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Daily InfoNews...

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

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CROSS RIVER STATE

VISION STATEMENT

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

MINISTERIAL MANDATE

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

VISION

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

Mission

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

C'River Gov't Imposes Curfew in Ugep, Idomi Over Land Dispute

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Government has taken swift steps to restore peace and prevent a breakdown of law and order in Ugep and Idomi communities in Yakurr Local Government Area, following renewed tensions over a communal land dispute.

In a press statement issued on 5th May, 2026,

the government announced the imposition of a dusk-to-dawn curfew, restricting movement from 6:00pm to 6:00am daily in and around the affected communities for an initial period of seven days.

The decision, according to the statement signed by the Commissioner for Information, Dr. Erasmus Ekpang, is part of ongoing

efforts to consolidate peace following a high-level meeting convened by the state government.

The peace meeting, held on Monday, 4th May, 2026, was presided over by the Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Dr. Peter Odey, and had in attendance officials of the State Boundary Commission, the



Executive Chairman of Yakurr Local Government Area, the Paramount Ruler, clan heads, and key stakeholders from both communities to support security agencies and intensify sensitisation efforts aimed at sustaining peace.

Reaffirming government's position, the statement emphasized that the administration of Governor Senator Bassey Edet Otu remains committed to ensuring a fair, transparent, and lasting resolution of the boundary dispute in the interest of peace and development.

Surveyor-General, and representatives of the warring communities.

As part of the new directive, security agencies, including the Nigeria Police, have been mandated to enforce strict

compliance with the curfew, while ensuring that movement along the Ugep–Ikom Highway remains uninterrupted for essential traffic.

The state government also directed the



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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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5th May, 2026

PRESS STATEMENT

UGEP-IDOMI COMMUNAL LAND DISPUTE: CRSG DECLARES 6PM TO 6AM CURFEW

In furtherance of steps taken by the Government of Cross River State to forestall a total breakdown of law and order in UGEP and IDOMI Communities in Yakurr Local Government Area, His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State Senator Prince (Dr.) Bassey Edet Otu, PNIPR, hereby imposes a Dusk to Dawn curfew(6.00pm to 6.00am) daily with effect from Tuesday, 5th May, 2026 in and around the two communities of Ugep and Idomi for the next seven days.

This is a follow up to the implementation of the resolutions of the Peace Meeting held on Monday, 4th May, 2026 , presided over by His Excellency, the Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Dr. Peter Odey and attended by the Surveyor General of the State as well as the State Boundary Commission and representatives of the two warring communities.

Accordingly, His Excellency has directed the Nigeria Police and other Security Agencies to ensure strict compliance with the Curfew. They are to also ensure that Vehicular movement on the Ugep-Ikom Highway remains seamless and unhindered.

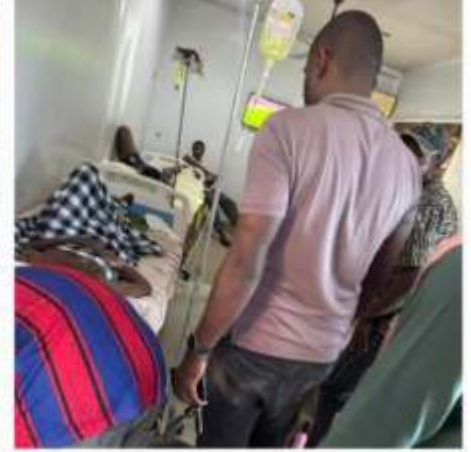
The Executive Chairman, the Paramount Ruler of Yakurr Local Government Area as well as Clan Heads and key Stakeholders from the two Communities are hereby directed to cooperate with Security Agencies and sensitize the citizenry on the need to maintain peace and order in and around the communities.

The government wishes to reaffirm its commitment to ensuring a fair, transparent and peaceful resolution of the boundary dispute in the overall interest of the State development.

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

UNICROSS Alumni Association Mobilises Aid for Injured Students

By Kingsley Agim



Members of the Alumni Association of the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS) have mobilised support for students injured in the recent auto crash involving the institution, donating N500,000 to assist with their medical treatment.

The alumni delegation, which visited victims receiving care at different hospitals in Calabar on Sunday, comprised the Member

representing Convocation in the Governing Council, Dr. Ofut Ofar; National Legal Adviser, Barr. Romeo Ojong; Treasurer, Engr. Peter Ikem; Public Relations Officer, Dr. Mrs. Peace Egbai; and Alumni Relations Officer, Engr. Joel Agbaragba.

The visit followed the tragic accident on May 1, 2026, which claimed lives and left several students injured, prompting an outpouring of concern across the university community.

During the visit, the alumni encouraged the injured students to remain strong, assuring them of continued support as they undergo treatment and recovery.

Announcing the donation on behalf of the Association, the delegation said the N500,000 support was aimed at easing the financial burden of medical care on the affected students and their families.



They further pledged to work closely with the university management to ensure that the victims receive adequate care and sustained support throughout their recovery process.

Speaking on behalf of the National President of the Association, Dr. Inyali Peter, the delegation conveyed deep sympathy to

the victims, the university community, and families of those who lost their loved ones in the incident.

The Association also commended the Cross River State Government and the management of UNICROSS, particularly the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Francisca Bassey, for their response to the situation.

It acknowledged the

efforts of the Dean of Students' Affairs, Dr. Victor Ndifon; his deputy, Dr. Godswill John; and medical personnel for their swift response and dedication to the care of the victims.

The statement announcing the visit and donation was signed by the National Public Relations Officer of the Association, Dr. Mrs. Peace Egbai.

Cross River Is Reported COVID-19 Free After Successful Containment of Single Case

By Kingsley Agim



Cross River State has once again recorded a major public health milestone the following the successful treatment and discharge of the state's only confirmed case.

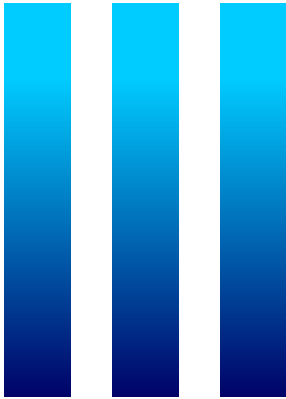
The State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, disclosed that the

lone case was confirmed on April 16, 2026, by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) isolation centre.

According to him, the State Government swiftly activated its public health emergency response mechanisms,

including the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), to contain the situation and prevent further spread.

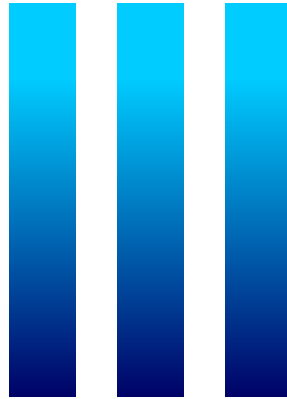
Dr. Ayuk explained that the response, carried out in close collaboration with key partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the



NCDC, involved comprehensive contact tracing, line-listing of exposed persons, clinical monitoring, as well as sample collection and testing.

He noted that all identified contacts were closely followed up, and none developed symptoms or tested positive for the virus.

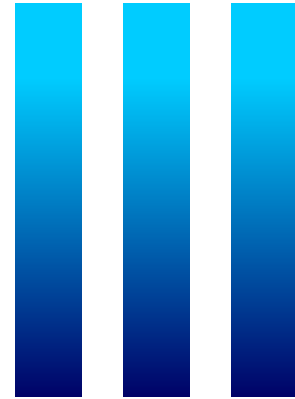
"I am pleased to report that Cross River State is COVID 19 free. On May 1, 2026, the index and only patient was



discharged in excellent health, with a negative COVID 19 test result' he said.

The Commissioner assured residents that the State Public Health Department and the Emergency Operations Centre remain on high alert to promptly detect and respond to any disease of public health concern.

He expressed appreciation to development partners and institutions that supported the



response effort, including UCTH, the Federal Ministry of Health, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), NCDC, WHO, UNICEF, and others.

Dr. Ayuk also commended Governor Bassey Edet Otu for providing the necessary political will and resources that ensured the effective management of the case.

C'River Govt Condemns Hospital Vandalism, Clarifies UNICROSS Accident Response

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Government has condemned the vandalism of facilities at the General Hospital, Calabar, following protests linked to a tragic accident involving students of the University of Cross River State

(UNICROSS).

The Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, described the incident as “unfortunate and overblown” during an on-the-spot assessment, confirming that infrastructure including an

ambulance, electrical installations, doors, windows and ward equipment were damaged.

“We are assessing the extent of the damage. The ambulance screens have been broken, and



parts of the hospital have been destroyed. We will also evaluate the impact on the wards," he said.

Ayuk explained that the protest stemmed from a fatal road accident along the Calabar–Uyo

highway, where some students reportedly died at the scene.

He clarified that injured victims brought to the General Hospital were promptly attended to, with critical cases referred to the University of

Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) for specialized care.

"We responded immediately, coordinated with UCTH and created space in the casualty unit to handle the victims," he said.



The Commissioner stressed that no deaths were recorded at the General Hospital, attributing tensions to misinformation.

“No patient died in this hospital. The deaths occurred at the scene. It is unfortunate that misinformation escalated the situation,” he added.

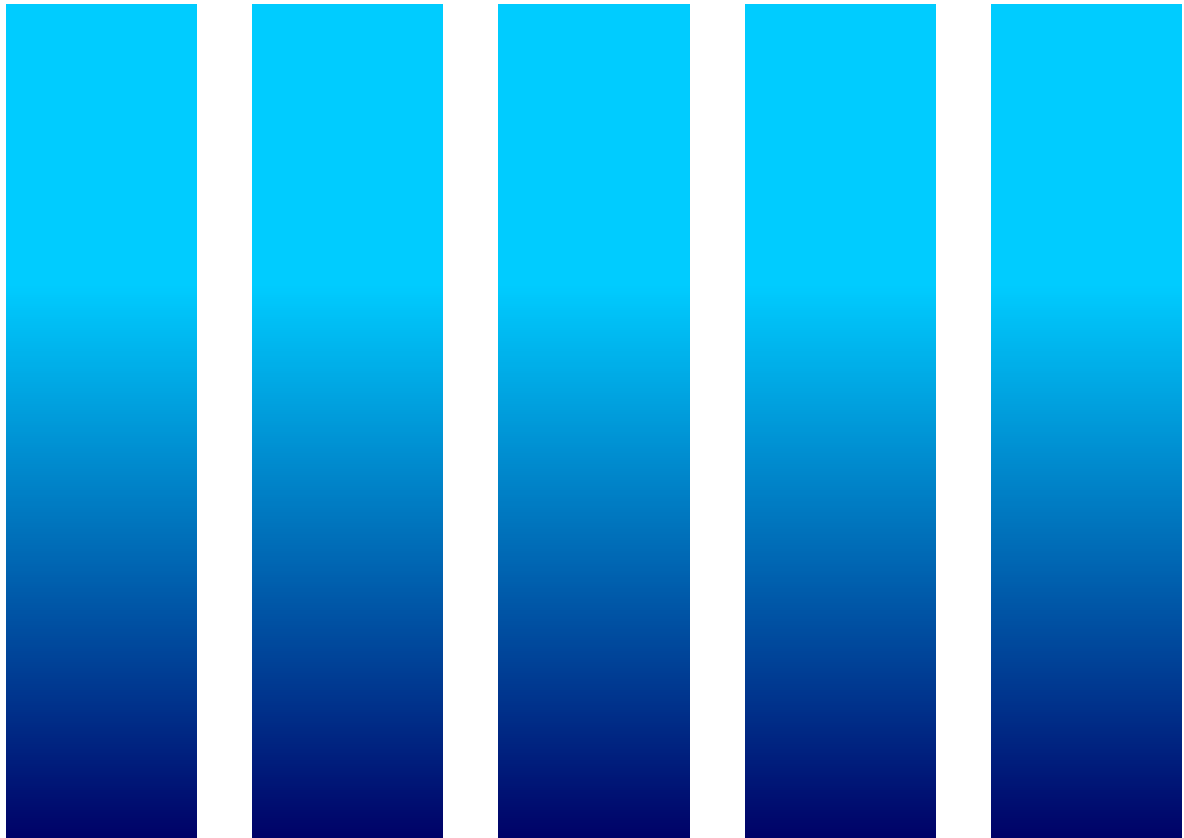
While acknowledging the right to peaceful protest, Ayuk said the destruction of public property undermines healthcare delivery and assured that government would address any gaps in emergency response.

Also speaking, the Special Assistant to the Governor on Nursing, Dr. Esu Coco-Basse, condemned the incident, alleging

that the protest was hijacked and fueled by misleading social media reports.

“The accident happened along Odukpani Road, not in this hospital. Health workers attended to victims promptly, but unverified information triggered the protest,” he said.

A nurse in the casualty unit, Mr.



Godwin Betiang, described how the situation turned chaotic, forcing staff and patients to flee.

"I saw a mob approaching, including a young man carrying a gun. We had to run for our lives," he said.

He added that the protesters invaded wards, damaged equipment and disrupted care, with some patients affected in the confusion, while many others fled the hospital out of fear.

Meanwhile, a staff member of UNICROSS, who

spoke on condition of anonymity, alleged that the situation escalated after suspected cultists hijacked what was initially planned as a candlelight procession in honour of the deceased students.

NDLEA, CR-SACA Strengthen Partnership on HIV Prevention, Drug Abuse Control in Cross River

By Asari Eso



The Cross River State Agency for the Control of AIDS (CR-SACA) has intensified its advocacy efforts

through a partnership with the State Command of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), reinforcing a shared

commitment to HIV prevention and drug abuse control in the state.

The Director General of CR-SACA, Dr. Charles Iwara, stated this during a visit to the State

Commander of the NDLEA, noting that the engagement forms part of ongoing efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration aimed at achieving the global target of ending new HIV infections by 2030, while also addressing rising concerns over substance abuse. Dr. Iwara expressed appreciation to the NDLEA for its



participation in the recently concluded National HIV Planning Meeting and extended condolences over the passing of the agency's former State Commander. He underscored the importance of strategic planning and evidence-based interventions, particularly for key populations most vulnerable to HIV infection. He also called for stronger collaboration between both agencies in areas

such as data sharing, laboratory support for HIV-related services, prevention programming, and coordinated implementation of state and national HIV response strategies. The CR-SACA Director General commended Governor Bassey Edet Otu and his wife, Bishop Eyoanwan Otu, for their continued support and commitment to public health and social development

in the state. Dr. Iwara described the partnership as a significant step toward a more coordinated and impactful public health response in Cross River, expressing confidence that the collaboration would be robust and far-reaching. In his response, the State Commander of NDLEA, Commander Anyeyi John, described the advocacy visit as



timely and important, noting that both agencies, though operating under different mandates, are working toward a common goal for the benefit of the citizenry.

He emphasized the need for enhanced collaboration in sensitization, training, and regulated data sharing, subject to approval from NDLEA headquarters where necessary. He also highlighted ongoing awareness

campaigns by the agency and stressed the importance of joint community engagement. Commander Anyeyi further proposed the establishment of a rehabilitation centre in Cross River State and urged CR-SACA to formally present the proposal to the Governor and his wife for consideration. He also acknowledged Dr. Iwara as an Ambassador of the War Against Drug

Abuse (WADA) in recognition of his advocacy efforts. Speaking earlier, Mrs. Rose Ikani highlighted the importance of HIV prevention among adolescents and young people. She advocated stronger collaboration in data sharing, youth-focused interventions, and community sensitization programmes. Mrs. Ikani also called for increased engagement with



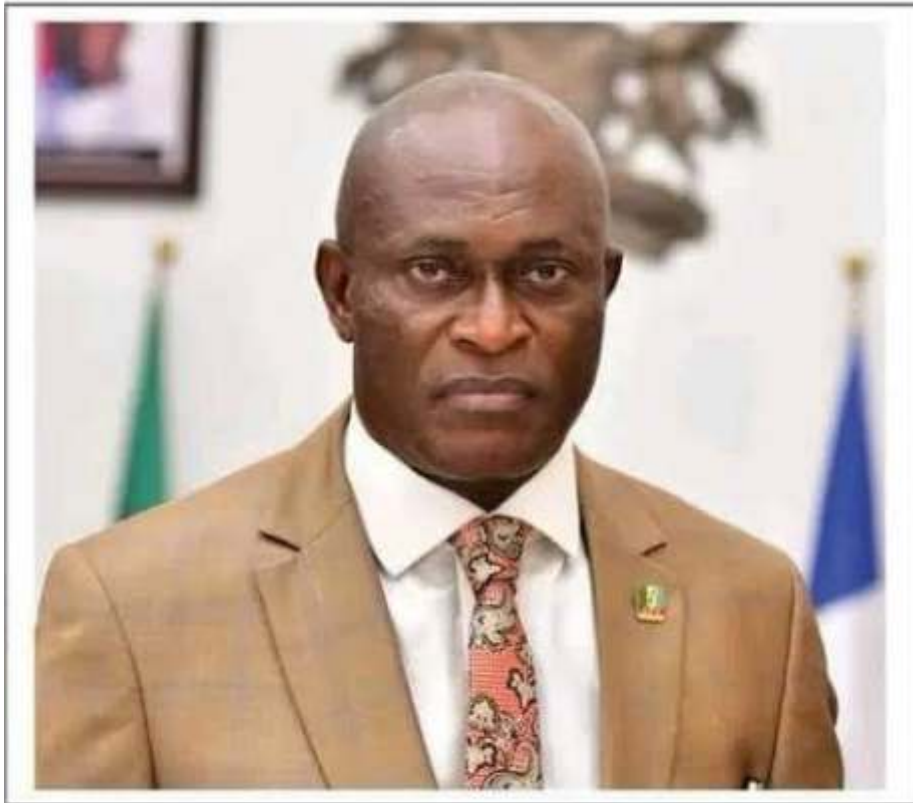
adolescents and young people through school health clubs and cultural platforms such as the Leboku New Yam Festival, where HIV testing and prevention services are often promoted. She further stressed the need for NDLEA's

involvement in such initiatives to strengthen education on drug abuse prevention, particularly the dangers of injectable drug use and emerging risky practices involving shared syringes among young people. Both agencies agreed on the need

for sustained collaboration in awareness creation, training, and community outreach, with a focus on vulnerable populations across the state.

Water Resources Commissioner Advocates Inclusive Leadership as Akinboro Seeks NBA Presidency

By Jenno Richard Odu



The Commissioner for Water Resources, Barr. Offiong Bassey Mensah, has advocated inclusive and reform-oriented leadership in the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Aare

Akinboro (SAN), intensified consultations ahead of the association's presidential election.

Mensah made the call while receiving Akinboro during a courtesy visit to his office, where the aspirant formally sought his support and that of

members of the legal community in Cross River State.

The Commissioner emphasized that the leadership of the NBA must remain inclusive and responsive, noting its critical role in upholding the rule of law and promoting good governance in Nigeria.

He stated that the Bar, as a key institution within the justice system, must continue to provide direction and advocacy on issues affecting democracy and national development.

Mensah commended

Akinboro for engaging stakeholders across the country, describing such consultations as essential to a credible and participatory electoral process within the association.

He assured the aspirant of his goodwill, adding that members of the Bar in the state would give due consideration to his candidacy based on merit and his engagement with practitioners.

Earlier, Aare Akinboro (SAN) said his visit formed part of a broader nationwide consultation aimed at securing support from critical stakeholders

ahead of the NBA presidential poll.

He explained that his aspiration is driven by the need to reposition the association to better serve its members and strengthen its institutional relevance.

Akinboro outlined his vision, which includes reforms to enhance professional standards, improve the welfare of lawyers, and safeguard the independence of the judiciary.

He stressed that sustained engagement with stakeholders remains central to his campaign strategy, noting that inclusive participation would shape the direction of his proposed

administration.

The senior lawyer also pledged to run an inclusive leadership that reflects the diversity of the Bar while promoting unity and professional excellence.

He reiterated his commitment to strengthening the credibility and internal governance of the NBA if elected.

South-South Zone's Record Arms Recoveries, Intelligence Successes Excite NCCSALW DG

By Kingsley Agim



The Director General of the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW), DIG Johnson Kokumo (rtd), has expressed satisfaction over the outstanding performance of the South-South Zonal Office in intelligence gathering and arms recovery operations.

The commendation was delivered on his behalf, on Monday, by the Director of Policy and Plans, Major General Sani Sulieman, during a two-day working visit to the South-South Zonal Headquarters in Calabar.

The Director General noted that the South-South Zone has distinguished itself as one of the most

effective formations in intelligence-driven operations across the country.

He revealed that the zone has recorded the highest number of arms cache recoveries nationwide over the past three years, describing the feat as a significant contribution to national security.



“It is from this zone that we have recovered the largest number of arms cache in the last three years. The intelligence we receive here is among the most reliable and timely,” he stated.

Kokumo also disclosed that the zone recently played a key role in the arrest of a

long-sought suspect, an operation that has earned the Centre national recognition.

According to him, the South-South Zone remains one of the most responsive across all geopolitical zones, consistently delivering timely and high-quality intelligence outputs.

“The content, quality, and responsiveness from this zone have always been of high standard,” he added.

The Director General attributed the zone’s success to strong leadership, teamwork, and institutional cohesion,



commending the Zonal Director for maintaining discipline and professionalism among personnel.

He acknowledged existing challenges such as funding constraints, infrastructure gaps, and staff welfare concerns, assuring that efforts were

ongoing to address them.

He further disclosed plans to develop a permanent office complex for the zone and strengthen operational facilities, including the zonal armoury, while also working towards gradual regularisation of contract staff to

ensure continuity and institutional memory.

He added that ongoing reforms under the Office of the National Security Adviser would further strengthen the Centre's operational capacity and national reach.



The Director General charged the South-South Zone to sustain its momentum and continue improving efficiency in the fight against illicit small arms and light weapons proliferation.

He rated the zone's overall performance as "very high," stressing that its contributions remain invaluable

to headquarters operations in Abuja.

Earlier, the Zonal Director, Dr. Alex Ebimiebo, welcomed the Director General to the South-South Zone and to Calabar, describing the visit as a strong morale booster and a demonstration of leadership commitment.

He reaffirmed the zone's dedication to

the Centre's mandate of preventing and controlling the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons through intelligence gathering and collaboration with sister security agencies, despite operational challenges.



C'River Adviser Faults Protesters, Urges Road Safety Action

By Kingsley Agim



The Special Adviser to the Governor on Public Utilities, Dr. Jerome Egbe, has faulted protesters over the vandalism of the General Hospital,

Calabar, urging that attention be redirected to road safety concerns following the tragic accident involving students of the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS).

Dr. Egbe made the remarks while joining the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, and his delegation on an on-the-spot assessment of the

facility after the ill-fated protest by UNICROSS students on Monday.

The state government has since condemned the destruction, describing it as avoidable and counterproductive to ongoing efforts to strengthen the health sector.

Expressing condolences to the university community over the tragic accident that claimed the lives of some students, Dr. Egbe said the attack on the hospital was a misdirected response.

"First, let me express my condolences to the management of UNICROSS and the students in

general," he said. "Even as we condemn the destruction visited on this hospital, government is working hard to recalibrate and strengthen public services."

Dr. Egbe noted that medical personnel at the General Hospital made genuine efforts to attend to the injured, stressing that no deaths were recorded at the facility.

"We feel deeply pained because the hospital staff tried to do their best. From available reports, no casualties were recorded here. The three persons who died did so at the scene of the accident," he stated.

He maintained that while citizens have the right to protest, such actions should be properly directed, particularly toward addressing underlying issues such as road safety.

"If there must be protests, attention should be drawn to the condition of the highway. That would make more sense than targeting a hospital where efforts are ongoing to save lives," he said.

The Special Adviser commended the swift intervention of the health authorities in managing the emergency and



engaging stakeholders to restore calm.

He warned that the destruction of medical infrastructure could have lasting consequences on healthcare delivery across the state.

“What has been destroyed here today will set

back care for patients who depend on this facility. These are services everyone—including the students and their families—may need,” he added.

Dr. Egbe called for restraint and civic responsibility, urging residents, especially young people, to adopt peaceful and

constructive means of expressing grievances.

He reaffirmed the government’s commitment to restoring the damaged facility and strengthening systems to prevent a recurrence.

Calabar Hospital Services Fully Restored — Health Commissioner

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, has assured members of the public that full medical services have been restored at the

General Hospital, Calabar, following disruptions caused by a student protest on Monday.

Dr. Ayuk made the declaration during an early Tuesday morning visit on 5th May 2026, where he

inspected facilities, assessed patient care, and confirmed that normal hospital operations had resumed.

The visit also focused on the recovery of



students admitted after the Odukpani road auto crash, with the Commissioner touring clinical wards and interacting with medical teams on duty.

He commended health workers for their resilience and professionalism in maintaining service delivery despite the recent challenges, noting that their

commitment ensured continuity of care during the period of tension.

Dr. Ayuk reaffirmed the state government's commitment to uninterrupted and quality healthcare delivery, stressing that all necessary measures had been taken to restore full functionality of the hospital.

He also addressed safety concerns

raised by staff, engaging security personnel on ground and strengthening measures to ensure a secure working environment for health workers and patients.

Following the assessment, the Commissioner urged members of the public to return to the facility for medical services, assuring



that the hospital is now safe, stable, and fully operational.

“I want to assure the public that services have fully resumed at the General Hospital, Calabar. The environment is safe, calm, and ready to attend to all medical needs,” he said.



Dr. Ayuk further emphasized that the Ministry of Health is closely monitoring developments to sustain a conducive

environment for healthcare delivery and prevent a recurrence of disruptions.

HoS Allocates Office Space to Retired Permanent Secretaries' Association, Draws Praises.

By: Kera Okem



In a strategic move aimed at reinforcing institutional continuity and honoring the legacy of retired senior civil servants, the Cross River State Head of Service (HOS), Orok Bassey Okon Esq., has allocated office space to the state chapter of the Association of Retired State

Permanent Secretaries of Nigeria (ARSPSON).

The decision followed a courtesy visit by the association to the Head of Service, during which members requested a functional secretariat and greater integration into relevant state activities.

The newly allocated office underscores the administration's commitment to fostering collaboration between serving and retired top civil servants.

Speaking on behalf of the association, its Chairman, Barr. Emmanuel Enamhe, expressed deep



appreciation to the Head of Service for what he described as a timely and thoughtful intervention.

He noted that prior to this development, members had been compelled to hold meetings in private residences—a situation he said posed considerable logistical difficulties.

“This office space will go a long way in alleviating the challenges we

have faced over time. It gives us a sense of identity and stability, and we assure the Head of Service that it will be put to maximum use,” Enamhe stated.

He further reaffirmed the association's readiness to contribute its wealth of experience to the growth and development of the state's civil service, particularly through mentorship and advisory roles.

The event was attended by other executives of ARSPSON as well as serving permanent secretaries from the Office of the Head of Service, highlighting a shared commitment to unity, institutional memory, and sustained excellence in public service.

At 78, Gov Otu hails Asuquo Ekpenyong's Legacy of Service, Excellence



Cross River State governor, Bassey Otu has felicitated elder statesman, renowned banker, and respected

philanthropist, Chief Dr. Asuquo Ekpenyong, FCIB, OON, on the occasion of his 78th birthday, describing him as "an extraordinary

icon of excellence, wisdom, and noble service whose life continues to illuminate pathways of greatness for generations."

In a deeply heartfelt goodwill message released by his Chief Press Secretary and Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mr. Linus Obogo, commemorating the milestone, Governor Otu extolled Chief Ekpenyong's towering accomplishments in banking, enterprise, faith, and humanitarian service, noting that his life's journey remains a

glowing testament to integrity, visionary leadership, and uncommon generosity.

"Today, Cross River State celebrates not merely the passing of years," the Governor said, "but the enduring triumph of character, discipline, sacrifice, and purposeful living embodied by Chief Dr. Asuquo Ekpenyong."

Governor Otu further praised the Chief Ekpenyong's immense contributions to the economic and social development of the state, noting that his indelible footprints are etched across institutions, communities, and

countless individual lives uplifted by his wisdom and benevolence. "His remarkable contributions to banking, enterprise, faith, and humanity have left lasting impressions far beyond our borders," Governor Otu stated. "He is a shining symbol of what steadfast excellence and service to humanity can achieve."

Reflecting on the elder statesman's revered standing, the governor described Chief Ekpenyong as "a father figure, a guiding light, and a repository of wisdom whose noble spirit inspires admiration, gratitude, and deep respect among all who

have the privilege of encountering him."

He further added: "Men of his calibre are rare gifts to society, builders of institutions, nurturers of destinies, and custodians of enduring values that strengthen the moral fabric of our people."

Otu also paid glowing tribute to Chief Ekpenyong's philanthropic legacy, acknowledging his quiet but profound investments in human capital, community development, and faith-based service. "Beyond his distinguished professional attainments," he said, "Chief Ekpenyong's greatest wealth

lies in the lives he has touched, the hopes he has restored, and the countless doors of opportunity he has opened for others through compassion, humility, and fatherly grace.”

Offering prayers for the celebrant, Governor Otu declared: “As you mark this glorious milestone, it is my earnest prayer that the Almighty adorn this new chapter of your life with divine favour, radiant health, serene peace, renewed strength, and unending joy. May your years ahead blossom even more richly in grace, abundance, and fulfillment. May your enduring legacy of honour, philanthropy, and

wise fatherly guidance shine ever more brilliantly for generations yet unborn. May history continue to record you as a man whose life is spent not merely in personal achievement, but in uplifting humanity and enriching society with uncommon nobility of heart.”

Governor Otu noted that Chief Ekpenyong’s 78th birthday offers a fitting moment for collective reflection on a life of uncommon distinction and purposeful impact. “This celebration is not only about one man’s remarkable journey,” he remarked, “it is also about the timeless virtues he represents—service, excellence,

dignity, compassion, and uncommon faith in God and humanity.”

He prayed that Chief Dr. Asuquo Ekpenyong continues to enjoy God’s abiding grace, peace, and prosperity, while remaining a beacon of wisdom and inspiration to the state, the nation, and generations to come.

C'River Mandates Traceability Registration for Cash Crop Farmers

By Blessing Enagu



Odey Ikongah, the Ministry stated that the exercise is designed to ensure that agricultural produce from Cross River State meets global standards and remains eligible for export.


Ikongah disclosed that trained enumerators have been deployed to farms and communities across all local government areas to carry out the registration process.

He urged farmers to cooperate fully with the officials to ensure seamless data capture. As part of the

The Cross River State Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development has directed all cocoa, coffee, oil palm, and rubber farmers across the state to participate in an ongoing Traceability

Registration Exercise, describing the initiative as vital for sustaining access to international markets.

In a public announcement signed by the Permanent Secretary, Eld.



requirements, farmers are expected to present a valid means of identification, specifically their National Identification Number (NIN) slip or Voter's Card, at their farms during the exercise. The Ministry warned that failure to provide proper identification could lead to exclusion from the registration, which may in turn affect access to government support programmes and other benefits.

The statement further emphasized that farmers operating within government-owned farm estates must participate fully in the exercise or risk losing their farm allocations. It also highlighted the need for accurate and complete information, noting that such data would determine eligibility for future government interventions.

Reassuring stakeholders, the Permanent Secretary stressed that the

registration process is entirely free of charge.

He cautioned Farmers against making payments to unauthorized individuals claiming to facilitate the exercise and advised them to contact the Director of Agriculture in their respective local government areas or call 08063132448 for inquiries or assistance, farmers have been advised

UNICROSS Students' Protest and Fatal Motor Accident



Earlier today, students of the University of Cross River State took to the streets to protest the tragic death of three of their colleagues in a motor accident, where a truck struck a bus conveying students returning from a friendly female football match in Uyo on Friday, May 1, 2026, along the

Itu-Odukpani Road. The Governor had earlier extended his deepest condolences to the families of the deceased, the students, and the entire university community over this painful and heartbreaking loss.

The Office of the Deputy Governor of Cross River State wishes to correct the public record in

the interest of truth, peace, and responsible dialogue.

The protesters first went to the General Hospital, then proceeded to Millennium Park, and later moved to the Governor's Office. At Millennium Park, they blocked vehicular traffic for an extended period until they

were persuaded to reopen the road. At a point during the protest, the situation became rowdy after the leadership structure among the protesters broke down, and some individuals began vandalizing government property. In response, the police used tear gas to disperse the crowd and restore order. No one was shot. This fact must be clearly stated to ensure that misinformation does not distort the facts or unnecessarily inflame public sentiment.

While the concerns raised about healthcare facilities in the state and the completion of the Calabar-Itu Road are duly

noted, the government makes it clear that the temporary breakdown of law and order should not be unfairly attributed to the State Government. The administration remains committed to addressing legitimate grievances through peaceful engagement.

Acting swiftly and in the spirit of compassion and dialogue, the Deputy Governor immediately invited ten leaders of the student body to his office, where he personally assured them of the government's concern and support. This included the use of his personal vehicles and security personnel to assist in

evacuating injured accident victims to various hospitals for urgent medical attention.

The Deputy Governor also addressed concerns raised about the General Hospital and the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH). He explained that some of the accident victims were redirected from the General Hospital to UCTH not because the General Hospital was ill-equipped, but because it was overwhelmed beyond its capacity at the time. He has further directed the Commissioner for Health to remain fully engaged on the matter to ensure that all victims receive the best possible care, as



the government has made full provision for their medical bills. He has also requested a full report on the state of the General Hospital so that any identified gaps can be promptly addressed.

His Excellency urges the public, especially commentators, to avoid

misinformation and exaggerated narratives capable of worsening an already painful situation. The government remains open to constructive engagement and continues to work in the interest of all citizens, including students and young people, whose welfare remains a priority.

We once again commiserate with the families of the deceased and the university community, and pray for the repose of the souls of the departed students. May the injured recover swiftly and fully.

Fred Abua, Esq.
*Press Secretary to
the Deputy
Governor*

Re: Circulating Video Alleging Police Shooting Of Unicross Student Protesters



1. The Cross River State Police Command has noted with concern a video currently circulating on social media alleging that police officers shot at peaceful student protesters during the protest by students of the University of Cross River State

(UNICROSS), Calabar, on Monday, 4th May 2026.

2. The Command wishes to state unequivocally that the circulating narrative is incorrect and does not represent the verified sequence of events as observed and documented by security operatives

deployed to the scene.

3. The protest was triggered by the tragic death of three UNICROSS students who lost their lives in a fatal road traffic accident that occurred on 1st May 2026 at Ikot Okon, New Okurikang Junction, Odukpani Local Government Area.

4. At about 0900hrs on 4th May 2026, the Command received credible intelligence of a planned student protest and promptly deployed the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Department of Operations, alongside other

police personnel, to ensure public safety, maintain law and order, and prevent any breakdown of peace.

5. On arrival, police personnel engaged student leaders in dialogue and appealed for calm and orderly conduct. The protest initially commenced peacefully before it later degenerated into violence.

6. The Command states categorically that no protester was shot, no protester was targeted with firearms, and at no time were live rounds discharged by police operatives during the entire incident.

7. However, upon reaching the General Hospital,

some aggrieved protesters became violent and vandalised public infrastructure, including an ambulance, windows, signposts, and other hospital facilities. Police operatives responded with restraint and adopted lawful, non-lethal crowd management procedures aimed strictly at de-escalating tension and restoring order while preventing further destruction of public property.

8. The procession later moved to the Government House, where some protesters became increasingly aggressive and attempted to force entry into the premises, thereby posing a serious threat to public safety and critical

government infrastructure.

9. In response, security personnel deployed minimal, lawful, and non-lethal crowd-control measures, including the deployment of smoke canisters as a controlled, non-lethal dispersal measure into the air to safely disperse the crowd. The measure was applied strictly to prevent a breach of security and restore order in line with standard public order policing procedures.

10. The Command further reiterates that no fatalities were recorded during the protest, and no death occurred as a result of police action.



11. Normalcy was subsequently restored following the timely intervention of the Special Adviser to the Governor on Security, alongside other government officials, who engaged student representatives. This was followed by a formal meeting between the students' representatives and the Deputy Governor of Cross River State, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, at Government House, Calabar,

where the situation was brought under control and calm fully returned.

12. The Cross River State Police Command urges members of the public to disregard false, distorted, and inflammatory content being circulated on social media, which is capable of misrepresenting facts and inciting unnecessary tension.

13. The Command remains firmly committed to

professional policing, the protection of lives and property, and the maintenance of peace, law, and public order across the State.

E-signed :
ASP EITOKPAH
SUNDAY AKATA,
anipr,mnisma
Police Public
Relations Officer
For: Commissioner
of Police
Cross River State
Command, Calabar
04th May 2026

Ugep-Idomi Boundary Dispute: C'River Govt Sets Demarcation Timeline



The Cross River State Government has moved to end the lingering boundary dispute between Ugep and Idomi communities in Yakurr Local Government Area, announcing a one-week timeline for the commencement of boundary demarcation.

The state government reaffirmed its

commitment to a fair, transparent and lasting resolution of the crisis, stressing that peace remains critical to sustainable development.

The decision followed a peace meeting held, Monday, at Government House, Calabar, presided over by the Deputy Governor and Chairman of the State Boundary Committee, SBC,

Rt. Hon. Peter Odey.

Commending both communities for their peaceful disposition, Odey described their willingness to embrace dialogue as a strong signal of their commitment to coexistence.

The meeting had in attendance the Chairman of Yakurr Local Government

Council, the Paramount Ruler of Yakurr, the Clan Head of Idomi, the State Security Adviser, the Surveyor-General, among other stakeholders.

Briefing journalists on the outcome, government said the Surveyor-General, alongside the State Security Adviser, the Council Chairman and representatives of both communities, would move to the disputed area within one week to carry out a physical demarcation exercise.

Each of the communities, it said, is expected to nominate five chiefs to participate in the exercise, which will be guided by

mutually agreed traditional boundary alignments.

Stakeholders were also directed to submit all relevant documents supporting their claims to the Office of the Secretary to the State Government before the exercise begins.

According to the government, the Surveyor-General and his team are to submit a report within one week after the exercise, to be followed by a review meeting at Government House to finalise the boundary.

It warned that any breach of peace would not be tolerated, urging community leaders to sensitise residents, particularly youths, women and elders,

on the need for restraint.

The Paramount Ruler and clan heads, it added, would be held accountable for maintaining law and order, while the Council Chairman has been mandated to ensure security in collaboration with relevant agencies.

Odey, however, stressed the need for unity and cooperation, noting that both communities have coexisted peacefully over the years and must work together to sustain that legacy.

World Bank Commends C'River on EUDR Readiness, Recognizes State as a Pioneer in Subnational Traceability

By Sylvia Okoi



A delegation from the World Bankled by Dr. Hiri Channa and Dr. Godwin Oyediji, has commended the Cross River State Government for its proactive efforts toward aligning with the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

The commendation was delivered during an

interactive session with the Director-General of the Cross River Geographic Information Agency (CRGIA), following a technical tour of the agency's facilities.

The delegation expressed satisfaction with the initiatives implemented under the administration of Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, which aim to ensure that agricultural

commodities originating from Cross River State are fully traceable and remain eligible for access to European markets beyond the EUDR compliance deadline of 31 December 2026.

The World Bank team specifically acknowledged the collaborative contributions of the Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. Johnson Ebokpo;



the Director-General of CRGIA, Mr. William Archibong Jnr; the Chairman of the Forestry Commission, Hon. George Oben-Etchi; and the Chairperson of the Multi-Stakeholder Committee on Coffee, Cocoa, and Oil Palm, Professor Susan Ohen.

According to the delegation, Cross River State has

demonstrated exemplary leadership in subnational traceability systems and was recognized as a pioneer in EUDR preparedness. The state was further encouraged to document and disseminate its experiences to other subnational entities and, where feasible, extend technical assistance to facilitate

nationwide compliance ahead of the regulatory deadline.

In his response, the Director-General of the Cross River Geographic Information Agency (CRGIA), Mr. William Archibong Jnr., described the World Bank's recent commendation of the State's



European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) preparedness as a validation of the deliberate investments made by Governor

Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu's administration in data-driven agriculture.

Archibong said the State did not rest

on its laurels but rather worked systematically to build a subnational traceability framework capable of meeting international



standards.

The Director-General noted that the CRGIA remains dedicated to advancing a robust, data-driven, and transparent land and commodity traceability framework. He added that the agency will immediately take steps to act on the World Bank's recommendation to share Cross River's experience with other States.

"We welcome the delegation's recommendation to document and share our experience with other States and to provide technical support where possible," Archibong said.

He outlined three key commitments: developing a comprehensive knowledge product on Cross River's EUDR readiness journey; engaging subnational and national

stakeholders through peer-learning forums; and extending advisory and capacity-building support to other Nigerian states ahead of the December 2026 EUDR compliance deadline.

"We view this not only as a vote of confidence but also as a call to deepen our efforts," Archibong added. "CRGIA will continue to strengthen its geographic information infrastructure, expand farmer enrolment in traceability systems, and align domestic standards with international market requirements."



CROSS RIVER STATE POLICE COMMAND

PHONE NUMBERS OF AREA COMMANDERS AND DPO'S

METRO AREA COMMAND

- A. AC METRO 08067048008
1. A Div 08112991880
 2. ATAKPA 08034209444
 3. AKIM 08067339179
 4. UWANSE 08033484633
 5. BAKASSI 07069940045
 6. EFUT 08037977274
 7. AKPABUYO 08037471948

TINAPA AREA COMMAND

- B. AC TINAPA 08131818072
1. FEDERAL HOUSING 07066154444
 2. STATE HOUSING 08037524835
 3. IKOT OMIN 08160381754
 4. EPZ 08068559326
 5. B DIV 08067836028

AKAMKPA AREA COMMAND

- C. AC AKAMKPA 07063753411
1. AKAMKPA 07061494470
 2. BIASE 07031988044
 3. ODUKPANI 08182054218
 4. UYANGA 07034456931
 5. OLD NETIM 08065622335
 6. ABANWAN-EREI 08037972405
 7. BIAKPAN **08068114360**

UGEP AREA COMMAND

- D. AC UGEP 08034414048
1. YAKUUR 08063303749
 2. OBUBRA 08056506652
 3. APIAPIUM 09064110181
 4. ABI 08039549639
 5. EKORI 08036685409
 6. NKO 08123827103

IKOM AREA COMMAND

- E. AC IKOM 08038229270
1. IKOM 08068061867
 2. BOKI 08067440813
 3. ETUNG 08065695408
 4. BATERIKO 08063403675

OGOJA AREA COMMAND

- F. AC OGOJA 08035909911
1. OGOJA 07032637876
 2. BEKWARRA 08032772033
 3. YALA 08161885753
 4. OBANLIKU 07089873913
 5. OBUDU 08037940576

CONTROL ROOM FOR EMERGENCY

0705 335 5415

POLICE COMPLAINT RESPONSE UNIT(CRU)

08137083052, 08134096900

PPRO: 07067977330

09058273057



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CROSS RIVER STATE CHAPTER



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Students - N3,000

THEME:

**BUILDING RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES:**
Architecture at the Heart of Sustainable
Development

Wed. 13th- Fri. 15th May, 2026 📅

Cross River State Library 📍
Calabar, CRS. Nigeria

9:00am (WAT) 🕒

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS OF HONOUR

HE Mr. Donald Duke
HE Senator Liyel Imoke

ROYAL FATHER OF THE DAY

HH Etubom Arc. Bassey Eyo Ndem

MOTHER OF THE DAY

Dr. (Mrs.) Beatrice Igwe
(Commissioner for Housing)

CHIEF HOST

Arc. Alaba Oduniyi fnia
(NIA CRS Chapter Chair)



CROSS RIVER STATE BRANCH

43RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE & INTERNATIONAL HR DAY 2026

Theme: Empowering People to Lead
Change in the Public Sector

Sub-theme: The Future of Government
HR in an AI-Driven Era

Program Schedule

May 19, 2026 ▶ Health Outreach &
Professional Consultations

May 20, 2026 ▶ Annual Conference &
International HR Day Celebration.

📍 ▶ Calabar, Cross River State.

Conference Fees

Members: **₦30,000**

Non-Members: **₦40,000**

Retirees: **₦10,000**

Students:

Physical: **₦20,000**

Virtual: **₦15,000**

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✔ Professional Growth: Earn
credit points for
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professionals & industry
leaders.

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Breast Cancer & Cervical
examinations.

Call for Abstracts

✔ Submissions are invited
on AI & Automation,
Change Management, HR
Analytics, and Ethics.

✔ **Submission & Guidelines:**
Please refer to the
contact information
below for full submission
details & requirements.

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Contact for Inquiries and Sponsorships



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

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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





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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>



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





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(+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

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STARTS ON 25TH AUGUST, 2025**
*All 37 INEC State Offices or 774 Local
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- Replace your lost or damaged PVC
- No Multiple Registration

✉ iccc@inec.gov.ng

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www.inecnews.com

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09050858649

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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