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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.

SPAR Fire: Otu Pledges Support, Swift Recovery for Victims

By Ukongikwen Adie



Governor Bassey Edet Otu of Cross River State has pledged government support to businesses and individuals affected by the fire that ravaged a section of the SPAR shopping complex in

Calabar, assuring victims of assistance to facilitate their swift recovery and return to normal operations.

The Governor gave the assurance through his Deputy, Rt. Hon. Dr. Peter Odey, who represented

him during an on-the-spot inspection of the scene on Saturday to assess the situation and convey the Governor's sympathy and solidarity to those affected.

Speaking to



journalists at the scene, Odey said Governor Otu was deeply concerned about the incident and the losses suffered by businesses within the complex. He said he had also interacted with the manager of the facility to obtain a first-hand account of the situation.

Odey said the cause of the fire

had yet to be established, although preliminary indications suggested that it might have resulted from an electrical fault.

He assured the affected businesses that the Otu administration would not abandon them in their moment of difficulty, noting

that the Director-General of the Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (CR-SEMA) had already commenced the assessment and documentation of the damage.

"Government will not abandon you at this trying moment. The Director-General of SEMA is



already taking steps to assess the extent of the damage and provide immediate relief to those affected,” Odey said on behalf of the Governor.

According to the Deputy Governor, Otu was committed to providing the necessary support to enable the

affected businesses recover and resume operations in the shortest possible time, while measures would also be taken to prevent a recurrence of the incident.

The Governor commended the Cross River State Fire Service for its prompt response, noting that the

service had been adequately equipped to handle emergencies of such magnitude. He also appreciated the Federal Fire Service for joining the response effort and helping to contain the blaze.

Otu equally commended the firefighters who

risked their lives to bring the inferno under control, as well as the police and other security agencies for securing the facility and preventing looting and vandalism.

The Governor assured residents that his administration would continue to respond promptly to emergencies, disclosing that measures were already being taken to address other immediate risks in the state.

He said water was being redirected from Channel 1, adding that the intervention would protect houses along the affected line from the risk of collapse.

Otu expressed concern over the series of disasters recently recorded in Calabar, including fire outbreaks and landslides, stressing that his administration was working with relevant federal agencies to strengthen emergency response and support affected communities.

He specifically cited collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), South-South Development Commission (SSDC) and the National Ecological Fund in responding to recent emergencies and providing support to affected persons.

The Governor reiterated his administration's commitment to protecting lives and property, supporting businesses affected by disasters and strengthening emergency preparedness and response mechanisms across Cross River State.

UNICROSS Students Win Second Place at National Enactus, Julius Berger Innovation Challenge

By Kingsley Agim



Seven students of the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS) have emerged second at the Enactus Nigeria National Competition and

Julius Berger Innovation Challenge held at the Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The UNICROSS team, comprising students from the

Departments of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical/Electronic Engineering and Civil Engineering, earned the second-place position with an innovative



workplace safety solution designed to improve compliance with the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

The national competition

featured 18 Enactus teams drawn from 27 universities across Nigeria, with the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO) emerging first, UNICROSS placing second and

the University of Calabar (UNICAL) finishing third.

Representing Team Enactus UNICROSS, the students impressed the judges with

B.U.D.D.Y. (Built-in UHF Detection & Defense for You), an intelligent PPE compliance system that combines Ultra High Frequency (UHF) Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology with Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered computer vision.

The innovation is designed to identify workers, verify their registered safety equipment and monitor, in real time, whether the required PPE is being properly worn.

By integrating identification technology with AI-powered visual monitoring, B.U.D.D.Y. offers an intelligent approach to one of the persistent



JULIUS BERGER

INNOVATION CHALLENGE

ADVANCING INNOVATIVE & SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

PRESENTED BY

B JULIUS BERGER | **enactus NIGERIA**

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Turning ideas into impactful solutions

PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY
Building a greener tomorrow

EMPOWERING YOUNG MINDS
Inspiring the next generation of leaders

BUILDING THE FUTURE
Strengthening the construction ecosystem

challenges in industrial environments, ensuring that workers consistently comply with prescribed safety requirements and

use the appropriate protective equipment.

The seven students who pitched the

innovation at the national competition are Donald Oliver and William Mfon-Abasi of Civil Engineering; Effiom Johnpaul Oliver and Kingsley Ugochukwu of Electrical/Electronic Engineering; and Ntongha Udumo, Blessing Aniedi Okon and Odey Roberta of Mechanical Engineering.

The students' performance was attributed to their creativity, dedication and commitment, as well as the mentorship and guidance provided by Engr. Dr. Samuel Oliver Effiom and the Acting Head of the Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Engr. Dr. Gerthrude Fisher.

The feat also underscores the growing emphasis on innovation, practical learning and problem-solving at UNICROSS under the leadership of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Francisca Bassey.

The University Management has continued to encourage students and staff to transform academic knowledge and creativity into practical solutions capable of addressing real-world societal and industrial challenges.

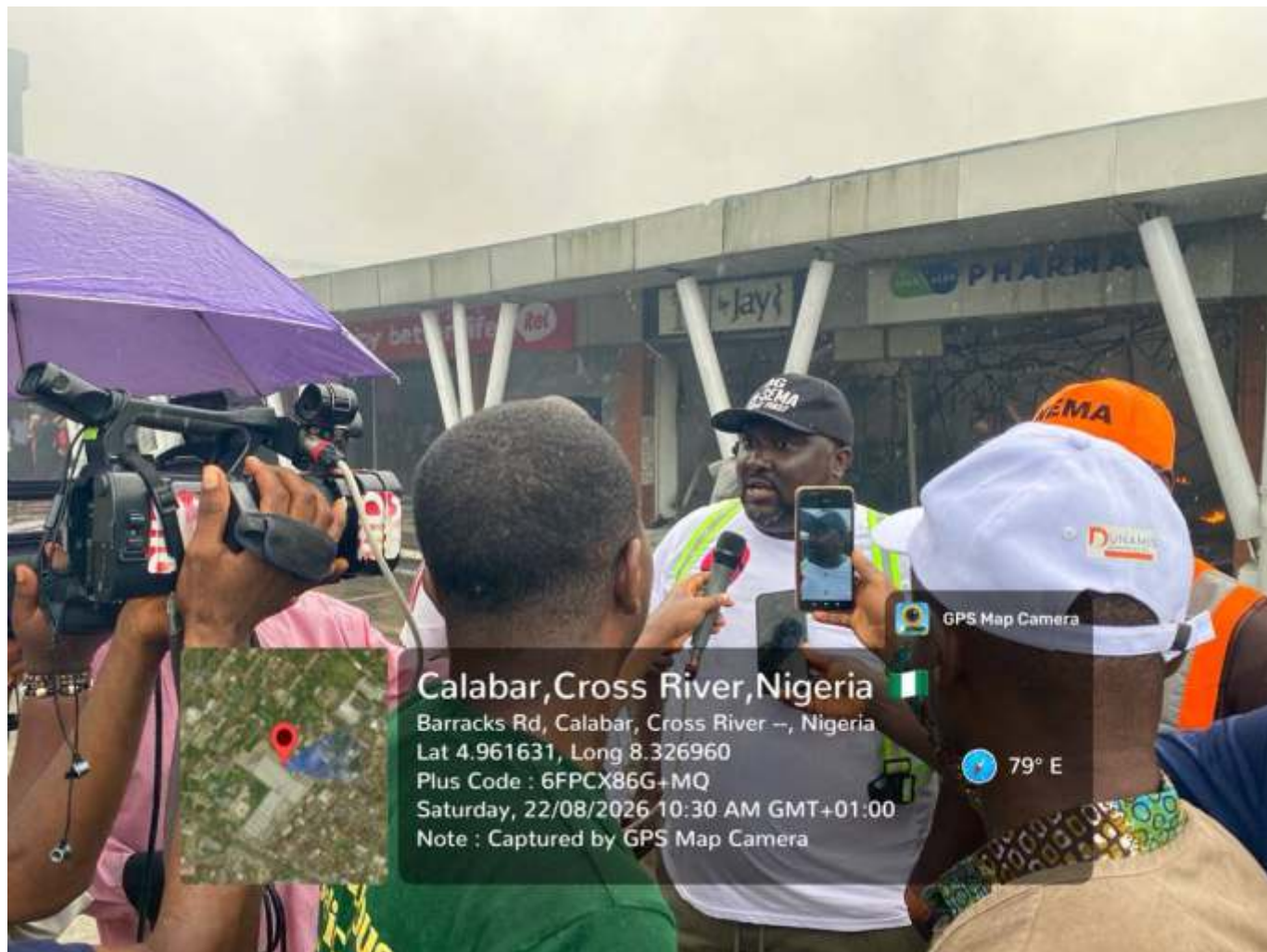
The second-place finish therefore represents a significant achievement for UNICROSS, demonstrating the capacity of its students to

compete favourably on national platforms while developing innovative solutions to pressing industrial challenges.

The University congratulated the seven students, their mentors and the entire Team Enactus UNICROSS on the achievement, expressing confidence that continued development of the B.U.D.D.Y. innovation would yield even greater impact.

NEMA, CR-SEMA Begin Damage Assessment, Relief Process for SPAR Fire Victims

By David Asu

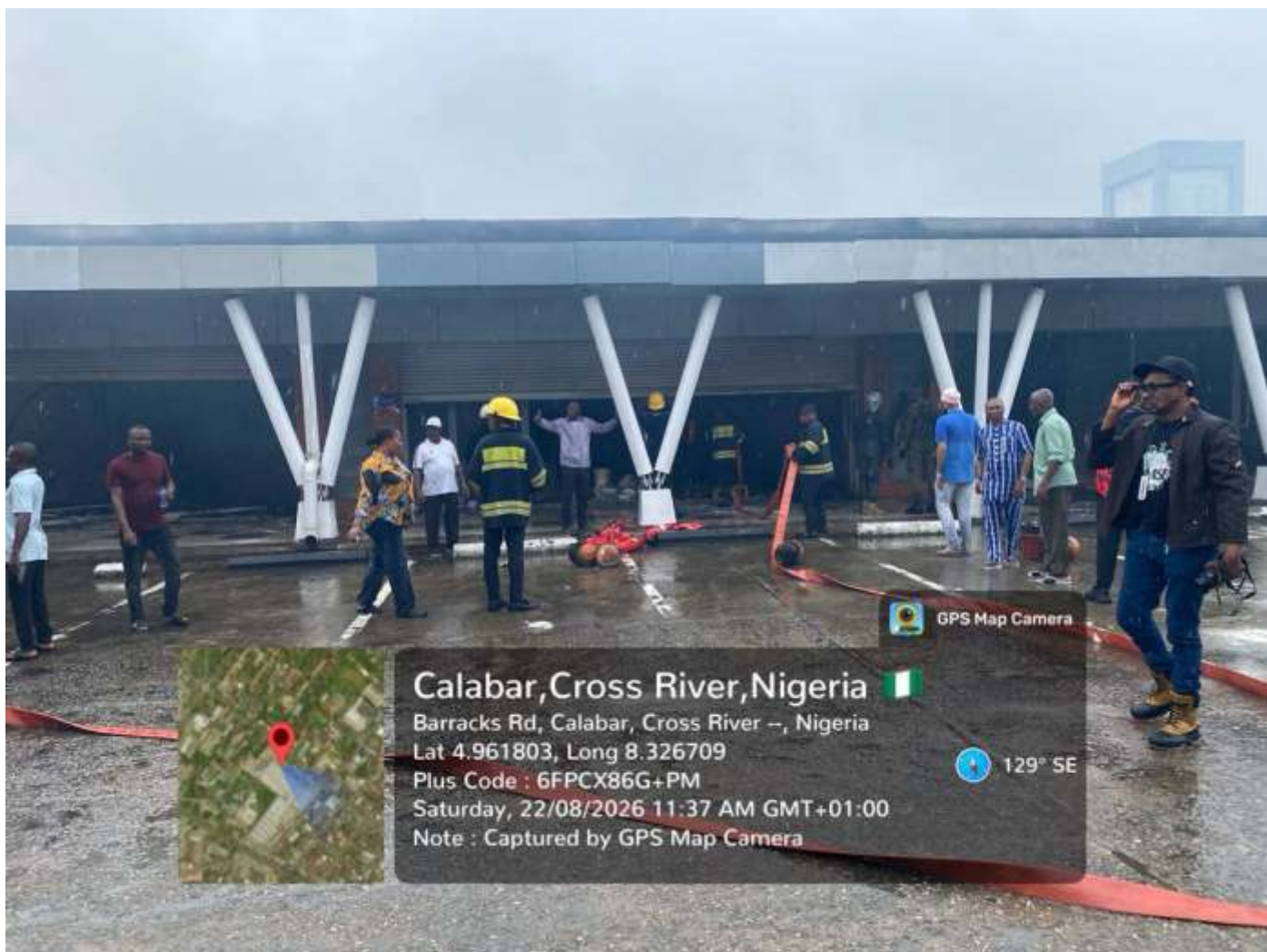


The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (CR-SEMA) and the Nigerian Red Cross Society have commenced the documentation

and assessment of losses arising from the devastating fire that destroyed several businesses at SPAR Calabar on Saturday.

The joint assessment, conducted at the shopping complex

following the early-morning inferno, is expected to provide government and humanitarian agencies with a clearer picture of the extent of destruction and the immediate needs of affected



businesses and individuals.

The fire, which reportedly started at about 6:00 a.m., sent thick smoke across parts of Calabar and destroyed shops, goods and other property within the complex. A pharmacy, electronics store, clothing outlet, perfumery and

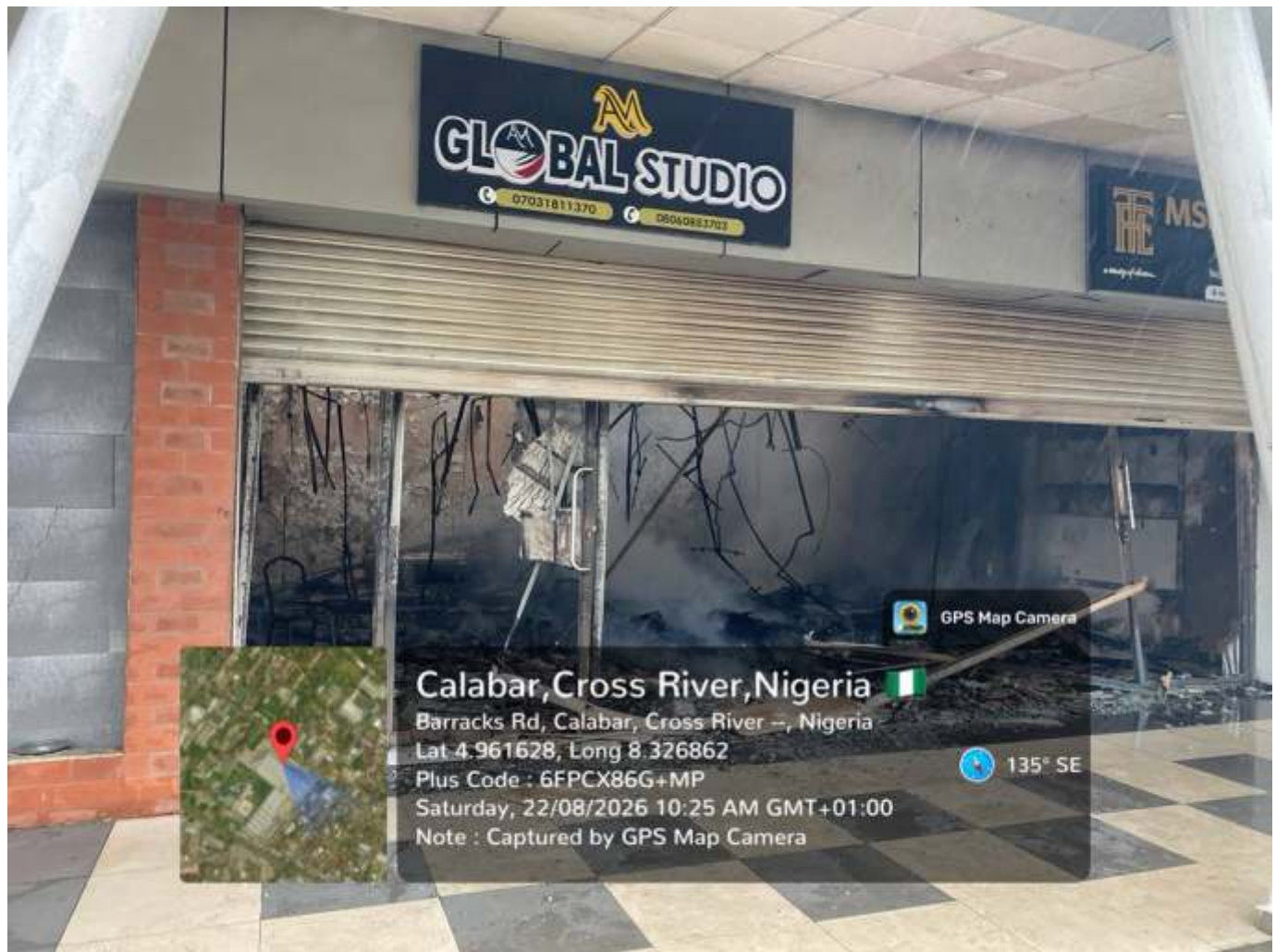
phone shop were among the businesses affected.

Although no death was recorded, the incident resulted in substantial property losses, while some persons were reportedly affected by heavy smoke generated by the fire.

Officials of NEMA, CR-SEMA and the

Nigerian Red Cross Society inspected the affected sections of the complex, interacted with victims and commenced the enumeration of businesses, individuals and property impacted by the disaster.

Speaking during the assessment, the Director-



General of CR-SEMA, Mr. Efa Nyong, expressed sympathy to the affected business owners and conveyed the solidarity of Governor Bassey Edet Otu and the Cross River State Government.

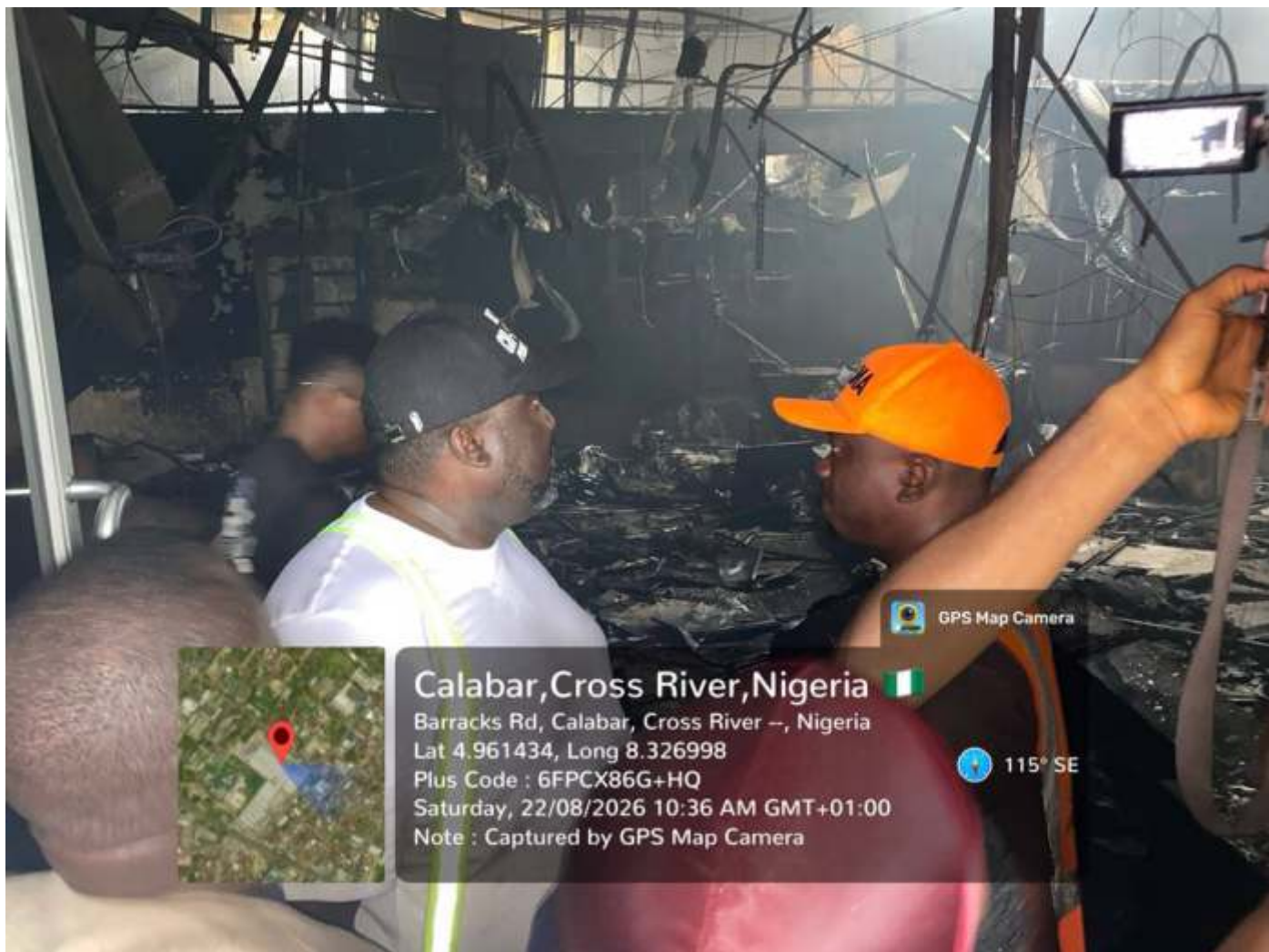
Nyong said the Agency would document and enumerate the

affected persons and their losses as a basis for determining the appropriate areas of intervention.

He assured the victims that CR-SEMA would work with NEMA, the Nigerian Red Cross Society and other relevant stakeholders to identify immediate needs and explore

available avenues of support.

The CR-SEMA chief also commended the Cross River State Fire Service, Federal Fire Service, University of Calabar Fire Service and other first responders for their efforts in containing the blaze and preventing it from spreading further.



He urged members of the public to stay away from the affected facility and cautioned against looting or vandalism, stressing that security agencies and emergency responders needed unhindered access to carry out their duties.

While preliminary reports suggested that the fire may have been preceded by an electrical fault, Nyong said the exact cause of the incident and the full extent of the losses remained subject to further investigation.

The Nigerian Red Cross Society also participated in the

emergency response, providing assistance to persons affected by the smoke during the incident.



Cobham Inspects Chronicle Ahead of September 3 Commissioning Date

By Daniel Nsa



Ahead of the scheduled September commissioning of The Chronicle, the Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Pastor Ene Cobham, Friday undertook a critical inspection of the newspaper's facilities as part of a broader tour of the Ministry's key establishments.

Accompanied by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, the Commissioner paid particular attention to The Chronicle's newsroom, editing suite, and other operational sections during the visit. While touring the entire facility, Pastor Cobham expressed dissatisfaction with certain aspects of

the construction work, pointing out a number of defects that require immediate remedial action to meet the commissioning deadline.

The Commissioner directed that all identified faults and observations must be properly corrected before



the project could be considered satisfactory for the September 3 handover.

He further emphasized that no payment would

be made to the contractor until the necessary corrections have been carried out and the identified defects adequately addressed, underscoring the

government's commitment to quality and value for money.

The inspection, however, was not limited to The Chronicle.



The Commissioner also visited the Government Printing Press, where he was received by Idep Efut Egor and conducted through

the newly constructed complex, which houses sections including Printing, Binding, Graphics, Computer, Accounts, and the Government

Printer's Office. Equipment inspected ranged from cutting and laminating machines to large-format printers and direct-image machines.



The Honourable Commissioner toured the Ministry of Information and Orientation annex in Marian, housing the Voice of Nigeria (VON) facility, where the South South Bureau Chief, Mrs Eme Offiong guided him through the Technical Unit and the residential accommodation

provided for staff at the rear of the complex.

With the September 3 commissioning date fast approaching, today's inspection has set a clear directive for the contractor to expedite rectifications, ensuring The Chronicle is fully operational and meets the expected

standards at its official unveiling.

The tour forms part of the Commissioner's broader assessment of the Ministry's facilities to evaluate their condition, equipment, and operational needs across the board.





C'River Local Govt Affairs Commissioner Refutes False Reports on Obubra Council

By Mary Okon



The Commissioner for Local Government Affairs, Chief Victor-Felix Idem, has refuted reports alleging that the

Obubra Local Government Council is dirty, overgrown, unkempt and neglected, describing the claims as unfounded,

baseless and misleading.

The Commissioner made the clarification following an investigation and

verification of the situation at the council, which, according to him, established that the allegations being circulated did not reflect the true state of affairs at the Obubra Local Government Council.

Chief Idem condemned the circulation of what he described as false information capable of misleading the public and damaging the reputation of the Cross River State Government, Governor Bassey Edet Otu, the Chairman of Obubra Local Government Council and the Ministry of Local Government Affairs.

He commended the Chairman of

Obubra Local Government Council Hon. Kingsley Arikpo for his commitment to the administration and development of the council, stressing that the negative reports were a misrepresentation of the efforts being made by the council leadership.

The Commissioner therefore warned those responsible for originating and circulating the reports to desist forthwith, stressing that the deliberate dissemination of unverified information capable of tarnishing the reputation of public institutions and officials should not be encouraged.

He urged members of the public to disregard the reports and always verify information

from appropriate authorities before accepting or sharing claims concerning government institutions and officials.

Chief Idem reiterated the Ministry's commitment to strengthening effective local government administration across the state, while urging the public to exercise caution and refrain from giving credence to rumours capable of creating unnecessary negative perceptions about the government and its officials.

CUDA Boss Urges Stronger Commitment to Environmental Protection

By Miriam Esuabanga



The Executive Secretary of the Calabar Urban Development Authority (CUDA), Chief Elder Ayi Etim Effiong, has

called for greater commitment to environmental protection, warning that indiscriminate human activities capable of

degrading the environment could have far-reaching consequences for society.

Chief Ayi made





the call on Wednesday while receiving an award of recognition from the Faculty of Environmental Sciences,

University of Calabar (UNICAL), in appreciation of his contributions to environmental management, human capital development and

the advancement of environmental practice in Cross River State.

The CUDA boss, who expressed gratitude for the

recognition, said his passion for environmental management was shaped by his academic background and mentorship, particularly the influence of his mentor, Dr. Elegance Edim, whom he described as a distinguished environmentalist who encouraged him to study environmental science.

He explained that his decision to pursue environmental practice was driven by an understanding of the central role of the environment to human existence and development, noting that virtually every profession and human activity

operates within an environmental context.

According to him, professionals including doctors, nurses, engineers and lawyers all depend on a healthy and sustainable environment to effectively discharge their responsibilities.

Chief Ayi stressed that environmental protection must be treated as a collective responsibility, warning that practices such as indiscriminate tree felling and the blockage of drainage channels could worsen flooding and other environmental challenges.

“Whatever you do to the environment is what the

environment will do to you,” he said, stressing that the consequences of environmental degradation would ultimately be borne by society.

He also highlighted the importance of trees and green spaces to the urban environment, explaining that the ornamental trees managed by CUDA were not planted merely for beautification.

He noted that the trees contribute to improved air quality, provide shade and enhance the overall health and sustainability of the urban environment.

Chief Ayi

expressed particular appreciation to the Faculty of Environmental Sciences for the recognition, noting that he was delighted that the honour came from students and academics within the environmental field.

He disclosed that he had continued to identify with professional environmental bodies and remained involved in environmental advocacy and professional development, while encouraging students of the Faculty to remain committed to their studies and environmental advocacy.

The CUDA Executive

Secretary assured the students that environmental science remained a critical field in addressing contemporary development challenges and pledged his continued support for initiatives promoting environmental awareness and sustainable development.

Earlier, the President of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Calabar, Simon Emmanuel Ugaba, who led other members of the Faculty on the visit, said the decision to honour Chief Ayi followed a review of his contributions to environmental management and human capital

development in Cross River State.

Ugaba described the CUDA Executive Secretary as a pacesetter in environmental practice whose activities and commitment had continued to inspire students and practitioners in the field.

Ugaba subsequently presented the award to Chief Ayi, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to interact with him and draw from his experience in environmental management and practice.

Gov. Otu Empowers 4,500 Youths in Free Skill Acquisition Programme

By Blessing Enagu



The Cross River State Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, has empowered 4,500 youths with entrepreneurial skills to drive economic transformation in

the State. The 21-day intensive training, which concluded on [insert date] at the Prof. Eyo Ita House, Marian Road, Calabar, was organized by the State Government in partnership with

the Nigeria Bottling Company, NBC. Speaking at the closing ceremony, the newly appointed Commissioner for Information, Pastor Ene Ekpenyong Cobham, said the



Governor is taking bold steps to reposition the state's economy, especially as other States seek to explore opportunities in Cross River."When determination meets opportunity, it leads to success. Nobody should encounter opportunity and sleep on it," Cobham stated. He added that the

Government is committed to supporting beneficiaries by promoting their products, sales and services through digital platforms to enable them to thrive in the market. The Commissioner urged the trainees to translate the skills acquired into tangible ventures, noting that "what you have learned

cannot be taken from you."In his remarks, the Special Adviser to the Governor, Dr. Julius Ogbangha, described the programme as a demonstration of the Governor's passion and intentionality about youth welfare. He disclosed that the Governor personally approved the sponsorship of all



encouraged the participants to see the knowledge gained as a divine opportunity for open doors.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Peace Bassey expressed gratitude to the Governor for the opportunity, adding that the skills and knowledge acquired would be utilized both now and in the future.

4,500 trainees and expressed hope that many of them would become Chief Executive Officers of companies in the future.

Dr. Ogbangha further announced that outstanding

trainees would receive free Certificates of Incorporation from the Corporate Affairs Commission, CAC, at the graduation ceremony.

The Coordinator of the training, Miss Okoi Abini,

The highpoint of the event was the presentation of certificates of participation to all registered trainees by the state government in partnership with the Nigeria Bottling Company.

Cobham Orders Correction of Defects at State Newspaper Corporation, Inspects Information Facilities

By Daniel Nsa



The Cross River State Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Pastor Ene Cobham, has directed the immediate correction of identified defects

at the State Newspaper Corporation premises, warning that no payment would be made to the contractor until the outstanding faults are properly addressed.

Cobham gave the directive on Friday during an inspection tour of key facilities under the Ministry of Information and Orientation, accompanied by the Permanent Secretary of the



Ministry.

The inspection covered the State Newspaper Corporation premises, which houses The Nigerian Chronicle,

State Printing Press and offices of other government agencies, as well as the Ministry of Information and Orientation Complex and Voice of Nigeria (VON) facility in

Marian.

The Commissioner was received at the newspaper corporation by the Editor of Nigerian Chronicle, Comrade Oka Ibor,



who represented the General Manager, Ms Keyu Edet, while Idep Egor received him at the Government Printing Press section of the corporation.

The facility comprises the Government Printer's Office, Store, Printing Section, Binding Section, Estimating Section, Deputy Government

Printer's Office, Accounts and Administration Section, Graphics Section, Computer Section, Archives and Reception.

The Commissioner inspected the equipment available in the various sections, including two cutting machines, a MOZ machine, numbering machine and laminating machine in the

Printing Section.

The Binding Section is equipped with a perforating/calend ar machine, perfect binding machine and cutting machine, among others, while the Computer Section has chairs, laptops, a photocopier and direct-image machine. The Graphics Section



also houses a 10-foot large-format printer, alongside tables and chairs.

At The Nigerian Chronicle, Cobham inspected the newsroom, editing suite and other sections of the

building, expressing dissatisfaction with some aspects of the construction work and identifying a number of defects requiring attention.

"All identified faults and observations must be properly

corrected before the project can be considered satisfactory. No payment will be made to the contractor until the necessary corrections have been carried out and all identified



defects addressed," Cobham said.

The Commissioner subsequently visited the Ministry of Information and Orientation Complex in Marian, including the Voice of Nigeria facility, where he was conducted round by the Bureau Officer of the Ministry, Eme Offiong.

The tour covered the Technical Unit of the Ministry and other sections of the complex, as well as the residential accommodation provided by the Ministry for some staff at the rear of the premises.

The inspection, according to the Commissioner, was part of efforts to obtain a first-hand assessment of the

Ministry's facilities, equipment and operational requirements, with a view to strengthening their functionality and ensuring that government investments in the information sector deliver the desired value.

Flood Victims Get Relief Boost From Cross Riverian Abroad

By David Asu



Persons displaced by recent flooding across Cross River State have received relief support from a private Cross Riverian living abroad, who donated assorted food items and

other essential household materials through the Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (CR-SEMA).

The donor, simply identified as Mr. Peter, wished to remain anonymous

but provided food items, beverages, washing materials and other household essentials to help cushion the hardship faced by flood-affected persons across the state.



The items were presented to the Director-General of CR-SEMA, Mr. Efa Nyong, by the Director-General of the Cross River State Debt Management Department, Mr. Ekpe Essien Ekpe, who represented the donor.

Receiving the items, Nyong expressed

appreciation to the donor for the gesture, describing the support as timely and valuable to persons affected by the disaster.

He said the flooding had disrupted the lives and livelihoods of many residents, noting that the intervention would contribute to alleviating the difficulties

confronting affected communities.

The CR-SEMA boss commended Mr. Peter for identifying with flood-affected persons at a critical time, despite living outside the country, and for demonstrating concern for the welfare of fellow



Cross Riverians.

Nyong also called on individuals, organisations and other well-meaning members of the public to emulate the gesture by supporting ongoing efforts to provide relief and assistance to communities affected by the

flooding.

He assured that CR-SEMA would continue to work with relevant stakeholders and partners to respond to the needs of persons affected by flooding across the state.

"CR-SEMA will continue to work with relevant

stakeholders and partners in responding to the needs of persons affected by flooding across the state," Nyong assured.

Unical Law '94 Alumni Donate Computers, N500,000 Prize, Push For Global Recognition

By Nakanda Iyadim



Alumni of the University of Calabar, UNICAL, Faculty of Law, Class of 1994, have pledged to position the faculty on the global map through strategic support and mentorship.

The alumni made the pledge on Friday during a courtesy visit to the Dean of the

Faculty, Prof. Michael Ibanga, 32 years after graduation.

Chairman of the class, Mr. Nkanu Eremi, described the visit as more than a reunion.

"It is a homecoming and an opportunity to give back to the faculty that groomed us," Eremi said.

As part of their intervention, the alumni donated three internet-enabled computers preloaded with law research software.

They also instituted an annual prize of N500,000 for the best graduating student, to run for the next three years.

"While the



computers will aid research, the prize will spur students to be competitive and bring out the best in them," Eremi said.

"We want the Faculty of Law to be on the global map, and we believe we are planting the seeds for that."

He urged graduates from other sets to return and contribute to the development of the faculty.

Eremi further appealed to the university management to improve the faculty's environment through proper landscaping, provision of student sit-out areas, and clearing of surrounding bushes, which he said posed security and health risks to staff and students.

Pioneer Chairman of the class and Resident Electoral Commissioner for Edo State, Mr. Obo Effanga, recalled

previous interventions by the set.

"We repainted the lecture halls, provided ceiling fans, and renovated the toilets, including one that is disability-friendly," Effanga said.

Also speaking, Prof. Uwakwe Abugu, a member of the class and Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Abuja, expressed concern over admission



controversies in UNICAL, noting that they were denting the image of the academic community.

Abugu, Nigeria's first Professor of Medical and Health Law, donated copies of his book, Medical Law and Ethics, and his inaugural lecture titled "Restoring the Dignity of Patients" to the faculty library.

As a patient advocate, he said he also drafted the National Patient

Pledge, which featured in his inaugural lecture delivered on July 30, 2026.

He charged students to remain focused. "The future may look difficult, but it will certainly be promising," he said.

Member of the University Governing Council, Prof. Jacob Dada, commended the alumni for their gesture. "It is gratifying that you deemed it necessary to return

to your alma mater not because you have all the money in the world, but because you care to know how we are faring and to help.

We pray that God will establish our dreams and replenish you from wherever you have dipped your hands to do this," Dada said.

Responding, Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Ibanga, thanked the alumni for setting an example.



He said the donation came at the right time, as the faculty's earlier request for computers from the Vice Chancellor's office was still pending.

On the admission crisis, Ibanga blamed past officials.

"Those who were

in charge of admission had no respect for any rule. But with the reintroduction of the Central Admissions Committee, the problem of over-admission will be checked," Ibanga assured.

Highlights of the event included the symbolic

presentation of the computers and books, and the decoration of some faculty management staff with mufflers.

Boki Women Honour Ayuk for Impact in Health, Service to Society



The Cross River State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, has been honoured by Boki women for his contributions to the health sector and service to society.

Ayuk received the recognition on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at Abontakon in Boki

Local Government Area, where the Ochibe Banyinyi Boki Ejiemumu, a worldwide organisation of Boki women committed to promoting the growth and welfare of Boki women, conferred on him an Award for Excellence in Humanitarian Services.

The award formed part of activities

marking the annual Boki Yam Festival, which provides an avenue for the community to recognise and celebrate prominent sons and daughters who have distinguished themselves through outstanding achievements and contributions to humanity and the



advancement of the Boki nation.

Receiving the award, Ayuk expressed appreciation for the honour, highlighting his strong connection to Boki through his maternal lineage and dedicating the recognition to God.

"I'm a true son of Boki. I thank God for making this possible. I'm proud to have the blood of Boki running in

me. I cannot thank you enough, but let me dedicate this award to God Himself, who has done so much," Ayuk said.

Presenting the award, the President of Boki Women Worldwide, Ochibe Banyinyi Boki Ejieumu, Dr. Teresa Okpara Achong, said Ayuk was recognised for his contributions to the development of public health in Nigeria,

humanitarian service and meaningful impact on the overall advancement and well-being of the Boki people.

Achong, who presented the award alongside the organisation's National Treasurer, Dr. Mary Ndifon, commended Ayuk for his humanitarian service and commitment to the health sector.



She said the award should serve as a reminder of the Boki women's appreciation for Ayuk's efforts, particularly his contributions to

healthcare and service to humanity.

"This award should always remind you of us, the Boki women. We are really happy with

your humanitarian excellence and your hard work in the health sector," she said.



Teacher Professionalisation: NTI to Establish Study Centres Across Cross River

By Patricia Ogbeche



The National Teachers' Institute (NTI) is set to establish study centres across the three senatorial districts of Cross River State to facilitate its

Accelerated Teachers Professionalisation Pathway (ATPP) programme, offering opportunities for teachers to obtain Postgraduate Diploma in

Education (PGDE) and Professional Diploma in Education (PDE) qualifications.

The development was disclosed on Friday when a delegation from



the NTI, led by the TRCN State Coordinator, Dr. Noah Ashibi, paid a courtesy visit to the Cross River State Commissioner for Education, Senator Professor Stephen Odey.

Welcoming the initiative, Senator Odey noted that the proposed study centres would provide teachers and other prospective beneficiaries across the state and neighbouring communities with easier access to

professional training and qualifications.

"The establishment of these study centres is a welcome development, particularly because it will bring professional training opportunities closer to our teachers. We are ready to support initiatives that will strengthen teacher professionalisation and improve the quality of education in Cross River State," Odey said.

The Commissioner urged the NTI to

intensify advocacy and public awareness of the programme, stressing the need to ensure that teachers and other prospective beneficiaries were adequately informed about the opportunity to upgrade their professional qualifications.

He said the initiative would complement the State Government's efforts to strengthen the education sector by providing

teachers without professional teaching qualifications with opportunities to acquire the requisite training and credentials.

"We need to ensure that teachers who require professional qualifications are properly informed and encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. The programme will complement the State Government's efforts to build a more qualified and professional teaching workforce," the Commissioner said.

Senator Odey assured the delegation of the State Government's support for the

programme and pledged to promote it during his engagements with education stakeholders across the state.

He expressed optimism that the collaboration would contribute significantly to advancing teacher professionalisation and improving the quality of teaching and learning in Cross River State.

Speaking during the visit, the NTI State Coordinator, Mrs. Deborah Silas-Dikibo, expressed appreciation to the Commissioner for receiving the delegation and sought the State Government's support and approval for the establishment of the proposed study centres.

She said the centres would help expand access to the NTI's professionalisation programmes and enable more teachers in the state to acquire the qualifications required for effective teaching.

Silas-Dikibo said the proposed centres, when established, are expected to bring professional teacher training opportunities closer to educators across the three senatorial districts and support efforts to strengthen the quality and standards of teaching in the state.

Ugep Women in Politics Commend Arikpo's Appointment, Reaffirm Support for Gov Otu's Administration

By: Gift Otudor



A delegation of Ugep Women in Politics on Tuesday paid a courtesy visit to the Commissioner for Special Duties and Intergovernmental

Relations, Hon. Dodeye Ikpi Arikpo, as part of efforts to strengthen collaboration and promote greater participation of women in governance and

development.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Madam Blessing Okama congratulated the Commissioner on his appointment



and expressed their support and commitment to the development of Cross River State.

She stressed the need to create more opportunities for women to contribute meaningfully to governance and community

development.

The women further expressed their willingness to collaborate with the Ministry and support the programmes and policies of the administration of His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu,

particularly those aimed at advancing the welfare and development of women in the State.

Responding, Hon. Dodeye Arikpo, appreciated the women for the visit and commended them



for their support and commitment to the progress of the State.

He described Ugep women as industrious and educated, and assured them of his readiness to work with relevant bodies to advance the development

of the State.

The Commissioner reiterated the importance of unity and collective responsibility in achieving sustainable development, noting that women have key roles to play in the growth and advancement

of Cross River State.

The visit concluded with a prayer session by the women, seeking God's guidance and wisdom for the Commissioner as he begins this new chapter of service.

Ayuk Tasks Etung Ward Chairmen With Mobilising Support for Tinubu, Otu in 2027

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, has charged ward chairmen of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Etung Local Government Area to intensify grassroots mobilisation for the second-term bids of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and

Governor Bassey Edet Otu as well as the victory of other APC candidates in the 2027 general elections.

Ayuk gave the charge on Friday while playing host to the APC ward chairmen from all 10 wards of Etung at his residence in Ikom, urging them to take up the ownership of the mobilisation process

in their respective wards and work collectively to secure victory for the party at all levels.

The Commissioner said the ward chairmen had a critical role to play in communicating the achievements of the Otu administration to the people, particularly its interventions in



agriculture, education, healthcare, civil service recruitment and the settlement of outstanding cocoa landlords obligations. He cited reforms in cocoa allocation as one area where, according to him, more genuine beneficiaries were now benefiting from government intervention.

Ayuk also highlighted ongoing investments in

primary healthcare facilities across the state, including the rehabilitation, upgrading and equipment of facilities including the construction of staff quarters and recruitment of additional community health workers. He said at no time has government recruited the number of Etung indigenes into State Civil service as it has done presently by Governor Otu.

He urged the party leaders to take the message of these interventions to the grassroots.

He said the administration of Governor Otu will never be cajoled by antics of political opponents and an encumbered social media insisting that administration's "Season of Sweetness" agenda was being translated into



tangible benefits in Etung communities, while efforts to expand opportunities in the state civil service and address outstanding pension and other obligations demonstrated its commitment to the welfare of citizens of the entire Cross River State

The Commissioner challenged the ward chairmen to document and

communicate the administration's interventions to the public rather than allow political opponents to define the narrative. He also urged them to ensure that no political ward was left behind in the party's campaign and mobilisation structure.

"This is a crucial year of elections coming, and I can only thank you. You must go out there

and work, support and mobilise your people for the second-term bids of our Governor, His Excellency, Governor Bassey Edet Otu, and our President, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, as well as all other candidates of the All Progressives Congress. We will deliver every ward. We will not allow any political ward to remain in the



minority, and all of you must be in the forefront of this mobilisation,” Ayuk said.

Ayuk assured the ward chairmen of his continued commitment to working with them and other party stakeholders to strengthen the party at the grassroots. He urged them to remain united, disciplined and focused on delivering victory for the APC across Etung in the 2027 general elections.

Responding, the Chairman of the APC Ward Chairmen in Etung, Comrade Atu Alfred, thanked Ayuk for deeming it necessary to host the ward leaders for what he described as a crucial meeting. He said the issues discussed would provide the grassroots leaders with renewed morale and impetus to engage the people effectively ahead of the general elections.

Atu appealed to the party leadership

and relevant stakeholders to adequately engage and carry the ward chairmen along in the political campaign process, stressing that they remained the party’s foot soldiers during elections. He pledged the commitment of the ward chairmen to the re-election of President Tinubu, Governor Otu and all other APC candidates in the forthcoming elections.

2027: N2N Declares Otu's Re-election 'Task That Must Be Done'

By Kingsley Agim



The Neighbour 2 Neighbour (N2N) Grassroots Mobilisation Network has declared the re-election of Cross River State Governor, Bassey Edet Otu, a "task that must be done", as it begins an intensive grassroots mobilisation campaign in Abi and Boki Local

Government Areas.

The organisation also pledged to mobilise support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and all other candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the 2027 general elections.

The campaign featured the inauguration of ward and polling-unit coordinators

in the two local government areas, with N2N officials urging members to take the message of government's achievements to voters in their immediate communities.

Speaking at the Abi Local Government Council Secretariat on Friday, the group's Director-



General, Dr. Bobby Ekpeyong, challenged residents to interrogate the records of politicians seeking their votes rather than relying on political rhetoric.

Ekpeyong, who

acknowledged that he previously worked for the Peoples Democratic Party, said his political support had shifted after what he described as the performance of the Otu administration.

"I have seen the light and have decided to throw my hat into the ring for Governor Bassey Otu because of what the incumbent has done in the area of employment and



the recovery of our agricultural estates that were sold in the name of privatisation.”

He said the administration had recorded achievements in the recovery of oil assets, discovery of new oil blocks, revival of Tinapa, advancement of the Bakassi Deep Seaport, rehabilitation of public facilities, road construction and security.

Ekpeyong urged the people of Abi

to give Otu another term, saying the Governor deserved the opportunity to consolidate his administration’s ongoing programmes.

At Boki, he said N2N was focused on grassroots enlightenment rather than financial inducement, urging members to become ambassadors of the administration in their respective communities.

He cited the Boki East-West Road, improvements at the Abu Ebam hospital and solar streetlighting projects in Bawop, Kakwagom, Okundi, Kachuan-Irruan and Kakwagom-Irruan as interventions members should communicate to the people.

He further urged the people of the Central Senatorial District to protect the state’s political rotation arrangement.

"As a member of Neighbour 2 Neighbour, Otu's re-election is a task that must be done so that after 2031 power can return to Central Senatorial District in line with our zoning pattern."

The N2N Director-General urged voters to demand scorecards from all candidates and ask them to demonstrate what they could do differently from the present administration.

"Time has gone for us to be led by the nose again because of the selfish interests of an individual or group of persons. We now know better and we stand for the truth, which is that Governor

Bassey Otu has done well and should be returned," he said.

The Director of Youth Mobilisation, Hon. Michael Kajang Obaji, called on young people to take the campaign to their peers, while the Director of Women Mobilisation, Dr. Silo Ekpenyong, urged women to mobilise massively for the APC.

In a similar vein, the Abi Local Government Coordinator, Hon. Kelvin Ezor, said N2N was committed to "Operation Show Your Strength and Protect Your Votes," while the Special Adviser on Revenue to the Council Chairman, Hon. Ebong Pius Innocent, cited road projects and

welfare interventions as evidence of the administration's impact in Abi.

Innocent said more than 1,000 Abi residents, including farmers, had benefited from welfare packages and urged the people to reciprocate the interventions at the polls.

He summed up the group's confidence in Otu's re-election in emphatic terms: "Only the second coming of Jesus Christ will stop Governor Otu's re-election in 2027."

Oodua Women Declare Support for Otu, Tinubu's 2027 Re-election

By Kingsley Agim



The Oodua Progressive Women in Politics in Cross River State have declared their support for the second-term bids of Governor Bassey Edet Otu and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in

the 2027 general elections.

The socio-political organisation said its decision was based on the performance of the two administrations, as well as what it described as the inclusion and

recognition of their children in government through various appointments.

Speaking during a courtesy visit to the Chairman of the Cross River State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare



Board, Imam Kabir Olowolayemo, in Calabar, the Chairman of the group, Ambassador Adejoke Oyeleye, said a second term

for Governor Otu and President Tinubu would provide an opportunity to consolidate and improve on the

gains recorded during their first tenure.

Oyeleye said the group remained committed to mobilising support



for both leaders ahead of the 2027 elections, stressing that their achievements deserved the support of the electorate.

She also disclosed plans by the organisation to organise a Unity Walk for sons and daughters of Oodua across the 18 local government areas of the state as part of efforts to strengthen unity and promote

greater participation in the political process.

According to her, the group would also host the first-ever "Oodua Day Celebration" in Calabar, an event she said would bring together Oodua indigenes, non-indigenous communities and government officials to commemorate the historic occasion in the ancient city.

Responding, Olowolayemo

described the Oodua Progressive Women as one of the foremost socio-political organisations committed to the re-election of Governor Otu and President Tinubu.

He said the present administration had provided opportunities for members of the Yoruba community and other ethnic groups to contribute to governance



through appointments and other responsibilities.

The Chairman also cited improved security, infrastructure and the promotion of human welfare as evidence of the administration's performance, noting that residents and businesses could now operate more freely without fear

of molestation.

He expressed optimism that the support declared by the group would translate into votes during the 2027 elections.

"I am optimistic that the solidarity we are declaring today will be translated with our voter cards come 2027," Olowolayemo said.

Also speaking, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Non-Indigenous Affairs, Mazi Okey Maduakwe, described the Oodua Progressive Women as organic supporters of Governor Otu, noting that they had remained steadfast in their support for his administration.

Scrap Metal Dealers Endorse Gov. Otu for Second Term, Laud Peace and Devt.

By Nakanda Iyadim



In a massive show of solidarity, members of the Scrap Dealers Association in Cross River State on Thursday staged a rally through major streets in Calabar to endorse Governor Bassey Otu for a second term in office. The group cited the

administration's unprecedented peace, business-friendly policies, and inclusive governance as key reasons for their support. The endorsement rally, which drew hundreds of union members from all 18 local government areas, saw leaders from various factions of the scrap

metal industry unite under the banner of the Scrap Dealers Support Group for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Governor Bassey Edet Otu 2027. Addressing journalists during the rally, which started at the Millennium Park and proceeded through Calabar



Road, Mary Slessor, Marian Hill, IBB, Calabar Road, Leopard Road, and back to the Millennium Park, Evangelist Kelvin Asuquo, Chairman of the Canaan City Scrap Dealers

Association Support Group for President Tinubu and Governor Otu 2027, emphasised the importance of grassroots backing for the administration's continuity."We are here in solidarity for

good governance and to express appreciation for the tangible dividends of democracy dotted across the State," Asuquo said. "All the scrap dealers across the State are here to drum



our support and assure the Governor that we are solidly behind him." "Governor Bassey Otu, our sweet Prince, the friend of the vulnerable, has identified with both the big and the small in society without any form of discrimination," Asuquo declared. "That is why the entire scrap metal family is here in Calabar for this rally, and I want to assure you that we won't shift our grounds in our support for our Governor." The

union leaders made their political intentions clear, with Asuquo stating: "We want him to continue as our Governor. By the special grace of God, come January 2027, we are going to cast our vote for APC, from House of Assembly members to Mr President." On his part, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Association, Alhaji Umaru Abubakar, who set the tone for the gathering, declared that the union's support is unequivocal and non-

negotiable. "Most of us are here today to support Governor Bassey Otu for another four years in office. It is four-plus-four and nothing less," Abubakar stated emphatically. "Cross River has not had it so good in a long while, particularly the peace we enjoy as business people in the State, not only in the metropolis but across the 18 local government areas. The enabling business environment has been created, and





we are happy that he came at this time." Alhaji Abubakar explained that the rally was organised specifically to demonstrate the union's appreciation for the Governor's leadership and to send a clear message of continued

support. Echoing these sentiments, Alhaji Hamza Ahmed Isa, one of the union's executive members, highlighted the industry's contribution to the State's development. "Our role in the development of the State cannot be overemphasised,

and we have come here to tell the Governor that we are part of his development of the State," Isa remarked. "This is an opportunity for us to come close to Government to show our support right from the grassroots." The union's leaders praised Governor Otu's inclusive approach to leadership, describing him as a "sweet Prince" who has identified with both the big and small in society without discrimination. The women's wing leader of the union, Hon. Mrs Mercy Mgbe, was particularly vocal in the endorsement, speaking passionately about the Governor's impact on women and families. "As

you can see today, we are here because of one resident who has been in charge of Cross River State," Mrs Mgbe stated. "The main reason we are supporting him is because, after we elected him into office, we have been seeing the good things he has been doing for us." Mrs Mgbe emphasised the critical role of women in business and governance, noting: "Women are not exceptional when it comes to business. If you see any business that has no women inside, please run away from that business." The women leaders specifically commended the Governor's initiatives impacting children and mothers,

particularly programmes initiated through Bishop Mrs Bassey Otu's "Humanity Without Borders" initiative. "On behalf of women in Cross River State, we come out in numbers to support, as we preach," Mrs Mgbe declared. "In 2027, we the women of this State rise to support, as we preach." The union members praised Governor Otu for his efforts in restoring Cross River State's lost glory after years of what they described as total collapse. "Senator Prince Bassey Otu has done so much to restore the lost glory of Cross River after years of total collapse," the union leaders stated collectively. "We have come here to support him and Mr President for a

second term so they can complete the good works they have started, which are already impacting our children and mothers." The rally concluded with a unified pledge from all union members to mobilise their networks and ensure victory for Governor Otu and the APC in the upcoming elections. The scrap dealers' endorsement adds to the growing chorus of support from various sectors of Cross River society for Governor Otu's re-election bid, as the State continues to experience what many describe as a new era of peace, development, and inclusive governance under his leadership.





NANS Seeks Govt. Support for Statewide Students' Rally

By Solomon Effiom



The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Cross River State Council, has sought the support of the State Ministry of Information for its upcoming statewide students' rally.

The NANS delegation, led by its Chairman, Comrade Victor, made the request during a courtesy visit to the Commissioner for Information, Pastor Ekpenyong Ene Cobham, in Calabar on Thursday.

Speaking during the

visit, Comrade Victor expressed gratitude for the warm reception and recalled the Ministry's longstanding support for the student community whenever assistance was needed.

He presented an



official proposal, explaining that the forthcoming rally would bring together the eleven Students' Union Government (SUG) Presidents from across the State.

According to him, the initiative aims to strengthen unity and cooperation among students while providing a platform for student leaders to engage meaningfully on issues affecting

young people.

In his response, the Commissioner for Information, Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham, thanked the NANS leadership and assured the delegation of the Ministry's continued partnership with the student community.

He emphasized the importance of youth participation in development and encouraged NANS to continue championing

peaceful, responsible, and constructive engagements.

Pastor Cobham assured the delegation that the proposal would receive due consideration, stressing that the Ministry remains committed to supporting initiatives that advance unity, development, and good governance in Cross River State.









CR-SACA, Heartland Alliance Deepen Partnership to Sustain Cross River's HIV Response

By Asari Eso



The Cross River State Agency for the Control of AIDS (CR-SACA) and Heartland Alliance Nigeria have reaffirmed their commitment to sustaining the gains recorded in the State's HIV response through stronger collaboration, local ownership, and

innovative approaches to service delivery. The renewed commitment was expressed when the Chief Executive Officer of Heartland Alliance Nigeria, Dr Ochonye Bartholomew Boniface, paid a courtesy visit to the Agency, where he commended the

Cross River State Government and CR-SACA for their continued support and partnership in advancing HIV interventions across the State. Receiving the delegation, the Director-General of CR-SACA, Dr Charles Iwara, described the relationship



between the Agency and Heartland Alliance as having grown beyond a conventional partnership into a family bond. Dr Iwara acknowledged Heartland Alliance's longstanding contribution to the State's HIV response, noting that the partnership had provided the Agency with valuable experience while strengthening its capacity to address the HIV epidemic. He said

CR-SACA had continued to work with the State Government and development partners to consolidate the progress made in the response, while commending the Government for its support towards the development of the Agency's infrastructure and programmes. The Director-General also highlighted the State Government's efforts towards the inclusion and empowerment of people living with HIV, noting that employment opportunities had

been provided for about 900 beneficiaries. He, however, identified the lack of National Identification Numbers (NIN) among some beneficiaries as a challenge requiring attention. Dr Iwara disclosed that the Agency was also exploring innovative measures to strengthen local production and availability of HIV-related commodities. According to him, CR-SACA is collaborating with a condom



manufacturing company in Calabar, while discussions are also ongoing with Calipharm, which he said had secured the relevant licence, on possible collaboration with the State Government towards the production of antiretroviral medicines. He stressed the need to strengthen community action, particularly in

addressing the needs of key populations, adding that the Agency was exploring collaboration with the Carnival Commission and Tourism Bureau to promote HIV prevention and improve access to condoms in hotels across the State. Earlier, Dr Bartholomew said Heartland Alliance had maintained a longstanding relationship with Cross River dating

back to the organisation's early operations in the State around 2009. He expressed appreciation to the State Government, CR-SACA, and other partners for their support, noting that Cross River had become a place where the organisation had built lasting relationships while contributing significantly to the development of the HIV response. Dr



Bartholomew said Heartland Alliance remained committed to ensuring that no population was left behind in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, and other essential health services. He emphasised the importance of health equity, urging stakeholders to ensure that HIV services remained accessible to all populations,

including key populations, without discrimination or prejudice. The Heartland Alliance CEO also called for a carefully managed transition and integration of donor-supported HIV programmes to prevent disruptions in treatment and other essential services. He clarified that the closure of one U.S.-government-funded project should not be interpreted as the end of

Heartland Alliance's operations, explaining that the organisation had successfully navigated previous project closures and transitions. He expressed optimism that the organisation would secure new opportunities and partnerships with international development organisations, while acknowledging the need for



stakeholders in the HIV response to reorganise and adapt to the changing funding landscape.

"We are going on, and we are hoping that at the end of the day some of these initiatives we have will take us to a point where even if projects are ending, we will not be shaken too much. We will reorganise and move on," he said.

Dr Bartholomew further underscored the importance of sustainable HIV prevention interventions, particularly continued access to condoms, noting that local availability of prevention commodities would help strengthen the State's HIV

response.

Also speaking, Mr John Eseiwara of the Monitoring and Evaluation Department, CR-SACA, described the relationship between the Agency and its implementing partners as one built on mutual support and cooperation.

He noted that partners had, on several occasions, provided logistical and transportation support to facilitate programme activities, describing such assistance as evidence of a partnership that extended beyond formal meetings and engagements.

He appreciated Heartland Alliance for its continued support and wished the organisation

success as it seeks to expand its interventions.

The engagement reaffirmed the shared commitment of CR-SACA, Heartland Alliance, and other stakeholders to protecting the gains achieved in Cross River's HIV response, advancing local sustainability and ensuring uninterrupted access to quality HIV prevention and treatment services for all populations.



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Governor, Cross River State

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Cross River Marks World Humanitarian Day with Solidarity March

By Owa Patience



The Cross River State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (MHAPA) has joined the global community in commemorating the 2026 World Humanitarian Day with a solidarity march to honour humanitarian

workers and draw attention to the need for greater support for people affected by crises.

The event, held on August 19, 2026, in Calabar, was organised in line with the United Nations' annual observance of World Humanitarian Day, which honours

humanitarian workers who have lost their lives while providing assistance to people affected by conflicts, disasters, poverty and other humanitarian emergencies. This year's celebration was held under the theme, "Act for Humanity."





The solidarity march, convened by the Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Helen Isamoh, attracted staff of the Ministry, government officials, members of the disability community, friends and well-wishers, as well as representatives of

the Wife of the Governor, Her Excellency, Bishop Eyoanwan Otu.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Isamoh described World Humanitarian Day as an important occasion to honour humanitarian workers, health personnel and other individuals who have sacrificed their lives or continue to

risk their safety in the service of humanity.

She appreciated the Cross River State Government for its sustained support for the annual observance, noting that the state had consistently identified with the global humanitarian



campaign.

"Last year we did this, two years ago we did this. This is not done without the full support of His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State," she said.

The Commissioner also expressed appreciation to members of the public and private organisations that had contributed in

various ways to humanitarian causes, stressing the importance of collective action in supporting vulnerable members of society.

Representing the Wife of the Governor, Bishop Eyoanwan Otu, the Senior Special Adviser on Administration, Dr. Comfort Oko, said the state government had

embarked on awareness campaigns across the state to highlight the importance and role of humanitarian workers.

She urged residents to remember humanitarian workers, particularly those who had lost their lives while providing relief to





disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

“Let us help their families, let us see what aid we can do to help them,” Oko said, before declaring the solidarity march open.

The march commenced at the Millennium Park and proceeded through Murtala Mohammed Highway to Mary Slessor Avenue, with participants marching through

the streets of Calabar in an atmosphere of solidarity, singing and dancing before terminating at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs building.

At the conclusion of the march, Mr. Andy Akpotu-Adeshi, on behalf of the Commissioner, expressed appreciation to participants for their commitment and endurance throughout the exercise.

He also announced that the grand finale of the 2026 World Humanitarian Day activities would hold on September 15, 2026, featuring the recognition of individuals and organisations that have demonstrated outstanding commitment to humanitarian service, as well as a symposium.

Anti-Quackery: Health Workers Must Stay Within Professional Scope, Ayuk Insists at AMLSN Meeting

By Kingsley Agim



Cross River State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, has charged healthcare professionals to operate strictly within their areas of training and competence as part of measures to strengthen the fight against quackery in the state's health

sector.

Ayuk gave the charge on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, when he received a delegation of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (AMLSN), Cross River State Branch, led by its Chairman, Mr. Prince Osim Ogar, at the Ministry of Health in Calabar.

Receiving the document, Ayuk stressed the importance of harmony and collaboration among healthcare professionals, noting that every cadre had clearly defined responsibilities which must be respected for the health system to function effectively.



"We want a system that is harmonious. We want partners in laboratory function to work together, each aligning with his own duties, but all towards one goal," the Commissioner said.

He explained that quackery was not necessarily about a person's educational background, but rather involved performing duties or procedures for

which one was not professionally qualified.

"Quackery doesn't mean you have not gone to school. Quackery means you are doing something that you are not qualified to do. Everybody should do his own work," Ayuk stated.

The Commissioner further emphasised that healthcare delivery was a team effort requiring professionals to respect the

boundaries of their respective technical cadres, adding that "as a team, there are certain things you cannot multitask."

He said strict adherence to professional scope of practice was essential to ensuring accurate diagnosis, patient safety and quality healthcare delivery, while urging healthcare workers to uphold the standards attached to their



respective professions.

Speaking on behalf of the AMLSN, Ogar commended Ayuk and the Ministry of Health for their efforts to strengthen the state's health system and ensure more effective service delivery.

The AMLSN chairman particularly commended the recent employment of a significant number of medical laboratory

scientists into the state Ministry of Health, describing the development as a positive step towards strengthening diagnostic services in Cross River.

Ogar said the association was committed to collaborating with the Ministry in addressing regulatory and professional gaps that could undermine the quality of medical laboratory services and expose patients to avoidable risks.

He formally presented the comprehensive position paper to the Commissioner, outlining strategies to strengthen regulatory enforcement, improve professional standards and safeguard public health, particularly in diagnostic services, while addressing professional gaps that could expose patients to the risks associated with unqualified practice.

Engage Gov. Otu on Policies, Programmes, Not Rudimentary Political Rhetorics, Cobham Fires Opposition

By Kingsley Agim



Cross River State Commissioner for Information, Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham, has challenged opposition politicians to abandon what he described as

rudimentary political rhetoric and summon the intellectual courage to engage Governor Bassey Edet Otu's administration on its policies, programmes and verifiable performance.

Cobham issued the challenge on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, during an interactive session with journalists at the Ernest Etim Bassey Press Centre in Calabar, saying the



opposition must raise the quality of its political discourse if it genuinely intends to be taken seriously by Cross Riverians.

The Commissioner particularly challenged the PDP governorship candidate, Sir Arthur Jarvis Archibong, to an

open public debate on the policies, programmes and performance of the Otu administration, rather than relying on what he described as shallow political arguments and personal attacks.

"I would wish that we strive to the strata where this candidate would be

able to engage the Governor on policies and programmes. Let us have a debate. Come with strong reasons. Educate themselves to the strata we are operating under," he said.

Cobham said recent criticisms directed at Governor Otu,



including claims that the Governor had not spent up to 10 days in Cross River in any month since assuming office, exposed what he described as the opposition's poor understanding of contemporary governance and the workings of Nigeria's pseudo-federal system.

He argued that in the 21st century, physical presence within a state could not be the yardstick for measuring the effectiveness of a Governor, particularly when strategic engagements outside the state were producing tangible benefits for Cross River.

"Is it in this 21st century of the modern world that somebody would talk about where the government is operating from? Talk about the record, the performance index at this point in time," Cobham said.

He challenged the



opposition to stop hiding behind what he called “rudimentary” arguments and produce evidence of where the administration had failed.

“Reel out what you think the government has not been able to achieve. Come up with strong reasons, and let us engage,” he said,

adding that critics should “educate themselves to the strata we are operating under.”

Cobham said the administration’s strategic engagements outside Cross River had yielded significant results, pointing to efforts to secure funding from the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) for

the Bakassi Deep Seaport and the sustained push to have Cross River formally recognised as an oil-producing state.

He said such engagements were necessary because Cross River could not achieve its development objectives by operating in isolation from the



Federal Government and other strategic institutions.

The Commissioner also accused the opposition of losing sight of the condition of Cross River in 2023 and the progress recorded under the Otu administration,

insisting that political criticism should be based on facts, comparative performance and alternative policy propositions rather than what he described as "desperation" and "intellectual inability."

"Let them call once for a debate. Let them try and raise the bar," Cobham said, insisting that the opposition must demonstrate the capacity to interrogate government policies at the level at which they are formulated and

implemented.

On the prosecution of social media commentator, Mr Dennis Odama, Cobham clarified that the state government, as an institution, did not institute the legal proceedings. He said the Special Adviser on General Duties and the Commissioner for Works filed the petition in their personal capacities over alleged defamatory and insolent remarks concerning the Governor.

He cautioned against turning the matter into a political controversy, stressing that the case remained subject to due process and should be allowed to run its course before the courts.

Responding to criticisms attributed to former APC state chairman and PDP deputy governorship candidate, Barr. Alphonsus Eba, the Commissioner said the administration would not be distracted by individuals or drawn into endless political exchanges, but would remain focused on delivering its mandate to Cross Riverians.

On allegations of external political domination or attempts to "recolonise" Cross River's political structure, Cobham assured that Governor Otu remained committed to protecting the state's interests, resources and political sovereignty.

He also announced a new media strategy under which the Ministry of Information would organise regular media tours to enable journalists independently inspect and verify government-funded projects across the state.

Cobham said the initiative would strengthen transparency, expose the administration's performance to public scrutiny and ensure that political claims about government activities could be tested against facts on the ground.

PHEOC Renovation: Ayuk Tasks Contractor on Standards, Timely Completion

By Kingsley Agim



Cross River State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, has charged the contractor handling the renovation of the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) located at Moore Road, Calabar, to maintain the required standards

and work diligently towards completing the project on schedule.

Ayuk gave the charge during a recent inspection of the ongoing comprehensive renovation of the facility, aimed at strengthening disease surveillance, emergency preparedness and

rapid response capacity across Cross River State.

The Commissioner was accompanied on the inspection by the State Epidemiologist, Dr. Inyang Ekpenyong, as he assessed the progress of work at the facility.

Ayuk emphasised the need for the contractor to



sustain the pace of work while ensuring that construction standards and specifications were not compromised.

He noted that timely completion of the renovation would enable the state to deploy a modern and functional emergency operations centre capable of serving as a central hub for real-time disease

surveillance, epidemic preparedness and coordinated emergency response.

The Commissioner stressed that an upgraded PHEOC would strengthen the state's ability to detect public health threats early, coordinate interventions and facilitate rapid response to disease outbreaks and other emergencies across the 18 Local

Government Areas.

He said the facility would also enhance communication and coordination among relevant health authorities and other stakeholders during public health emergencies.

Ayuk therefore urged the contractor to work diligently towards completing the project, while



maintaining the quality and standards required to deliver a facility capable of meeting the state's public health needs.

The ongoing renovation is part of the State Government's efforts to strengthen critical health infrastructure and improve the state's preparedness to respond effectively

to disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies.

The Commissioner reiterated the Ministry's commitment to strengthening the state's health system and ensuring that facilities central to disease surveillance, emergency preparedness and response receive

the necessary attention.

He expressed optimism that the completed PHEOC would significantly enhance Cross River's public health security and strengthen its capacity to protect residents through timely surveillance, preparedness and coordinated emergency response.



Cross River Spin Project Team Engages Bansara Community In Communication Strategy Development



The Cross River State Sustainable Power and Irrigation for Nigeria (SPIN) Project Team has engaged stakeholders in Bansara

Community, Ogoja Local Government Area, as part of efforts to develop an inclusive, effective and community-responsive Communication Strategy for the

implementation of the SPIN Project in the state.

The engagement, led by the State Project Coordinator, Engr. Mrs. Justina John Ulafor, alongside



Bansara, Cross River, Nigeria 🇳🇮

Chv3+xcc, Bansara, Cross River 550102, Nigeria

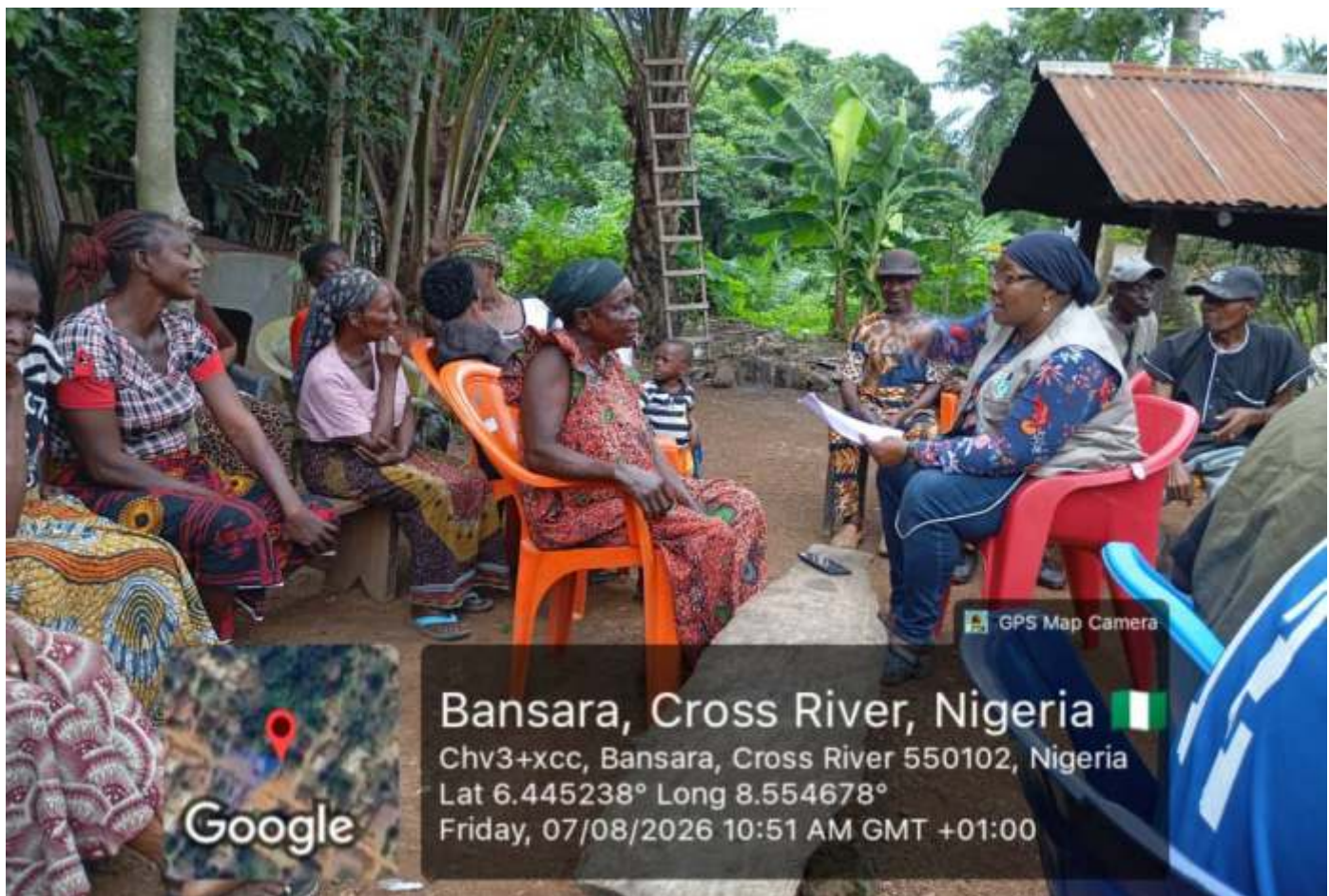
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the National Communication Specialist, Engr. Anthea Udo, featured a Town Hall Meeting, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and beneficiary surveys administered through KoboCollect.

Speaking during the exercise, Engr. Ulafor explained that the objective was to gather inclusive and relevant data to inform the development of a robust Communication Strategy that takes into account the peculiarities, needs and realities of the beneficiary communities.

She noted that the exercise was designed to ensure that the voices, experiences and perspectives of community members are captured and reflected in the project's communication approach. According to her, this is consistent with the People



First Agenda of the Cross River State Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, which places the people at the centre of government policies and programmes.

The State Project Coordinator expressed appreciation to Governor Otu for the political will and support that

facilitated the enlistment of Cross River State as a participating state in the SPIN Project. She also commended the Commissioner for Agriculture and Irrigation Development, Hon. Johnson Andiambey Ebokpo, for his proactiveness and commitment towards ensuring the successful implementation of

the project in the state.

Following the Town Hall Meeting, participants were divided into Focus Group Discussions comprising men, women, youths and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The discussions provided an opportunity for each group to freely share their



experiences, concerns, expectations and recommendations regarding the project.

The team also conducted Key Informant Interviews with selected community stakeholders and administered beneficiary survey questionnaires through KoboCollect to

obtain relevant information on beneficiaries' experiences, information needs and expectations.

The exercise provided the project team with valuable insights that will guide the development of a communication strategy aimed at promoting effective information flow, meaningful stakeholder

participation, transparency and responsive project implementation.

The Community Leader, Elder Simon Edi, and other members of the community expressed appreciation to the SPIN Project Team for selecting Bansara for the intervention. They welcomed the opportunity to contribute their



views to the process and expressed optimism about the potential benefits of the project to the community.

The Sustainable Power and Irrigation for Nigeria (SPIN) Project is aimed at strengthening irrigation infrastructure and

supporting climate-resilient agricultural production. In Cross River State, the Bansara Irrigation Scheme has been earmarked for the development of irrigation infrastructure covering approximately 630 hectares of irrigable land.

The intervention is expected to

contribute to flood control, promote year-round agricultural production, increase farmers' productivity and incomes, and strengthen food security in Cross River State and Nigeria.



NIPSS Delegation Commends Cross River for Sustained Support to Enterprise Development

By Kingsley Agim



A 17-member delegation from Study Group Six of the Senior Executive Course (SEC) 48, 2026, of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), has commended the Cross River State Government for its sustained commitment to

enterprise development and initiatives aimed at improving livelihoods across the state.

The delegation, led by Professor S.Y.B. Kura and comprising senior executives from various federal parastatals and the Presidency, made the commendation

during a working visit to the Cross River State Microfinance and Enterprise Development Agency (CRSMEDA) as part of its strategic study tour of the state.

Welcoming the delegation, the Director-General and Chief



Executive Officer of CRSMEDA, Mr. Great Ogban, expressed appreciation for the visit, describing it as an opportunity for meaningful engagement and exchange of ideas on enterprise development.

Ogban highlighted the agency's achievements and

interventions over the years, particularly its efforts to promote the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and create opportunities for entrepreneurs across Cross River State.

He explained that CRSMEDA remained committed to

strengthening the capacity of local enterprises, supporting entrepreneurship and creating an enabling environment for businesses to contribute more effectively to the state's economic development.

The engagement provided an interactive



platform for the exchange of knowledge and experiences, with discussions focusing on enterprise development, policy alignment, investment opportunities and strategies for strengthening the state's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The delegation also toured

CRSMEDA's facilities to gain first-hand insight into the agency's operations and interventions, as well as Cross River's broader enterprise and investment landscape.

The study group further explored the state's investment opportunities and tourism potential, gaining a deeper understanding of the relationship

between enterprise development, local economic activity and the state's tourism assets.

The visit formed part of the delegation's strategic study tour, designed to expose participants to practical experiences and policy initiatives that could enrich their



understanding of development challenges and opportunities.

At the conclusion of the visit, the NIPSS delegation presented an award of

recognition to CRSMEDA in appreciation of the agency's contributions to the development of the MSME sector.

The delegation also expressed

appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality extended to its members during their engagement in Cross River State.











Cross River Women Entrepreneurs Get Global Market Boost at Business Expo

By Obaseoyi Bassey



Female entrepreneurs in Cross River State have received a fresh boost towards accessing global markets following the Africa Women in Business Expo 2026, organised by SHE Means Business Africa in partnership with the Cross River

State Ministry of Commerce.

The expo, held in Calabar on August 15, 2026, in Calabar, brought together government officials, industry experts and women entrepreneurs for a training and empowerment

workshop focused on economic inclusion, financial literacy, business development and international trade readiness.

SHE Means Business Africa is an initiative and media ecosystem dedicated to supporting, educating and



elevating female entrepreneurs and business leaders across Africa through business intelligence, leadership resources and digital skills training.

Delivering the keynote address, the Commissioner for Commerce, Dr. (Mrs.) Abigail

Duke Orok, urged participants to take their businesses seriously and leverage available government resources to strengthen and expand their enterprises.

Dr. Orok expressed appreciation to the Wife of the Governor, Her Excellency, Dr. (Mrs.) Eyoanwan-

Itam Bassey Otu, for prioritising initiatives aimed at empowering women and improving their economic wellbeing.

The Commissioner announced that women with viable business ideas could apply for SME grants through the



Ministry of Commerce, while disclosing the Ministry's commitment to provide free professional business training for 50 female entrepreneurs to enhance their competitiveness.

"The Ministry of Commerce remains open to women with innovative ideas. We are fully committed to providing the structural and financial support necessary to help women-led businesses thrive," she said.

Also speaking, the Commissioner for Finance, Dr. Michael Odere, urged participants to align their businesses with available government

programmes, assuring them that the administration of Governor Bassey Edet Otu was committed to ensuring that women's voices were heard and reflected in economic policymaking.

As part of immediate support for the entrepreneurs, Odere offered free Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) business registration to several participants and stressed the importance of proper financial record-keeping for business sustainability.

He advised entrepreneurs to consistently track their revenues and expenses to accurately determine their

profit and loss and make informed business decisions.

The expo featured interactive sessions led by prominent private-sector experts. The Chief Executive Officer of SHE Means Business Africa, Mrs. Mary Colette Kekong, facilitated a session on business fundamentals, strategy, resilience and scaling women-led enterprises.

The Chief Executive Officer of Global Trading and Investment Services, Mr. Nwachukwu C. Okafor, provided practical guidance on accessing bank financing and grants,



preparing loan-ready business profiles and navigating financial institutions.

Similarly, the Chief Executive Officer of Mount Pure Natural Mineral Water, Mrs. Shirley Elrida Roland, outlined strategic pathways for

helping local entrepreneurs gain international visibility and participate effectively in cross-border trade.

The programme concluded with an interactive panel session during which participants raised challenges affecting their

businesses, including supply-chain barriers and access to capital. Industry experts and government officials responded to the concerns, offering practical advice and linkages to relevant ministry resources.



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CROSS RIVER STATE

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For more updates, follow the official communication channels of the Office of the Head of Service.



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE
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Calabar Market Leaders Back Govt's Crackdown on Roadside Trading

By Sylvia Okoi



Market leaders in Calabar have thrown their weight behind the Cross River State Government's efforts to curb roadside trading, saying the practice poses serious threats to free vehicular movement, public

safety and orderly market operations.

The market leaders expressed their support when they met with the Commissioner for Environment, Barr. Bassey Mensah, to deliberate on environmental compliance, market

management and measures to keep roads and other public spaces free from unauthorised trading activities.

Barr. Mensah warned traders against abandoning designated



market spaces to display and sell their goods along roadsides, stressing that such activities contribute significantly to traffic congestion and expose traders, pedestrians and motorists to avoidable accidents.

The Commissioner urged market leaders to support the government's efforts to restore order to the metropolis and ensure that commercial activities remain within designated market areas.

"We must get back our environment and restore sanity

to our markets," Mensah said.

He stressed that compliance with environmental and market management regulations was essential to creating safer, cleaner and more organised commercial spaces across Calabar.



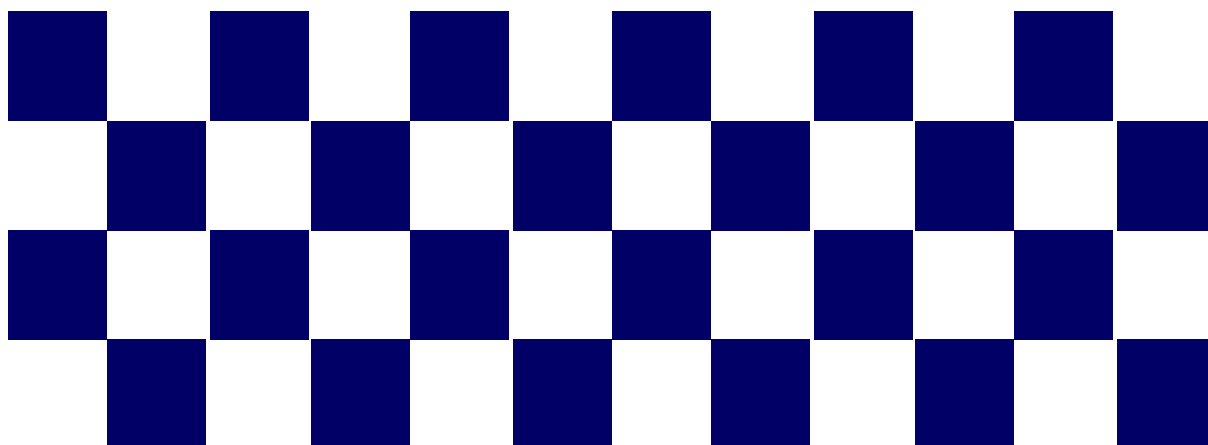
The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Mrs. Rosemary Onah, decried the unsanitary conditions of some major markets in the metropolis, stressing that the government could no longer condone practices that undermine

environmental standards.

Mrs. Onah reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring that commercial activities are conducted in accordance with approved regulations, while urging market leaders and traders

to cooperate with relevant authorities.

Responding, the Chairman of Marian Market Union, Pastor Asuquo Etim, said market union leaders were not in support of roadside trading, noting that the practice was contrary to the



principles and regulations governing organised markets.

He disclosed that there were sufficient stalls within the markets to accommodate traders, adding that many of those operating along the roadsides were not members of the union.

Etim therefore called for the intervention of the Ministry of Environment to address the situation and

enforce compliance, stressing the need to protect the integrity of organised markets.

Also speaking, Goddy Ibem of the Neighbourhood Association, highlighted the vulnerability of roadside traders and warned that trading along roads could expose them and other road users to serious accidents.

Ibem recalled an incident at Etim Edem Park where roadside trading reportedly caused a major

obstruction, leaving a truck unable to manoeuvre through the area until the intervention of the police.

He expressed concern that motorists could lose control of their vehicles or be unable to manoeuvre safely through congested areas, potentially resulting in serious accidents and loss of lives.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



Below is the list of presidential candidates and their running mates as displayed by INEC on **August 1, 2026**.

SN/	POLITICAL PARTY (OFFICIAL INEC NAME)	ACRONYM	PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE	VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
1.	Action Alliance	AA	Adekunle Rufai Omoaje	Shehu Hussaini
2.	African Action Congress	AAC	Omoyele Sowore	Magashi Haruna Garba
3.	African Democratic Congress	ADC	Atiku Abubakar	Rotimi Amaechi
4.	Action Democratic Party	ADP	Abbas-Bin Aliyu	Ike Chinazam
5.	All Progressives Congress	APC	Bola Ahmed Tinubu	Kashim Shettima
6.	Allied Peoples Movement	APM	Seyi Makinde	Ibrahim Adamu Bala
7.	All Peoples Party	DP	Yusuf Kabiru	Ofordile Peace Egobia
8.	Boot Party	BP	Adenuga Sunday	Mustapha Usman Turaki
9.	Democratic League of Africa	DLA	Memeh Samuel	Balogun Alex
10.	Labour Party	LP	Okereke Sunday Chibuzor	Konto Hajja Bintu
11.	Nigeria Democratic Congress	NDC	Peter Obi	Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso
12.	National Democratic Party	NDP	Okwori Ada Elizabeth Frederick	Chikwuemeka Uchenna Anthony
13.	New Nigeria Peoples Party	NNPP	Dikwa Suleiman Mohammed	Abubakar Isah
14.	National Rescue Movement	NRM	Okereke Iken Esther	Samuel Magdalene Gali
15.	Peoples Democratic Party	PDP	Senator Sandy Onor	Umaru Babangida
16.	Peoples Redemption Party	PRP	Donald Duke	Buba Musa
17.	Social Democratic Party	SDP	Adebayo Adewole Ebenezer	Bugaje Usman Mohammed
18.	Young Progressives Party	YPP	Chukwu Anita Zugwai	Egbeola Olawale Mertins
19.	Zenith Labour Party	ZLP	Nwanyanwu Daniel Danerechukwu	Hassan Khalid



This is a preliminary publication of personal particulars displayed by INEC under Section 29(3) of the Electoral Act, 2026.
It is not the final list of nominated candidates.



TRANSPARENCY



ACCOUNTABILITY



DEMOCRACY

Cross River Govt, Fishermen Strengthen Partnership to Revamp Fisheries Sector

By Arit Ubi



The Cross River State Government and the Fishermen Association have strengthened their partnership towards revitalising the state's fisheries sector, with both sides committing to closer collaboration on

sustainable fishing, improved government interventions and better livelihoods for fishing communities.

The commitment was made when the Fishermen Association paid a courtesy visit to the Commissioner for

Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries Development, Hon. Ekpenyong Francis Edet, at his office, where they discussed key issues affecting fishermen and the development of the sector.

The engagement



focused on critical areas including data collection, access to government interventions, sustainable fishing practices and enforcement of existing fisheries regulations.

Welcoming the association, Edet expressed the Ministry's

readiness to work closely with fishermen and other stakeholders to address challenges confronting the sector.

The Commissioner assured genuine fishermen that the Ministry was not interested in creating unnecessary difficulties for them,

but would rather work with them to promote compliance, protect their livelihoods and ensure the sustainable management of Cross River's aquatic resources.

Speaking during the engagement, Mr. Arikpo Okoi Eteng noted that



the absence of comprehensive and reliable data on fishermen and fishing communities over the years had affected effective planning and the delivery of government interventions.

Eteng said the Ministry was interested in collaborating with

the association to identify fishermen across various fishing communities and establish reliable contact persons who could facilitate data collection and improve access to relevant government programmes.

He stressed that government agencies could not

effectively reach every fishing community without the active participation and cooperation of fishermen, making stronger grassroots engagement essential to the success of interventions in the sector.

Eteng also expressed concern



over illegal fishing practices and their implications for public health and the aquatic environment, calling for increased advocacy, awareness and responsible enforcement of existing fisheries laws.

He said greater compliance would help protect aquatic resources from depletion while safeguarding

consumers from practices that could compromise the safety of fish and other aquatic products.

The Head of Department, Fisheries, Mr. Akoh Eddy Akoh, expressed appreciation to Commissioner Edet for receiving the association, describing the visit as an opportunity to establish a stronger working relationship

between the Ministry and fishermen.

Akoh pledged the association's support and cooperation for initiatives aimed at improving the fisheries sector and enhancing the welfare of fishermen across the state.





INEC ANNOUNCES 2027 CAMPAIGN TIMETABLE

The Independent National Electoral Commission has released the approved campaign periods for Nigeria's 2027 General Elections, in accordance with the Electoral Act 2026.

KEY CAMPAIGN DATES



PRESIDENTIAL & NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



Campaign opens
19 August 2026



Campaign closes
15 January 2027



Election day
16 January 2027



GOVERNORSHIP & STATE ASSEMBLY



Campaign opens
9 September 2026



Campaign closes
5 February 2027



Election day
6 February 2027



WHAT THE ELECTORAL ACT REQUIRES

- Campaigns may begin no earlier than **150 days** before an election.
- Every campaign must end **24 hours** before polling begins.
- Parties, candidates and supporters must follow the approved dates.
- Breaches may attract sanctions under the law.



Political parties and stakeholders are urged to respect the timetable and support a **peaceful, transparent and credible electoral process.**



Cross River Distributes 20,000 Bags of Fertilizer to 8,000 Farmers

By Blessing Enagu



The Cross River State Government has commenced the distribution of 20,000 bags of fertilizer to 8,000 smallholder farmers across the state, in a move aimed at

improving farm productivity, reducing input costs and strengthening food security.

The distribution is being undertaken under the Farm Input Support

Programme (FISP), an intervention of the National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF), which provides agricultural inputs to farmers to enhance



production across various value chains.

Flagging off the exercise in Calabar on Thursday, the Commissioner for Agriculture and Irrigation Development, Hon. Johnson Andiambey Ebokpo, said the initiative had

moved from policy commitment to direct support for farmers following the South-South zonal flag-off of the programme earlier in June.

Ebokpo said the state government was determined to ensure that the inputs reached verified beneficiaries

through a transparent and orderly distribution process.

"We are gathered not merely to mark the commencement of distribution, but to ensure that this important agricultural input gets to the farmers for whom



it is intended in an orderly, transparent, and efficient manner," he said.

The Commissioner explained that the state had followed the prescribed guidelines in identifying and

registering beneficiary farmers, noting that the restructuring of farmer



organisations was intended to improve coordination and make agricultural interventions more effective.

He said the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) had been recognised as the apex farmers' body in the state, alongside the revival of commodity associations to facilitate efficient

delivery of agricultural inputs across the 18 local government areas.

Ebokpo also disclosed that an additional 4,000 bags of NPK 15-15-15 fertilizer, each weighing 25 kilogrammes, donated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), would be incorporated into the distribution exercise.

He commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for supporting agricultural transformation under the Renewed Hope Agenda, stressing that the intervention was consistent with Governor Bassey Edet Otu's People First Agenda, which places agriculture at the centre of job creation, economic development and



food security.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Dr. Odey Ikongah, described the distribution as a practical demonstration of the government's commitment to translating agricultural plans and promises into

tangible support for farmers.

Also speaking, the Team Lead of the National Agricultural Development Fund, Lekan Alabi, said the impact of the current intervention would determine the possibility of further support for Cross River

farmers.

"The importance is that we are looking forward to food security and sustainability. The success of this also determines the next phase," Alabi said, assuring that positive results would strengthen the case for returning with



additional interventions.

The State Coordinator of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Mrs. Sampson George, allayed concerns over the availability of the inputs, assuring farmers that the fertilizer allocated to the state remained intact and secured for verified beneficiaries.

She urged the beneficiaries to apply the inputs strictly for agricultural production, stressing that responsible utilisation would strengthen their prospects of benefiting from subsequent phases of the programme.

The Chairman of AFAN in Cross River, Rev. Ojikpong Bisong, expressed

appreciation to the Federal Government, Governor Otu and the Commissioner for Agriculture for the intervention, describing its scale as significant and pledging that farmers would put the inputs to productive use.

For the beneficiaries, the Secretary of the National Sesame Seed Farmers Association of



Nigeria, Cross River Chapter, Chief Felix Edoki, expressed optimism that the intervention would translate into improved yields and a bumper harvest across the state.

Similarly, the

AFAN Women Leader, Miss Vivian Efanga,

pledged that female farmers would use the fertilizer for its intended purpose, assuring that the farmers' association would monitor its utilisation.

"We will put it to use and we are not going to sell it. AFAN is going to do a lot of monitoring in Cross River State," Efanga said.



Federal Ministry of
Health & Social Welfare
Federal Republic of Nigeria

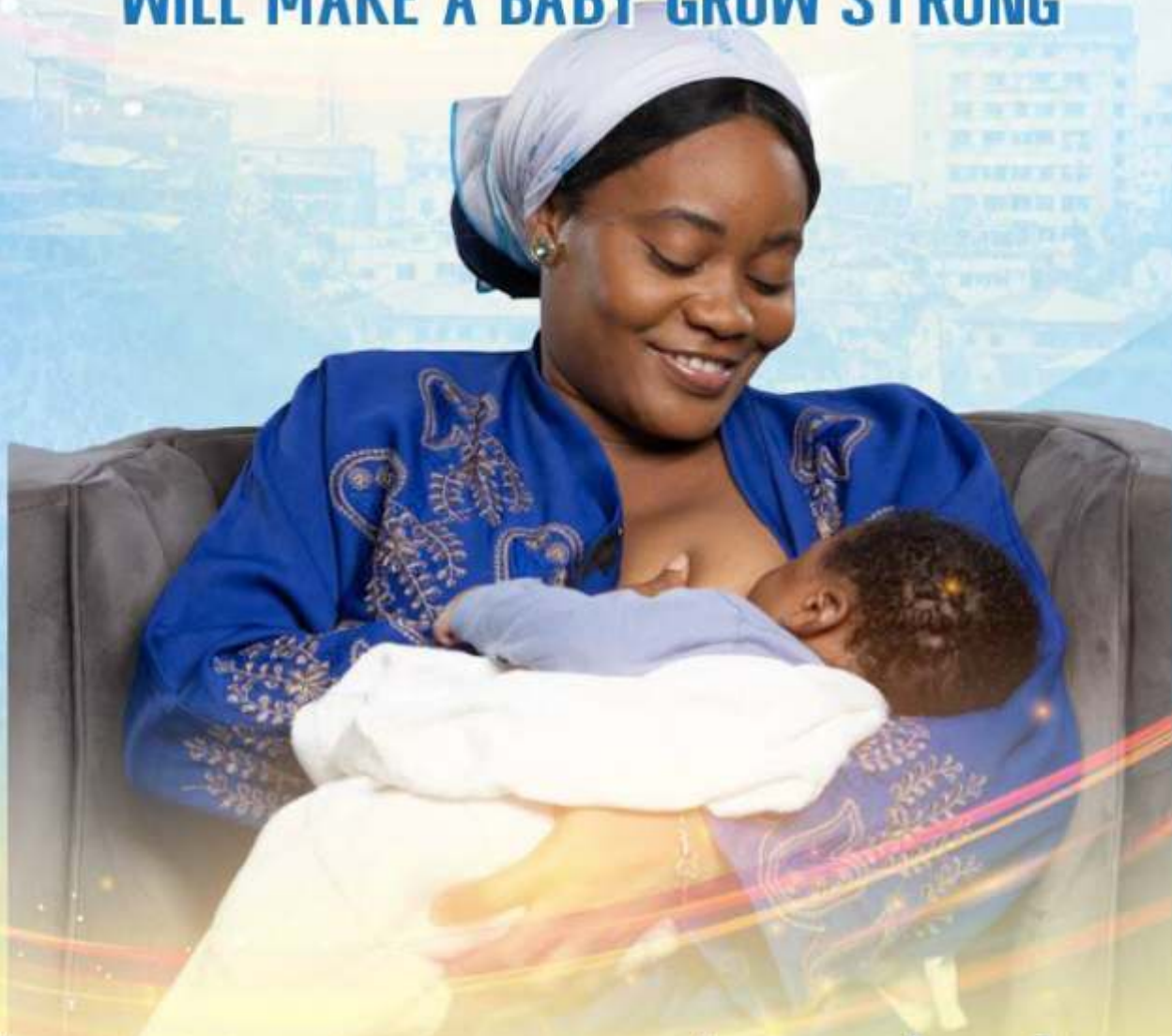


LET'S GROW STRONGER
TOGETHER

unicef
for every child

ONLY BREASTMILK FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS

WILL MAKE A BABY GROW STRONG



This means no pap, no water, and no formula during the first six months of life. Breast milk contains everything a baby needs.

EVERY GREAT STORY NEEDS A STRONG BEGINNING



Federal Ministry of
Health & Social Welfare
Federal Republic of Nigeria



LET'S GROW STRONGER
TOGETHER

unicef
for every child

FIRST HOUR BREASTFEEDING IS A MUST!



**As soon as your baby is born, put them to the breast immediately.
That first thick yellow milk, called colostrum, protects your baby
and contains the water and nourishment they need.**

EVERY GREAT STORY NEEDS A STRONG BEGINNING

A woman with a warm smile, wearing a red headwrap and a vibrant red, black, and yellow patterned dress, stands next to a blue bucket. She holds a long, red stick with yellow and white floral patterns. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**Na Family
Support Dey
Make Mama And
Pikin Strong**

**Help Mama wey
just born pikin
do house work,
make she fit rest
come give pikin
breast well-well.**



Federal Ministry of
Health & Social Welfare
Federal Republic of Nigeria



LET'S GROW STRONGER
TOGETHER

unicef
for every child

SIX MONTHS OF BREASTFEEDING IS POSSIBLE, Even With Work!



**It is possible for a child to take only
breastmilk for the first six months,
even if the mother is going to work.**

EVERY GREAT STORY NEEDS A STRONG BEGINNING

MAKE WE GROW STRONG TOGETHER

**E GO SOON REACH
YOUR SIDE**

**EVERY GREAT STORY
NEEDS A STRONG
BEGINNING**



THE CREATIVE DESIGNERS GUILD OF NIGERIA

IN COLLABORATION WITH
CALLYWOOD STUDIO

Host CDGN Annual Zonal Congress In Calabar



HIS EXCELLENCY
SEN. PRINCE BASSEY OTU
GOVERNOR, CROSS RIVER STATE

HON. ERIC ANDERSON
SPECIAL ADVISER TO
THE GOVERNOR ON CALLYWOOD

PST. MRS. AKINYEMI OSAWARU JOY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL ASUQUO
CROSS RIVER STATE
CHAPTER CHAIRMAN

ANNUAL GENERAL CONGRESS **2026**

— SHAPING THE FUTURE OF DESIGN —



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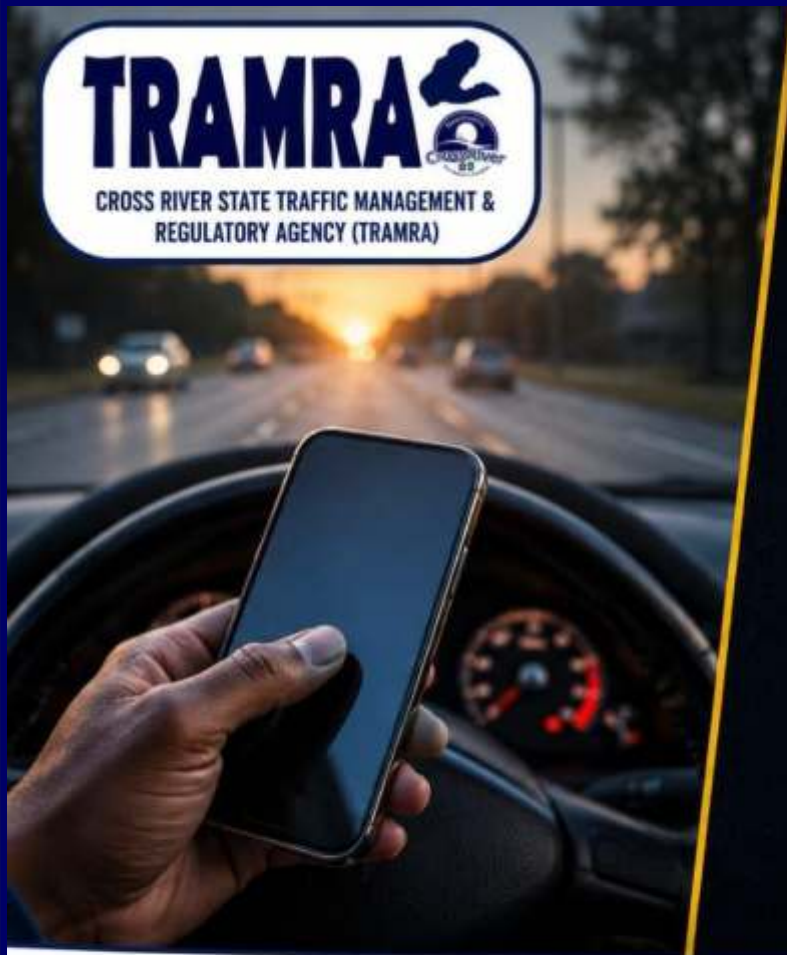


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MOBILITY FOR ALL



FLOOD ALERT

BE PREPARED, STAY SAFE



The rainy season is here again
how can we **prevent flooding?**

WHAT TO DO



**CLEAR THE GUTTERS
AND DRAINAGE.**



**AVOID DUMPING
REFUSE AND PLASTICS
IN THE GUTTER.**



**STAY UPDATED ON
WEATHER NEWS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

DURING THE FLOOD



**DO NOT WALK OR
DRIVE IN FLOODED
PLACES.**



**LIFT IMPORTANT
THINGS TO A
HIGH LEVEL.**



**FOLLOW
EVACUATION
ORDERS.**



**EVACUATE IF
NECESSARY.**



**TURN OFF ALL
ELECTRICAL
APPLIANCES AND GAS.**



**YOUR SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY.
TOGETHER, WE CAN REDUCE
RISK AND SAVE LIVES.**



**POWERED BY
CROSS RIVER STATE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**



Listen to
authorities.



Help your
neighbors.



Be prepared,
stay safe.



Government of Cross River State, Nigeria

23rd July 2026

PRESS RELEASE

EXTENSION OF THE SUSPENSION OF ALL SCRAP-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN CROSS RIVER STATE

Further to the Press Release dated the 23rd of February 2026, communicating His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu's approval of the suspension of all scrap-related activities, the Cross River State Government hereby notifies the general public that the suspension has been extended for a further period of one (1) month expiring on the 23rd August 2026.

As stated in the previous Press Release, the suspension was necessitated by the increasing incidents of vandalism, theft and destruction of public infrastructure by scavengers, scrap dealers and their agents, and the significant security threat posed to the State. This extension is intended to enable Government conclude the ongoing review of the laws, policies and regulatory framework governing scrap-related activities in Cross River State. The objective is to strengthen the regulatory regime, identify and protect legitimate operators, and implement measures that effectively prevent the infiltration of criminal elements into the sector.

Government regrets any inconvenience caused to legitimate businesses and law-abiding operators. However, the protection of public infrastructure, the preservation of public order and security remain paramount. Members of the general public are accordingly informed that the suspension remains in full force and that any person or organization found engaging in scrap-related activities in contravention of this directive shall be dealt with strictly in accordance with the law.



Ededem Charles Ani, Esq

Attorney General & Commissioner for Justice



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



PUBLIC ADVISORY



RAINY SEASON DRIVING STAY SAFE. ARRIVE ALIVE.

KEY SAFETY TIPS



REDUCE YOUR SPEED

Wet roads,
longer stopping
distance.



KEEP SAFE DISTANCE

Leave enough
space between
vehicles.



USE HEADLIGHTS

Improve visibility
during rain.



AVOID FLOODED ROADS

Water hides
dangers.



NO MOBILE PHONES

Stay focused.
No distractions.



CHECK YOUR VEHICLE

Tyres, wipers,
brakes & lights
must be good.



WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT

Protect yourself
and your
passengers.



USE INDICATORS

Signal before
you turn or
change lanes.



AVOID OVERTAKING

Be patient.
Drive
responsibly.



POOR VISIBILITY?

Pull over safely
and wait for
conditions
to improve.



LET'S PROTECT LIVES ON OUR ROADS

Obey traffic rules. Drive responsibly.
Together, we can prevent accidents.



STAY ALERT.
DRIVE SAFELY.
ARRIVE ALIVE.

E-signed :

ASP EITOKPAH SUNDAY AKATA, anipr, misma
Police Public Relations Officer
Cross River State Police Command





FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY CORPS
RS6.2 CROSS RIVER SECTOR COMMAND

RAINY SEASON DRIVING TIPS

Drive Smart. Arrive Safe.

Rain changes road conditions.
Good decisions behind the wheel
save lives.



CC INNOCENT TOMMY ETUK
Sector Commander
RS6.2 Cross River Sector Command
Your Safety, Our Priority.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

- ✓ Avoid sudden braking and sharp turns.
- ✓ Do not overtake on wet or slippery roads.
- ✓ Pedestrians: Use walkways and cross at safe points.
- ✓ Motorcycle riders: Wear your helmet and rain gear.
- ✓ Commercial drivers: Do not overload.
- ✓ Take breaks and stay rested.

SAFE DRIVING TIPS



01

CHECK YOUR VEHICLE

Ensure your wipers, headlights, brake lights, tyres, brakes and windscreen are in good condition.



02

REDUCE SPEED

Wet roads reduce tyre grip. Drive within the speed limit and adjust to road and weather conditions.



03

KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE

Maintain a longer following distance. It gives you more time to react and stop safely.



04

USE YOUR LIGHTS

Switch on your headlights even during the day to improve visibility and help others see you.



05

AVOID FLOODED ROADS

Do not drive through flood water. You may not know how deep it is. Turn back or find a safer route.



06

STAY FOCUSED

Avoid distractions. Do not use your phone while driving. Keep your eyes on the road at all times.



07

BUCKLE UP – EVERY TIME

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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



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

SECTORIAL 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

INFORMATION SECTOR

Gov. Otu: Repositioning Cross River's Information Sector for Transparency, Digital Governance, Global Visibility



Kingsley Agim, anipr

Information is the lifeblood of governance. It shapes public perception, inspires confidence, preserves history and connects government with the governed. Recognising this reality, Governor Bassey

Edet Otu made the revitalisation of Cross River State's information ecosystem a strategic component of his People First Agenda, transforming what had long been regarded as a routine government communication apparatus



into a dynamic instrument for transparency, citizen engagement and institutional efficiency.

Three years into the administration, the information sector has emerged as one of the state's most improved sectors, recording remarkable progress in digital transformation, public communication, media relations, broadcasting, institutional strengthening and archival documentation. The reforms implemented between 2023 and 2026 have not only modernised government information management but have also significantly enhanced Cross River

State's visibility on the national and international stage.

Prior to 2023, many of the structures responsible for government information management had suffered years of neglect. Critical communication infrastructure was outdated, public engagement had diminished, digital platforms were inactive, and the Ministry of Information operated with severe manpower and technological limitations.

Governor Otu's administration responded with deliberate investments





aimed at rebuilding the Ministry into a modern public communication institution capable of meeting the demands of contemporary governance.

For the first time in well over a decade, the Ministry underwent comprehensive institutional revitalisation. Modern ICT equipment was procured, digital workflows introduced, and office operations significantly improved through technology-driven systems. Equally significant was the recruitment of 20 new personnel (information officers), ending a manpower deficit that had persisted for more than 13 years and injecting fresh capacity into government information management.

These reforms improved operational efficiency while

laying the foundation for a more responsive and professional information service.

Perhaps one of the administration's most visible achievements has been the deliberate repositioning of Cross River State within the national media landscape.

Under Governor Otu, the Commissioner for



Information maintained consistent appearances on leading national television networks including Channels Television, AIT, ARISE News, TVC, NTA and other major platforms. These engagements provided opportunities to explain government policies, address public concerns, counter misinformation and showcase development initiatives across multiple sectors.

According to official records, Cross River's national media visibility rose dramatically from approximately 28 percent in 2022 to about 78 percent by 2025, representing one of the most

significant improvements in government media presence in recent years.

Beyond publicity, the initiative strengthened transparency, improved policy communication and restored public confidence in government information.

One of the landmark achievements of the administration was the revival of the Ministry of Information's official website, www.moi.cr.gov.ng, which had remained inactive since 2015.

The restoration of the website was



accompanied by the establishment of official social media platforms on Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter), creating an integrated digital communication ecosystem capable of reaching citizens both within Nigeria and across the diaspora.

These platforms now provide timely updates on government activities, policy decisions, public announcements and developmental projects, ensuring that citizens receive information directly from official sources.

Government estimates indicate that the

digital platforms currently account for approximately 70 percent of the Ministry's publicity reach, with a target of increasing coverage to 95 percent by 2027 through full integration with the state's official digital platforms.

The daily publication and electronic distribution of government news bulletins to Ministries, Departments and Agencies have further strengthened real-time information dissemination and inter-agency communication.

One of the less publicised but highly significant reforms has been the



restoration of official government documentation.

For years, several statutory government publications had suffered irregular production, affecting record keeping and legal documentation.

The Otu administration reversed this trend through the commercial printing and publication of Government Gazettes, White Papers, Tender Journals and all enacted state laws, including the 2025 Appropriation Law.

These publications have strengthened

institutional memory, improved legal documentation, enhanced transparency and preserved important government decisions for future generations.

Similarly, the resumption and sustained production of official government bulletins since January 2023 has restored a vital information channel that had previously become inactive.

Another landmark achievement has been the revival of Giant Strides Magazine, the Ministry's flagship publication showcasing government projects, programmes and development



initiatives.

The magazine, which had not been published since July 2017, resumed publication in October 2023 and has remained consistent.

Within three years, seven editions have been completed, and more than 13,000 copies have been distributed across Nigeria.

Beyond public enlightenment, the publication now serves as an enduring documentary record of the Otu administration's developmental journey and a valuable archival resource for future generations.

Governor Otu's administration also demonstrated an appreciation for strategic storytelling as a tool for investment promotion and image building.

The production and nationwide broadcast of the documentary "Governor Otu @2" represented a significant milestone in government communication.

Aired on Channels Television, AIT, ARISE News, TVC, NTA and other national networks between May and June 2025, the documentary highlighted achievements across multiple sectors, projecting Cross River State to a nationwide audience and strengthening

investor confidence in the state's development agenda.

Combined with regular press briefings and sustained media engagements, these initiatives have ensured that government activities remain accessible, verifiable and visible.

While embracing digital communication, the administration equally recognised the importance of grassroots engagement.

Through sustained mass mobilisation campaigns, coordinated press releases, Information Officers deployed across Ministries, Departments and Agencies, and the Village Square Broadcast Programme, government information

reached communities that traditionally had limited access to digital media.

The Village Square initiative particularly strengthened communication with traditional institutions, promoted indigenous values and ensured that government policies were explained in culturally relevant ways.

This combination of digital innovation and community engagement has significantly expanded the reach of government communication across urban and rural communities alike.

CRBC's Digital Revolution

If the Ministry of Information experienced institutional renewal, the





Cross River Broadcasting Corporation underwent a complete technological transformation.

Over the last three years, CRBC evolved from a conventional broadcasting station into a modern multimedia organisation.

The Corporation introduced a fully paperless digital newsroom, enabling

real-time news production and significantly improving operational efficiency.

To guarantee uninterrupted broadcasting despite Nigeria's persistent power challenges, four television and radio studios were equipped with inverter systems, virtually eliminating on-air interruptions caused by electricity



outages.

Additional investments included the installation of a new 20/2-kilowatt radio transmitter, a 13KVA electrical substation, comprehensive remodelling of radio studios, reception areas, conference facilities and newsroom infrastructure, as well as the acquisition of a new operational vehicle.

These improvements have substantially enhanced staff productivity and broadcast quality.

Perhaps the most transformative

achievement at CRBC has been the expansion of its audience beyond traditional terrestrial broadcasting.

Television services were migrated to satellite and Free-to-Air platforms, while Radio Garden integration enabled global online radio streaming.

The launch of the Naija TV mobile application, migration to the GOtv platform and government-supported NIGOSAT carriage services further expanded access to Cross River programming.

Today, CRBC reaches audiences across more



than ten local government areas while simultaneously serving viewers and listeners across Nigeria and the international diaspora.

For the first time, Cross River's stories are being told simultaneously to local communities and global audiences.

Understanding the changing media landscape, has CRBC established a modern podcast studio through collaboration with diaspora media partners in the United States.

This initiative has opened new opportunities for digital content production while positioning the Corporation to compete within today's evolving multimedia environment.

Equally important was the expansion of indigenous language programming following the acquisition of National Broadcasting Commission thematic language licences.

Combined with tourism-focused programmes, these initiatives have strengthened cultural preservation while

promoting Cross River's rich heritage to wider audiences.

Strengthening Institutional Capacity

Beyond infrastructure and technology, the administration has invested heavily in institutional development.

Participation in national fora of Information Commissioners under the Progressive Governors' Forum has enhanced intergovernmental collaboration while improving policy coordination and professional networking.

The remarkable transformation recorded in the information sector has also attracted national recognition for the Honourable Commissioner for Information, Dr. Erasmus Ekpang, whose leadership has earned him several prestigious media and public communication awards from reputable professional bodies and organizations across the country. In further affirmation of Cross River State's growing influence in public communication, the Commissioner was unanimously elected Secretary of the Forum of Commissioners for Information in All Progressives Congress (APC)-governed states, a development widely regarded as a testament to the administration's innovative communication strategy, institutional reforms and outstanding

contributions to information management at both the state and national levels.

Coverage of major state ceremonies, including Democracy Day, Independence Day, Children's Day and anniversary celebrations of the People First Administration, has ensured that important moments in the state's history are professionally documented and preserved.

Meanwhile, the continued publication of over 173 editions of the Nigerian Chronicle and Weekend Chronicle has sustained the state's print media presence and enriched the historical archive of government activities.

Another significant milestone has been the near-completion of the comprehensive restoration of the Cross River State Newspaper Corporation complex, which was extensively vandalised and destroyed during the #EndSARS protests in 2020.

The rehabilitation of the corporation's facilities represents the administration's commitment to rebuilding critical public institutions and restoring the state's capacity for public information dissemination through its flagship newspapers.

In furtherance of this objective, the Otu administration has also procured modern digital printing equipment for the restoration of the Government Printing Press. When fully operational, the facility

will not only guarantee greater confidentiality in the printing of sensitive government documents, gazettes, white papers and other official publications, but will also position the state to generate additional revenue through commercial printing services for public and private organisations.

These complementary investments underscore Governor Otu's broader vision of rebuilding the entire government information value chain, from content creation and documentation to printing, publishing and distribution, while strengthening institutional self-reliance, improving operational efficiency and creating new economic opportunities within the information sector.

Ultimately, the achievements recorded in the information sector extend far beyond improved publicity.

They represent the deliberate construction of an open, digitally connected and citizen-focused governance system.

Through stronger communication channels, modern broadcasting infrastructure, revitalised institutional capacity, enhanced digital engagement, improved archival systems and broader media visibility, Governor Bassey Otu has repositioned information as a strategic instrument for development rather than merely a vehicle for publicity.

The reforms have strengthened transparency, increased citizen participation, expanded access to government information and restored confidence in public communication.

Three years after assuming office, Governor Bassey Edet Otu has transformed Cross River's information sector from a largely analogue, under-resourced system into a modern, technology-driven communication ecosystem.

From reviving dormant digital platforms and modernising government documentation to repositioning CRBC for global broadcasting and restoring Cross River's voice on the national media stage, the administration has demonstrated that effective governance depends as much on how government communicates as on what it delivers.

As the state advances toward deeper digital governance, broader citizen engagement and stronger institutional transparency, the reforms implemented between 2023 and 2026 have laid a durable foundation for an information sector that is not only more efficient and innovative but also better equipped to serve the people of Cross River State in the years ahead.







SECTORIAL STRIDES









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

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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



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WHAT TO DO

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STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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

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CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND