

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026

Daily InfoNews...

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

Articles and stories in this publication may be reproduced.

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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.

CR-SUBEB Flags Off REACH Programme to Return Out-of-School Children to Classrooms

By Joy Ndoma



The Cross River State Universal Basic Education Board (CR-SUBEB), in collaboration with the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), has flagged off the Result in Education for All Children (REACH) Programme, a World Bank-supported initiative aimed at returning out-of-school children to classrooms across

the state.

The programme is designed to identify children who are out of school, mobilise communities and encourage parents to enrol them in school, while providing learning materials and other support to improve learning outcomes.

Speaking at the state-level advocacy and official flag-off of the programme in Calabar, the

Commissioner for Education, Prof. Dr. Stephen Odey, represented by Dr. Mrs. Alice Olom, described the reintegration of out-of-school children into classrooms as an investment in the future of society and Nigeria.

Odey said every child deserved the opportunity to learn, develop their talents and build a better future, noting that



poverty and other circumstances beyond the control of some families had deprived many children of access to education.

He said returning such children to school would restore hope and

dignity while giving them an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. He commended SUBEB, parents, teachers, social workers, development partners and other stakeholders for their commitment

to ensuring that every child of school age had access to quality basic education.

Earlier, the Executive Chairman of SUBEB, Mrs. Fedelia Okpo Ene, urged parents and



guardians to ensure that all school-age children returned to school as the new academic session commenced, stressing that basic education, particularly at the primary level, was free in Cross River.

Ene warned

against allowing children to engage in street hawking or roam the streets during school hours, saying children found outside school during learning periods would be picked up, while their parents or guardians would be identified and held accountable.

She disclosed that SUBEB had continued to support pupils and parents with essential learning materials, including free exercise books, textbooks, school bags and sandals, adding that the Board was prepared to provide school



uniforms to further reduce the financial burden on families and encourage regular attendance.

The chairman expressed appreciation to Governor Bassey Edet Otu for his unwavering commitment to education, which she described as the bedrock of development, while commending development partners and other stakeholders whose support had contributed to the initiative.

Also speaking, the Director of Social Mobilisation, CR-SUBEB, Mr. Sunny Abua Afor, described education as "the greatest equaliser," expressing concern that many children across the state remained out of school and were engaged in street hawking, child labour and other activities.

Afor said the REACH Programme was focused on strengthening the entire education "book chain" to

ensure that children acquired basic literacy and numeracy skills. He said the programme would cover communities across the state, including Obanliku, Obubra, Yakurr, Odukpani and Bakassi.

He disclosed that the state had mapped out-of-school children through School-Based Management Committees (SBMCs) and conducted school-enrolment sensitisation

campaigns across the 18 Local Government Areas. He added that the programme had supported the provision of textbooks and teacher training to improve learning outcomes.

Afor called on local government chairmen, traditional and religious leaders, parents, community leaders, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to replicate the sensitisation campaign in their communities and encourage parents to return their children to school, stressing that government alone could not achieve the objective.

The flag-off procession

commenced at Eleven Eleven and proceeded to Watt Market before returning to the SUBEB premises for the final ceremony.

The event was attended by SUBEB and UBEC officials, LGEA secretaries, development partners, UNICEF, civil society organisations and other stakeholders, with the REACH Programme expected to deepen community mobilisation and reduce the number of out-of-school children across Cross River State.

Dignitaries at the event included Mr. Joseph Ogar, Board Member I; Dr. Theresa Essien, Board Member II; and Dr. Roseline Bisong, Board Member III.

Dr. Omuta Obanowu, representing the Executive Secretary of UBEC, Aisha Garba; Dr. German Anagbogu; Dr. Mrs. Mary Theresa Ebe Agede, Permanent Secretary, SUBEB; and Dr. David Edet, representing the Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs. Also present were Local Government Education Authority (LGEA) Secretaries, development partners, a representative of UNICEF, representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs), among others.



THE GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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Honourable Minister of Information and
National Orientation

Date & Time

Thursday, 3rd September, 2026
10:00am Prompt

Event Venue

Cross River State Newspaper
Corporation Complex,
Barracks Road, Calabar.

State Chief of Protocol

Mr. Sylvester Abang

Dr. Erasmus Ekpang, mnipr, ftifuh
+234 803 724 1080



His Excellency,
PRINCE BASSEY EDET OTU, PNIPR
Governor, Cross River State

With Esteemed Regards From His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, PNIRP

'Breach of Secrecy Attracts Dismissal,' Aviation Commissioner Warns Staff at Training

By Omang Ekong



The Commissioner for Aviation in Cross River State, Capt. Inah Eno Utum (Rtd), has warned newly employed staff that breaching the oath of secrecy could result in

dismissal from service.

He issued the warning on Tuesday while declaring open a training programme on effective service delivery at the

ministry's headquarters in Ekorinim, Calabar. The exercise was organized in line with a directive from the Office of the Head of Service.

Utum charged the



staff to uphold ethical standards, exhibit professionalism, and demonstrate a high sense of responsibility, adding that they would be held accountable for their conduct.

Delivering a lecture on workplace security and the oath of secrecy, Utum said

workplace security encompasses the safety of personnel, property, information, operations, and documents.

He reiterated that upholding the oath is mandatory and warned that any breach could attract dismissal.

He also wished the newly deployed

officers success in their years of service.

In his introductory address, the Director of Administration, Mr. Atem Thomas Nchei, commended the Head of Service for initiating the training and mandating all MDAs to implement it.



He noted that the exercise would help address conduct gaps and improve professionalism among both new and existing staff.

The Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Paulina E. Odey, spoke on basic administrative principles, procedures, and personal effectiveness.

She stressed that effective administration is critical in public service, as officers are entrusted with managing human and material resources for the public good.

She listed key principles such as planning, authority, unity of command, delegation, division



of work, confidentiality, impartiality, efficiency, and public relations.

Other resource persons also addressed the participants.

The Director of Accounts, Mr. Michael Bekomson, trained them on Government Financial Regulations, while the Chief Procurement Officer, Mr. Kirien Bassey Emmanuel, spoke on due process and governance.

Concluding the sessions, the Director of Administration, Mr. Atem Thomas Nchei, delivered a lecture on conflict resolution.

He observed that while conflicts are



inevitable in any workplace, effective resolution mechanisms are essential for maintaining a safe and productive environment.

Speaking on behalf of the trainees, Mr. Legbe expressed

appreciation to the ministry's leadership for organizing the training. Both new and old staff described the programme as impactful and timely for enhancing service delivery.



Statewide Environmental Sanitation



Holds On Saturday, August 29, 2026

from 7:00am -10:00am



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



Bassey Offiong Mensah, esq.
Commissioner for Environment,
Cross River State



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LIFE-ND: Cross River Trains 1,021 Youths for Agribusiness, Food Security

By Ekanem-Faith Usang



Cross River State has commenced the training of 1,021 young agribusiness entrepreneurs under the second batch of the Additional

Financing Programme of the Federal Government, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and International Fund for Agricultural Development

(IFAD)-assisted Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises–Niger Delta (LIFE-ND) Project, as part of efforts to equip youths with skills to build



sustainable businesses, create jobs and strengthen food security.

The orientation exercise, holding concurrently in Calabar, Ugep, Ogoja and Obudu, is designed to equip selected incubatees and incubators with technical

knowledge, entrepreneurial skills and business capacity required to establish and manage profitable agribusinesses. Declaring the exercise open in Calabar, the Commissioner for Agriculture and Irrigation Development, Hon. Johnson Andiambey Ebokpo Jnr.,

represented by the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Odey Ikongha, said the 1,021 beneficiaries were selected from thousands of applicants across 100 communities in 10 Local Government Areas through a rigorous digital screening process.

Ikongha said the



selection was based on the applicants' passion, capability and commitment to contributing to the transformation of agriculture, noting that the sector had moved beyond subsistence to become a major driver of economic transformation. He said the State Government, through the Ministry and in collaboration with the State Project

Coordinating Office, was providing beneficiaries with the skills and support required to build viable enterprises.

He explained that participants would receive hands-on incubation and mentorship under experienced enterprise owners, as well as practical technical training across the rice, cassava, fish and poultry value chains, financial and

business management, market access and ICT-driven agricultural practices. He urged beneficiaries to approach the training with dedication, discipline and an open mind, stressing that the programme was designed to produce employers of labour, wealth creators and contributors to food security. "The ultimate objective



is to produce employers of labour, wealth creators and contributors to food security in their communities," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the National Project Coordinator, Engr. Dr. Sanni Abiodun, the Rural Institutions, Youth and Gender Coordinator, Dr. Clement Uwem, said the intervention had recorded significant achievements in improving household food

security, income generation and agribusiness knowledge among beneficiaries. He noted that beneficiaries engaged in fish, cassava, poultry and oil-palm processing had developed improved capacity to produce for household consumption and commercial purposes.

Uwem said the project had also improved the social and economic wellbeing of beneficiaries, including persons living with

disabilities who had been deliberately incorporated to promote social inclusion. He noted that the high turnout of young people demonstrated growing ownership of the programme and increased interest in agribusiness, while disclosing that the LIFE-ND database contained more than 60,000 applicants across the Niger Delta. He appealed for increased funding, saying limited resources had constrained the



number of beneficiaries accommodated at a time.

He added that enterprise groups, cadres and agribusiness innovation forums had been established to sustain beneficiaries beyond the lifespan of the project. He said the orientation would also acquaint the new beneficiaries with the Memorandum of Understanding

they would sign and their responsibilities, as well as those of their incubators and the project. He further disclosed that Cross River beneficiaries in fish and poultry production had received national recognition and awards, including at a recent international Year of Women Farmers event.

The Special Adviser on Livestock Development, Mr. Liyel Imoukhuede,

represented by the Director of Livestock in the Ministry of Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries Development, Mrs. Glory Ekpenyong, described the programme as essential to inclusive economic growth, employment creation and improved livelihoods. She identified poultry, goat and sheep production, cattle development, snail farming, feed



production, processing and marketing as viable areas for investment by youths and women.

Ekpenyong urged beneficiaries interested in livestock enterprises to embrace discipline, proper record-keeping, innovation, value-chain development and market-oriented production,

assuring them of the Ministry's commitment to creating an enabling environment for sustainable livestock businesses. The State Coordinator of the FADAMA Project, represented by Technical Officer Mr. Obaji Samuel Missang, and the State Coordinator of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, represented by Chief Technical Officer Mr. Ekor Ekori, also urged

beneficiaries to approach the orientation as an opportunity to acquire practical knowledge and skills.

The Cross River State Project Coordinator, FGN/NDDC/IFAD/L IFE-ND Project, Dr. Innocent Moses Ogbin, said the beneficiaries were selected from 100 communities and would receive training and

mentorship across rice, cassava, fish and poultry value chains, covering production, processing and marketing. He said incubators were selected from the same communities where the businesses were located to provide practical and localised mentorship based on the beneficiaries' areas of interest.

Ogbin urged beneficiaries to maximise the knowledge, skills and opportunities provided to build sustainable enterprises capable of creating employment, improving livelihoods and strengthening food security. An incubator from Nkaka Akriba Incubation Centre

in Ikot Akriba, Akpabuyo LGA, Mr. Emmanuel Effiom, testified to the programme's impact, saying the centre's focus on fish production, processing and marketing had produced encouraging results.

Effiom disclosed that one beneficiary had successfully produced and sold fish and invested the proceeds in constructing a house and sinking a borehole, describing the achievement as a source of pride to the community. He appreciated IFAD, the Federal Government and NDDC for the intervention, noting that such success stories were encouraging more community members to embrace agribusiness.

Two beneficiaries, Miss Helen Ernest of Akamkpa LGA and Mr. Felix Nakanda of Ikot Nakanda Community, Akpabuyo LGA, both pursuing fish production, expressed optimism that the programme would improve their livelihoods and equip them to establish viable businesses. Ernest said she hoped to contribute to fish production, processing and marketing in her area, while Nakanda looked forward to acquiring the training and empowerment needed to build his enterprise and create opportunities for others.



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Leboku 2026: Gov. Otu Reaffirms Green Economy Drive, Urges Peace for Growth

By Kingsley Agim



Cross River State Governor, Sen. Prince Bassey Otu, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to driving sustainable economic growth through its Green Economy Revolution, with agriculture positioned as a major pillar of the state's People First Agenda. The Governor, represented by



his Deputy, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, stated this during his remarks at the 21st edition of the Leboku International New Yam Festival, held at the Yakurr Peace Stadium, Ugep, on August 24, 2026. Rt. Hon. Odey said the 2026 Leboku theme, "Growing in Prosperity," speaks directly to the administration's

agricultural transformation programme, particularly its efforts to build long-term wealth for smallholder farmers. He highlighted the establishment of smallholder cluster farms supported by revolving loans to enable farmers to expand production, alongside the provision of tractors, ploughing machines and other

agricultural equipment aimed at moving farmers from subsistence production to large-scale commercial farming. According to the Deputy Governor, the mechanisation of agriculture and improved access to markets are designed to increase productivity and farmers' incomes while



strengthening agriculture as a key driver of the state's economy. He further disclosed that the Otu administration had unveiled an

ambitious Public-Private Partnership investment package worth ₦70 billion and \$1.075 billion, with agriculture-related investments accounting for the

largest share. Dr. Odey reminded all certificated Village Heads, Clan Heads and Paramount Rulers in the state that their two cardinal





domain becomes engulfed in a breakdown of peace, stressing that tourism and economic development cannot thrive in a volatile or chaotic environment. He therefore urged traditional rulers, community leaders and residents of Yakurr to embrace dialogue, unity and peaceful resolution of differences, noting that peace and stability are fundamental to the success of the state's prosperity agenda. According to him, sustained peace would preserve the cultural significance of Leboku while creating an enabling environment for agriculture, tourism, investment and the creative

responsibilities are to uphold the customs and traditions of their people and promote peace within their respective

domains. He warned that the State Government would not hesitate to withdraw the Certificate of Recognition of any royal father whose





economy to flourish. He said a peaceful Yakurr would be better positioned to attract investments, boost tourism and contribute meaningfully to

the economic transformation of the area and the state at large. Earlier in his opening remarks, the Executive Chairman of Yakurr Local Government Council, Hon. Obol

Yibala Inyang, commended the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and the Royal Fathers for their commitment to keeping the flame of the Leboku New Yam Festival alive,



rooted in culture and growing in peace. He described the New Yam Festival as a sacred day of thanksgiving and a cherished expression of Yakurr's cultural heritage, urging the youth to embrace farming as a viable business and a pathway to economic empowerment. Hon. Inyang also

called on stakeholders across Yakurr to renew their commitment to building a greater Yakurr Nation founded on unity, peace, culture and shared prosperity which aligns with the People First mantra of the present administration. Also, in his remarks, the Special Adviser on Events Management, Governor's Office,

Effiong Ekpenyong said the 2026 Leboku International Festival is a celebration of Yakurr's rich heritage, identity and aspirations for prosperity. He said the theme, "Rooted in Culture, Growing in Prosperity," reflects the need to preserve cultural values while using them to create opportunities for



the future. He also appreciated Governor Bassey Otu for his support for cultural preservation and promotion across the state. Ekpenyong commended the people of Yakurr for sustaining Leboku over generations and urged the youth to take ownership of their cultural heritage by promoting its

traditions, arts and creativity. He stressed that culture can drive tourism, enterprise and economic development, calling for unity and a renewed commitment to a prosperous Yakurr and Cross River State. The event featured goodwill messages from HRM Obol Ofem Ubana, Obol Lapon of Ugep and Paramount Ruler of

Yakurr Local Government Area, Chief Obi Ayuk, Commissioner for Culture, Arts and Tourism, as well as the inspection of the festival market, yam barn and Leboku Art exhibition. The event also featured colourful parades by maidens, traditional rulers and various cultural groups.





Drug Abuse: Cobham Charges SUGs To Lead Fight In Tertiary Institutions



The Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Pastor (Hon.) Ekpenyong Ene Cobham, has charged Student Union Government leaders across tertiary institutions in Cross River State to spearhead the campaign against drug abuse on campuses.

Speaking at the 14th Senate sitting

of the National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS Joint Campus Council, JCC, Cross River State, held at the Faculty of Engineering Conference Hall of the University of Cross River State, Cobham, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Anthony Okon, described drug abuse as a growing threat to the health,

academic performance, and future of young people.

He reaffirmed the Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu-led administration's commitment to partnering with student bodies to promote a safe, drug-free learning environment.

The Commissioner urged youths to use their influence



to discourage substance abuse and champion positive values, stressing that student leaders are strategically positioned to drive awareness, peer education, and prevention initiatives.

In his opening remarks, the SUG President,

Comrade Favour Johobe Ogar, called on students to recognize their role as leaders of today and tomorrow.

He urged them to live exemplary lives capable of positively influencing their peers, and emphasized good character, responsible leadership, and

conduct worthy of emulation.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the National Youth Council of Nigeria, NYCN, Cross River State Council, Comrade Emmanuel Olayi, highlighted the critical role of youths in building a productive and responsible



society. He urged students to take their academic pursuits seriously, maintain good conduct, and make choices that will contribute to personal development and societal progress.

Comrade Olayi called for a united and coordinated effort among students, campus authorities, government agencies, and other stakeholders across all higher institutions in the state to tackle drug abuse.

According to him, all necessary tools and mechanisms must be put in place to protect students and secure a better future for their State's youth.

The engagement provided an avenue for student leaders and government representatives to strengthen collaboration on issues affecting students, with particular focus on the rising concern of drug abuse among youths.

Dignitaries present included the Commissioner for

Information, Chief Dr. Kingsley Ikpeme, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information, Mr. Anthony Okon; the Pioneer Director-General of the Greater Calabar City Development Authority; the Special Adviser to the Governor on Student Orientation, Dr. Fufu Oganor; NANS JCC Chairman, Comrade Victor Asukwo; and the SUG President of UNICROSS, Comrade Favour Johobe Ogar.



**NIGERIA
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

August 26, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

NIGERIA POLICE ACADEMY 13th REGULAR COURSE SCREENING EXERCISE

All Cross River indigenes who applied for the Nigeria Police Academy 13th Regular Course are invited for screening.

Date for Cross River Candidates: Thursday, 10th September, 2026 - Batch 2

Venue: Nigeria Police Academy, Wudil, Kano

Candidates are to arrive a day before the screening exercise as accommodation will be provided.

Print Examination Slip: 25th August – 8th September, 2026 on POLAC Portal

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Dress Code: White T-shirt, White Shorts, White Socks, White Canvas

Please, note that no parent will be allowed inside the screening venue and beware of any false information from fake social media accounts.

Best wishes to all candidates.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'A. Owan Enoh', is written over a horizontal line.

Prof. A. Owan Enoh
Secretary to Government of the State



Cross River Govt Partners Estate Surveyors to Strengthen Land Administration

By Affiong Ndem



The Cross River State Government has pledged stronger collaboration with the Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV) to strengthen land administration,

promote professional standards and improve transparency and efficiency in the management of land and property across the state.

The Commissioner for Lands, Dr. Erasmus Ekpang,

made the commitment when he received the Cross River State Chapter of NIESV, led by its Chairman, ESV. Edet Okon, on a courtesy visit to his office in Calabar.

Erasmus Ekpang



said the Ministry was prepared to work with relevant professional bodies to address challenges in land administration, property valuation, development control and property management, stressing that professionalism, transparency, accountability and teamwork were essential to achieving the desired reforms.

"We are committed to restoring the Ministry of Lands to the standard expected of it, and we need the support and professional input of bodies such as NIESV to achieve this," he said.

The Commissioner particularly emphasised the need for greater transparency and digitisation of land records and processes, noting

that accessible and reliable land information would improve efficiency, strengthen government planning and reduce opportunities for irregularities within the system.

He identified compensation for acquired properties as one of the major issues requiring urgent attention, assuring the delegation that



he would engage the appropriate authorities and ensure that the concerns of legitimate property owners affected by government acquisitions received the necessary attention.

Erasmus Ekpang also appealed for greater consideration of the economic realities confronting individuals and businesses in the implementation of fees and charges, stressing the need for a land administration

system that remains responsive to prevailing financial pressures.

He urged members of NIESV to continue providing government with professional advice and to report questionable or fraudulent land-related activities to the Ministry for appropriate action. He further assured the institution that the Ministry would sustain engagement with professional bodies in tackling challenges affecting land administration, valuation, development

control and property management.

Earlier, the NIESV Chairman, ESV. Edet Okon, congratulated the Commissioner on his appointment and expressed the institution's readiness to partner with the Ministry in advancing land administration, property valuation and other areas relevant to the development of Cross River State.

Okon said estate surveyors and valuers occupied a

critical position in the land and property sector, stressing the need for closer cooperation with the Ministry to address existing challenges and promote professionalism.

"We are ready to work with the Ministry to improve land administration and ensure that professionalism and proper valuation remain central to the management of property in Cross River State," he said.

He identified the establishment of a valuation department in the Ministry, insurance matters, land acquisition and compensation, government properties and ground rent as areas requiring

attention. He also appealed for a plot of land for the construction of the institution's association house and a bus to facilitate valuation assignments across the state.

The NIESV chairman further called for stronger measures against unqualified practitioners, popularly known as quacks, to protect members of the public and uphold professional standards. He emphasised the importance of accurate data and proper documentation, noting that reliable statistics would support government planning, revenue generation and effective management of the state's land resources.

Okon also stressed the need to appropriately compensate legitimate property owners whose lands are acquired for public purposes, urging government to ensure fairness in the acquisition process.

The visit featured the presentation of a framed photograph to the Commissioner by NIESV as a gesture of appreciation and goodwill. The engagement ended with both parties reaffirming their commitment to sustained professional cooperation towards improved land administration and responsible property development in Cross River State.

Odey Urges ASUU-UEE to Shelve Strike, Pledges Action on Outstanding Demands

By Patricia Ogbeche



Cross River State Commissioner for Education, Sen. Prof. Stephen A. Odey, Esq., has appealed to the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), University of Education and Entrepreneurship (UEE) Chapter, to suspend its planned strike, assuring the union of government's commitment to addressing its

concerns.

Odey made the appeal when he received the management team of the university and the ASUU-UEE executive, led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Patrick Asuquo, in his office in Calabar.

The Commissioner, who cut short his participation in the ongoing 66th Annual General Conference of the

Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in Port Harcourt to attend to the matter, said issues affecting the education sector remained a priority to him and warranted prompt intervention.

He commended the Vice Chancellor and the university management for their proactive efforts in building the young institution,



particularly in securing accreditation for its academic programmes, and reaffirmed the state government's commitment to supporting its growth and development.

Odey urged the ASUU-UEE leadership to shelve the strike

notice and allow room for dialogue and government intervention, noting that industrial action could disrupt academic activities and potentially affect the image and development of the young university.

The Commissioner reiterated Governor Bassey Edet Otu's

commitment to the institution, describing the Governor as passionate about its growth and development. He assured the union that he would personally engage the relevant authorities to facilitate the implementation of approved decisions and address the



outstanding issues.

He called on the union to give government a short window to intervene, assuring them that he would take up their concerns with the appropriate authorities and work towards finding a lasting resolution.

Responding, the Vice Chancellor,

Prof. Patrick Asuquo, appreciated the Commissioner for interrupting his engagement outside the state to meet with the university management and the union, while the ASUU-UEE leadership acknowledged his intervention and appealed for continued government support in resolving the outstanding

matters.

The meeting ended on a conciliatory note, with the Commissioner urging the union to prioritise dialogue and cooperation in the interest of the university, its students and the broader development of the state's education sector.





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CROSS RIVER STATE

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OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE
CROSS RIVER STATE

Committed to Service Excellence.

Eid-el-Maulud: Bogobiri Muslim Youth Put Smiles on 30 Patients at Calabar General Hospital

By Nakanda Iyadim







MALE WARD



FEMALE WARD





Gov. Otu Launches Calabar Stadium AfCFTA Project as Atsu Bags Elite-Grassroots Award

By Patricia Ogbeche



Governor of Cross River State, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, has launched an ambitious initiative to transform the Calabar Sports Stadium into a premier physical and virtual sports business-tourism facility and creative economy hub, in a strategic push to position the state as a key player in continental trade.

The initiative is designed to

leverage the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to drive economic growth, empower young people, attract investment and create new platforms for sports, tourism, culture and creative enterprise across Cross River State.

The development followed a high-level two-day strategic engagement in Abuja between the

Cross River State Ministry of Sports Development, Believe Klik Communications Limited and various technical partners, where a roadmap for the project was developed.

The proposed transformation will reposition the Calabar Sports Stadium beyond its traditional sporting function by integrating physical and virtual sports, sports tourism, creative



markets and digital connectivity into an economic platform capable of connecting local talents and businesses to regional and continental markets.

The Commissioner for Sports Development, Hon. Ambassador Agnes Atsu, was also honoured during the Abuja engagement with the prestigious "FLASH AfCFTA 9JA Elite-Grassroots

Ambassador" Award, in recognition of her commitment to youth empowerment and strategic efforts towards positioning Cross River State as a gateway for intra-African trade.

The award, according to the organisers, recognised Atsu's leadership and dedication to advancing initiatives that connect sports, youth development, tourism and the creative economy

with emerging opportunities under the AfCFTA framework. The recognition also highlights the growing role of the Ministry of Sports Development in driving the state's broader economic development agenda through sports.

Speaking on the initiative, the Chief Executive Officer and FLASH AfCFTA Projects Director, Echera Stephen, said the project demonstrated the



Welcomes



Hon. Agnes Atili

Sports Business
Company Visit to

MIRIZI

ARUA

potential of sports infrastructure to serve broader economic purposes. "The government's commitment to this project is a testament to a future where sports infrastructure transcends traditional boundaries, acting as a catalyst for economic growth and creative enterprise," he said.

The Abuja engagement produced key milestones for implementation, including a comprehensive roadmap for transforming the Calabar Sports Stadium into an interconnected hub for physical and virtual sports tourism and creative markets.

Plans were also advanced for an upcoming State Executive Council (EXCO) briefing and the formal nomination of a dedicated state stakeholders and coordination committee to provide strategic direction and facilitate effective implementation of the project.

According to the project drivers, the Calabar Stadium transformation represents the first phase of the broader FLASH AfCFTA 9JA Discovery Initiative, which is designed to replicate the dual physical-and-virtual hub model across Nigeria's 774 Local Government Areas and subsequently extend it to other AfCFTA member countries.

Preparations are also underway for a national launch event in Abuja to officially unveil the Calabar Stadium transformation blueprint and introduce the broader FLASH AfCFTA 9JA 774 project before full-scale implementation begins in Cross River State.

By bringing together sports, tourism, culture, creative enterprise and digital connectivity, the initiative is expected to create new opportunities for young people, businesses and creative talents while showcasing Cross River State's tourism and investment potential to audiences across Africa and beyond.

Cross River Targets 10 Movies, 15 Jobs in Fresh Creative Industry Drive

By Gift Otudor



The Cross River State Government has unveiled plans to produce up to 10 entertaining and educative movies by December and create 15 employment opportunities

under its Callywood initiative, as part of efforts to strengthen the creative economy and empower young people.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Callywood, Mr. Eric Iso Anderson,

disclosed this at the closing ceremony of a three-day filmmaking masterclass organised by the Cross River State Youth Empowerment Scheme (CRS-YES) in partnership with



the Callywood Department.

Anderson said the planned movie productions were aimed at projecting Cross River State, its culture and creative talents to the outside world. He also disclosed plans to strengthen partnerships with churches, universities and other organisations to create more opportunities within the creative sector.

The Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Pastor (Hon.) Ekpenyong Ene Cobham, described the masterclass



as a strategic capacity-building initiative aimed at transforming the lives of young people and strengthening the state's creative industry.

Cobham urged participants and stakeholders to channel more energy into reorienting the

people of Cross River through creative content that promotes positive values, stressing that the knowledge acquired during the training must be translated into practical results.

Declaring the masterclass officially closed, Cobham commended the

organisers for the initiative and urged the participants to put the skills and knowledge acquired into practice, noting that the creative industry could contribute significantly to youth empowerment and economic development.



The three-day masterclass brought together filmmakers, resource persons, government officials and other stakeholders for intensive training and knowledge-sharing sessions designed to strengthen professional skills and position Cross River State as a hub for film

production and cultural storytelling.

Speaking at the ceremony, veteran actor, Charles Inojie, commended the resource persons for making time to share their knowledge and expertise with participants.

Inojie described the programme as well organised, noting

that the intentionality of the organisers and quality of knowledge delivered demonstrated a strong commitment to developing the state's creative industry. He also commended Governor Bassey Edet Otu for supporting initiatives aimed at





empowering young people through the creative sector.

The Chairman of CRS-YES, Dr. Kalita Aruku, commended the participants for their commitment throughout the training and encouraged them to put the skills acquired during the masterclass into practice.

Chairman of the Central Planning Committee, Cross

River State Next Star Initiative, Prince Godswill Edward, stressed the enormous value and potential of the creative industry, urging participants to critically engage with the knowledge acquired and apply it meaningfully in their various areas of practice.

Edward said strong collaboration among stakeholders would be essential to sustaining the momentum

generated by the programme and translating the training into tangible opportunities for young creatives.

Certificates were presented to participants by the Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mr. Obi Ayuk, while the resource persons were appreciated for their contributions to the success of the programme.



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



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.**





Federal Ministry of
Health & Social Welfare
Federal Republic of Nigeria

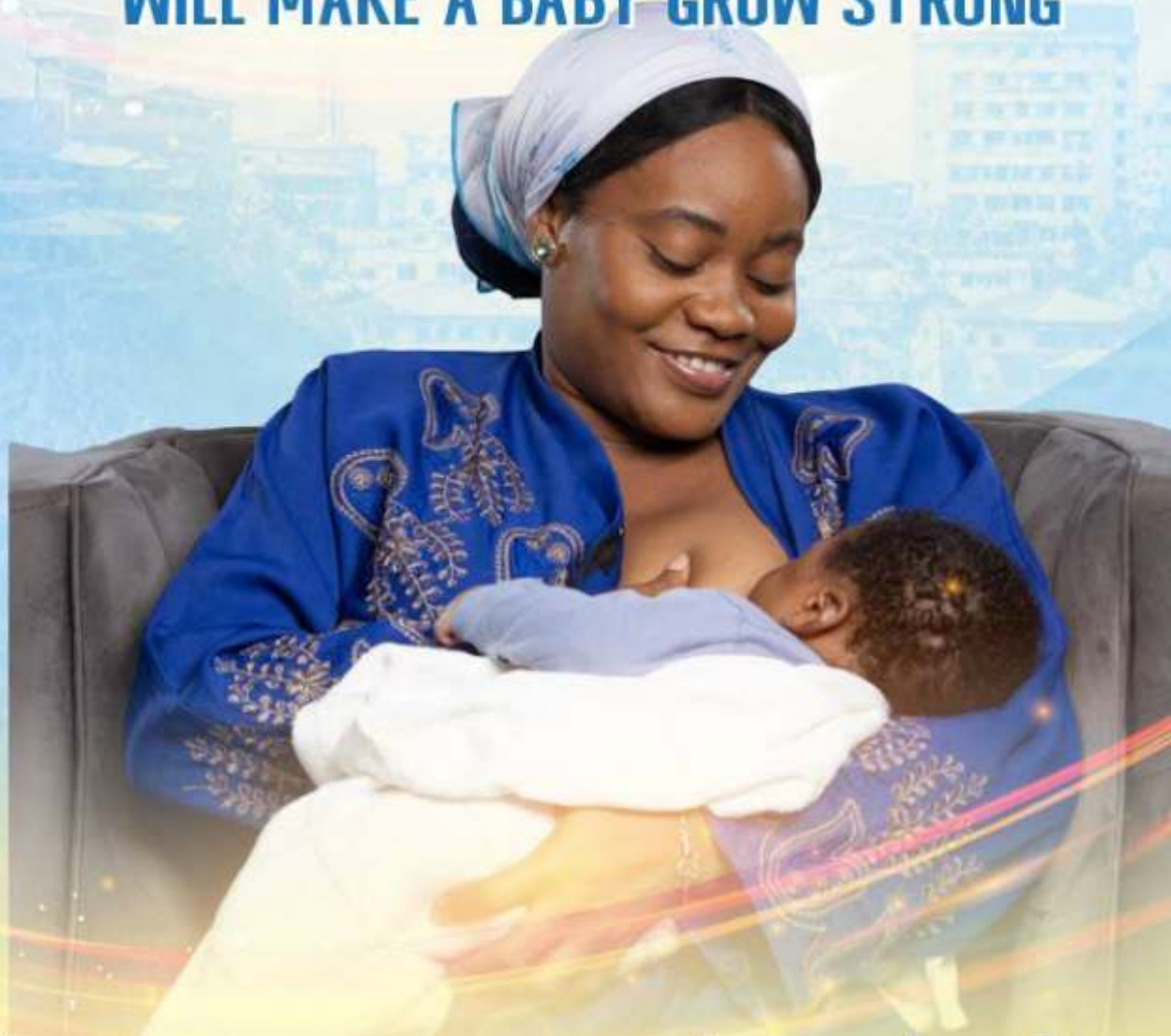


LET'S GROW STRONGER
TOGETHER

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, patterned dress in red, yellow, and black. She is holding a red mop with a yellow and white floral pattern, positioned over a blue bucket. 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 —



DATE:
23RD – 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2026



VENUE:
CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE



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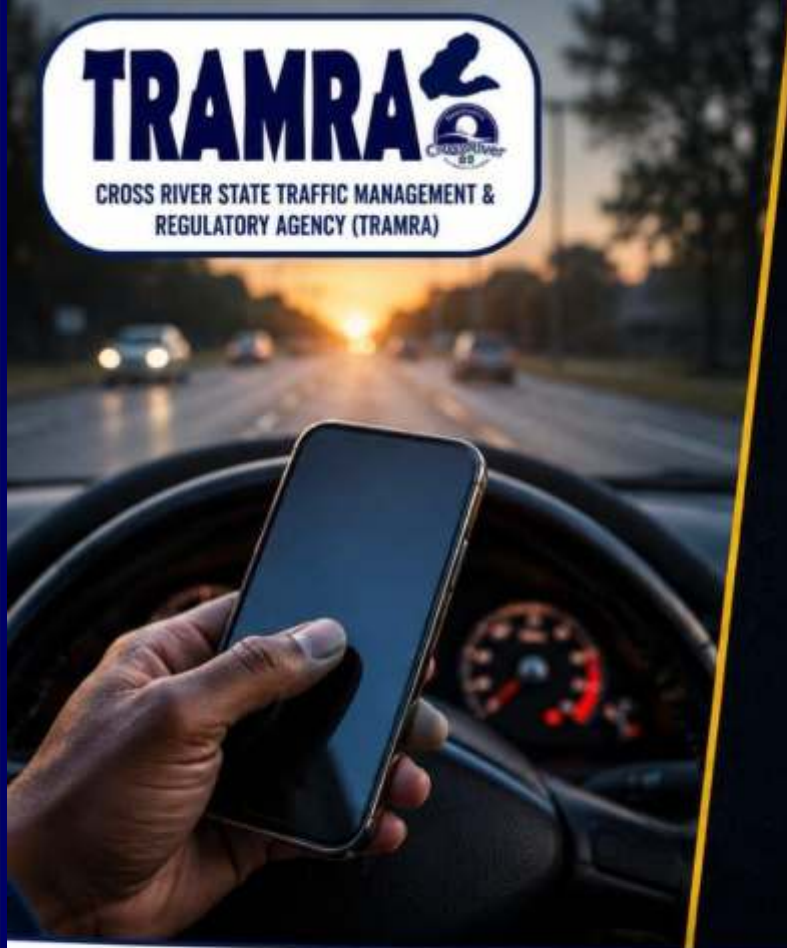


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AND BUILD
PARTNERSHIPS**



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FOR A SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE**

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OR TEXT
CAN COST A LIFE,
AVOID
DISTRACTIONS
ON THE ROAD.**



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| ORDER ALWAYS
| 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

Wear your seat belt and ensure all passengers do the same.

Be Road Safety Conscious. Your Family Needs You Home Safe.

FRSC EMERGENCY NUMBER

122

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Creating a safe motoring environment for all.*

**Slow Down
Stay Alert
Stay Alive**

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Information Agency



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Your Children and
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CROSS RIVER GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AGENCY

ROADS ARE SHARED SPACES,

RESPECT CYCLISTS,
MOTORCYCLISTS AND
PEDESTRIANS TO CREATE
A SAFER ROAD



RESPECT
SHARE
PROTECT
SAVE LIVES



RESPECT
CYCLISTS



RESPECT
MOTORCYCLISTS



RESPECT
PEDESTRIANS



SHARE TODAY,
SAVE TOMORROW

TRAMRA

Cross River State Traffic
Management and Regulatory Agency



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

This message is brought to you by

**THE CROSS RIVER STATE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**





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



Bassey Offiong Mensah, esq.
Commissioner for Environment,
Cross River State



KEEP CROSS RIVER STATE

CLEAN & GREEN

WHAT TO DO

Sweep your surroundings



Cut the Grasses around you



Clear drains/gutters



Dispose Garbage Appropriately



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



PGF VALUE REORIENTATION CAMPAIGN

**Responsible
Citizens.
Responsive
Nation.**



For more information:

Website: www.pgf.ng

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Ministry of Information
Cross River State

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





STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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

NATIONWIDE CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (CVR)



Register to Vote

**ONLINE PRE-REGISTRATION
STARTS ON 18TH AUGUST, 2025**
www.cvr.inecnigeria.org

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

*All 37 INEC State Offices or 774 Local
Government Area (LGA) Offices
Nearest to You*



New Voters 18+

Collect or Transfer your PVC

**Replace your lost or
damaged PVC**

No Multiple Registration



✉ iccc@inec.gov.ng

🌐 www.inecnigeria.org
www.inecnews.com

0700-CALL-INEC (0700-2255-4632)
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09050858629, 09050858675,
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**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— FRSC —

CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND