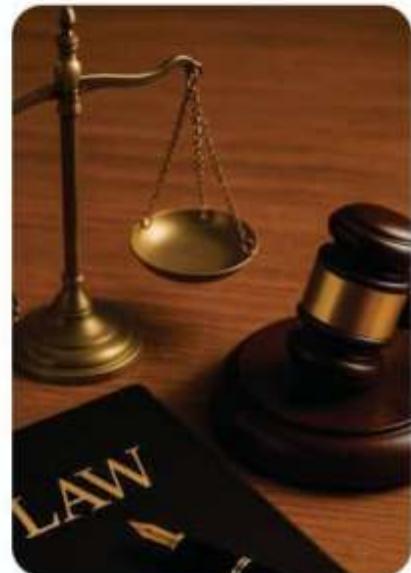
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# **WHEN CITIZENS DO RIGHT, GOVERNANCE WORKS**



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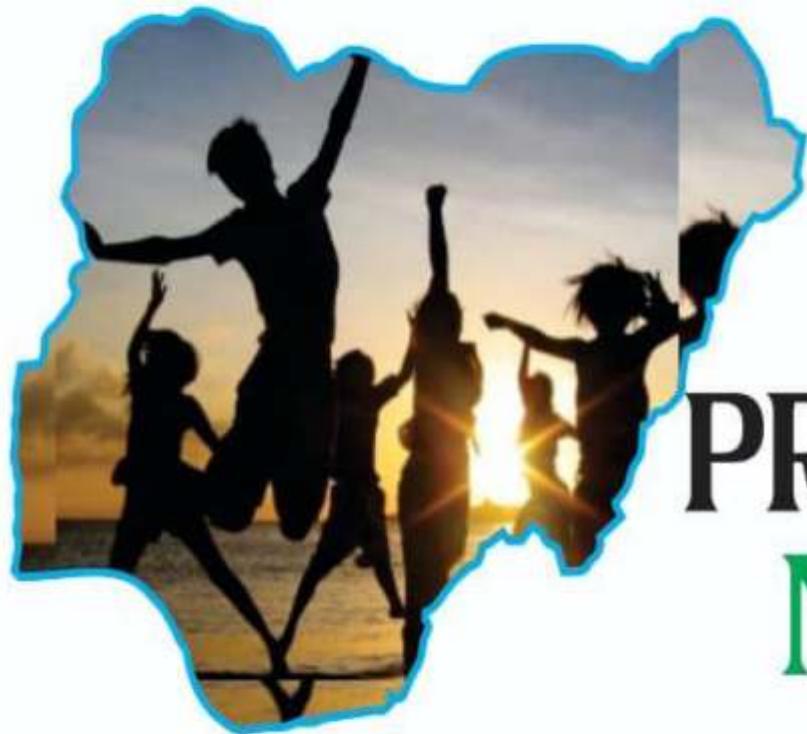
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POSITIVE  
YOUTH,  
PRODUCTIVE  
NIGERIA.

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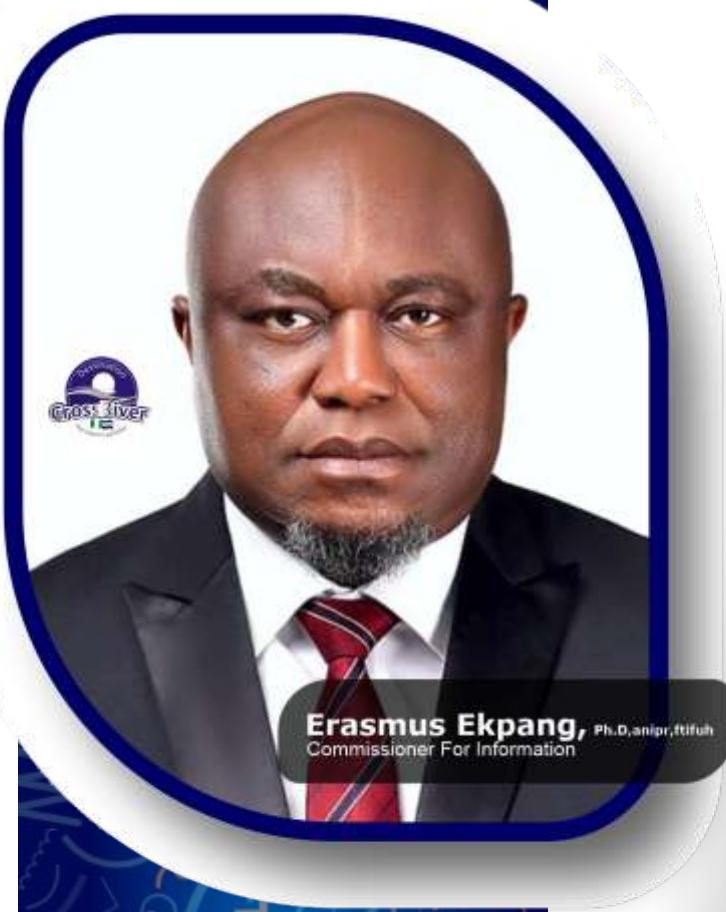
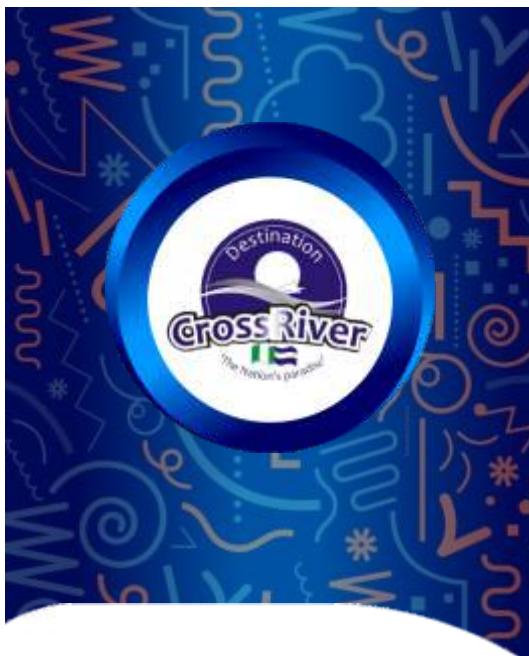
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ALL  
PROGRESSIVES  
CONGRESS

*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





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# Responsible Citizens. Responsive Nation.



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

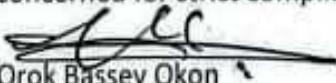
DECEMBER 10, 2025

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.**

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Ministry of Information  
Cross River State

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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

- 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](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.**

**f X @inecnigeria**

**Avoid  
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills  
But Kills.**

**Always obey  
speed limits**

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