

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

Daily InfoNews...

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

Articles and stories in this publication may be reproduced.

MANAGEMENT

Commissioner for Information

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

Permanent Secretary
Emmanuel Egban

David Odey Akate **Editor-in-Chief**

State Director of Information

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

Nakanda Iyadim **Editor**

Esther Okoi **Production Editor**

SUB-EDITORS

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

ICT/PRODUCTION MANAGER

Uno Hinang-ovai

PHOTOGRAPHS

Daniel Williams
Joe Alah

Contents

- APC CONGRESS: OTU BACKS NEW CHAIRMAN, PLEDGES FULL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT** **PAGE 3**
- SEE FULL LIST OF NEWLY ELECTED CRS WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS, APC** **PAGE 9**
- UNIVERSITY OF CROSS RIVER STATE VC INSPECTS KEY PROJECTS, DEMANDS QUALITY, TIMELY DELIVERY** **PAGE 10**
- C'RIVER REVIEWS TRACTOR ACQUISITION SCHEME, MOVES TO STRENGTHEN SUSTAINABILITY** **PAGE 13**
- C'RIVER THRIVES ON A NEW PROCLAMATION AS GOV. OTU SUSPENDS ALL SCRAP-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN CROSS RIVER STATE** **PAGE 37**
- SCHOOL-BASED DEWORMING: GOV. OTU CHARGES 26 TRAINEES ON ELIMINATING WORM INFECTIONS IN CROSS RIVER BY 2030** **PAGE 17**
- EDU COMMISSIONER VOWS ADHERENCE TO EXCELLENCE AS EIDU GROUP PLEDGES SUPPORT** **PAGE 21**
- GOVERNOR OTU APPOINTS AKEDO OKOI EDET AS STATISTICIAN-GENERAL OF THE STATE** **PAGE 25**
- MINISTRY OF AVIATION CELEBRATES RETIRED STAFF MR. JACOB ODEY** **PAGE 38**
- NATIONAL TALENT SEARCH: FUTURE OLYMPIAN ATHLETICS CLASSIC RESCHEDULED FOR Q4 OF 2026** **PAGE 31**
- FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FLAGS-OFF WORLD BANK YOUTH TECH TRAINING IN CROSS RIVER INSTITUTE** **PAGE 33**



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.

APC Congress: Otu Backs New Chairman, Pledges Full Government Support

By Kingsley Agim



The All Progressives Congress (APC) in Cross River State on Tuesday unveiled a new State Executive Committee at a well-attended congress held at the main bowl of the U J Esuene Stadium, with Governor Bassey Otu throwing his weight behind the new leadership

and pledging full government support.

Addressing delegates and party stakeholders, Governor Otu described the congress as “a great day in the lives of Cross Riverians,” noting that the exercise reflected the unity, strength, and maturity of the party in the state.

“We came to consolidate and then move forward,” the governor said, thanking the outgoing executives for their service and assuring them that “you will never walk alone.”

Congratulating the newly elected State Chairman, Hon. Chris Sunny



Etta, Otu expressed confidence in his capacity to lead the party successfully.

“Chairman, I want to congratulate you. You have the experience and the humility, and I know you will navigate this course very easily. The support you need from the government, we are there to give

you that support,” the governor declared.

He emphasized that the party must sustain its culture of hard work and dedication, commending the Organizing Secretary as an example of commitment. “If we have this kind of hardworking party, then definitely we are going to good places,” he added.

Reaffirming APC’s dominance in the state, Otu stated, “There is no other party in this state. It is APC all the way,” assuring members that the administration would continue to deliver the dividends of democracy.

Earlier, the Congress Committee Chairman, Mr.



expressed optimism that the new executive would steer the party to greater heights.

The congress climaxed with the dissolution of the outgoing State Working Committee and the affirmation of the new executive by delegates, following a voice vote declared with a resounding "The

Samuel Yarnap, praised the peaceful conduct of the congress and described Cross River as "a home of peace." He urged party members to pursue leadership

as a means of serving humanity rather than for personal gain.

The outgoing Acting State Chairman, Mr. Ekum Ekok Ojogu, welcomed dignitaries and



Ayes have it." Barr. Emmanuel Akinde subsequently administered the oath of office and oath of allegiance.

In his acceptance speech, Hon. Chris Sunny Etta thanked delegates for the confidence reposed in him and his team.

"We are going to hit the ground running. We will not disappoint you. We are here to serve and to strengthen the party," he assured, promising an open-door policy that would give members and stakeholders a listening ear.

The newly

inaugurated 36-member State Executive Committee is expected to steer the affairs of the APC in Cross River State, consolidating party unity and positioning it strongly for future political engagements.





SEE FULL LIST OF NEWLY ELECTED CRS WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS, APC

1. Hon. Chris Sunny Etta – State Chairman
2. Barr. Ogana Lukpata – Deputy State Chairman
3. Pst. Patrick Asuquo Okon – State Secretary
4. Isek James – State Assistant Secretary
5. Princess Tity Ndifon – Zonal Vice Chairman I
6. Ayiba Ojong Ayiba – Zonal Vice Chairman II
7. Hon. Ignatius Adida Agabi –Zonal Vice Chairman III
8. Barr. Lawrence Ugah Momba- State Legal Adviser
9. Barr. Bassey Edet Asuquo – Assistant Legal Advisers
10. Martins Erasmus – State Treasurer
11. Fetus Ofum – Assistant Treasurer
12. Hon. Sunday Udeh – State Financial Secretary
13. Akanya Agbor Akanya – Assistant Financial Secretary
14. Dr. Erim Agbor – State Organizing Secretary
15. Hon. Bassey Bassey Eyo – Assistant Organizing Secretary
16. Mr. Emmanuel Edem Inyang – State Publicity Secretary
17. Dr. Matthew Egong – Assistant Publicity Secretary
18. Emmanuel O. Bassey – State Welfare Secretary
19. Odey Oshorbuchi – Assistant Welfare Secretary
20. Chief Ogbodim Obongha Ogbodim – Auditor
21. Hon. Ekom Etuk – Assistant Auditor
22. Monica Ugi – State Woman Leader
23. Mrs. Ekanem Edet – Assistant Woman Leader
24. Otu Womi – State Youth Leader
25. Akiba Ayi – Assistant Youth Leader
26. Mr. Ushukiushi ThankGod – State Special Leader
27. Hon. Chief Maurice Ase – Senatorial Youth Leader I
28. Bruce John Armon – Youth Leader II
29. Mr. Daniel Beshel – Senatorial Youth Leader III
30. Hon. Roseline Ukam Ometu – women Leader I
31. Mrs. Love Eroma Agbor – Senatorial Woman Leader II
32. Victoria Otayan Odey-Senatorial Woman Leader Iil
33. Hon. Samuel O. Asu- Ex-Officio I
34. Moses Achu – Ex-Officio II
35. Hon. Ntete Ita – Ex-Officio Iil
36. Daniel Itonim Ex -Officio IV

University of Cross River State VC Inspects Key Projects, Demands Quality, Timely Delivery

By Kingsley Agim



The Vice Chancellor of the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS), Professor Francisca Bassey, on March 3, 2026, undertook a comprehensive inspection of ongoing capital

projects at the Calabar Campus, reaffirming Management's commitment to quality assurance, infrastructure expansion, and timely completion of projects.

The inspection

began at the new Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Block situated beside the Faculty of Engineering. Expressing satisfaction with the pace of work and the finishing standards,



Professor Bassey commended the contractor for adhering to approved specifications and project timelines.

When completed and fully equipped with modern digital facilities, the ICT Block is expected to significantly strengthen the University's technological

capacity, enhance teaching and research, and position UNICROSS more competitively in ICT-driven academic programmes.

The Vice Chancellor also visited the site of the Professorial Office Block currently under construction. While acknowledging progress made, she expressed concern

over the slow pace of work and aspects of the finishing, directing the contractor to accelerate delivery and strictly comply with approved standards and contractual obligations.

At the reconstructed Computer Science Block, Professor Bassey praised the structural



extension design and the quality of materials deployed, describing the project as a strategic investment in meeting the growing academic and research demands of staff and students.

She reiterated that the University Administration would not compromise on quality, durability,

or functionality in any capital project, stressing that infrastructure development remains central to the institution's growth agenda.

The Vice Chancellor was accompanied on the tour by the Director of Physical Planning, Mr. Evogor Eso; the Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Victor Ndifon; the Acting Head of Department,

Software Engineering, Dr. Ofut Ogar; and other directors of the University.

The inspection highlights the administration's resolve to entrench high construction standards and accelerate infrastructural development across all campuses of the University.

C'River Reviews Tractor Acquisition Scheme, Moves To Strengthen Sustainability

By Blessing Enagu



The Cross River State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the Tractor Acquisition Scheme following a post-distribution review meeting with stakeholders, beneficiaries and technical partners in Calabar.

The business meeting, held recently at Monty Suites Calabar, brought together representatives of benefiting farmers' cooperatives,

project managers and technical partners to assess progress and fine-tune the operational framework of the initiative.



Speaking on behalf of the Commissioner for Agriculture and Irrigation Development, Hon. Johnson Andiambey Ebokpo, KSM, the Director of Planning, Research and Statistics in the Ministry, Elder Ayi Ita Ayi, described the scheme as a deliberate intervention initiated by His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet

Otu, aimed at transforming agriculture through mechanisation and repositioning the small holder farmers from subsistence to large scale/ commercial agriculture.

He noted that the State Executive Council approved the procurement of 108 mini tractors fabricated to suit the state's terrain, with 54 already delivered in the first phase to duly registered and

qualified cooperatives across the 18 local government areas.

According to him, the success of the programme will be measured not just by distribution but by effective utilisation, proper maintenance, expanded hectarage and increased farm output.

Presenting an overview of the scheme, the Director



Mechanisation and irrigation, Engr. Mrs Justina Ulafor emphasised that agricultural mechanisation remains critical to achieving food security, stressing that mechanised farming enables expansion of cultivated land and improved productivity. She disclosed that digital booking systems have been introduced to ensure transparent scheduling and

direct payments, while technical and manufacturer support remain available to beneficiaries. " The meeting focused on sustainability, operational efficiency and workforce development. The government is formalising plans to engage booking agents, tractor operators, and technicians primarily drawn from cooperative

members and host communities in order to promote ownership and accountability, she added.

Also speaking, Chairman of the Tractor Committee and State Project Director of Project Grow, Mr Denis Ikpali, assured participants that concerns over the moratorium period would be reviewed and possibly adjusted to reflect operational



realities. He also revealed plans to establish an Agri-Mechanisation Board with centralised repair and training hubs across the three senatorial districts.

The meeting also welcomed virtual presentations and feedback sessions where Mr Ikpeme Ikpeme of Bespoke Design Concepts Nigeria Limited as well as Mr Pelumi John of Hello Tractor, focusing on maintenance, cooperative

collaboration, and financial sustainability.

Participants, drawn from the benefiting cooperatives, raised operational concerns such as geofencing issues, which government pledged to address through committee deliberations.

The meeting ended with renewed commitment from stakeholders to ensure that the Tractor Acquisition Scheme evolves into a sustainable

business ecosystem capable of boosting farm productivity, creating rural employment and advancing food security in Cross River State ahead of the 2026 farming season. Also, help lines were made available to ensure that beneficiaries of the scheme find quick solutions when necessary.

School-Based Deworming: Gov. Otu Charges 26 Trainees on Eliminating Worm Infections in Cross River by 2030

By Nakanda Iyadim



The Governor of Cross River State, Senator Bassey Otu, has charged trainees engaged in the state's School-Based Deworming Programme to demonstrate dedication, professionalism, and commitment in the collective effort to eliminate worm infections among school-

aged children by World Health Organization's 2030 deadline.

Speaking while declaring open a 2-day train the trainees refresher session for health workers and programme facilitators, in Calabar, Governor Otu who spoke through the State Director, Neglected Tropical Diseases

(NTD) Pastor Veronica Mark Onen, emphasized the importance of the initiative in safeguarding the health and future of children across the state.

He noted that worm infections remain a significant public health concern, affecting children's growth,



cognitive development, and academic performance.

Pastor Veronica who also stood as the representative of the Commissioner for Health, Elder Egbe AyuK,

described the deworming exercise as a critical intervention under his administration's people-centered health agenda.

He urged participants to approach the

assignment with seriousness and integrity, ensuring that every eligible child in public and private primary schools across the State benefits from the programme.

"Our children



deserve a healthy start in life. This deworming campaign is not just a routine exercise; it is a strategic investment in the future of Cross River State. I expect all trainees to carry out this responsibility with utmost dedication and commitment," he said.

Governor Otu further assured stakeholders of the state government's continued support for health and

education initiatives, stressing that collaboration between the implementation partners Evidence Action, Federal Ministry of Health, lined Ministries, Department and Agency as well as community leaders remains key to achieving success during the exercise.

In his remarks, Programme Associate, Evidence Action, Mr. Andrew Ushie, who spoke on behalf of the

implementing partner, stated that following a two-day review and micro planning meeting aimed to improve future implementation, they were excited for an opportunity to train the foot soldiers who will implement the programmes in schools across the State.

While assuring the State of their resolved to support the State in eliminating all forms of infections in the

State, he expressed hope that trainees would apply their new knowledge in the field for impactful results.

In a goodwill message, Programme Officer, Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis, Federal Ministry of Health, Dr Jacob Solomon, noted that the annual training has become crucial for adopting current trends in mass deworming methodology, aligning efforts to meet the 2030 elimination deadline.

The training programme, organized in partnership with Evidence Action,

is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills required to safely administer deworming drugs, manage records, and carry out community sensitization.

Health experts and resources persons at the event highlighted that regular deworming helps prevent malnutrition, anemia, and other complications associated with parasitic infections, thereby improving school attendance and learning outcomes.

The School-Based Deworming Programme is expected to cover thousands of pupils in both public and private schools across the 18 local

government areas of the State, reinforcing Cross River's commitment to improving child health and advancing sustainable development goals.

The exercise is scheduled to commence in schools statewide following the completion of the training sessions soon.

Edu Commissioner Vows Adherence to Excellence as EIDU Group Pledges Support



The Cross River State Commissioner for Education, Senator Professor Stephen Odey, has reiterated that Education remains the foundation of meaningful development for every society.

Professor Odey made the assertion when he received a delegation from the EIDU Group during a courtesy visit at his office in Calabar.

Commissioner Odey appreciated the group's

thoughtfulness and commitment to educational development. He emphasized his deep passion for basic education, describing it as a top priority throughout his years of public service and the



core mandate of the Ministry.

The Commissioner highlighted several reforms and innovations introduced under his leadership, particularly the digitisation of the State's examination system. He emphasized that all examinations are now conducted online, describing

it as a major milestone.

He informed that candidates can now access examinations from the comfort of their homes, reflecting the Ministry's

commitment to technology-driven transformation and modernisation.

"I believe we are on the right path. I am encouraged by your readiness to collaborate with



us. Education is a shared responsibility, and together we can achieve even greater results," the Commissioner said.

Senator Odey assured the delegation of the Ministry's full support for any initiative that would add value to the education of children in Cross River State. He

urged the EIDU Group to clearly outline the modalities for collaborations, assuring them that the Ministry would align its structures to ensure smooth partnership and effective implementation.

Earlier, the leader of the delegation and Government Relations Specialist of the EIDU Group, Mr. Ignatius Attah,

commended the remarkable progress recorded in the education sector in Cross River State. He expressed the organisation's interest in supporting the State Government's efforts to strengthen literacy and numeracy at the basic education level.

He explained that



the purpose of the visit was to formally introduce the EIDU Digital Learning Solution, which focuses on improving literacy and numeracy outcomes. He also proposed a fully funded pilot programme that would enable the State Government to assess the group's digital personalised learning model through credible,

real-time data and measurable outcomes.

Mr. Attah further acknowledged the Commissioner's distinct leadership and the Ministry of Education's critical role in setting policy direction and ensuring system-wide coherence. He affirmed that EIDU is committed to aligning fully with the vision of the Ministry and Project

Hope in order to enhance learning outcomes across the State.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with both parties expressing optimism about potential collaborations aimed at strengthening basic education delivery in the State



GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PRESS SECRETARY/SPECIAL ADVISER
MEDIA AND PUBLICITY TO THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE

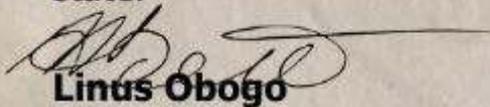
March 4, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

Governor Bassey Edet Otu OTU Appoints Akedo Okoi Edet As Statistician-General Of The State

His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State, has approved the appointment of Mr. Akedo Okoi Edet as Statistician-General of the state. The appointment takes immediate effect and reinforces government's commitment to data-driven governance and excellence.

This strategic appointment underscores the administration's resolve to strengthen statistical systems, enhance evidence-based planning, and deepen transparency in policy formulation. Mr. Edet is expected to deploy his expertise toward advancing data management across the state.



Linus Obogo

Chief Press Secretary and Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to the Governor



Shettima Commends Cross River's Energy Drive, Pledges FG Support

By UK and Ekanem Faith



Nigeria's Vice President, Kashim

Shettima, has praised Cross River State Government for its strategic planning in the energy sector, highlighting the state's vast hydro and renewable energy potential as

a driver for economic growth.

The Vice President, represented by his Senior Special Assistant on Legal, Research, and Compliance Matters, Alhaji Bashir Maidugu, made the remarks while officially declaring

the Energy Cross River Conference and Exhibition 2026 open in Calabar on Monday.

He noted that the state, with its coastal advantage, gas reserves, hydro resources, solar profile, and



industrial ambitions including a deep-sea port and special economic zone initiatives, is well positioned to emerge as a major energy hub in Nigeria and West Africa.



Shettima assured that the Federal Government is ready to collaborate with the state through public and private

partnerships to implement the conference's resolutions. Describing energy as the lifeblood of modern economies,

he reiterated the government's commitment under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to reforms in the petroleum and



power sectors to build a diversified and investor-friendly energy ecosystem.

Earlier, the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Prince Bassey Otu, represented by his deputy, Peter Odey, reaffirmed his administration's commitment to energy security and sustainable economic growth.

He described the conference as a strategic platform to bridge the gap between energy ambitions and practical implementation, emphasizing that energy infrastructure remains central to inclusive development in the state.

Dr. Odey highlighted key achievements, including the

distribution of 10,000 solar home systems to rural communities, with another 10,000 scheduled for rollout this year. He also noted the rehabilitation of substations and the replacement of faulty transformers across the state. Speaking on the conference theme, "Unlocking Cross River Energy Using Sustainable Finance," he



stressed the need to leverage mechanisms such as Green Bonds, ESG investing, and

blended finance to unlock the state's full energy potential. He further assured investors of

a friendly business environment, including streamlined regulations, tax



incentives, and ease of land acquisition.

In his welcome address, the Commissioner for Power, Hon. Eka Williams, highlighted the state's vast energy resources, including abundant sunlight, strong winds, flowing rivers, and solid minerals. He noted that the main challenge is not resource scarcity, but the need for strategic and

sustainable funding. Williams urged stakeholders to adopt innovative financing and sound management practices to reduce investment risks while attracting local and international partners. He assured participants of the government's commitment to providing an enabling environment that fosters efficiency, accountability, and investor confidence.

The conference also featured several paper presentations, including one by Mr. Nzan Ogbe on Raising Sustainable Energy Finance in Nigeria: Prospects and Perspectives, in which he stressed that energy reform is not merely a sectoral adjustment but a foundation for industrial growth, macroeconomic stability, and competitiveness.

National Talent Search: Future Olympian Athletics Classic Rescheduled for Q4 of 2026



The Organizing Committee for the Future Olympian Athletics Classic has announced a strategic rescheduling of the tournament from

the first quarter of 2026 to the last quarter of the year. The shift aims to transform the competition from a regional trial into a comprehensive national event, ensuring

representation from all six geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

In a statement released by project lead Dr. Bruce Ijirigho—the renowned former

Team Nigeria captain and Olympic quarter-miler—the committee emphasized that the extra time is vital for crafting a "national plan."

"Talents abound in every nook and cranny of the country," Ijirigho stated. "We want to give students in every part of the country opportunities to be discovered. With the postponement, we will be able to widen the tent and give all our youth equal opportunity."

The initiative is spearheaded by the Youth Sports Renaissance Foundation (YSRF), a non-profit founded by Nigerian track legends Bruce Ijirigho, Godwin Obasogie, and

Charlton Ehizuelen. Their mission is to revive the "golden era" of secondary school athletics.

Early discovery towards targeting students strictly in High School to identify talent in their early teens, integrating international workshops to transfer modern techniques to local Games Masters and coaches, reviving the culture of sports scholarships and the successful combination of academics and athletics and preparing athletes to become world beaters by their late teens and early twenties.

Dr. Ijirigho noted that the primary hurdle for Nigerian athletics has been the lack of early opportunity and

age-appropriate coaching. By moving to a nationwide format, the YSRF hopes to find the next generation of world-class middle-distance runners, sprinters, and jumpers who currently go unnoticed in underserved regions.

"We have what it takes to dominate athletics in the world," Ijirigho added with optimism. "All we need to do is get our development programme right." The Future Olympian Athletics Classic is now set to kick off in late 2026, marking a major milestone in the effort to return Nigeria to the pinnacle of global track and field.

Federal Government Flags-off World Bank Youth Tech Training in Cross River Institute



The Federal Government has flagged-off a World Bank funded training program for 300 youths in Cross River State, focusing on youth skills development. The Innovation Development and Effectiveness in Acquisition of Skills (IDEAS) program

is being implemented at the Cross River State Teachers Continuous Training Institute (TCTI) Biase.

The program focuses on high-demand tech skills, specifically the maintenance and repair of cellphones and computer

hardware, aiming to bridge the unemployment gap through self-reliance.

Speaking during the official launch on Tuesday, November 24, 2025, Mr. Akintunde Babarinde, a representative of the IDEAS TVET



project office, Abuja, described the initiative as a "lifelong opportunity for self-reliance." According to Babarinde, the trainees will receive starter kits and some form of transport subsidy during the six-month program, including internship attachments with computer and phone outlets to gain real-world experience.

Cross River State Commissioner for Education, Professor Stephen Odey, represented by the Education Secretary for Biase Mr. Victor Ukam Ekpei, said the training fits into the vision of Governor Bassey Otu, prioritizing youth skills development in Cross River State. He praised the TCTI Director-General for being the first to secure the World Bank TVET grant

among other strong competitors.

Professor Taoheed Adedoja, Director-General of TCTI, attributed the success of the project to the collective efforts of the government, resource persons and other stakeholders. "The success of this program will open doors to even more grant opportunities to the State," he



remarked, emphasizing the Institute's role in driving youth-led innovation since its inception.

Presenting the participants before the Minister, Dr. Emmanuel Omini, the Training Project Manager and TCTI's Acting Director of ICT, reported that participants are already showing great mastery in hardware maintenance fundamentals,

since the training commenced full swing on January 12, 2026.

The local community has since embraced the initiative. HRM Obhort Evong Otei, the Traditional Ruler of the Ibogo community, expressed gratitude that many of the trainees were selected from local Biase communities, noting that these youths are the "future of the nation."

"The hands-on training opportunity is better than giving us money," said a trainee during an interactive session, echoing the sentiment of many who see the program as a permanent solution to economic instability.



Heartfelt

— Congratulations —
on

SilverBird

MAN OF THE YEAR



Our Dear Boss

We the privileged **First Eleven** in the College of Commissioners and Members of the Cross River State Executive Council, heartily extend our warmest congratulations to Your Excellency, Senator, Prince (Dr.) Bassey Edet Otu, on being honored with the National Award of SilverBird Man of the Year 2025.

This distinguished recognition is a huge reward for your Passion, visionary leadership, unwavering dedication and the transformative impact of your governance on the people of Cross River State and Nigeria as a whole. Your commitment to **excellence, integrity, and service** has continued to inspire us and set a high standard for public Service. This award not only celebrates your personal achievements but also reflects the collective progress and pride of Cross River State under your esteemed stewardship.

We are deeply honored to serve under your **guidance** and remain steadfast in supporting your vision and mission to advance development, unity, and prosperity in our dear State. We collectively pray that this recognition further strengthens your resolve to achieve even greater milestones in the **years ahead**.

With profound respect and admiration,
The College of Commissioners celebrates Your Excellency!

Congratulations Sir

Signed By:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. CHIEF VICTOR FELIX IDEM | - COMMISSIONER FOR LOCAL GOVT. AFFAIRS | 19. HON. AGNES ANYAMA ATSU | - COMMISSIONER FOR SPORTS DEVELOPMENT |
| 2. SEN. PROF. STEPHEN ODEY | - COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION | 20. HON. DR. ABIGAIL DUKE OROK | - COMMISSIONER FOR COMMERCE |
| 3. DR. EGBE AYUK | - COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH | 21. DR. MRS. HELEN ISAMOH EGODO | - COMMISSIONER FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS |
| 4. DR. ERASMUS EKPANG | - COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION | 22. HON. KINGSLEY N. EGUMI | - COMM. FOR HUMAN CAPITAL & ENTREP. DEVE. |
| 5. DR. MIKE ODERE | - COMMISSIONER FOR FINANCE | 23. HON. OBOL MOSES JOHN OSOGI | - COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENT |
| 6. BARR. EDEDEM ANI | - ATTORNEY GENERAL AND COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE | 24. DR. JUSTIN ATIANG BESHEL | - COMMISSIONER FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY |
| 7. MR. ODEN EWA | - COMM. FOR SPECIAL DUTIES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS | 25. DR. MATHIAS U. ANGIOHA | - COMMISSIONER FOR INDUSTRIES |
| 8. BARR. MENSAH BASSEY | - COMMISSIONER FOR WATER RESOURCES | 26. CAPT. INAH ENO UTUM | - COMMISSIONER FOR AVIATION |
| 9. NTUFAM HON. EFFIOM EKAHA | - COMMISSIONER FOR MINERAL RESOURCES | 27. PASTOR EKPENYONG COBHAM | - COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORTATION |
| 10. MR. JOHNSON A. EBOKPO | - COMM. FOR AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION DEV. | 28. NTUFAM EMMANUEL ANOM | - COMM. FOR LIVESTOCK, AQUACULTURE & FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT |
| 11. CHIEF FRANCIS EKPENYONG | - COMMISSIONER FOR LANDS | 29. HON. PATRICK EGBEDE | - COMM. FOR WEALTH CREATION AND EMPLOYMENT |
| 12. ENGR. PIUS EDET ANKPO | - COMMISSIONER FOR WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE | 30. BARR. ODUM IJOM UKAM | - COMMISSIONER FOR YOUTHS DEVELOPMENT |
| 13. PRINCE EKA WILLIAMS | - COMM. FOR POWER AND RENEWABLE ENERGY | | |
| 14. DR. HIPPOLATUS O. LUKPATA | - COMM. FOR INTERNATIONAL DONOR COORDINATION | | |
| 15. HON. EDEMA IROM | - COMMISSIONER FOR WOMEN AFFAIRS | | |
| 16. BISHOP MARGARET ENE-ITA | - COMM. FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEV. | | |
| 17. HON. LADY MRS LAWRENCIA ITA | - COMM. FOR ESTABLISHMENT, TRAINING AND PENSIONS | | |
| 18. DR. BEATRICE IGWE | - COMMISSIONER FOR HOUSING | | |



MAN OF THE YEAR
AWARDS
2025

SILVERBIRD

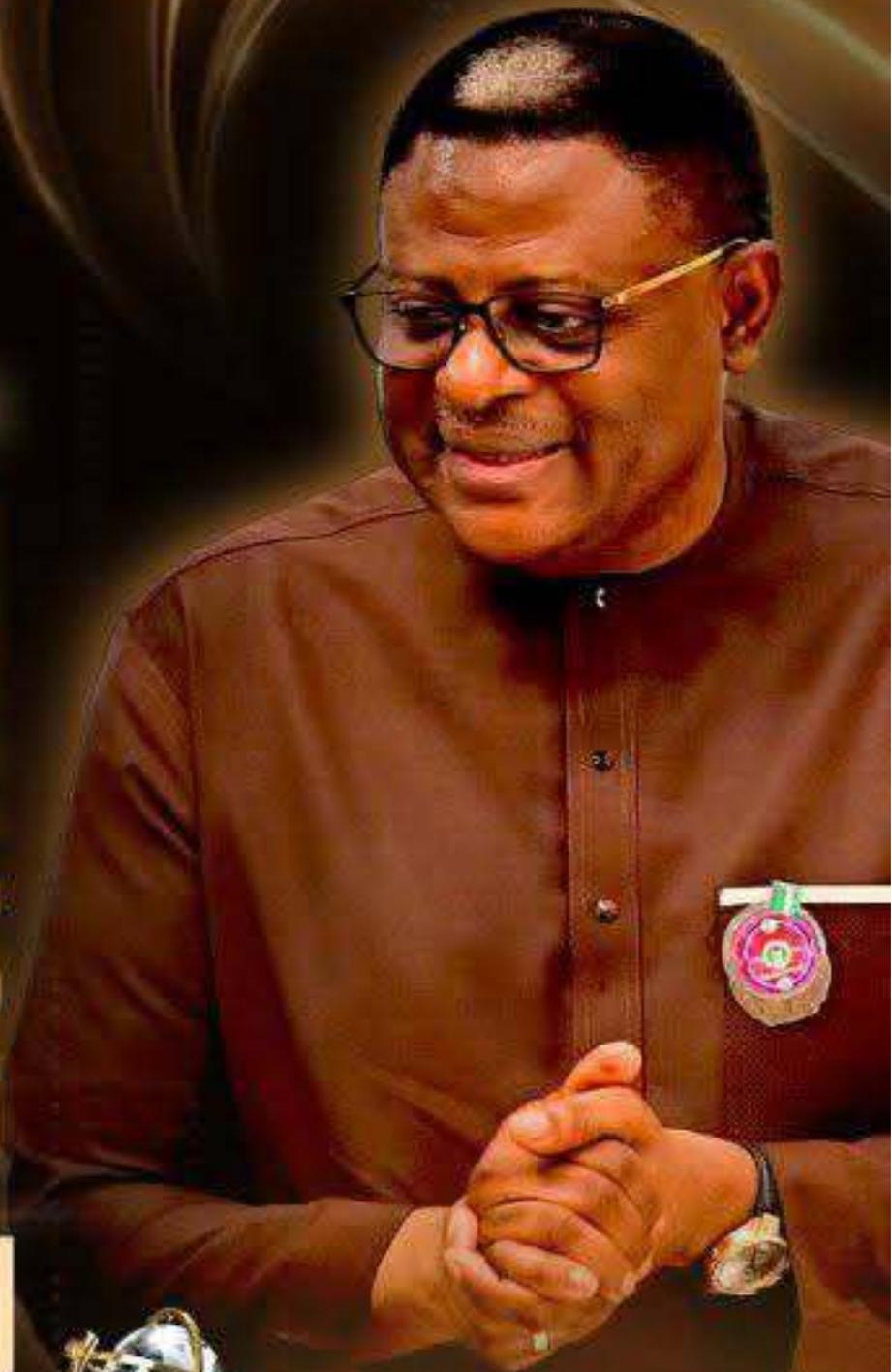
MAN OF THE YEAR

AWARD

 @silverbirdmoty



BASSEY EDET OTU
GOVERNOR OF CROSS RIVER STATE



Ministry of Aviation Celebrates Retired Staff Mr. Jacob Odey

By Daniel Bebia



It was an atmosphere of love and celebration as the Management and Staff of the Cross River State Ministry of Aviation gathered to honour Mr. Jacob Odey, a distinguished staff

member who retired after 35 years of meritorious service.

The event, held at the Permanent Secretary's Office, Calabar was a vibrant mix as Staff and colleagues took turns to pure glowing tributes

reflecting the high esteem in which Mr. Odey is held.

In his opening address, the Honourable Commissioner for Aviation, Capt. Eno Inah (rtd), described Mr. Odey as a pillar of the



Ministry and a repository of institutional memory. He commended his steadfast commitment to the growth of the State, particularly as it concerns procurement processes for which he was in charge.

According to the



Commissioner, Mr. Odey service was marked by diligence and integrity, giving everyone reason for his celebration,

adding they are not just losing a staff member; but bidding farewell to an era of exemplary service.



The Commissioner encouraged him to continue to relate with the Ministry which is a family noting that as a Civil Servant and haven traverse the service and related with people of different backgrounds and Local Government Areas for 35 years

he has increased his family.

"This is also an opportunity for those still serving to know that if you put in your best you will be appropriated. As you leave us it is our prayer that God blesses the you." Inah stated.

The Permanent Secretary, Mrs.

Pauline Odey, expressed gratitude to the veteran for the Civil service of Cross River State. She described him as one of the best hands the service had.

She implore him to remain focused and depend solely on God for the things he could not



achieve while in the service hoping for a greater future for the veteran as he bow out.

Dressed in a traditional attire, a visibly emotional Mr. Jacob Odey in his emotional response, expressed profound gratitude to God and the

Ministry. He stated that he came to the service as a young man full of aspirations, leaving fulfilled and surrounded by people who have become family,

The celebration of Mr. Jacob Odey emphasizes the Ministry of Aviation's

commitment to honouring its dedicated Staff, reinforcing the value love, friendship and fostering a culture of appreciation within the service of Cross River State.

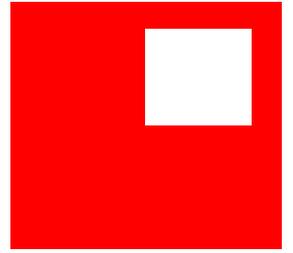














Congratulations
Your Excellency,



SilverBird Man OF THE YEAR 2025

Your Excellency, on behalf of my dear Family, Management and Staff of Ministry of Information, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on your emergence as the recipient of the 2025 SilverBird Man of the Year Award.

This prestigious award which is an exclusive preserve for great performers and high achievers in your class of personages is a true testament to your exceptional leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Your vision, resilience, and tireless efforts have not only inspired those around you but also brought meaningful progress and recognition to our dear Cross River State.

Indeed, this award is therefore a well-deserved acknowledgment of your remarkable contributions, high-level achievements and the positive impact you continue to make in the developmental trajectory of Cross River State in the last two and half years as Governor.

I pray with strong conviction that these achievements would serve as a source of Inspiration and motivation for even greater accomplishments in the years ahead.

With the deepest respect and warm regards, please accept our sincere congratulations Sir.



Erasmus Ekpang, Ph.D,anipr,ftifuh
Commissioner For Information
Cross River State





Felicitations!

■ Celebrating Exemplary Leadership And Distinguished Service

The Honourable Commissioner for Commerce, alongside the Management and entire Staff of the Cross River State Ministry of Commerce, heartily felicitate with **His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Dr. Prince Bassey Edet Otu** on the conferment of the prestigious **Silverbird Man of the Year Award**.

This distinguished honour is a clear testament to Your Excellency's visionary leadership, unwavering commitment to economic transformation, and relentless pursuit of excellence in governance. Under your purposeful administration, Cross River State has continued to witness strategic reforms and bold initiatives that have strengthened commerce, industry, investment promotion, and sustainable economic growth.

Your Excellency's passion for creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive, empowering entrepreneurs, attracting investors, and expanding opportunities for our people has repositioned the State as a competitive

destination for trade and enterprise. This national recognition further affirms the far-reaching impact of your policies and the confidence your leadership inspires across Nigeria.

As a Ministry directly aligned with the economic advancement agenda of this administration, we are proud to be part of this transformative journey and to witness firsthand the results of your dedication, integrity, and progressive vision.

On behalf of the Honourable Commissioner and the entire Management and Staff of the Cross River State Ministry of Commerce, we congratulate Your Excellency on this well-deserved honour and pray for continued wisdom, strength, and greater accomplishments as you steer our dear State to even higher heights.

Congratulations, Your Excellency! Bravo, The People's Governor!



Hon. Mrs. Abigail Duke Orok, Ph.D., JP

Signed:

Honourable Commissioner, Management & Staff
Cross River State Ministry of Commerce



Sights and Scenes from Day one of the 2026 Cross River State Energy Summit, theme, **“Unlocking Cross River’s Energy Using Sustainable Finance,”** holding at Calabar International Convention Center, Calabar.





GOVERNMENT OF
CROSS RIVER STATE



WELCOMES YOU TO

ENERGY CROSS RIVER 2026

UNLOCKING CROSS RIVER'S ENERGY USING SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

H.E. SENATOR
PRINCE BASSEY E. OTU
GOVERNOR, CROSS RIVER STATE

HOST

Meet | Network | Partner | Invest







Congratulations
Your Excellency,

Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu

on your Award of
SilverBird Man
of the Year 2025



Hon Ngim Okpo
DG - Cross River State Border Commission,





Ayade @58:

Otu Celebrates Ex-Governor's Visionary Legacy



Cross River State Governor, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, has extended warm and effusive felicitations to his immediate predecessor, former Governor Ben Ayade, as he marks his 58th birthday, describing him as an erudite scholar, audacious reformer and patriot whose years in office etched indelible footprints on the sands of the state's history.

In a goodwill message

issued by his Chief Press Secretary and Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mr. Linus Obogo, Governor Otu paid glowing tribute to Ayade's eight-year stewardship, characterizing it as a defining chapter in Cross River's contemporary political evolution—one shaped by intellectual vigor, expansive thinking and a resolute determination to recalibrate the state's

developmental trajectory.

"On this radiant milestone of your 58th birthday, I celebrate you as a distinguished statesman whose years of stewardship were marked by uncommon vision and courage," Otu stated.

"Your administration pursued industrial aspiration with clarity of purpose and an abiding faith in the boundless promise of our dear state."

The governor noted that Ayade's tenure was underscored by an unrelenting quest for industrialization, infrastructural renewal and economic diversification, adding that his bold initiatives sparked national conversations about subnational innovation

and the possibilities inherent in visionary leadership.

According to Otu, Ayade brought to governance the discipline of the academy and the daring of a futurist, blending scholarship with statecraft in ways that sought to expand economic frontiers and redefine governance possibilities within Cross River.

The governor also reflected on Ayade's earlier service in the National Assembly, where he represented Cross River with distinction before assuming the mantle of executive leadership. "In the Senate, your voice resonated with clarity and conviction," Otu said.

"You carried with you a wealth of legislative experience, lending insight and intellectual rigor to executive engagement in ways that strengthened democratic

governance."

Governor Otu observed that Ayade's years at the helm of affairs were marked by ambitious developmental blueprints aimed at repositioning Cross River within Nigeria's competitive federal landscape.

He described those years as a period of daring ideas and sweeping visions that challenged conventional limits and invited citizens to imagine a more industrially vibrant future.

"History will remember the audacity of your vision and the courage with which you sought to chart new pathways for industrial growth and innovation," the governor added.

"Your tenure inspired conversations about what becomes possible when leadership is driven by imagination, resilience and resolve."

He further described

Ayade as a leader whose abiding confidence in Cross River's potential continues to inspire political actors and the younger generation, noting that public service anchored on conviction and sacrifice ultimately bequeaths a legacy that transcends seasons and partisanship.

"As you mark this noble ascent in years, I pray that the Almighty grants you renewed vitality, deeper wisdom and abiding fulfillment," adding that "may the years ahead open fresh vistas of service and accomplishment for you, in continued dedication to Cross River State and our great nation."

Four Prosecuted Over Alleged Vandalism of Government Property

By: Kera Okem



The Cross River State Government through the Ministry of Justice has intensified efforts to curb vandalism of public assets, as four separate cases involving alleged destruction and theft of government property are

currently before the courts.

In one of the cases, ten suspects were apprehended on December 17, 2025, at a scrap yard along Ikot Ishie Road in Calabar over alleged possession of vandalized iron beams and metals reportedly removed from the state owned Calachika facility.

Following investigations, nine of the suspects identified as Ugochukwu Peter, Michael Agu, Ogenne Isreal, Mohammed Ibrahim Aliya, Abubakar Danladi, Abubakar Sanusi, Meshike Unana, Adama Musa and Abdullahi Aruna Musa were found to be truck drivers, motor

boys, loaders and a visitor with no connection to the alleged crime.

However, one suspect, Nweke Emmanuel Chikwado, was linked to the offence. In a court opinion dated January 5, 2026, it was recommended that he be charged with Breaking and Entering, Malicious Damage to Property, and Stealing, contrary to the Criminal Code Laws of Cross River State. He was arraigned on January 21, 2026, where he pleaded not guilty to the three count charge. The matter was adjourned to February 23, 2026, but proceedings could not continue due to the ongoing strike by magistrates. The case is being

prosecuted by Justina Ogban, Esq.

In a related development, Mr. Sunday Ezekiel Otubo was arrested on December 18, 2025, by the Anti-Vandal Team of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps during a routine patrol along Lemna in Calabar Municipal. He was allegedly found in possession of stolen items belonging to the Cross River State Calachika Poultry Farm located in Adiabo Community, Odukpani Local Government Area.

Otubo was subsequently arraigned before a Magistrate Court on charges of Breaking and

Entering, Malicious Damage and Stealing. The matter, initially fixed for hearing on January 16, 2026, could not proceed due to the magistrates' strike. Counsel for both parties have agreed to continue proceedings on March 11, 2026. The case is being handled by L. O. Asuquo, Esq.

Similarly, another case involving the alleged vandalism of solar street lights and panels at Ikot Abasi Obori Street, Calabar, was brought before the court. The defendant, Michael Inyang, is accused of coordinating and directing the vandalism. Legal advice recommending his

prosecution was issued, and he was arraigned in January 2026, where he pleaded not guilty. The case was adjourned to February 9, 2026, but was stalled due to the strike action. Following this development, the Honourable Attorney General of Cross River State Ededem C. Ani Esq. directed that the matter be transferred to the High Court for trial.

In yet another incident, Emmanuel Ufefe Peter was charged with breaking into and vandalizing public property at the Cross River State School of Nursing Sciences, Moore Road, Calabar. The items allegedly damaged include ceiling fans, air conditioners and aluminum window

frames.

He was arraigned on January 21, 2026, and pleaded guilty to the charge of breaking and entering. The court subsequently remanded him at the Nigerian Correctional Centre, Calabar. The case, earlier adjourned to February 2026, was further shifted to March 5, 2026, due to the magistrates' strike.

The cases underscore the state government's determination to protect public infrastructure and hold accountable individuals found culpable of vandalism and theft of government property.



Government of Cross River State, Nigeria

23rd February, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

SUSPENSION OF ALL SCRAP-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN CROSS RIVER STATE

The Cross River State Government expresses grave concern over the alarming rise in vandalism, theft, and the destruction of public infrastructure and private property across Cross River State. Critical assets, including public utilities, road installations, and essential community facilities, have been deliberately targeted, resulting in service disruptions, economic losses, and heightened threats to public safety.

Investigations and security reports have established a direct nexus between these destructive acts and the activities of scrap dealers, scavengers, and their agents operating within the State.

Given the urgency and severity of the situation, His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Bassey Otu, has directed the immediate review of all laws, policies, and regulatory frameworks governing scrap-related activities in the State and as an urgent interim measure to halt further damage, restore order, and safeguard State and private assets, His Excellency has further approved the immediate suspension of all scrap-related activities in Cross River State for an initial period of 6 (six) months.

This suspension applies comprehensively to all forms of scrap dealing, including but not limited to trading, scavenging, transportation, and any related operations within, into, or out of the State. Any individual, group, or entity found in violation of this directive shall be dealt with in accordance with the law and

 **Office of the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice Cross River State**

 Ministry of Justice, New Secretariat Complex,
Murtala Mohammed Highway, Calabar

 Attorneygeneral@crossriverstate.gov.ng
 www.crossriverstate.gov.ng

shall face the full force of legal sanctions. All law enforcement bodies and relevant security agencies are hereby mandated to ensure strict compliance and enforcement without exception.

The Cross River State Government remains resolute in its duty to protect public infrastructure, defend private property, and ensure that residents feel safe and secure. These measures are necessary to prevent further sabotage of critical assets and to maintain public confidence.

The full cooperation of all residents, stakeholders, and lawful business operators is expected and appreciated.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form the name 'Ededem Charles Ani'.

Ededem Charles Ani, Esq.
Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice

Transport Ministry Celebrates Director of Administration at Retirement

By Irene Bassey



In a ceremony filled with deep admiration and heartfelt tributes, the Ministry of Transportation on Friday in Calabar, celebrated the retirement of its esteemed Director

of Administration, Elder Mrs. Ansa Willie Etim, marking the end of a distinguished 35-year career in public service.

The event served as a powerful

testament to Mrs. Etim's unwavering dedication and profound impact on the state's administrative machinery.

The Honourable Commissioner for



person and I am not given to frivolities. If you were not productive, my attitude would let you know. Today, the entire Ministry have gathered to tell the world you are a good woman. I pray the Lord to give you His Grace in all your endeavours. whatever your hands touch, it shall be fruitful," he added.

Transportation, Hon. Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham, lauded Elder Mrs. Etim as a pillar of strength and a beacon of selfless service, describing her as the bedrock of administrative efficiency in this Ministry.

He emphasized how her diligence and unwavering

commitment were not merely personal attributes but vital forces that propelled the Ministry to achieve significant administrative milestones.

"Today, I celebrate fruitfulness, I celebrate dedication, I celebrate productivity. I am a very deliberate

Commissioner Cobham urged Mrs. Etim to remain a guiding presence in the Ministry by always keeping in touch with the staff she worked with.

The sentiment of respect and admiration was echoed by other key functionaries present.



The Commissioner for Women Affairs, Mrs. Edema A. Irom, who graced the occasion, spoke glowingly of Mrs. Etim.

"Everywhere you turn today, the narrative is the same: Elder Mrs. Ansa Willie Etim is a woman of exceptional character and

service," Mrs. Irom stated, highlighting the widespread positive reputation of the retiree.

Recognizing Mrs. Etim's dedication



to service, Mrs. Iron extended a personal invitation to her, that as she is stepping away from civil service, the Ministry of Women Affairs warmly welcomes her to consider active politics.

"I like celebrating hardworking women, Cross River State needs selfless women like you to lead and inspire." She said.

Dr. Gabriel Ukwada, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transportation, provided further insight into Mrs. Etim's character, recounting her steadfast humility and impactful contributions.

His words painted a picture of a dedicated professional who consistently prioritized the smooth functioning

of the Ministry.

Responding to the outpouring of accolades, Elder Mrs. Ansa Willie Etim expressed profound gratitude.

"I thank God for His grace that has enabled me to serve the Cross River State Government for 35 years," she began, her voice filled with emotion.

She specifically thanked Commissioner Ekpenyong Cobham for the "distinguished occasion and all his kindness," noting his "easy accessibility and availability" as particularly impactful during her tenure.

Her appreciation extended to the Commissioner for Women Affairs and other dignitaries present.

Also, Permanent Secretary and staff of the Ministry of Transportation, for creating an accommodating and peaceful atmosphere at work.

She pledged, "I will always identify with this Ministry in whatever way I am needed."

The highlight of the well-attended event, which saw dignitaries including Mr. Linus Obogo, Chief Press Secretary and Special Adviser, Media and Publicity to the Governor of Cross River State; the representative of the Head of Service; Director Generals, Permanent Secretaries, and Directors of Administration from other MDAs, was the presentation of a retirement gift by the Commissioner, Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham on behalf of the Ministry.

This gesture symbolized the collective appreciation for Mrs. Etim's years of loyal and dedicated service. The celebration which included

moments of joyful retirement dance and musical interludes, was a fitting tribute to a woman whose legacy is etched in the administrative integrity and operational success of the Ministry of Transportation, and indeed, across Cross River State.

As Elder Mrs. Ansa Willie Etim embarks on this new phase of life, she leaves behind a powerful example of dedication, humility, and impactful public service.

DG BorderCom Congratulates Governor Otu on Silverbird Man of the Year Award



The Director General of the Cross River State Border Commission, Hon Ngim Okpo, has extended his profound congratulations to Senator Bassey Edet Otu, on his

emergence as the 2025 Silverbird Man of the Year.

In a statement, signed by the DG on behalf of Management and staff, the Commission described the

governor's recognition as a national validation of his "People First" philosophy, noting that true leadership is not merely about holding office but about transforming the collective



destiny of citizens through integrity and sacrificial service.

“This prestigious award by the Silverbird Group is a testament to the fact that hard work is the architect of fortune, and dedication is the bridge between vision and its realization,” the statement read.

The Commission

further praised Governor Otu’s administration for weaving a new tapestry of development across the state’s borders and communities, fostering peace, progress, and shared humanity.

They wished him continued wisdom, strength, and success as he pilots the affairs of Cross River State, expressing hope

that his “Season of Sweetness” agenda will yield prosperity for all citizens.

“May your light continue to shine as a guide for others to follow. Congratulations, Your Excellency,” the message concluded.

Head of Service Chides Civil Servant At 2nd Fitness and Medical Checks Exercise

By: Kera Okem



The second edition of the monthly Aerobics Training and Medical Check Programme for civil and public servants was successfully held

with an impressive turnout and renewed enthusiasm from participants.

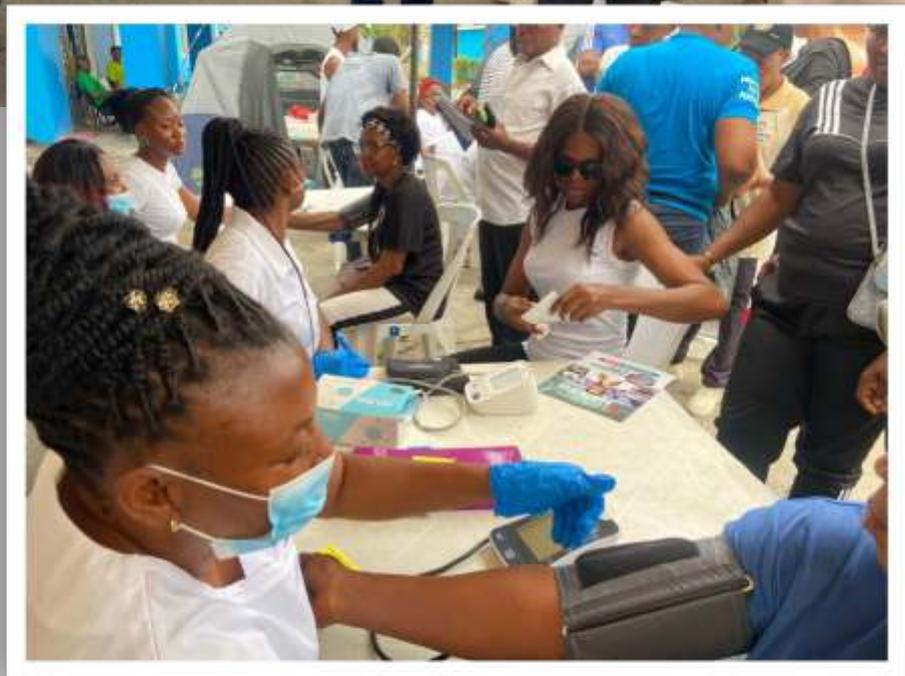
The exercise, which took place at the iconic U J Esuene

Stadium, brought together workers from various Ministries, Departments and Agencies who gathered in the early hours of the morning to



promote physical fitness and preventive healthcare.

The session commenced with energizing aerobics routines led by professional instructors, focusing on flexibility, cardiovascular endurance, and strength building. Participants engaged in a series of



coordinated movements, stretches, and light drills designed to improve overall wellbeing and reduce work-related stress.

The Head of service, Barr. Orok Basse Okon encouraged all civil servants who are yet to participate to join subsequent



editions and take advantage of the free health screenings and guided fitness sessions.

According to him, the Monthly Aerobics and Medical Check Programme continues to serve as a proactive step towards building a healthier

workforce and fostering a culture of wellness within the public service.

Also Speaking, the permanent secretary Service welfare office, Dr. Mrs. Mary-Theresa Agede Abe, expressed satisfaction with the increasing participation and reiterated the

importance of sustaining the initiative as part of efforts to improve productivity and reduce health related absenteeism in the public service.

Preceding the workout session, medical personnel conducted basic healthcare screenings,



including blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests, hyperthitis assessments, and general health consultations. The medical team also offered lifestyle advice, encouraging

participants to adopt healthier habits and maintain regular exercise routines.

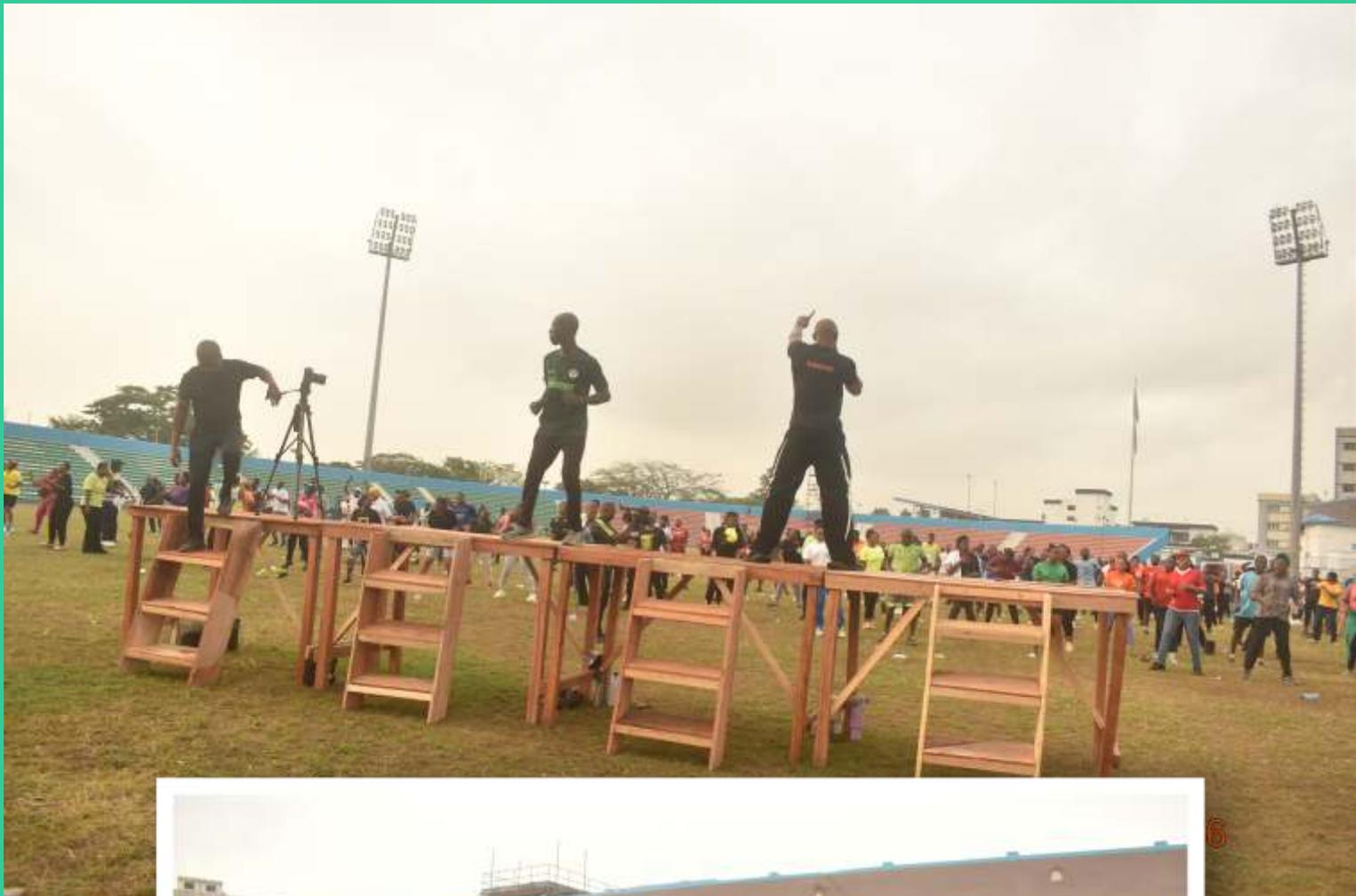
Many participants described the programme as refreshing and impactful, noting

that beyond physical fitness, it has strengthened unity and camaraderie among colleagues across different offices.



02.27.2026.02:51





TCF Vision Solicits Support To Expand Eye Clinic

By Benedict Okache



The Mission for Vision Eye Centre operating under the auspices of the Tulsu Chanrai Foundation has appealed to the Cross River State Government to

intervene in their equipment and Infrastructural needs to enable them to expand and upgrade the current Eye Clinic to a full Eye Hospital.

Speaking during a

courtesy visit to the Honourable Commissioner for Information, Cross River State, Dr Erasmus Ekpang, in his office in Calabar, the Programme Manager of



Mission for Vision, Tulsi Chanrai Foundation, Mr Richard Silvestre, said the appeal for support is predicated on the huge turn out of Eye Patients from across the Eighteen Local Government Areas of the State as well as from South-South and South East

State, emphasizing available facilities are already over stretched.

"Currently, we are daily inundated with one eye challenge to another. In a week, we attend to over five hundred patients, including referrals, Mr Sylvester pointed out, adding that there is an urgent need for expansion.

"One of our biggest problem is Power supply which is not regular. The small generator we rely on for alternative power source can only carry lighting points. It can not our testing machines and Air Conditioners which are very critical to our operations", the



Mission for Vision Programme Manager quipped

Mr Richard Silvestre lauded Governor Bassey Edet Otu for placing high premium on health matters, acknowledging the Governor's intervention through the Commissioner for

Lands and the office of the Surveyor General of the State saved them from been thrown out of their current residence provided during the Governor Donald Duke led administration who brought the Foundation into the State.

He urged the State

Government to expedite action in the renovation of the newly allocated residential accommodation, stressing that they have living at the mercy of a former Commissioner for Health who has continued to extend the quit notices.



In his remarks, the Cross River State Commissioner for Information, Dr Erasmus Ekpang commended the Mission for Vision Programme in the State, noting that over the last twenty years, they have touched the lives of many families, assuring Governor Otu is

a passionate advocate for health and a healthy society.

Dr Ekpang said the Mission for Vision initiatives is one which Governor Otu will never hesitate to work with, promising to interface with the Commissioner for Health, Dr Egbe Syuk, under whose

purview the matter directly under.

The Information Commissioner applauded the Mission for Vision team, stating that they will work together to initiate an outreach in his constituency for the benefits of those with eye problems.

Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk
Honourable Commissioner for
Health, Cross River State



A Healthy State Celebrates a Visionary Leader



**CONGRATULATIONS
HIS EXCELLENCY
SENATOR BASSEY EDET OTU,
SILVERBIRD MAN OF THE YEAR**

On behalf of the Ministry of Health and the entire healthcare workforce of Cross River State, I, warmly congratulate our People-First Governor, His Excellency, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, on his well-deserved emergence as the Silverbird Man of the Year.

Your recognition is a testament to the 'Season of Sweetness' you have ushered into every sector, including healthcare.

By prioritizing the life and well-being of every Cross Riverian, you have shown that true leadership is about service to humanity. This award is indeed a 'mandate for greater service,' and we stand ready to support your vision for a healthier, more productive State.





Congratulations to our 'Man of the Year'.



I join millions of Cross Riverians to celebrate our Governor, His Excellency, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, on his prestigious Silverbird Man of the Year Award.

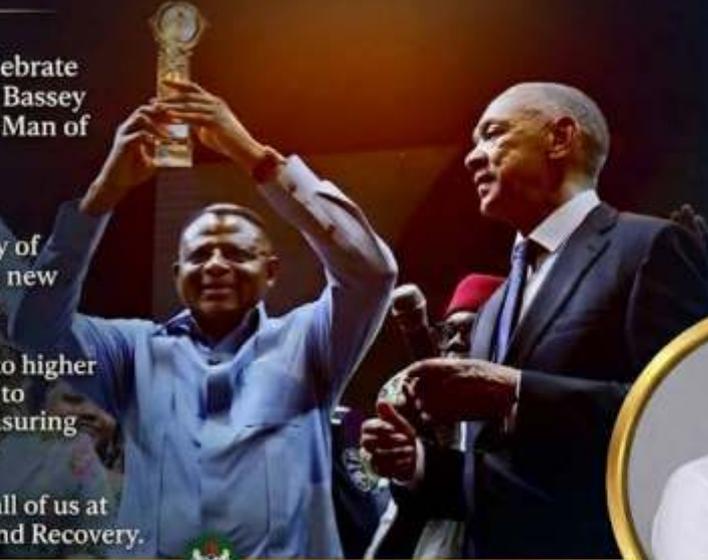
Your Excellency, your commitment to transparency and the strategic recovery of our collective commonwealth has set a new benchmark for accountability in Nigeria.

As you rightly noted, this honor is a call to higher duty. We are inspired by your dedication to securing the assets of our people and ensuring that the 'Season of Sweetness' remains a

Congratulations, Your Excellency, from all of us at the Department of Asset Management and Recovery.

Barr. Gilbert Agbor

Special Adviser to the Governor on Asset Management and Recovery



A Golden Award for the Architect of the "Season of Sweetness"

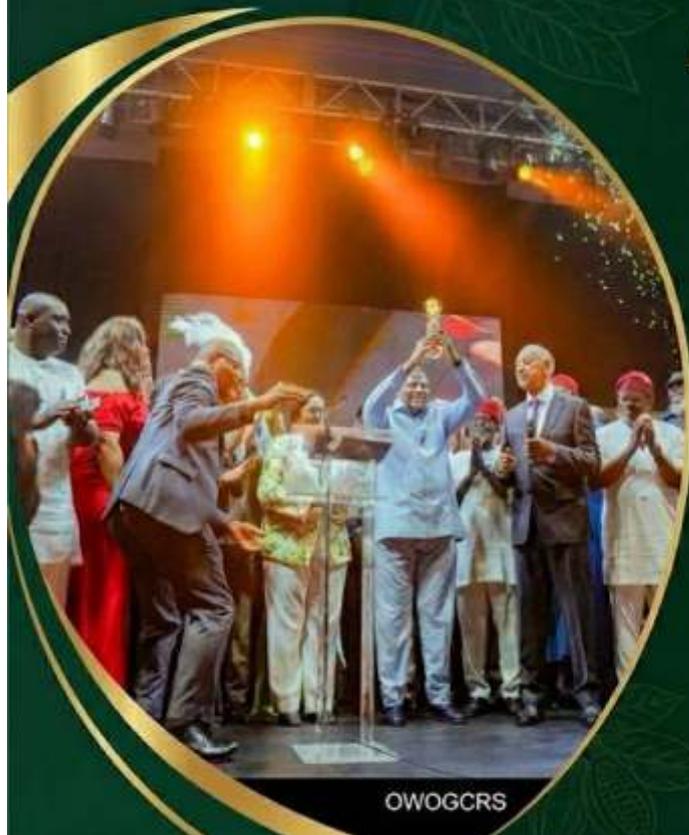
"The Cross River State Cocoa Allocation Committee, led by the Chairman, Mr. Cosmas Ebori Nku, heartily congratulates our Governor, **His Excellency, Senator Bassey Edet Otu**, on his decoration as the Silverbird Man of the Year.

This award validates your bold assertion that Cross River is Nigeria's premier destination for investment and productivity.

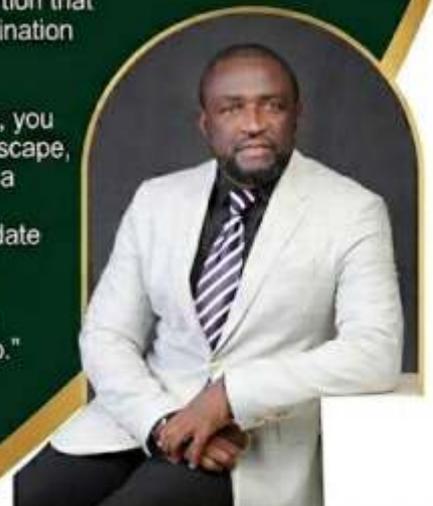
Through your 'People First' mandate, you have revitalized our agricultural landscape, giving our farmers and stakeholders a reason to smile again. We celebrate this 'Mandate for Greater Service' and pledge our continued commitment to making Cross River the cocoa capital of the nation under your visionary leadership."

Cosmas Ebori Nku

Chairman, Cross River State
Cocoa Allocation Committee



OWOGCRS



C'River, Kano States Set National Benchmark for WASH Reforms

By Nakanda Iyadim



Cross River and Kano States have emerged as the primary blueprints for Nigeria's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector.

In a three-day advocacy workshop in Abuja hosted by the Women

Environmental Programme (WEP), stakeholders highlighted these States as essential models for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 (universal access to water and sanitation) by 2030, calling emulation.

Speaking during the

event, Senior WASH Advisor at Self Help Africa, John Wali, labeled the two States "model performers."

He credited their success to three specific pillars of reform including Legislation which Cross River recently enacted



the Water Supply and Sanitation Law No. 5 of 2025, providing a solid legal framework for progress.

She listed another pillar to be Policy & Funding which he noted that the launch of a comprehensive State WASH policy, coupled with the consistent release of counterpart funding, has drastically improved infrastructure and service delivery.

Kano State was praised for strengthening

advocacy structures, making it a "pace-setter" for sub-national reform.

"Cross River stands out because its laws are backed by funding and high-level political will. This is the formula for sustainable reform," Wali explained.

To meet the 2030 deadline, experts are urging the remaining states and the FCT to replicate this "Cross River/Kano Model" by enacting enabling laws and clear policies, ensuring the timely

release of counterpart funds and supporting functional, community-led advocacy platforms.

Also speaking, Founder of WEP, Priscilla Achakpa, emphasized that community ownership and accountability are the final pieces of the puzzle.

At the end of the workshop stakeholders appointed new advocacy leads and deputies for both state chapters to ensure these reforms remain a permanent fixture of local governance rather than a temporary trend.



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>



16th February, 2026

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

Akiba .E. Akiba

Chairman,

Cross River State Planning & Dev. Control





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

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

Date: 11th February, 2026

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

CROSS RIVER STATE PLANNING COMMISSION CIRCULAR NO. 3/2026

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

This circular takes immediate effect.

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



Dr. Bong Duke

Vice Chairman/CEO

Cross River State Planning Commission



**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**
OBUBRA - CROSS RIVER STATE
Shaping Leaders for Sustainable Development

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
OBUBRA
CROSS RIVER STATE

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

Purchase of Admission Forms

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

Available Programmes

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

Certificate Programmes

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

Requirements for Obtaining Admission Form

Prospective Applicants are kindly requested to visit the College website at www.castobubra.ng/requirements to peruse admission requirements before completing the application form

Contact Lines

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

Technical Support: +234 812-393-4461

Email: enquires@castobubra.ng

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

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

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

Connect with us on our Social Communities     @castobubra

Extension of Early Bird Registration – NPRW 2026

Dear **Professional** Colleagues,

Following the overwhelming number of requests received by the National Planning Committee from various chapters across Nigeria regarding an extension of the Early Bird registration deadline, we are pleased to announce that a one-week extension has been approved.

We encourage all members who are yet to complete their registration to take advantage of this additional opportunity.

Please note that the new deadline for Early Bird registration is midnight, 8th March 2026.

We look forward to your active participation.

National Planning Committee NPRW 2026



NPRW
Nigeria Public Relations Week
Croc City 2026
April 19-25th

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

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

REGISTRATION FEES:

NIPR MEMBERS:	EARLY BIRD: N95,000 <small>1ST DECEMBER 2025 - 20TH FEBRUARY 2026</small>	NON NIPR MEMBERS:	EARLY BIRD: N135,000 <small>1ST DECEMBER 2025 - 20TH FEBRUARY 2026</small>
NIPR MEMBERS:	REGULAR: N120,000 <small>1ST MARCH - 10TH APRIL 2026</small>	NON NIPR MEMBERS:	REGULAR: N170,000 <small>1ST MARCH - 10TH APRIL 2026</small>
NIPR MEMBERS:	LATE REGISTRATION: N170,000 <small>11TH - 18TH APRIL 2026</small>	NON NIPR MEMBERS:	LATE REGISTRATION: N200,000 <small>11TH - 18TH APRIL 2026</small>

Scan me

0803 253 8883
08022229908

www.nprweek.org.ng | partnerships@nprweek.org.ng
victoria@nprweek.org.ng

#nprofficial | @nprofficialpage

Nigerian Institute of Public Relations
National has approved a 20% discount for WPRF registration for those who register for NPRW



NPRW
Nigeria Public Relations Week
Croc City 2026
April 19-25th

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

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

REGISTRATION FEES:

NIPR MEMBERS:	EARLY BIRD: N95,000 <small>1ST DECEMBER 2025 - 20TH FEBRUARY 2026</small>	NON NIPR MEMBERS:	EARLY BIRD: N135,000 <small>1ST DECEMBER 2025 - 20TH FEBRUARY 2026</small>
NIPR MEMBERS:	REGULAR: N120,000 <small>1ST MARCH - 10TH APRIL 2026</small>	NON NIPR MEMBERS:	REGULAR: N170,000 <small>1ST MARCH - 10TH APRIL 2026</small>
NIPR MEMBERS:	LATE REGISTRATION: N170,000 <small>11TH - 18TH APRIL 2026</small>	NON NIPR MEMBERS:	LATE REGISTRATION: N200,000 <small>11TH - 18TH APRIL 2026</small>

Scan me

0803 253 8883
08022229908

www.nprweek.org.ng | partnerships@nprweek.org.ng
victoria@nprweek.org.ng

#nprofficial | @nprofficialpage

Nigerian Institute of Public Relations
National has approved a 20% discount for WPRF registration for those who register for NPRW



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>

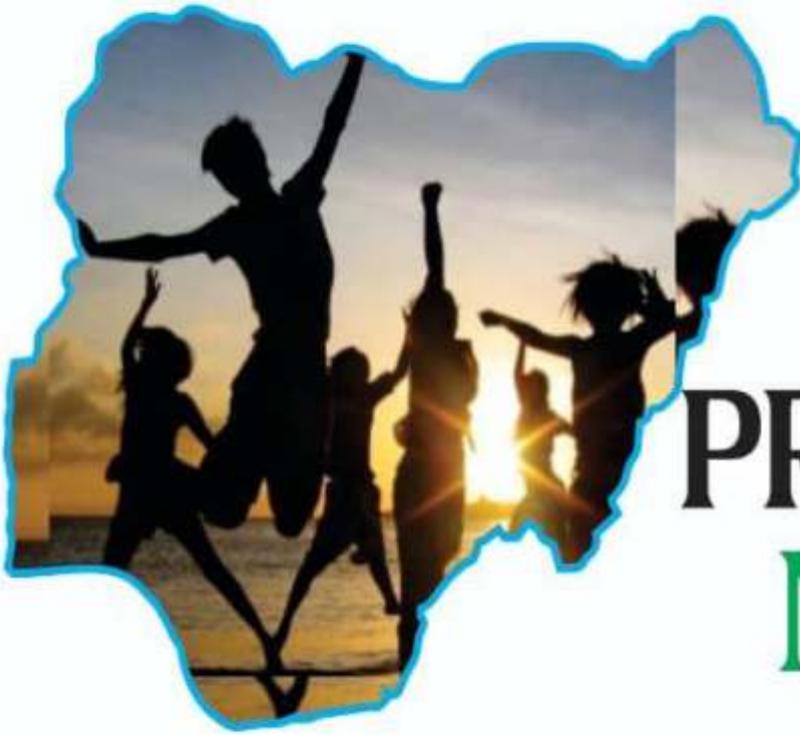
Tiktok: https://www.tiktok.com/@pgf_2023

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

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



PGF VALUE REORIENTATION CAMPAIGN



POSITIVE YOUTH, PRODUCTIVE NIGERIA.

For more information:

Website: www.pgf.ng

E-mail: info@pgf.ng

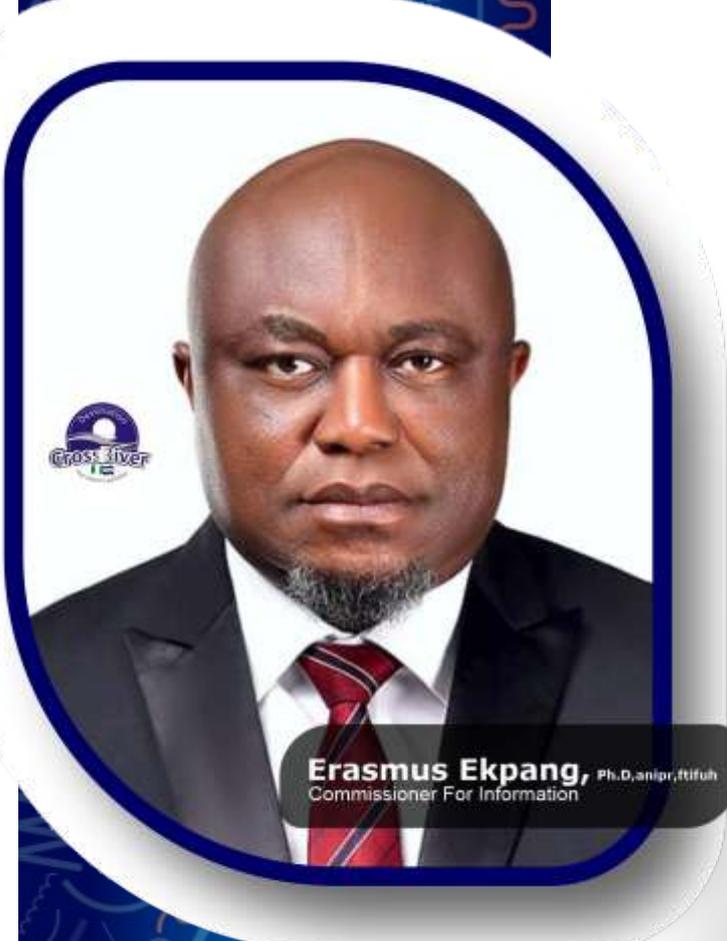
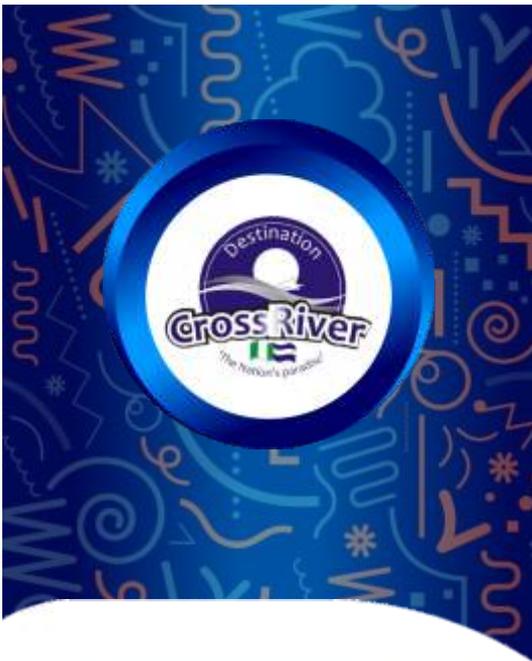
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pgfnigeria/>

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

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

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

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



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



Join the
APC PARTY
MEMBERSHIP

E-Registration Exercise

TO BE A CARD CARRYING MEMBER OF OUR PARTY

Requirements:

Must be 18+

Must Have Valid NIN

Old members MUST Revalidate their MEMBERSHIP

Be A Part Of The Winning Party



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

HEAD OF SERVICE CIRCULAR NO. 1/2026

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

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

The exercise is aimed at:

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

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

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

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

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


Orók Bassey Oken
Head of Service





Indiscriminate

BUSH

BURNING

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

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

CRSEMA

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

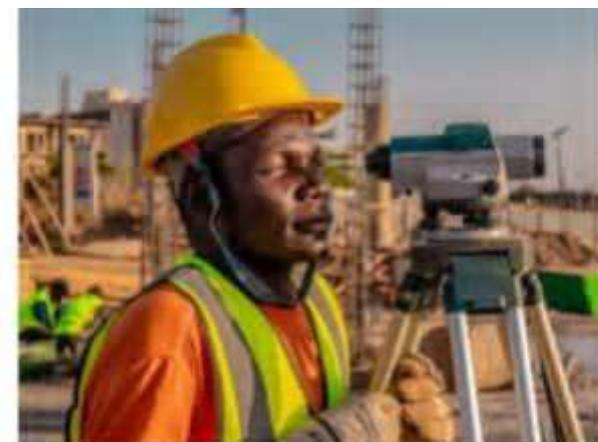


Ministry of Information
Cross River State

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.*

📱📺📷 @inecnigeria

**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— FRSC —

CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND