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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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MANAGEMENT

Commissioner for Information

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

Permanent Secretary
Emmanuel Egban

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

State Director of Information

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

Nakanda Iyadim **Editor**

Esther Okoi **Production Editor**

SUB-EDITORS

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

ICT/PRODUCTION MANAGER

Uno Hinang-ovai

PHOTOGRAPHS

Daniel Williams
Joe Alah

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crossriverinfo@yahoo.com



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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.

Governor Basseyy Otu Hails Ochalla's Elevation to DIG as Triumph of Merit, Excellence



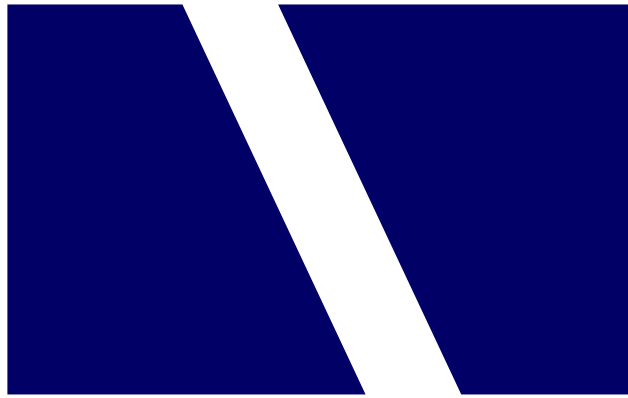
Cross River State governor, Senator Basseyy Otu, has applauded Margaret Ochalla on her elevation to the rank of Deputy Inspector-General of Police, describing the promotion as richly deserved and emblematic

of excellence in service.

In a statement released by his Chief Press Secretary and Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mr. Linus Obogo, Governor Otu expressed profound delight and a swelling sense of pride in

her appointment, noting that her rise reflects years of diligence and sacrifice within the force.

“This distinguished honour is a brilliant testament to her steadfast commitment, refined discipline, and tireless



industry," Otu said, adding that Ochalla's career has been marked by "uncommon dedication to duty and an enduring devotion to national service."

He further noted that her achievements have "etched her name in gold within the annals of exemplary service," underscoring the significance of her elevation not only to the police institution but to the nation at large.

Governor Otu also described her ascent as a

moment of collective pride for Cross River State, stating that "her graceful rise stands as a beacon of inspiration to our people and a crowning glory for the state."

Expressing confidence in her capacity to excel in her new role, the Governor said: "As she mounts this higher pedestal of responsibility, I am confident she will continue to embody integrity with uncommon brilliance and lead with wisdom."

He emphasized that her leadership would further

strengthen the ideals of modern policing, noting that she is well-positioned to "advance the noblest principles of professionalism, discipline, and service within the force."

Otu wished her continued success, expressing hope that "this new chapter will unfurl even greater triumphs, enduring impact, and a legacy of excellence that will resonate for generations."

'Give to Gain': Bishop Otu Sets Tone for Women's Progress at IWD

By Esther Okoi



The Wife of the Cross River State Governor, Bishop Eyoanwan Bassey Otu, has set the tone for women's progress by emphasizing that selflessness and the willingness to uplift others remain the true pathways to

growth and development.

She made this known during the 2026 International Women's Day celebration in the state, which featured a "Women's March" and a grand gathering of

women from different walks of life at the Ministry of Women Affairs in Calabar.

Represented by her Special Adviser on Programmes, Apostle Queen Eton, the Governor's wife described this



year's theme, "Give to Gain," as transformative, noting that it challenges conventional approaches to leadership, growth, and community development.

According to her, meaningful progress can only be achieved when individuals and communities create



opportunities that extend beyond themselves.

"Cross River State remains committed to advancing the cause of women through targeted

programmes in education, healthcare, economic empowerment, and social protection. Real change happens when we come



together with a shared vision," she said.

She further encouraged women to invest in themselves and recognize their worth, stressing that their contributions to society are invaluable.

"You are powerful beyond measure. Your potential is limitless. Do not

underestimate the impact of your actions. Let us continue to work hand in hand, guided by the principle that when we give, we truly gain," she advised.

In her welcome remarks, the Commissioner for Women Affairs, Mrs. Edema Irom, noted that the theme underscores the need for sacrifice and

mutual support among women, urging them to give not necessarily out of abundance, but to make a difference.

She also called on women aspiring for elective positions to step forward and mobilize support, highlighting the role of the Cross River State Women Lobby



Group in supporting female leadership.

Goodwill messages from the Commissioner for Social Welfare, Archbishop Margaret Ene Ita, and the Commissioner for Commerce, Hon. Abigail Duke, reinforced the importance of unity and purposeful

engagement, urging women to pursue leadership through collaboration and shared vision.

Also speaking, the wife of the Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Mrs. Nelly Ayambem, described women as resilient trailblazers and key drivers of societal

development, calling for stronger support systems among women.

Representing development partners, Mr. Richard Ballantyne of the UNHCR commended women for their contributions to national development and emphasized the



need for inclusive leadership that accommodates women, including those living with disabilities.

As part of activities marking the day, the Director General

of the Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr. Vivien Mesembe Otu, delivered a health talk on stress management, encouraging women to adopt

healthy lifestyles through exercise, proper nutrition, adequate rest, and seeking support when necessary.

In a financial empowerment session, the



National Pension Commission (PenCom), represented by Mr. Edward Ekpenyong on behalf of the Director General, Ms. Omolola Oloworaran, sensitized women, especially those in the informal sector, on the benefits of the Personal Pension Plan.



He urged women to embrace the “save small today, gain big tomorrow” initiative, noting that flexible contributions can guarantee financial security in old age and provide support during emergencies.

The event also featured a tuberculosis awareness talk by the State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, alongside other side attractions.



House of Assembly Suspends Four Akpabuyo Legislators Over Gross Misconduct



The Cross River State House of Assembly has taken decisive action against four members of the Akpabuyo Legislative Council, suspending them for 90 days effective March 31, 2026.

The suspended lawmakers are Hon. Innocent

Meukpa, Hon. Patrick Eyo Elim, Hon. Bassey Effiom Edem, and Hon. Tete Oyoyo Ubene.

The suspension according to a press statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker, Mr Matthew Okache, stems from allegations of gross misconduct, though

specific details remain unclear. This move underscores the Assembly's commitment to accountability and good governance.

The suspension leaves the affected wards without representation for the next 90 days.

Ayuk Urges Women to Lead Fight Against Tuberculosis at IWD Celebration

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, has called on women to take a frontline role in the fight against tuberculosis and other public health

challenges, emphasizing early detection and prompt reporting of symptoms.

Dr. Ayuk made the call during a pep talk at the 2026 International Women's Day

celebration held on Tuesday at the premises of the Ministry of Women Affairs in Calabar.

Addressing participants, the Commissioner stressed the importance of

vigilance within homes and communities, urging women to promptly report suspected cases of tuberculosis to the nearest health facility.

He explained that persistent coughing or sneezing lasting more than two weeks should be treated as warning signs, noting that early intervention can prevent the disease from becoming fatal.

“Tuberculosis remains a major public health concern. If left untreated, it can be deadly. But the good news is that it is treatable when detected early. There is no reason anyone should die from a disease that can be easily managed,” he said.



Dr. Ayuk further highlighted the strong link between tuberculosis and HIV, revealing that a significant number of HIV-related deaths are due to tuberculosis complications.

He urged women to be proactive in safeguarding the health of their families, noting that they are often the closest caregivers and first responders within households.

According to him, women do not need to seek permission before reporting health concerns, especially when they observe unusual symptoms in their spouses, children, or neighbours.

The Commissioner also underscored the broader role of women in achieving global health targets, particularly the



elimination of communicable diseases by 2030.

“If we undermine the role of women in healthcare, we may never achieve the 2030 target for disease elimination. Women are central to prevention, detection, and care,” he stated.

He commended the Wife of the Governor and Governor Bassey Otu for their commitment to improving the health sector in the state, noting that significant progress has been made since 2023.

Dr. Ayuk concluded by encouraging women to remain

health-conscious and actively support government efforts aimed at promoting public health and saving lives.

Cross River Inaugurates Committee to Audit Transport Unions, Curb Illegal Operations

By Irene Bassey



The Cross River State Ministry of Transportation has inaugurated a high-powered committee to verify and authenticate the

registration documents of all transport associations and trade unions operating in the state.

The committee was

inaugurated by the Commissioner for Transportation, Hon. Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham, during a brief ceremony held at his office in Calabar.



Designed to carry out a comprehensive forensic audit of the transport subsector, the committee comprises seasoned technocrats and legal experts tasked with restoring order and accountability within the system.



Members of the committee include the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr. Gabriel Ogbaji Ukwada; the Executive Secretary of the Cross River State Traffic Regulation Agency (CTRA), Barr. Roseline Inameti; the Director of Administration, Traffic Management and Revenue Agency (TRAMRA), Mr.

Ogu James Ogu; and the Director of Procurement in the Ministry, Mr. Paul Ushie.

Speaking at the inauguration, Pastor Cobham stressed the urgency of the exercise, noting that the transport subsector had become flooded with entities operating outside the law.

"It is necessary to set up this

committee because there are associations and unions within the transport subsector that are outrightly illegal. Some are legitimate in existence, but their operations fall outside the scope for which they were established," he said.

He charged the committee to thoroughly assess the constitutions of

all associations and unions to determine their authenticity and compliance with regulatory frameworks.

The committee is also mandated to request and scrutinize registration documents authorizing their operations, including approvals to collect dues and issue tickets on roads and in motor parks.

In addition, it is to examine government authorizations that confer legitimacy or operational superiority on any association, investigate the causes of persistent conflicts among unions, and recommend practical solutions to ensure peaceful

coexistence.

The Commissioner further directed the committee to identify and recommend the proscription of any illegitimate entity or unlawful practice, as well as address any other issues in the interest of government and the public.

He emphasized the need for the Ministry to maintain an updated database of all transport associations and unions, noting that the audit would help distinguish genuine operators from those acting without legal backing.

According to him, the exercise is part of government efforts to eliminate illegal levies, reduce

conflicts, and sanitize the transport sector for improved service delivery.

In a demonstration of commitment, members of the committee took an oath of office, pledging to uphold the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to carry out their assignment with integrity, transparency, and accountability.

The committee is expected to commence work immediately and submit its report within two weeks. Stakeholders across the transport sector have been urged to cooperate fully by providing the necessary documentation for verification.

Diaspora Network Endorses Otu for Second Term, Cites Development Strides

By Jenó Richard Odu



The Nigeria Diaspora Business Network, in partnership with Pillars of Equity, has thrown its

weight behind Governor Bassey Edet Otu's second-term bid, applauding his administration's strides in key

sectors of the state's development.

The endorsement was announced on Monday at the

Ernest Etim
Bassey Press
Centre in Calabar
by the group's
Director of
Finance and
Acting Chairman,
Kenneth Etim.

Addressing
journalists, Etim
dismissed claims
that the group is
politically
motivated or
sponsored by the
government,
stressing its
independence
and commitment
to good
governance.

"Let me be clear:
we are not a
political group,
and we are
certainly not
sponsored by the
government. Our
mandate is to
support good
governance, not
to chase political
office," he said.

He explained that

while the network
collaborates with
government
institutions, it
remains objective
and will not
hesitate to hold
leaders
accountable where
necessary.

"We work in
synergy with the
government, and
we commend
President Bola
Ahmed Tinubu for
his initiatives.
However, if the
government fails
the people, we will
speak up. Our
support is sincere,
but it is based on
performance," Etim
added.

Highlighting
Governor Otu's
performance, Etim
pointed to
significant
improvements in
education,
infrastructure,
tourism, security,

and employment
generation.

"Leadership is not
easy, but
Governor Otu has
delivered. Schools
have been
renovated, roads
improved, tourism
sites revived, and
security
strengthened.
One good turn
deserves another,
and that is why
we are supporting
him for 2027," he
stated.

Etim also
commended the
performance of
the state's
senator, noting
that his legislative
contributions and
constituency
projects have had
visible impacts
across the state.

"In just two and a
half years, our
senator has
sponsored 22 bills
and moved eight



motions. He has also facilitated scholarships, road projects, and empowerment programmes. This is the kind of representation our people deserve," he said.

The network called on residents of the state to turn out

en masse for a mega rally scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at Main Avenue Primary School, aimed at celebrating the administration's achievements and mobilising support for sustained development.

"The progress recorded under Governor Otu deserves continuity. Let us come together to take Cross River State to greater heights," Etim concluded.

Gov Otu Launches Free Easter Transport in Calabar



Easter season.

Sixty operational buses will run daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. within Calabar metropolis, with inter-city routes to Ugep, Ikom, Ogoja, Obudu, Akpabuyo, Bakassi, and other key areas. Free boat rides are also available for waterways, promoting accessibility for riverine communities.

Cross River State Governor, Senator Bassey Otu has launched a state-wide Special Easter Free Transport Scheme in Cross River State, providing free transportation services to

residents.

The initiative, part of the administration's "People First" agenda, aims to alleviate transportation challenges and promote social inclusion during the





CRIDCOM Boss Dedicates ALDHSRAF 2026 Award to Governor Otu



The Chairman of the Cross River State Diaspora Commission (CRIDCOM), Otuekong Chief Otu Okor, has

been recognised with the Africa Leadership for Development and Humanitarian Service Hall of Fame (ALDHSRAF) Award for his outstanding

contributions to leadership and humanitarian service.

The award was presented at the 2026 edition of the



ceremony, held at the National Merit Award House in Abuja and organised by the Humanitarian Institute for Peace and Community Development (HIPCOD).

Receiving the award, Chief Okor dedicated it to the People's First Governor, the Executive Governor of Cross River State, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu. "I dedicate this award to Governor Otu, in recognition of his outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to service," he

remarked.

In his welcome address, the Executive Director of the Institute, Engr. Samuel Ugoh, said the selection process was rigorous, with awardees emerging from a large pool of nominees nationwide.

"This gathering is not just for celebration, but an opportunity for change-oriented individuals to network and further accelerate humanitarian services for the socio-economic advancement of our people," he added.

Engr. Ugoh also described the honourees as embodiments of integrity, accountability and selfless service, underscoring their enduring contributions to national and global progress. "We at the Humanitarian Institute for Peace and Community Development believe that you will never tire in the quest to better your best, and your caps of honour and integrity will continue to be decorated with more feathers," he affirmed.

C'river Sets National Benchmark With Landmark Wash Sustainability Review Workshop In Calabar



Cross River State Government, the Society for Water and Sanitation in Nigeria (NEWSAN) and UK Government through Self Help Africa converge in Calabar to Architect a "Legacy Framework" for

Water and Sanitation.

This move which signals a paradigm shift from short-term intervention to institutional permanence, indicates that the Cross River State Government has successfully concluded a high-

powered technical workshop aimed at fortifying the State Task Group on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (STG-WASH).

The two-day summit, held at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Water Resources, Calabar



, weekend
, focused on the development of a comprehensive Sustainability Plan.

The initiative is designed to ensure that the State's recent gains in public health and infrastructure remain resilient against future economic and political fluctuations.

Leveraging under the "WASH System for Health" project,

the workshop sought to move beyond mere service delivery, focusing instead on strengthening the very institutions that govern water and hygiene. The goal is simple yet ambitious: a strategic framework that guarantees long-term functionality.

"Beyond This Administration" Declaring the workshop open, the

Commissioner for Water Resources, Barr. Bassey Mensah, represented by the Permanent Secretary and Chairman of STG-WASH, Dr. Okon Ita, issued a clarion call for collaborative excellence.

Dr. Ita commended the State Governor for fostering a transparent "enabling environment" that has made Cross



River a magnet for private-sector partnerships.

"We are not just looking at the present," Dr. Ita told the assembly of stakeholders. "Our objective is to yield a comprehensive plan with a long-term sustainability outlay—one that will outlive this current administration and serve the people of Cross River for generations to come."

On his part, The lead resource person, of the

Society for Water and Sanitation in Nigeria (NEWSAN), Mr. William Ngwakwe, lauded the State's proactive stance, noting that Cross River currently holds the prestigious laurel as the "most organized WASH sector" in the federation.

He urged participants to capitalize on the ongoing policy review to "transform the face of WASH services" and set a gold standard for the rest of the country.

The team is

expected to among other things garner institutional Capacity: Training and equipping state actors for independent management as well as ensure Private Sector Integration: Leveraging Governor Otu's-led initiatives to attract utility investment.

They are also to develop a "living document" to guide WASH policy through 2030 and beyond.

Gov. Otu Commissions Solar-Powered Boreholes to Bridge Gender Gap, Mark 2026 World Water Day

By Jeno Richard Odu



The Cross River State Governor, Senator Bassey Otu has commissioned solar-powered boreholes in three public schools as part of activities

marking the 2026 World Water Day celebration in the State.

The projects which serve as a platform for the administration to reaffirm its

commitment to sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) service are sited in Big Qua Girls' Secondary School, Edgerley Memorial Girls Secondary School



clean and sustainable water across the state.

The Governor ,who was represented by the Vice Chairman State Planning Commission, Dr. Bong Duke, emphasized the State Government's dedication to enhancing water

and Government Primary School Academy.

Speaking during the commissioning, the Governor Apostle

Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, maintained that the gesture is in line with his administration's commitment to improving access to



infrastructure, particularly in educational institutions noting that "access to potable water is essential not only for public health but also for

creating a conducive learning environment for students".

He commended the Ministry of Water Resources for the initiative noting that

"these solar-powered boreholes represent a sustainable solution to water scarcity challenges in our schools as they will significantly



improve hygiene, reduce waterborne diseases, and support the overall well-being of students and staff."

Earlier in his remarks, the Commissioner for Water Resources, Barr. Bassey Mensah disclosed that the choice of the Girls' schools

for the intervention is in line with the theme of this year's celebration: "Water and Gender", with the sub theme "Where water flows, equality grows". He highlighted the significance of this year's theme especially as the burden of fetching water in our society has been assigned

to the female gender particularly in the rural communities, noting that the installation and solarization of the boreholes aligns with global efforts to promote renewable energy and sustainable water management practices.



He however appealed to the schools' management to ensure proper care and maintenance of the solar panels/pumps.

Responding on behalf of the schools, the Principal of Edgerley Memorial Girls' Secondary school, Dr. Mrs. Ekei Duke expressed appreciation to the State Government for installing solar pumps/Panels in the boreholes, through the Ministry of Water Resources"leading

to 24- hours sustainable water" which she said, "transforms to life" and pledged to ensure proper use and maintainance of the solar panels.

The event featured talks on Water Sanitation and menstrual hygiene, drama presentation, cultural dances ,etc.

Highpoint of the occasion was the commissioning of the solarized boreholes by the Governor's representative.

Recall that Edgerley

Memorial and Big Qua Girls Secondary Schools had existing boreholes which were solarized by the Ministry of Water Resources, while the borehole at Academy Primary School was newly installed and solarized by the Ministry of Water Resources.

UNICEF, Cross River Charge Community on SBC

By Alicent Obriku



UNICEF, in collaboration with the Cross River State community, has launched a Social and Behavior Change (SBC) initiative to improve family health and childcare practices

across the state.

Speaking at the event at Pamol House Four, Akim Akim on Monday, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Mr. Anthony Okon, commended

UNICEF for implementing the programme despite funding challenges. Represented by Programme Officer Mr. Nakanda Iyadim, Okon assured the Ministry's commitment to



supporting initiatives that promote positive social behaviour, especially in key areas such as routine immunization, antenatal care, birth registration, exclusive breastfeeding, and complementary feeding.

UNICEF
representative Miss

Blessing Ebere-Chukwu in her speech emphasized that community involvement is crucial for the success of the SBC programme, urging stakeholders to actively participate in promoting health-conscious behaviours.

The State Director
National Orientation

agency represented by the deputy director Ms Juliana Atialikong in her speech, encouraged women to prioritize hospital visits during pregnancy and childbirth, emphasizing that every child should have a birth certificate and that a National Population



Commission registrar, Mr. Bassey Otu, was present to facilitate birth registration during the programme.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Community leader, Chief Emmanuel Akpakpan, appreciated the State Government

and UNICEF for selecting their community as a beneficiary of the programme, noting that the exercise has improved the health and welfare of women and children, appealing for continued support for the community.

During her pep talk on complementary

feeding, Ms Ogar Winifred a representative of a the Cross River state Primary healthcare development agency urged parents to ensure their children receive Vitamin A supplements and keep good breast feeding practices. She also encouraged



inclusion of fruits and vegetables in children's diets.

Children with birth certificates and complete routine immunization cards were recognized and rewarded upon display of their cards and certificates.

The programme is already being



rolled out in 10 selected communities, with plans for broader coverage in the

coming months to ensure sustainable improvements in family and child health.



ARCON Inaugurates New Leadership in Cross River, Iyorza Pledges Industry Reforms

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Council of the Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON), on Friday, inaugurated a new executive council, with Prof.

Stanislaus Iyorza assuming office as chairman, in a ceremony marked by renewed commitment to

professionalism and industry growth.

The inauguration, conducted by Barr.



Ukam Ngwu, drew advertising professionals, stakeholders, and invited guests who gathered to witness the formal transition of leadership in the state chapter.

In his acceptance speech, Prof. Iyorza thanked members for the confidence reposed in him and

pledged to strengthen professionalism while upholding ethical standards in advertising practice across Cross River State.

He stressed the urgent need to sanitise the advertising space, particularly in the face of the growing influence of digital and social media

platforms. The new chairman urged practitioners to comply with registration requirements as stipulated by ARCON, noting that regulation remains key to maintaining credibility in the industry.

Outlining his vision, Iyorza said the council would



work to bridge the gap between industry practitioners and academia through strategic collaboration with higher institutions. According to him, such partnerships would enhance knowledge sharing and raise standards across the sector.

He added that the council would organise regular training

workshops, seminars, and stakeholder engagements aimed at building the capacity of practitioners and positioning them for emerging opportunities in the advertising landscape.

The chairman also emphasised the need to promote local content, observing that a significant portion of advertising

materials used in the state are produced outside Cross River. He noted that investing in local talent would not only create employment opportunities but also boost the state's creative economy.

Prof. Iyorza further assured that the council would collaborate closely with government and other relevant



stakeholders to promote responsible and effective advertising practices. He said efforts would also be intensified to identify and properly engage practitioners across outdoor, electronic, and digital platforms.

In his remarks, the outgoing chairman, Mr. Ita Okon, highlighted key achievements recorded since the council's establishment in 2022, including

formal registration, the development of operational structures, and improved coordination among practitioners.

Okon commended the Director General of ARCON, Olalekan Fadolapo, and the Director General of Cross River State Signage and Advertisement Agency (CRISSAA), Sam Ubon, for their support, expressing confidence that the new leadership would consolidate on existing gains.

Also speaking, the council's Secretary, Dr. Michael Igbo, underscored the importance of professionalism and certification, insisting that only trained and registered individuals should practice advertising. He reaffirmed the council's commitment to maintaining standards and safeguarding the credibility of the industry.

C'River Sympathizes with Timber Market Fire Victims, Pledges Support, Recovery Measures

By Nakanda Iyadim

The Cross River State Government has expressed deep sympathy to traders and stakeholders of the Calabar Timber Market following a devastating fire outbreak that destroyed several shops and goods worth millions of naira.

In a statement signed by the Commissioner for Information, Dr. Erasmus Ekpang, the Government described the incident as tragic and heartbreaking, noting that the market serves as a critical source of livelihood for hundreds of

families across the State.

"We are profoundly saddened by this unfortunate incident, recognizing that the market is not just a hub of commerce, but the primary source of livelihood for many hardworking citizens," the statement read.

The Government acknowledged the emotional and financial toll on affected traders, many of whom lost years of investment and labour in the inferno. It assured victims that their plight has not gone unnoticed and that

the State stands in solidarity with them during this difficult time.

Dr. Ekpang disclosed that relevant emergency management agencies have been directed to carry out a thorough assessment of the damage with a view to determining appropriate intervention measures.

He added that efforts are also underway to ascertain the root cause of the fire and strengthen



safety protocols across major markets in the State to prevent future occurrences.

“The Cross River State Government hereby assures all victims that they will not be left to bear this heavy burden alone. We are already outlining a framework for support and recovery to help displaced traders rebuild their businesses and

livelihoods,” he said.

The Government further reaffirmed its commitment to the welfare of citizens, pledging to work closely with the leadership of the Timber Market Association to provide necessary assistance throughout the recovery process.

Affected traders were urged to remain calm and cooperate with relevant authorities to ensure a smooth

and efficient intervention process.

Despite the scale of the losses, the Government expressed confidence in the resilience of the people of Cross River State and their ability to rebuild stronger, assuring victims of sustained government support as efforts toward recovery and rebuilding commence.

Cross River Intensifies Fight Against Tuberculosis, Adopts Community-Driven Strategy

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to eliminating Tuberculosis, with a renewed push to transition from global policy frameworks to

localized, community-driven action.

At the state's commemoration of World TB Day 2026 held on March 24, the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry

Egbe Ayuk, said the government's health agenda is focused on reaching vulnerable populations with innovative diagnostic tools and sustained care.



Delivering the keynote address, Ayuk noted that the 2026 theme “Yes! We can End TB,” centered on country leadership and collective responsibility, aligns with Cross River’s mission to convert innovation into measurable impact.

“Our health agenda is centered on reaching the most vulnerable populations with

innovative diagnostic tools and consistent care,” he said. “By shifting from global policy to localized, country-led action, we are ensuring that no Cross Riverian is left behind in the fight to end TB.”

Also speaking, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Health, Ekpo Ekpo Bassey, underscored the administration’s commitment to strengthening health security at the grassroots.

“We are working tirelessly to ensure that commitments made at high-level international meetings translate into accessible treatment at the primary healthcare level,” Bassey stated. “This administration remains dedicated to the total eradication of TB through collective responsibility.”

The event drew



participation from key development partners, including the World Health Organization, CCCRN, ECEWS, and other health programmes.

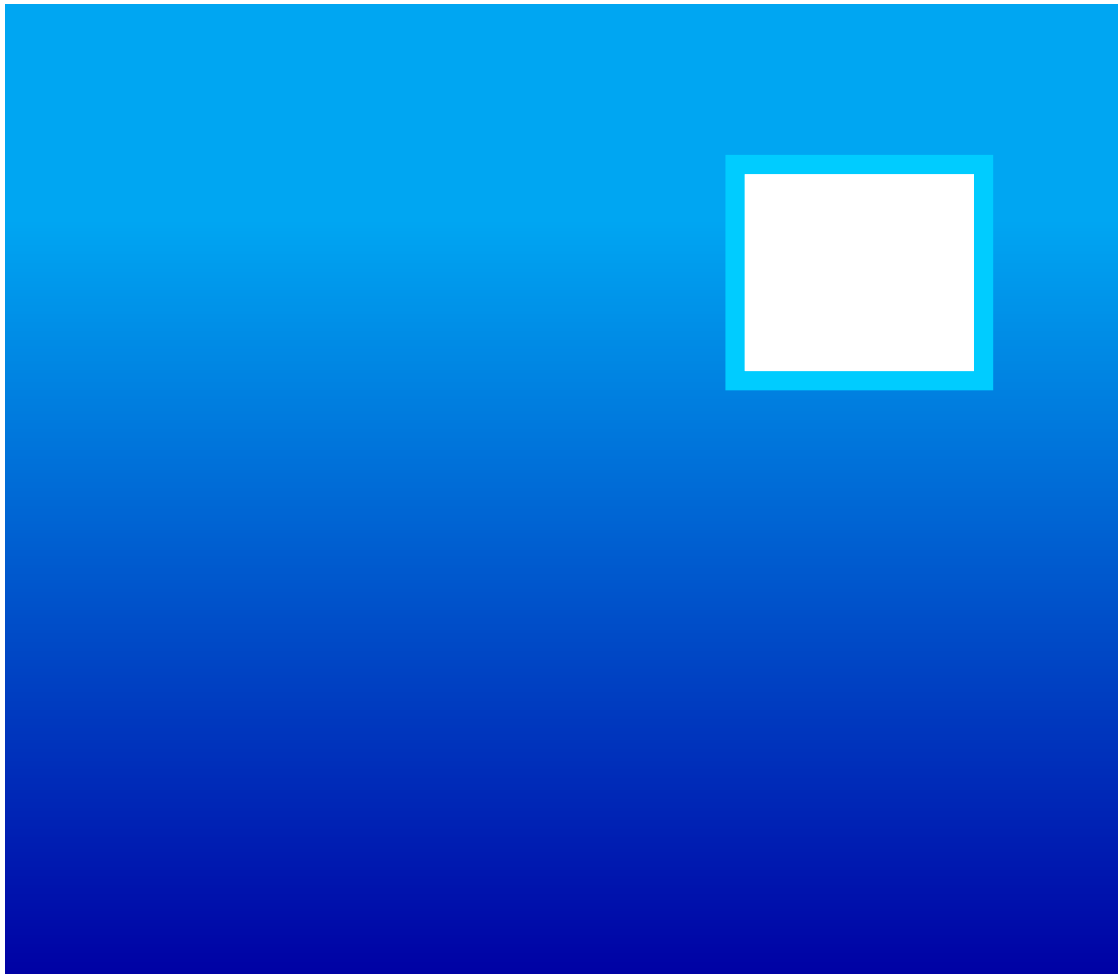
Speaking on behalf of the partners, the Senior Program Officer for KNCV Nigeria–Cross River State, Cynthia Onwuteaka, highlighted the

role of collaboration in driving innovation in TB detection and care.

“Through our collective partnership, we are now detecting TB in asymptomatic patients, those who show no outward signs, using Portable Digital X-ray machines equipped with Artificial Intelligence,” she

said. “This allows us to provide the right care faster and effectively halt the spread of the disease.”

She added that the integration of advanced diagnostic tools, backed by strong leadership and sustained investment, is significantly improving outcomes in the state.



In his remarks, the State TB Programme Manager, Eugene Ajegi, emphasised the importance of community engagement and the strength of existing partnerships in delivering results.

“Our collaboration with partners

creates a multi-layered shield,” Ajegi said. “By working with community-based organisations, we are turning innovation into impact exactly where it is needed most, ensuring the right care reaches the right people at the right time.”

The event concluded with a unified call for residents to take advantage of free TB screening and treatment services available at designated health facilities across the State.

C'River Holds 3rd Monthly Aerobics and Medical Checks for Public Servants in Calabar

By: Kera Okem



The Cross River State Government, through the Office of the Head of Service recently conducted the 3rd edition of its Monthly Aerobics and Medical Checks programme for civil and public servants.

The initiative, which holds every last Friday of the month, is part of

ongoing efforts to promote a healthy workforce and improve productivity across the state's civil/public service.

The event brought together civil and public servants from various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), who actively participated in the early morning aerobics session. Led by professional

instructors, the exercise focused on enhancing physical fitness, boosting energy levels, and encouraging healthy lifestyle habits among workers.

In addition to the fitness activities, participants benefited from a range of medical check-ups, including basic



health screenings and professional consultations. Notably, this month's edition featured the introduction of an optometry section, where attendees received eye examinations and expert advice on vision care.

Speaking at the event, The Head of Service Cross River

State, Orok Bassey Okon (Esq.) emphasized the importance of regular exercise and routine health checks in maintaining a productive and efficient public/civil service. He noted that the inclusion of the optometry unit reflects the government's commitment to

expanding healthcare access and addressing diverse health needs of workers.

Participants expressed appreciation to the state government for the initiative, describing it as timely and impactful in promoting wellness and early



detection of potential health issues.

The Office of the Head of Service reaffirmed its commitment to sustaining the programme, urging all civil and public servants to consistently take advantage of the initiative as it continues to hold on the last Friday of every month.



The Monthly Aerobics and Medical Checks programme remains a key component of

the state government's broader agenda to build a healthier, more efficient, and resilient service.





WASH Media Marks World Water Day with School Outreach, Menstrual Hygiene Advocacy in Calabar

By Nakanda Iyadim



In commemoration of World Water Day 2026, the Cross River State Chapter of the WASH Media Network held a targeted school outreach at Government Secondary School, Anantigha, in Calabar South Local Government Area.

The event, held

recently, focused on the critical intersection of water security, sanitation, and menstrual hygiene management

(MHM).

As a highlight of the initiative, the Network distributed over 100 sanitary pads



kits and sensitized students on the protection of community water infrastructure, issuing a stark warning against the risks of fecal-oral contamination.

"When the water source is contaminated, you are essentially consuming waste," he cautioned, urging students to take ownership of their local boreholes.

On her part, Secretary of the WASH Media Network, Mrs. Abenmire Williams, who led a session on safeguarding menstrual hygiene, addressed both male and female students, calling for an end to the stigmatization of menstruating girls.

"Stigma

to female students, emphasizing the necessity of dignity and health in the learning environment.

The outreach featured technical presentations aimed at equipping students with

practical knowledge of water safety and personal health.

In his remarks, Mr. Augustine Oyongha, representing the Borehole Drillers Association of Nigeria (BORDAN), provided a demonstration on water quality testing



discourages girls from full academic participation," Mrs. Williams noted, while encouraging female students to engage confidently with teachers and parents regarding their health needs.

In her response, Mrs. Valarie Ekpenyong Henshaw, Principal of the 35-year-old institution,

expressed gratitude for the intervention but lamented the school's dire water situation.

She revealed that a borehole project previously provided by the Cross River State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWATSSA) became non-functional after only

two years, leaving the school without a reliable water source.

Echoing these concerns, Coordinator of the WASH Media Network, Mr. Archibong Jeremiah, pointed out the irony of the school's location.



"It is concerning that a school sharing a boundary with the Local Government Council lacks adequate water and sanitation facilities," Jeremiah stated. "This raises serious questions about the conditions of schools in more remote, rural areas."

The school outreach was the culmination of a broader week of advocacy. Prior to the event, the Network hosted a two-day radio town hall meeting

across Sparkling 92.3 FM and HIT 95.9 FM. Under the theme "Water and Gender – Where Water Flows, Equality Grows," stakeholders and experts discussed the disproportionate impact of water scarcity on women and girls, advocating for gender-responsive water policies in Cross River State.

The outreach concluded with validation remarks by the Vice Principal (Administration), Mrs. Felicia Archibong, and the

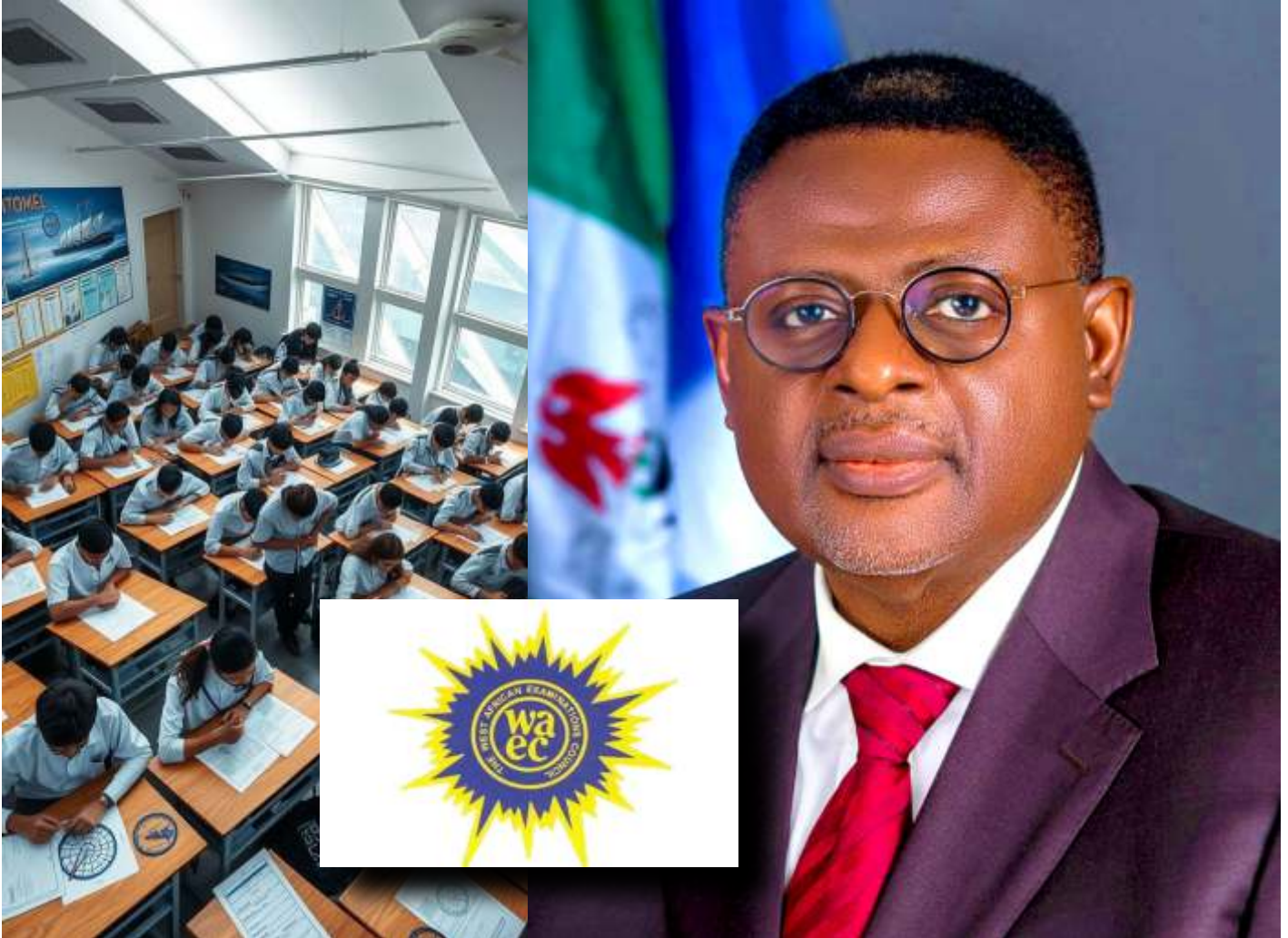
formal distribution of hygiene products, reinforcing the Network's commitment to sustained WASH interventions in the region.

The event also served as a platform to highlight the systemic challenges facing educational institutions in the State.



Cross River Approves N339.9m for WAEC Fees of 12,589 Students

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Executive

Council has approved the release of ₦339,903,000 for the registration of 12,589 indigenous students for the 2026 West African

Examinations Council (WAEC).

The approval was part of resolutions reached at the first Executive Council (EXCO) meeting of 2026, held at the State Executive Council Chamber,

Governor's Office, Calabar.

The intervention is aimed at easing the financial burden on families while expanding access to education for eligible students



across the state.

Government said the move underscores its continued commitment to human capital development and the "People First" agenda of Governor Bassey Edet Otu's administration.

The gesture is also expected to improve examination participation rates and enhance academic opportunities for students, particularly those from underserved communities.

Education stakeholders have consistently emphasized the importance of such interventions in boosting school enrolment, retention and performance in external examinations.



CARNIVAL PARADE of THANKSGIVING

Mon. 6th April, 2026

10AM

Theme: Glorification

...and the Glory of the Lord is risen upon us.

Isaiah 60:1

Flag-Off Point: Millennium Park > Calabar Road > Watt Market Roundabout > Nelson Mandela - Target > Mary Slessor > Marian > Rabanna Junction, Ibb Way > Millennium Park.

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Office of the Wife of Governor, Cross River State





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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



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



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OBUBRA - CROSS RIVER STATE
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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:

Category	Early Bird (19th Dec 2025 - 20th Feb 2026)	Regular (19th Mar - 10th Apr 2026)	Late Registration (11th - 19th Apr 2026)
NIPR MEMBERS	₦95,000	₦120,000	₦170,000
NON NIPR MEMBERS	₦135,000	₦170,000	₦200,000

Scan me

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partnerships@nprweek.org.ng
www.nprweek.org.ng

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."

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Scan me

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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.**

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STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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

NATIONWIDE CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (CVR)



Register to Vote

**ONLINE PRE-REGISTRATION
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www.cvr.inecnigeria.org

**IN-PERSON REGISTRATION
STARTS ON 25TH AUGUST, 2025**
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Nearest to You*



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- Replace your lost or damaged PVC
- No Multiple Registration

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Consolidating our democracy.*

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**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— FRSC —

CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND