

**THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026**

## Daily InfoNews...

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

Articles and stories in this publication may be reproduced.

## MANAGEMENT

### Commissioner for Information

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

Permanent Secretary  
**Emmanuel Egban**

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

State Director of Information

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

**Nakanda Iyadim** **Editor**

**Esther Okoi** **Production Editor**

## SUB-EDITORS

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

## ICT/PRODUCTION MANAGER

**Uno Hinang-ovai**

## PHOTOGRAPHS

**Daniel Williams**  
**Joe Alah**

# Contents

- GOV. OTU INSPECTS KEY PROJECTS, ORDERS FASTER DELIVERY DESPITE HEAVY RAINS** **PAGE 3**
- GOVERNOR OTU CONSTITUTES BURSARY STEERING COMMITTEE.** **PAGE 8**
- C'RIVER ASSEMBLY REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO STRONGER LEGAL FRAMEWORK AGAINST SGBV ...AS MRS OTU VISITS THEM ON ADVOCACY** **PAGE 9**
- CROSS RIVER GOVERNMENT HAILS ECEWS SOLAR POWER DONATION TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH SERVICES** **PAGE 12**
- ODEY JOINS EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS FOR UNVEILING OF DIGITAL NATIONAL EDUCATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM IN ABUJA** **PAGE 19**
- CR-SEMA DG URGES RESIDENTS ON FLOOD PREPAREDNESS AS RAINFALL INTENSIFIES** **PAGE 22**
- HEALTHCARE IN SAFE HANDS AS OTU DEEPENS REFORMS ACROSS CROSS RIVER** **PAGE 25**
- C'RIVER BEGINS STATEWIDE VERIFICATION OF PROPOSED CLANS, VISITS CALABAR MUNICIPALITY** **PAGE 29**
- BUILD SYSTEMS, NOT ESTATES, TO CLOSE HOUSING GAP – CROSS RIVER TELLS DEVELOPERS** **PAGE 32**



**CHECK INSIDE**

FOR MORE STORIES



[www.crossriverstate.gov.ng](http://www.crossriverstate.gov.ng)



[info@crossriverstate.gov.ng](mailto:info@crossriverstate.gov.ng)



<https://x.com/OfficialCRSG>



[www.facebook.com/crs.information](https://www.facebook.com/crs.information)

# 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.

# Gov. Otu Inspects Key Projects, Orders Faster Delivery Despite Heavy Rains

By Daniel Bebia



**G**overnor Bassey Otu has directed contractors handling key infrastructure projects across the Calabar metropolis to accelerate the

pace of work despite persistent rainfall, reaffirming his administration's commitment to delivering quality projects on schedule.

The Governor gave the directive on Wednesday during an inspection tour of ongoing road and drainage projects, including the Parliamentary Extension and the Cultural Centre, where he assessed the quality of work and reviewed progress at the various project sites.

Speaking after inspecting the Parliamentary Extension road, Governor Otu disclosed that he met with the contractor to ascertain his readiness to continue work despite the rainy season and urged him to expedite the project without



satisfaction with the level of work already completed, noting that residents of the area had responded positively to the project while assuring that government would address any genuine concerns raised by the community.

Governor Otu attributed the flooding being experienced in parts of the state to the growing impact of climate change, explaining that increasingly prolonged rainfall has significantly reduced the construction window available for road projects.

“It is very clear that climate change is affecting us. What used to be two distinct

compromising quality.

“I came to see the contractor on site and ask him whether he was still ready to continue despite the rains, and he said yes. By next week, we should be able to mobilise

him strongly enough to complete the project. He has gone quite far, and from this point forward, we will continue to engage him to ensure the quality of the work is maintained,” the Governor said.

He expressed



seasons now almost feels like one long rainy season, and that is creating serious challenges for road construction. But that will not stop us from delivering on our mandate,”

he stated.

The Governor revealed that the state government is exploring more resilient road construction materials capable of withstanding

prolonged rainfall, adding that alternative chemical-based materials stronger than conventional asphalt are currently undergoing laboratory

assessment.

“We have been carrying out research to see if we can get chemical substances that are more resilient and stronger than asphalt. Some are already in the laboratory because we must continue delivering durable infrastructure despite the changing weather conditions,” he said.

As part of the inspection, Governor Otu also visited major drainage channels across the metropolis to assess the causes of flooding, observing that some channels require expansion while others need comprehensive reconstruction to improve the

evacuation of stormwater.

The Governor equally inspected the ongoing renovation of the Cultural Centre, expressing concern over delays in the execution of the project and directing the contractor to accelerate work to ensure the facility is completed within the revised timeline.

Describing his administration as people-centred, Governor Otu said opening up communities through road infrastructure remains one of the quickest ways of improving livelihoods and stimulating economic activities across the state. He added that, alongside infrastructure

development, his administration has continued to prioritise security and agriculture as critical drivers of economic growth.

“We cannot stop building because of natural disasters. Where roads are damaged by heavy rains, we will repair them. Once we have favourable weather conditions, work will continue because our commitment is to deliver the dividends of good governance to our people,” the Governor affirmed.





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

---

July 1, 2026

**PRESS RELEASE**

**GOVERNOR OTU CONSTITUTES BURSARY STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Governor of Cross River State, His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, has approved the constitution of the Cross River State Bursary Steering Committee to drive the seamless implementation of the government's bursary programme. The committee is chaired by Prof. Paul Itari, Chairman of the Cross River State Scholarship Board, Comrade Kelvin Enyam (Member), Mr. Matthew Ochiche (Member), Comrade Abini Okoi (Member) and Dr. Emmanuel Duke (Secretary).

The committee is mandated to develop a transparent bursary application model, design an efficient data collection and payment framework, engage critical stakeholders, reduce administrative bottleneck and recommend strategies that will guarantee a credible, inclusive and accountable bursary administration process in line with the Governor Otu administration's commitment to expanding educational opportunities for Cross River students.

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



# C'River Assembly Reaffirms Commitment to Stronger Legal Framework Against SGBV ....as Mrs Otu Visits them on Advocacy

By Itam Ofor



The Cross River State House of Assembly has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the legal and institutional framework for the

prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), pledging to review existing laws, intensify legislative oversight and support policies that guarantee justice and

protection for victims across the state.

The commitment was made by the Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon.

Elvert Ayambem, while receiving the First Lady of Cross River State, Bishop Dr. Mrs. Eyoanwan Basse Otu, Founder of Humanity Without Borders Empowerment Initiative, alongside representatives of the Nigerian Governors' Spouses Forum, the Ford Foundation, development partners and other stakeholders during a state-level advocacy visit to the Cross River State House of Assembly on preventing harmful social norms that perpetuate Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

Welcoming the delegation to the People's House, the Speaker commended the

First Lady for her sustained advocacy and humanitarian interventions aimed at protecting women, children and other vulnerable groups, describing her efforts as a valuable contribution to promoting social justice and human dignity in Cross River State.

He noted that Sexual and Gender-Based Violence remains a serious social challenge whose consequences extend beyond individual victims to families and communities, affecting peace, security and development. He stressed that confronting the menace requires collective action involving government institutions,

traditional rulers, faith-based organisations, civil society, the media and the general public.

Ayambem assured the delegation that the legislature would continue to discharge its constitutional responsibility by strengthening legal protections for victims, ensuring offenders are held accountable, intensifying oversight of relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, supporting improved budgetary allocations for SGBV interventions and promoting access to justice, rehabilitation and psychosocial support for survivors.

"The responsibility

of eliminating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence rests on all of us. Together, we can create safer communities where every person is treated with dignity and respect. The Cross River State House of Assembly remains ready to work with all partners in advancing this important cause and ensuring that our laws continue to protect the vulnerable," the Speaker said.

Earlier, the First Lady of Cross River State, Bishop Dr. Mrs. Eyoanwan Basse Otu, expressed appreciation to the Speaker and members of the Assembly for receiving the advocacy team, describing the

legislature as an indispensable partner in addressing the root causes of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

She observed that the persistence of SGBV is driven not by the absence of laws but by weak implementation, harmful social norms, inadequate accountability and limited public confidence in institutions responsible for protecting survivors.

The First Lady called on the Assembly to deepen its legislative support by strengthening oversight of relevant agencies, ensuring adequate and sustained funding for prevention and survivor support programmes,

reinforcing the implementation of existing laws and considering legislative reforms that respond to emerging challenges.

She further emphasized that preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence is a public safety priority, a human rights obligation and an essential requirement for sustainable development, urging lawmakers to institutionalise policies that will protect vulnerable persons beyond political administrations.

# Cross River Government Hails ECEWS Solar Power Donation to Strengthen Health Services

By Kingsley Agim



**T**he Cross River State Government has commended the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) for donating solar power systems to

health facilities providing health and HIV services across the state, describing the intervention as a major boost to healthcare delivery and service sustainability.

The commendation was made by the State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, Tuesday, while receiving the solar power equipment



on behalf of the state government.

Dr. Ayuk expressed appreciation to ECEWS for what he described as a timely and impactful intervention that would significantly improve service delivery in beneficiary facilities.

“This intervention, which the State Government is very appreciative of, further strengthens our



healthcare facilities and demonstrates a genuine commitment to the health of our people.”

He noted that reliable electricity

remains critical to effective healthcare delivery, particularly for laboratory services, drug storage, and patient care,



adding that the solar installation would significantly enhance operational efficiency across supported facilities.

Dr. Ayuk attributed the increasing confidence of development partners in Cross River State to the enabling environment

created by Governor Bassey Otu's administration, which he said has strengthened collaboration and restored trust in the health sector.

"Before this administration came on board, partners were leaving in droves because the environment was not conducive," he

said. "Today, we have stable partnerships because the government has created an atmosphere that encourages collaboration."

He assured that the Ministry of Health would ensure strict supervision, proper deployment, and maintenance of



the solar systems to guarantee maximum impact and long-term sustainability across all beneficiary facilities.

Presenting the solar systems, the State Director of ECEWS, Dr. Joe Umana, said the intervention was implemented on behalf of the

organisation’s Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Andy Ayo, as part of efforts to strengthen HIV service delivery and ensure sustainability of health programmes in the state.

Dr. Umana disclosed that the intervention included 60 units of 600W bifacial solar panels, one 10KVA

Felicity lithium battery, one 10KVA Felicity inverter, six 200Ah 12V Felicity gel batteries, and five 7.5KVA Felicity lithium batteries, deployed across selected health facilities based on their energy requirements.

Explaining the distribution of the solar power systems, Dr.



Umana informed that Sacred Heart Catholic Hospital Obudu will receive a complete solar overhaul comprising a

10KVA inverter and 10KW lithium battery system, while Ogoja Catholic Maternity Hospital, Ogoja General Hospital, Yala

Lutheran Hospital, Akpet Central Cottage Hospital and Ikang Primary Health Centre each will benefit from upgraded 5KVA



inverter systems with 7.5KW lithium batteries.

Other beneficiary facilities, including Eja Memorial Hospital, Mount Zion Medical Centre and Ekorinim Health Centre, received two 200AH gel batteries each, while Ikot Enebong Health Post also benefited from the intervention.

Dr. Umana said the



solar installations were designed to guarantee uninterrupted electricity supply for HIV-related services, including diagnostics, medicine storage and patient care,

thereby strengthening the resilience of healthcare delivery across the state.

# ROADS ARE SHARED SPACES,

RESPECT CYCLISTS,  
MOTORCYCLISTS AND  
PEDESTRIANS TO CREATE  
**A SAFER ROAD**



RESPECT  
SHARE  
PROTECT  
SAVE LIVES



RESPECT  
CYCLISTS



RESPECT  
MOTORCYCLISTS



RESPECT  
PEDESTRIANS



SHARE TODAY,  
SAVE TOMORROW

# TRAMRA

Cross River State Traffic  
Management and Regulatory Agency

# Odey Joins Education Stakeholders For Unveiling Of Digital National Education Management Information System In Abuja

By Patricia Ogbeche



The Cross River State Commissioner for Education, Senator Professor Stephen Odey, Esq. on Wednesday June 1, 2026 joined Commissioners for Education from across the country, Executive Chairmen of State Universal Basic

Education Boards (SUBEBs), State Statisticians-General, and other key education stakeholders at the official unveiling of the Digitalised National Education Management Information System (DNEMIS) and the inauguration of State DNEMIS Coordination

Teams.

The event, held at the Ladi Kwali Hall of the Abuja Continental Hotel, marked a significant milestone in Nigeria's drive to strengthen education data management and improve evidence-based planning



across the nation's education sector.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, alongside the Honourable Minister of State for Education, Prof. Suwaiba Said Ahmad, who underscored the

Federal Government's commitment to leveraging technology to enhance the quality, accessibility, and reliability of education data nationwide.

Speaking at the event, stakeholders described the Digitalised National Education Management

Information System (DNEMIS) as a transformative national education data reform initiative designed to improve school-level data collection, ensure the availability of accurate and timely information, strengthen accountability, and support informed policy formulation and decision-



making across all states of the federation.

The inauguration of the State DNEMIS Coordination Teams is expected to facilitate the effective implementation of the initiative at the sub-national level, ensuring collaboration among relevant education agencies

and promoting a unified approach to education data management.

Senator Professor Stephen Odey's participation at the national event reflects the Cross River State Government's commitment to embracing innovative reforms and digital solutions that will enhance education planning,

monitoring, and service delivery, in line with Governor Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu's vision of transforming the education sector through data-driven policies and effective governance.

# CR-SEMA DG Urges Residents On Flood Preparedness As Rainfall Intensifies

By David Asu



**T**he Director General of the Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (CR-SEMA), Mr. Efa Nyong, has urged residents of the state to remain vigilant and adopt safety measures as the rainy season intensifies.

Mr. Nyong gave

the charge while receiving the leadership of the Unified Commercial Drivers Association of Cross River State led by its Chairman, Mr. Nta Henshaw, alongside the Executive President of Delivery Vehicle Owners and Drivers Association of Nigeria (DELVAN), High Chief Comrade Raphael Sabbastine, at the CR-SEMA

headquarters in Calabar.

The CR-SEMA boss said with increased rainfall being experienced in different parts of the country and changing weather patterns, there was need for residents to take proactive steps to reduce the impact of possible flooding.



He noted that disaster preparedness remained a collective responsibility, urging residents to keep drainage channels around their homes and communities clear, avoid dumping refuse in waterways and desist from building structures on flood paths.

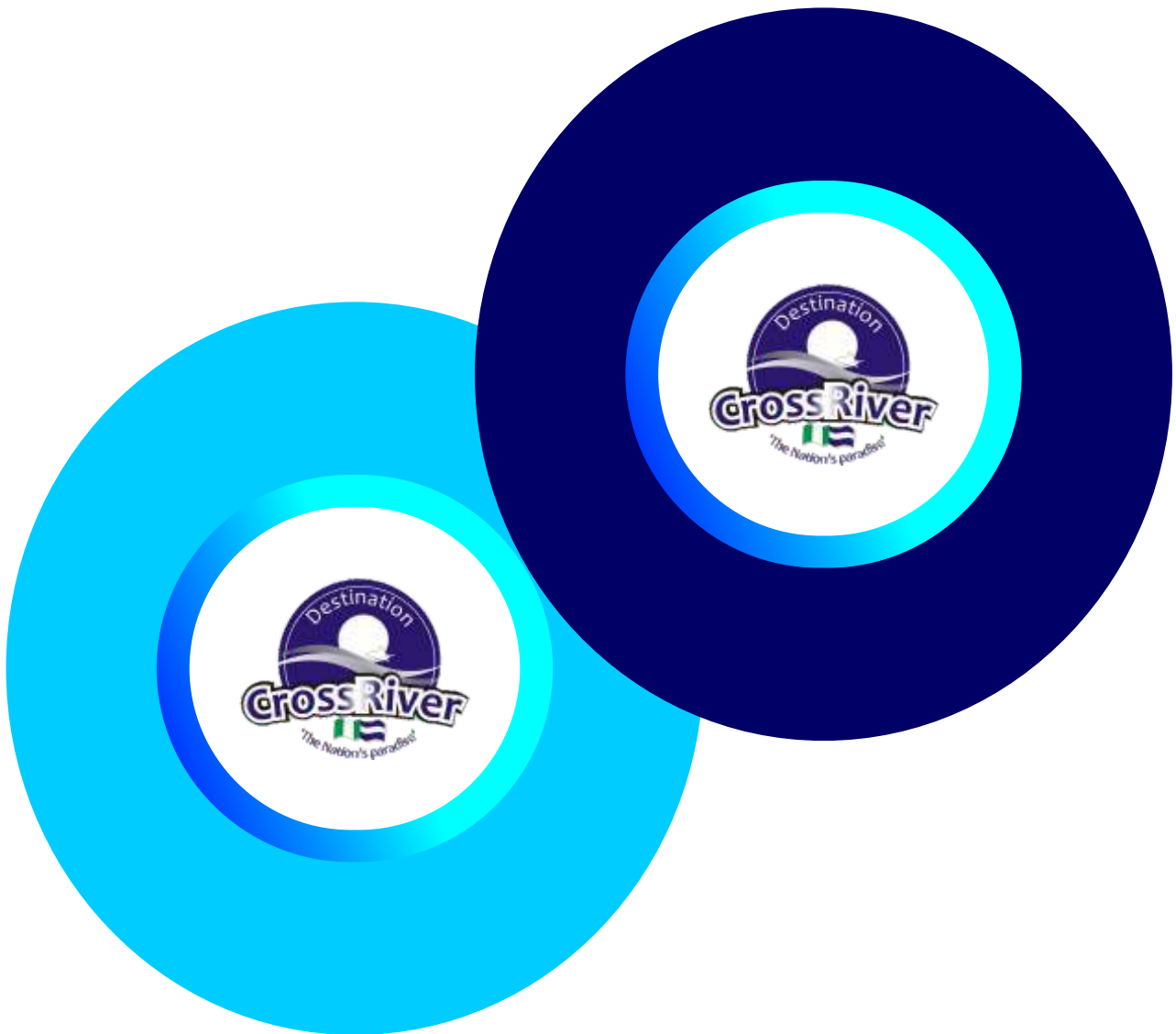
Mr. Nyong further encouraged transport operators

and other stakeholders to support safety awareness within their various communities, noting that early warning and quick information sharing are key to reducing disaster risks.

He stressed that CR-SEMA under his leadership will continue to strengthen collaboration with relevant stakeholders, community groups and emergency

responders to improve disaster preparedness and response across the state.

The DG also appreciated the leadership of the Unified Commercial Drivers Association and DELVAN for their visit, describing stakeholder support and cooperation as important in achieving effective emergency management.



Earlier, the Chairman of the Unified Commercial Drivers Association of Cross River State, Mr. Nta Henshaw, had expressed the union's support for the DG, assuring him of their cooperation towards the

success of his administration.

Also speaking, the Executive President of DELVAN, High Chief Comrade Raphael Sabbastine, commended the leadership qualities of Mr. Nyong and prayed for success in his new role.

As Cross River State

enters a new month, CR-SEMA continues to encourage residents to remain alert, informed and prepared as part of efforts to build safer and more resilient communities.

# Healthcare in Safe Hands as Otu Deepens Reforms Across Cross River

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Government has declared that the state's healthcare system is now more secure and sustainable than ever under the administration of Governor Bassey Otu, citing far-reaching reforms aimed at expanding access to quality,

affordable healthcare for all residents.

The State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, made the declaration on Tuesday while flagging off a one-week training for heads of high-performing Primary Healthcare Centres, Midwives and Community Health

Extension Workers (CHEWs) in Calabar. He said Governor Otu had laid a solid foundation for a performance-driven healthcare system that prioritises improved service delivery and long-term sustainability.

"The Governor has established a framework that is



expanding health services, improving quality and making healthcare increasingly affordable to all segments of the population," Dr. Ayuk said. "The framework includes lifting the employment embargo, recruiting new health workers,

improving salaries and allowances, upgrading health facilities and putting in place the legal structures required for an efficient healthcare system."

He explained that the reforms also include the establishment of the Drug Management

Agency, Hospital Management Board, Quality and Anti-Quackery Services, as well as legislation to extend the retirement age of health professionals to 65 years and strengthen public health security across the state.

Dr. Ayuk disclosed that the administration is investing heavily in manpower development through the establishment and accreditation of four Colleges of Nursing, with plans to produce globally competitive Bachelor of Nursing graduates. He added that the proposed Specialist Hospital would lay the foundation for the state's Medical College to train doctors and other healthcare professionals locally.

"The programmes have all reached advanced stages of implementation because Governor Otu is determined to build a self-sustaining healthcare system for Cross River," he said, adding that

the Governor "is too focused on delivering his mandate to be distracted by political jobbers and miscreants."

Highlighting infrastructure development, the Commissioner said the government had completed the construction and rehabilitation of over 100 health facilities in the State including upgrading of other secondary sites to provide digital and internet connectivity, fistula repair units and medical oxygen services.

Also speaking, the Director General of the Cross River State Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr. Vivien Mesembe Otu, directed all Primary Healthcare Centres

to document and upload records of antenatal care, immunisation, clinical treatments and other services on the District Health Information System (DHIS2).

"All data must be uploaded to the DHIS2 system to ensure transparency and monitor progress in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality rates," she said, stressing that compliance would determine continued funding and institutional support for health facilities.

The Director of Nursing Services, Mrs. Roseline Obojor-Ogar, urged health workers to uphold professionalism by placing patients at the centre of



service delivery while strengthening collaboration with Traditional Birth Attendants through referrals, home visits and follow-up care.

Lead Facilitator, Prof. Patience Odusola, said the intensive training would equip participants with modern clinical skills through practical

simulations and evidence-based medical protocols. "We need skilled health workers in our facilities to make this reduction in maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity happen," she said.

The training attracted participants from all 18 local government areas and was attended by the State Coordinator of

the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Mr. Christian Ikechukwu, alongside other senior health officials and facilitators committed to advancing healthcare delivery in Cross River State.

# C'River Begins Statewide Verification of Proposed Clans, Visits Calabar Municipality

By Akpo Orok Ironbar



The Cross River State Department of Chieftaincy Affairs has stepped up its statewide verification exercise for proposed clans

and villages, with a visit to the Calabar Municipal Council as part of efforts to strengthen traditional institutions across the state.

The delegation, led

by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Chieftaincy Affairs, Otuekong Sir Francis Edet, visited the council to officially inform its leadership about the



ongoing verification exercise. The exercise has been approved by the Governor of Cross River State, His Excellency Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu.

The verification aims to assess and authenticate proposed new clans and villages across all 18 local

government areas, ensuring that due process is strictly followed in the recognition of traditional institutions.

Receiving the delegation at the Calabar Municipal Council Secretariat, the Council Secretary, Comrade Iso Edim, expressed appreciation for

the visit and commended the Department of Chieftaincy Affairs for involving local government authorities in the exercise.

He described the initiative as timely and essential for promoting transparency, accountability, and proper documentation

within the state's traditional institutions.

Iso also reaffirmed the council's readiness to work closely with the department to ensure a smooth and successful verification process.

During the meeting, the Council Secretary approved a suitable date for the verification of proposed clans and villages within the Calabar Municipality area and pledged full support for the exercise. He assured the Special Adviser and his team of the council's commitment to facilitating the process.

Speaking during

the visit, Otuekong Sir Francis Edet noted that the exercise is part of the Governor's commitment to preserving Cross River State's cultural heritage while strengthening traditional institutions through a transparent and credible verification process.

He thanked the Calabar Municipal Council leadership for their warm reception and willingness to partner with the Department of Chieftaincy Affairs to ensure the successful implementation of the exercise.

The statewide verification of proposed new clans and villages

is expected to continue across all local government areas, with the government reaffirming its commitment to promoting inclusive traditional governance, community development, and lasting peace through a credible recognition process.

# Build Systems, Not Estates, to Close Housing Gap – Cross River Tells Developers

By Immaculata Archibong



The Cross River State Government has challenged housing corporations across Nigeria to move beyond the construction of isolated estates and instead develop scalable, replicable systems capable of bridging

the nation's widening housing deficit.

Commissioner for Housing, Dr. Beatrice Igwe, delivered the charge on behalf of Governor Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu at the opening of a two-day national workshop

organized by the Association of Housing Corporations of Nigeria (AHCN). The event, themed "Affordable Housing Solutions for Low-Income Earners in Emerging Housing Markets," is currently underway at the



Prince Bassey Otu Hall, State Library Complex in Calabar.

Dr. Igwe noted that Nigeria's housing demand continues to far outstrip supply, largely

because conventional financing models consistently exclude low-



income earners.

To bridge this gap, Dr. Igwe disclosed that Cross River State is actively piloting an innovative Public-Private-Community Partnership (PPCP) model under Governor Otu's "People First" agenda.

As a major

milestone, the Commissioner announced that the groundbreaking ceremony for a 500-unit Okuni Housing Estate in the Central Senatorial District is scheduled for Saturday, July 4, 2026. The state plans to replicate this model across the Northern and Southern senatorial districts, targeting a

total of 1,500 units statewide. Additionally, she revealed that a separate 50-unit free housing project for indigent women has already reached 80 percent completion.

Describing housing corporation CEOs as the "architects of dignity" for



millions of Nigerians, Dr. Igwe urged workshop participants to standardize building models, share transparent operational lessons, and collaborate with key institutional funders such as the Family Homes Funds Limited and the Federal Mortgage Bank of

Nigeria (FMBN) to unlock capital at scale.

The federal government also echoed the call for structural transformation. Speaking on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma, Arc. Dennis

Pau Ishaya outlined bold ongoing reforms aimed at repositioning the housing sector as a primary driver of economic growth, job creation, and social inclusion.

Through the federal Renewed Hope Housing Programme, the Ministry is



currently delivering housing estates across all six geopolitical zones and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Arc. Ishaya emphasized that the Ministry is prioritizing the use of local building materials, expanding private sector participation, and overhauling land administration, urban development, and mortgage accessibility to create a highly favorable investment environment.

Earlier, the President of AHCN, ESV. Eno Obongha, reminded participants that housing remains one of the ultimate indicators of a nation's economic prosperity and social stability.

"The housing deficit continues to widen, and the dream of homeownership remains out of reach for too many low-income earners," Obongha stated. He challenged attendees to move beyond basic cost discussions and instead focus on

deploying modern construction technologies and innovative financing structures capable of delivering mass housing at the speed and scale required by Nigeria's rapidly growing population.



# TRAMRA

Cross River State Traffic Management and Regulatory Agency

# CARNIVAL Calabar 2026

UNVEILING OF CARNIVAL THEME	CARNIVAL FITNESS JAM	STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE ON E-VOTING	CARNIVAL FITNESS JAM
MAY 31ST	JUNE 27TH	JULY 2026	JULY 18TH
CARNIVAL FITNESS JAM	RELEASE OF ESSAY COMPETITION FORMS	CARNIVAL FITNESS JAM	ESSAY COMPETITION EXAMS
AUG. 12TH	AUG. 18TH	SEPT. 14TH	OCT. 2ND
CARNIVAL FITNESS JAM	AWARDS OF PRIZES (ESSAY COMPETITION)	FIRST DRY RUN	CARNIVAL FITNESS JAM
OCT. 10TH	OCT. 16TH	OCT. 18TH	NOV. 14TH
IGBO AMAKA FESTIVAL	2ND DRY RUN	IKOM OGOJA CARNIVAL	FINAL DRY RUN
NOV. 15TH	NOV. 22ND	NOVEMBER	DEC. 6TH
JUNIOR DRY RUN	CULTURAL CARNIVAL	KNIGHT OF KINGS AND QUEENS	JUNIOR CARNIVAL
DEC. 13TH	DEC. 26TH	DEC. 26TH	DEC. 27TH
PARADE OF THE BANDS	BIKERS CARNIVAL	STREET PARTY/ COLOUR RUNS	
DEC. 28TH	DEC. 29TH	DEC. 30TH	



**THEME**  
Rethinking  
OUR COLLECTIVE  
Destiny

Kingsley Agim, anipr

**S**ECTORIAL STRIDES is a special analytical column that chronicles and evaluates the achievements of the administration of Governor Bassey Edet Otu under the People First Agenda. Written by Kingsley Agim, the column takes readers beyond headlines and project commissioning ceremonies to examine the impact of government policies, programmes, and interventions across key sectors of the state's economy and public service.

Each edition will spotlight a specific sector, providing a fact-based assessment of milestones recorded by ministries, departments, and agencies, while highlighting how these achievements are

improving the lives of Cross Riverians and advancing the state's development objectives.

From infrastructure and healthcare to education, agriculture, tourism, economic development, and social welfare, etc, Sectorial Strides offers a comprehensive account of the administration's journey, achievements, and legacy, one sector at a time.

The inaugural edition focuses on the Infrastructure Cluster, examining the transformative investments in roads, power, water resources, transportation, aviation, and border community development that are helping to reshape Cross River State's socio-economic landscape.



COMPLETED RENOVATION AND FURNISHING OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE COMPLEX, CALABAR

## HEALTH SECTOR

# CNPP's Jaundiced Verdict Can't Tarnish Gov. Otu's Health Revolution

Kingsley Agim, anipr



The latest outburst by the Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP), amplified by the notoriously sensational NewsweekNG, is yet another desperate attempt to manufacture a crisis where none exists. It is unfortunate that a platform whose reputation has become synonymous with sensationalism and questionable journalistic ethics has once again chosen

distortion over diligence, serving as a willing conveyor belt for a narrative that collapses under the weight of verifiable facts.

The statement, signed by one Patric Ali, raises even more troubling questions about what has become of the Cross River chapter of the CNPP. An



organisation that once prided itself on constructive political engagement now appears to have been hijacked by narrow-minded elements whose stock-in-trade is the cynical vilification of government and the deliberate incitement of public disaffection. Rather than functioning as a credible opposition offering evidence-based alternatives, it has reduced itself to peddling sensational claims, selective outrage and politically motivated rhetoric. Such conduct does no service to democracy and only diminishes whatever credibility the coalition once enjoyed.

More importantly, the CNPP must resist the temptation to become a convenient vehicle for individuals or vested interests seeking to prosecute personal vendettas against public officials or the government. Political platforms earn public respect when they are guided by facts, fairness and the collective interest, not when they lend their name and credibility to ill-intentioned campaigns designed to misinform the public, settle scores or undermine genuine efforts at governance. If the coalition hopes to retain any moral authority as an opposition body, it must subject every allegation brought before it to rigorous



scrutiny rather than serving as a megaphone for disgruntled actors pursuing narrow personal objectives.

Nothing better exposes the poverty of the CNPP's argument than its fixation on a single facility, the Lawrence Henshaw Memorial Hospital in Calabar. The hospital suffered extensive destruction during the #EndSARS violence of 2020 and is currently undergoing phased rehabilitation by the present administration. Yet, in its desperation to paint a picture of collapse, the CNPP deliberately showcased only sections still under renovation while ignoring the completed interventions within the same complex. Such selective representation is not only intellectually dishonest but a calculated attempt to mislead the public.

Conspicuously omitted from the CNPP's narrative is the fully rehabilitated Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory within the Lawrence Henshaw Memorial Hospital complex, which has been restored and re-equipped to strengthen tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment in the state. Anyone willing to undertake an objective inspection of the facility, accompanied by its management, would readily observe the extensive work already completed instead of relying on carefully selected images designed to reinforce a predetermined narrative.

The opposition coalition also chose to ignore the remarkable progress recorded in primary healthcare since Governor Bassey Otu assumed office in 2023. Contrary to its sweeping claims, the administration has revitalised well over 100 Primary Healthcare Centres across the state's 18 local government areas, bringing quality





healthcare services closer to rural communities that had long been neglected. These interventions are documented and were comprehensively captured in the government's third anniversary report on the health sector.

Beyond primary healthcare, deliberate investments are transforming secondary healthcare facilities across the state.

At the General Hospital, Calabar, government has embarked on a comprehensive modernisation programme, including the digitalisation of healthcare services, internet

connectivity across service points, automation of hospital operations, improved patient record management and the installation of a medical oxygen production plant to guarantee uninterrupted oxygen supply for critical care.

The administration has equally constructed oxygen infrastructure at General Hospital Calabar, Ogoja, and the facility at Ikom Children Clinic awaiting commissioning, while pursuing extensive rehabilitation works across the state. At the General Hospital, Obudu which has recently been recovered from over 10 years of abandonment, government is implementing interventions aimed at



restoring basic services services, including dialysis, while also recovering and revitalising public health facilities that had previously been ceded to private interests.

These are measurable interventions, not political slogans. They reflect a government that understands that rebuilding a healthcare system neglected for years requires careful planning, phased execution and prudent resource management rather than populist grandstanding.

Even more disturbing is the CNPP's

infantile understanding of governance. Development is not achieved by abandoning every sector to concentrate resources on a single project merely to satisfy political critics. Every responsible administration must balance competing priorities; infrastructure, education, security, agriculture, aviation, tourism, road construction, workers' welfare and healthcare, within the limits of available resources. That is precisely what the Otu administration has done, recording visible progress across multiple sectors despite prevailing economic headwinds.

The CNPP would do well to undertake an honest comparative assessment of the



immediate past administration and the present one before rushing to the media with politically motivated verdicts. Let it compare the condition of health facilities inherited in 2023 with the extensive rehabilitation now underway. Let it compare the state's healthcare infrastructure, security architecture, road network, aviation sector and

investment climate then and now. Such an exercise would produce facts rather than fiction, and informed criticism rather than politically convenient propaganda.

Constructive opposition remains indispensable in every democracy, but opposition forfeits public confidence



when it abandons objectivity for bitterness and substitutes evidence with manufactured outrage. Cross Riverians deserve honest engagement rooted in facts, not desperate attempts to undermine every genuine effort at rebuilding the state.

Governor Bassey Otu's administration has demonstrated both the vision and commitment required to reposition not only the health sector but Cross River State as a whole. The assignment is undoubtedly enormous and the inherited challenges daunting, yet

measurable progress continues to be recorded through deliberate planning, strategic investments and prudent management of available resources. Consequently, the empty rhetoric of a group that has clearly lost its grip on present-day realities deserves little attention from discerning members of the public.

Kingsley Agim, anipr  
Information Officer  
Cross River State Ministry of Health



# SECTORIAL STRIDES



# SECTORIAL STRIDES



# SECTORIAL STRIDES



# CRGIA

Cross River Geographic  
Information Agency



## REGISTER YOUR LAND TODAY!

Register your Land  
Today with  
Cross River  
Geographic  
Information Agency  
and protect yourself,  
Your Children and  
Generations from  
Land Grabbers.



Opposite Metropolitan Hotel,  
Murtala Mohammed Highway, Calabar.

☎ 0707 469 3423

☎ 0707 469 3424

CRGIA  
CROSS RIVER GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AGENCY



# FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY COMMISSION

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, NO 4 MAPUTO STREET, WUSE ZONE 3, ABUJA

## 2026 RECRUITMENT EXERCISE

(Application is free and attracts no cost)

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) is a Para-Military Organization and the Lead Agency in Road Safety Administration and Traffic Management in Nigeria. The Corps is desirous of recruiting young, vibrant, and intelligent individuals in its quest to becoming a world-class organization. Consequently, applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointment into the following categories:

### FIRST CATEGORY

#### Officer Cadre

##### A. Superintendent Route Commander (SRC) CONPASS 11

#### Qualification:

- Applicants must possess first degree in MBBS/MBBCH (Medical Doctors) from recognised Institutions of learning and NYSC discharge/exemption certificate. Applicants must not be less than 18 or more than 35 years of age.

##### B. Route Commander/Deputy Route Commander (RC/DRC) CONPASS 10/09

#### Qualification:

- Applicants must possess first degree in B.Pharm, B.Sc Nursing, BMLS, LLB/BL and B.Eng/B.Tech in Engineering courses from recognised Institutions of learning and NYSC discharge/exemption certificate. Applicants must not be less than 18 or more than 35 years of age.

##### C. Assistant Route Commander (ARC) CONPASS 08

#### Qualification:

- Applicants must possess B.Sc/BA/HND from recognised Institutions of learning and NYSC discharge/exemption certificate. Applicants must not be less than 18 or more than 35 years of age.

### SECOND CATEGORY

#### Marshal Inspectorate Cadre

##### Marshal Inspector II & III (MI-II & MI-III) CONPASS 07 & 06

#### Qualifications:

- Applicants must possess either NCE, ND/OND, RN/RM, CHEW from recognised institutions of learning. Applicants must not be less than 18 or more than 30 years of age.

### THIRD CATEGORY

#### Road Marshal Assistant Cadre

##### A. Road Marshal Assistant II & III (RMAII & RMAIII) CONPASS 04 & 03

#### Qualifications:

- A minimum of three (3) credits pass in SSCE (GCE/WAEC/NECO/NABTEB) in not more than two (2) sittings including English Language and Mathematics. Applicants must not be less than 18 or more than 30 years of age.

##### B. Drivers/Riders and Artisans

- Applicants for positions such as Computer Operators, Drivers, Mechanics, Motorcycle Riders, Electricians, Instrumentalists, Tailors, Plumbers, and other trades may apply under this category.

#### Requirements:

- A minimum of three (3) credit passes in SSCE

(GCE/WAEC/NECO/NABTEB)

- Trade Test certificate and/or other relevant professional certificates.
- Drivers and motorcycle riders must possess the appropriate class of valid Driver's License.
- Must be physically and mentally fit.
- Articulated/tow truck drivers must be between 26 and 40 years of age.

### METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the FRSC Recruitment portal at:

<https://recruitment.fpsc.gov.ng>. Shortlisted candidates shall be required to present printed copies of their application forms during the screening exercise.

### SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted online within four (4) weeks with effect from **Friday, 3rd July, 2026**.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### General Requirements

#### Applicants must:

- Be Nigerian by birth.
- Be computer literate.
- Possession of a valid National Driver's Licence will be an added advantage for all cadres.
- Ensure that all certificates and qualifications are declared and presented at the point of recruitment, as undeclared qualifications will not be accepted for future career progression in the Corps.
- Be medically fit and present a certificate of Medical Fitness issued by approved government hospital.
- Be single.
- Have a minimum height of 1.65 meters for males and 1.58 meters for females.
- Possess current practicing licenses where applicable for Medical and allied professional disciplines, while lawyers must have been called to the Nigerian Bar.
- Be of good character, free from financial indebtedness, and must not have been convicted of any criminal offence.
- Must not have tattoos on any part of his/her body.
- Must use his/her personal email address and phone number when submitting application.
- Prospective applicants who are pregnant are advised not to apply.

### ENQUIRIES

For further enquiries, please call; 122

### DISCLAIMER

This recruitment is absolutely free. Interested applicants should beware of fraudsters.

**Pauline Olaye FISPON**

**Deputy Corps Marshal**

**Head of Department, Admin & Human Resources**

**24 June 2026**

**For Corps Marshal**



# THIS IS CROSS RIVER STATE

TOGETHER LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN, GREEN & SERENE



**Refuse in the gutters blocks the drains**



**Use the skip bins closest to you**



**Dumping refuse outside the skip bins is unpleasant**



**A clean Environment starts with proper waste disposal**



**A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS**



**REFUSE DISPOSAL OUTSIDE THE DESIGNATED TIME OF 6:00 PM TO 10:00 PM IS HIGHLY PROHIBITED**

*This message is brought to you by*

**THE CROSS RIVER STATE  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**





PRESS RELEASE

13<sup>th</sup> may, 2026

### COMMENCEMENT OF COFFEE SEEDLINGS DISTRIBUTION

The Cross River State Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development informs existing and prospective coffee farmers that another batch of highly subsidized coffee seedlings has been received for distribution.

The seedlings will be sold at ₦300 per seedling and distribution will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

Interested farmers should make payment using the details below:

**Account Name: CRS Ministry of Agriculture Coffee Development**

**Account Number: 1229949071**

**Bank: Zenith Bank**

After payment, farmers should immediately proceed with evidence of payment to the nearest Local Government Agricultural Office for documentation. Farmers who had earlier paid but are yet to receive seedlings should also visit their Local Government Agricultural Office for documentation and reconciliation.

Distribution commences in the first week of June 2026 across all Local Government Council Areas. Farmers who have been cleared should present their "Authority to Collect" slip to take delivery of their seedlings.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development will commence the full market system development program for the coffee value chain once seedling distribution is concluded. Cross River is now a full-fledged COFFEE PRODUCING STATE. Together, let us promote and sustain the coffee value chain in Cross River State

Hon. Johnson A. Ebokpo KSM

Commissioner





# Statewide Environmental Sanitation

**Holds Every Last Saturday of the Month**

**from 7:00am -10:00am**



His Excellency,  
**Senator (Prince) Bassey Edet Otu**  
Governor, Cross River State



**Hon. Moses Osogi**  
Commissioner for Environment,  
Cross River State



**KEEP CROSS RIVER STATE  
CLEAN & GREEN**

## WHAT TO DO

**Sweep your surroundings**



**Cut the Grasses around you**



**Clear drains/gutters**



**Dispose Garbage Appropriately**



This Message is brought to you by:  
The Cross River State Ministry of Environment

# INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## INEC - HEADQUARTERS

Plot 436, Zambezi Crescent, Maitama District,  
P.M.B 0184, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria  
E-mail: [commsecretary@inec.gov.ng](mailto:commsecretary@inec.gov.ng)

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



INEC/VR/CVRN/092/IV92


4<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

The Resident Electoral Commissioners  
Independent National Electoral Commission  
Nationwide.

### RESUMPTION OF PHASE III OF NATIONWIDE CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (CVR) EXERCISE

The Commission has approved the resumption of the Phase III of the Continuous Voters Registration (CVR) exercise, which will commence on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2026, with both online Pre-registration and physical (in-person) registration. This phase will continue with IVED rotation as approved by the Commission in the phase II of the exercise.

2. Please note that the phase III will end on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, 2026 in line with the approved timeline of the exercise. (Find attached the Timeline for CVR Phase III).
3. Please accept the assurances of the Commission's warm regards as always.

  
Dr. Rose Oriaran-Anthony  
Secretary to the Commission



# PGF VALUE REORIENTATION CAMPAIGN

**Responsible  
Citizens.  
Responsive  
Nation.**



**For more information:**

Website: [www.pgf.ng](http://www.pgf.ng)

E-mail: [info@pgf.ng](mailto:info@pgf.ng)

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

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

Tiktok: [https://www.tiktok.com/@pgf\\_2023](https://www.tiktok.com/@pgf_2023)

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

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



Government of Cross River State, Nigeria

23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:Attorneygeneral@crossriverstate.gov.ng)  
 [www.crossriverstate.gov.ng](http://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, sweeping strokes that form a stylized, elongated shape.

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



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



# Cally Air



**Fly with Cally Air to:**

**LAGOS**



**CALABAR**



**ABUJA**



**Book Now On:**

[www.flyvaluejet.com](http://www.flyvaluejet.com)

**OPERATED BY**  
**ValueJet**

Flights Commencement From

**15th October, 2025**



Ministry of Information  
Cross River State

For Enquiries  
Call Customer Care:

(+234)9125950403  
(+234)9153823424  
(+234)7047108136  
01-4482998





## STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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

# NATIONWIDE CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (CVR)



## Register to Vote

**ONLINE PRE-REGISTRATION  
STARTS ON 18TH AUGUST, 2025**  
[www.cvr.inecnigeria.org](http://www.cvr.inecnigeria.org)

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



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

✉ [iccc@inec.gov.ng](mailto:iccc@inec.gov.ng)

🌐 [www.inecnigeria.org](http://www.inecnigeria.org)  
[www.inecnews.com](http://www.inecnews.com)

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

*INEC, Making your votes count...  
Consolidating our democracy.*

📱📺📷 @inecnigeria

**Avoid  
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills  
But Kills.**

**Always obey  
speed limits**

**— FRSC —**

**CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND**