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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.

LG Recruitment: Cross River Govt Retains 821, Approves 4,000 Fresh Jobs

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Government has retained 821 personnel from the recent Local Government recruitment exercise and approved 4,000 fresh jobs, creating a new opportunity for qualified

applicants following the cancellation of the flawed 2024/2025 recruitment exercise.

The decision followed the submission and consideration of the report of the Panel of Enquiry set up to

investigate the recruitment conducted by the defunct Local Government Commission.

In a statement dated September 9, 2026 and signed by the Secretary to the State Government, Prof.

Anthony Owan-Enoh, the government said the 821 personnel duly approved by Governor Bassey Edet Otu, including 83 CROSIEC personnel initially employed by the State Civil Service Commission and later redeployed to the Local Government Service Commission, would be retained on the government payroll.

The government said the panel found the wider recruitment exercise fundamentally flawed, citing the absence of executive approvals, widespread job racketeering, commercialization of employment

slots, institutional complicity, ineptitude and breaches of public service ethics.

Consequently, all other persons who entered the payroll through unauthorized or illegal recruitment processes will be phased out, while legitimate employees lawfully recruited with due government approval will continue to receive their salaries as and when due.

Announcing the fresh recruitment opportunity, the government said it had "graciously approved the recruitment of 4,000 personnel through a fresh and transparent recruitment exercise."

According to the

statement, the new process will deploy digital platforms and modern procedures to objectively determine staffing needs and ensure that recruitment is based on established requirements.

"Persons affected by this difficult but necessary decision who possess the requisite qualifications and requirements are encouraged to reapply through the new recruitment process," the government said.

The government also directed the Attorney-General of the State and relevant law-enforcement agencies to immediately

commence investigations into the circumstances surrounding the previous recruitment exercise and prosecute persons found culpable in accordance with the law.

To cushion the impact of the decision on persons who will be removed from the payroll, government said compensatory benefits would be paid to affected persons, while steps would also be taken to comprehensively unbundle and sanitise the entire Local Government payroll.

While expressing sympathy with citizens who may have fallen victim to what it

described as a criminal enterprise, the government maintained that it could not assume responsibility for appointments that were neither authorized nor approved nor issued through lawful recruitment processes.

“Government cannot assume responsibility for appointments that were never authorized, approved or issued through lawful recruitment process,” the statement said, adding that doing otherwise would amount to legitimising fraud, compromising due process and undermining the integrity of the public service.

Government appealed to

affected persons and members of the public to remain calm and take advantage of the new window provided by the 4,000 fresh jobs, reaffirming its commitment to building a professional, transparent, efficient and people-centred public service.

Carnival Commission Unveils Essay, Creative Writing Competition to Boost Reading Culture

By Ibu Harrywills



The Cross River State Carnival Commission, under the leadership of its Chairman, Sir Gabe Onah, has unveiled the 2026 Carnival Calabar Essay and Creative Writing Competition as part of efforts to revive the culture of reading and writing among students and

young people across the State.

The initiative, which is part of the Commission's human capital development agenda, is designed to provide young Cross Riverians with a platform to showcase their intellectual abilities, creativity and writing skills while rekindling

interest in reading and learning.

The Commission said the competition reflects its determination to use the Carnival Calabar platform to create opportunities that extend beyond entertainment and tourism, particularly in education, youth empowerment,

creativity and human capital development.

The 2026 edition will be conducted under standardised examination conditions across six centres strategically

y distributed across the three senatorial districts of the State. The centres are Obudu and Ogoja in the

Northern Senatorial District; Ikom and Ugep in the Central Senatorial District; and Akamkpa and Calabar in the Southern Senatorial District.

The competition will feature two categories, with Category A open to secondary school students and Category B for students of tertiary institutions.

To ensure



credibility, fairness and transparency, the Commission said entries would be independently evaluated by the Department of Theatre and Media Studies, University of Calabar, after the examination.

Under the secondary school category, the overall best contestant will receive a scholarship, while the top three winners will be rewarded with laptops.

Their respective schools will also receive laptops to strengthen digital learning and support teaching and learning.

The programme will further provide textbooks to the top 10 schools, alongside branded exercise books and other learning materials, including school bags, pens and mathematical

sets.

Similarly, in the tertiary institution category, the overall best writer will receive a scholarship, while the top three contestants will receive laptops. The top five departments will also receive branded hardcover books to support academic activities.

Sir Gabe Onah, Chairman of the Carnival Commission, said the initiative underscores the Commission's commitment to making Carnival Calabar a platform for meaningful investment in the intellectual development of young Cross

Riverians.

The Commission explained that the competition was expected to stimulate renewed interest in reading and creative writing while providing practical educational resources to schools and tertiary institutions across the State.

It noted that the initiative would further reinforce the vision of positioning Carnival Calabar beyond its traditional cultural and tourism identity by creating opportunities that contribute to the intellectual and socio-economic development of Cross River youths.

With scholarships, laptops, textbooks, exercise books and

other learning materials incorporated into the programme, the competition is expected to contribute significantly to nurturing the next generation of Cross River writers, thinkers and creative talents.

The Commission therefore called on students and educational institutions across the State to embrace the opportunity and become part of a new generation of young people empowered through knowledge, creativity and the written word.

Cross River Govt Deepens Education Reforms, Introduces Student ID Number

By Patricia Oqbeche



The Cross River State Government has intensified efforts to strengthen accountability, digitalisation and effective service delivery in the education sector, with the introduction of a Student Identification Number for every learner in public

schools across the State.

The Commissioner for Education, Senator Professor Stephen Odey, disclosed this during a recent pre-resumption stakeholders' meeting with principals and head teachers in the Southern Educational Zone, held at the West

African People's Institute, Calabar.

Odey explained that the identification number would remain with each learner throughout their educational journey in the State, including when a student transfers from one school to another. He said the initiative would



improve student tracking, strengthen education planning and eliminate discrepancies in school enrolment figures.

The Commissioner

also disclosed that the Ministry had secured the approved revised curricula from the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) for

the 2026/2027 academic session, warning schools against the use of unauthorised curriculum materials.

He reiterated the government's



directive that only approved textbooks must be used in public schools, urging principals and head teachers to obtain the official textbook list before recommending books to students or parents.

Ahead of the September 14 resumption date, Odey directed school administrators to ensure that their schools were clean, safe and conducive for learning, stressing that teaching must commence immediately on the

first day of the new academic session, irrespective of the number of pupils or students present.

He charged principals and head teachers to embrace professionalism, accountability and



effective service delivery, while continuously upgrading their knowledge, administrative competence and digital skills to meet the changing demands of education.

The Commissioner commended education managers for their role in the successful conduct and prompt release of the state's examination

results, including the Primary Six Placement Examination, Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and SS II Mock Examination.

He noted that the digitalisation of examination processes had significantly improved access to results, enabling students to check their results online without travelling to Calabar. He added

that the Ministry was working towards further innovations that would enable students to download their certificates online after the release of results.

Odey, however, cautioned school administrators against late examination registration and errors in students' registration and continuous assessment



records, directing them to take greater responsibility for the accuracy of digital records.

On teachers' welfare, the Commissioner said the state government had prioritised the payment of outstanding salaries and implementation of approved promotions, urging school administrators to reciprocate the gesture by ensuring that

teachers were present in school and students received quality instruction.

He warned administrators against shielding absentee teachers, stressing that those who protected teachers who collected salaries without reporting for duty would face disciplinary action.

Odey further directed school administrators to promptly report cases of encroachment or

trespass on school lands, as well as other challenges affecting their schools, through the appropriate education boards for necessary intervention.

He called on education secretaries, coordinating directors, board chairmen, executive secretaries and other stakeholders to work collectively towards achieving the administration's education



objectives.

The Commissioner commended Governor Bassey Edet Otu for his continued commitment to the development of the education sector, noting that the State had recorded progress in infrastructure, digitalisation, examination administration, teacher welfare and other areas of educational development.

Odey stressed that

transforming the education sector was a collective responsibility, urging school administrators to justify the confidence reposed in them by the government through discipline, integrity, accountability and commitment to duty.

He assured stakeholders that the Ministry would sustain its monitoring of schools through scheduled and unscheduled visits

to ensure compliance with government policies, identify gaps and provide timely interventions, stressing that the ultimate goal was to create better learning environments and improve educational outcomes for children across Cross River State.

Carnival Commission Drives Fitness Campaign Ahead of Carnival Calabar 2026

By Ibu Harrywills



@photographbydw

The Cross River State Carnival Commission has intensified its fitness campaign ahead of Carnival Calabar 2026, urging Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), civil servants and members of the public to embrace

regular physical exercise as part of efforts to promote healthy living and build physical stamina for the carnival season.

The Commissioner in charge of Marketing, Cross River State Carnival Commission, Mr. Effiom Bassey

Effiom, made the call during the latest edition of the Carnival Fitness Jam in Calabar.

Effiom explained that the Carnival Fitness Jam was introduced by the Commission in 2025 as part of its preparations for



Carnival Calabar and runs from June to December each year.

He said the initiative was designed to help participants build endurance and reduce the physical fatigue associated with carnival dry runs and the main carnival, while also encouraging Cross Riverians to adopt

healthier lifestyles.

According to him, the fitness sessions bring together carnival marshals, band leaders, revellers, fitness instructors and members of the public to engage in physical exercises and prepare their bodies for the demands of the carnival season.

"The essence of it is

to reduce the fatigue that usually comes during the dry run and the carnival. We have marshals, band leaders, revellers and the general public come out to exercise and keep themselves fit, getting ready for the carnival dry runs and the carnival itself," he stated.

The Commissioner



stressed that the fitness campaign was not exclusively for carnival participants, but was open to everyone, noting that wider participation would help promote a culture of fitness and healthy living across the State.

He therefore called on other MDAs, civil servants and residents to join

the Commission's fitness sessions and make physical exercise a regular part of their lifestyle.

"We all know that health is wealth, and exercise is one of the ways you can extend your life. We call on the State Government and other MDAs to join us in every Carnival Fitness Jam to sweat it out and exercise together,"

Effiom said.

Speaking on Carnival Calabar 2026, the Commissioner assured residents and visitors of an exciting celebration, noting that the event would mark the 21st edition of the carnival.

He disclosed that the 2026 edition would be bigger



and better, promising new experiences and surprises for participants and spectators.

Effiom also revealed that government officials and other

public figures had participated in the fitness exercise, describing the growing turnout as encouraging.

He urged Cross Riverians and visitors to look forward to a memorable Carnival

Calabar 2026, assuring that the Commission remained committed to delivering a successful, vibrant and entertaining carnival season.





Gilbert Agbor Drums Support for Otu as Group Honours His Youth-Centred Leadership

By Kingsley Agim



The Special Adviser to the Cross River State Governor on Asset Management and Recovery, Barr. Gilbert Agbor, has rallied the Defendable Force, a youth-led socio-political group, to support Governor Bassey Edet Otu, President Bola Tinubu and all All Progressives

Congress (APC) candidates ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Agbor made the call on recently while receiving an Award of Excellence for Youth Development and Impactful Political Leadership from the group at his country home in Etomi community, Etung Local Government Area.

The award recognised Agbor's contributions to youth development, mentorship and empowerment, particularly his efforts in creating opportunities for young people to participate meaningfully in governance and public service across Etung and



Cross River State.

Reaffirming his commitment to the APC leadership and candidates, Agbor urged members of the Defendable Force to support Governor Otu and President Tinubu, as well as Oden Ewa for Senate, Blessing Egbara for the House of Representatives and Dr. Erim Agbor for the House of Assembly.

"We reaffirm our support for Senator Bassey

Edet Otu, and of course, Mr. President Bola Tinubu, Oden Ewa for Senate, Blessing Egbara for House of Representatives, and Dr. Erim Agbor for House of Assembly," he said, assuring the group that he would stand by his word.

Agbor thanked the Defendable Force for the recognition and promised to deepen his relationship with the organisation, saying he would regard it as one of the special groups with

which he would work closely.

"I'm going to put this group among the very special groups we will be working with," Agbor said, adding that he would discuss the group with the Chief of Staff to the Governor and brief Governor Otu about its activities upon his return to Calabar.

He further assured the group that its views would receive greater

consideration in future engagements, declaring: "Moving forward, we'll not do anything without inputs from this group."

Agbor, in his concluding remarks, urged the group and the people of Etung to continue to maintain peace and unity, expressing optimism that better days lay ahead. "Let's just keep maintaining the peace, above all being together; better days are ahead," he said.

Presenting the award, Chairman of the Defendable Force, Comrade John Tangbe, described Agbor as "the golden fish" of Etung, saying his remarkable contributions to

youth development, empowerment and purposeful leadership had made him a standout figure whose impact could hardly go unnoticed.

Tangbe said Agbor's impact was evident in the opportunities he had created for young people in Etomi and other parts of Etung to participate meaningfully in governance and public service, citing his role in facilitating their appointments into government positions. He stressed that Agbor's influence extended beyond political appointments to mentorship, empowerment and deliberate investment in people.

He averred that the Defendable Force, while committed to holding leaders accountable and drawing government's attention to issues affecting the people, had chosen to support leaders whose actions aligned with the aspirations of the people, pledging the group's support for Agbor's political direction and APC candidates ahead of 2027.

FG, C'River Commence Livestock Surveillance, Target 600 Samples For PPR Eradication

By Arit Ubi



The exercise targets 600 livestock samples to generate scientific data on animal health and support the national effort to eradicate Peste des Petits Ruminants, PPR, by 2030.

The exercise covers multiple livestock species and diseases, with samples expected to provide information on organisms and strains circulating in different parts of the State.

The Director of Veterinary Services, Cross

The Federal Ministry of Livestock Development, in collaboration with the Cross River

State Government, has commenced a national sero-surveillance exercise in Cross River State.



River State Ministry of Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries Development, Dr. U.J. Undiandeye, said Cross River is strategically important due to its significant livestock population, major animal movement routes, and international border with

Cameroon.

According to him, the state serves as a key route for livestock moving into the southern part of the country, while cross-border movement also creates a potential pathway for the introduction of animal diseases.

Dr. Undiandeye noted that

livestock brought into Cross River from major producing states, including Taraba, Benue and Adamawa, could introduce diseases, particularly when infected animals purchased from markets are mixed with existing herds and flocks.



He disclosed that Calabar Municipal, Calabar South, Ikom and Ogoja were randomly selected for the exercise to ensure representation across different parts of the State.

The Team Leader, Dr. Ebi Appolos, said field activities began in Calabar Municipal before moving to Calabar South, Ikom and Ogoja, with samples collected

from different categories of animals.

Dr. Appolos revealed that additional samples were collected where necessary to



replace any that might become unusable during handling or transportation.

He added that the samples were properly separated and

packaged for transportation to the National Veterinary Research Institute, NVRI, Vom, Plateau State, for laboratory analysis.

On sample

preservation, Dr. Undiandeye explained that the veterinary team maintained the cold chain throughout the exercise.

"Samples were

stored in cold boxes with ice packs, while ice supplies were replenished regularly to maintain the required temperature until they arrived at the National Veterinary Research Institute.

This measure was necessary to ensure that the samples remained suitable for laboratory analysis," Dr. Undiandeye said.

He further explained that the laboratory analysis would help determine the organisms and disease strains circulating in different environments.

According to him,

the findings will provide scientific evidence to guide future vaccination and other appropriate veterinary interventions, while contributing to the development of candidate vaccines.

The veterinary team also strengthened cooperation with livestock farmers through direct engagement, where they explained the purpose of the exercise, the sampling process and how the findings would ultimately benefit livestock owners.

Dr. Undiandeye linked the exercise to Nigeria's broader animal health objectives, particularly the

national goal of eradicating PPR by 2030.

He noted that reliable scientific data from the field would strengthen decision-making and help protect livestock and the livelihoods of farmers.

The Director called for sustained collaboration among government, veterinary professionals and livestock farmers, saying collective efforts remain essential to achieving the country's livestock health objectives.



nugi
technologies

Carnival Commission in Conjunction with
Fitness Professionals Association

Presents

SATURDAY
19TH
SEP

6AM

CARNIVAL FITNESS JAM

Theme:

Rethinking Our
Collective Destiny



Mary Slessor Adjudication Point
Mary Slessor Roundabout, Calabar

Bekwarra Nation Honours Iyala with 'Ohe Eni Unyuo 1' Chieftaincy Title

By Kingsley Agim



The Bekwarra traditional authority has honoured distinguished personalities for their contributions to society, with the Director General of the Cross River

State Health Insurance Agency, Chief Godwin Okara Iyala, receiving the prestigious chieftaincy title of "Ohe Eni Unyuo 1", meaning "The Great Motivator."

The investiture,

performed by the Paramount Ruler of Bekwarra, His Royal Majesty, Chief Linus Ogbeche Odey, took place at the weekend at the Ukan Roland Idagbo Youth



Resource Centre, Abuochiche, Bekwarra Local Government Area, as part of activities marking the Ipem Ihihe, otherwise known as the Bekwarra New Yam Festival.

Iyala was among a number of prominent personalities honoured by the

traditional institution in recognition of their contributions and service to the people.

Also honoured was the Cross River State Commissioner for Education, Senator (Prof.) Stephen Odey, alongside other distinguished sons and friends of

Bekwarra.

The recognition of Iyala as "Ohe Eni Unyuo 1" adds to the growing acknowledgement of his contributions to the development of Bekwarra and his commitment to public service, particularly his efforts in advancing



accessible and affordable healthcare through his leadership of the state health insurance agency.

Speaking on the significance of the event, the Chairman of the occasion, Chief Peter Ojie, described the New Yam Festival as a celebration deeply

rooted in the ancestral farming heritage of the Bekwarra people, noting that yam remained the “king of crops” and a major symbol of the people’s agricultural identity.

He said Bekwarra and northern Cross River had established a strong reputation for yam

production, adding that the festival had evolved from celebrations at village and clan levels into a major gathering that brings together people from across the nation and beyond to showcase their rich cultural heritage.

Ojie urged young people to sustain



progress,” he said.

The Chairman of Bekwarra Local Government Area, Hon. Egbung Odama Egbung, welcomed the dignitaries, traditional rulers, sons and daughters of Bekwarra and other guests to the celebration, expressing optimism that the festival would continue to strengthen unity, peace and development among the people.



the farming tradition, stressing that agriculture remained central to food security and the socioeconomic advancement of the people.

“Farming remains a critical part of our lives because it is in farming that we can guarantee food security. And if we have food security, therefore we can also move ahead as a people that make

Egbung also commended the traditional institution and the organising committee for sustaining the cultural festival, stressing the importance of preserving the values, traditions and communal





bonds that define the Bekwarra people.

He prayed for continued peace, prosperity and progress in Bekwarra and Cross River State. In his response, Iyala expressed deep appreciation to the Paramount Ruler, the Bekwarra people

and the organising committee for finding him worthy of the honour, describing the recognition as both a privilege and a greater call to service.

"The reward for hard work is more work," Iyala said, pledging to dedicate himself even more to matters

concerning Bekwarra and humanity at large.

He promised to work assiduously to contribute to the advancement of Bekwarra, stressing that the chieftaincy title would serve as additional motivation for him to do more for his people.



"I feel highly elated to be honoured by my own people. I have been a chief from other climes, but nothing compares to being honoured by your own people. My joy knows no bounds," he said.

Iyala thanked the Paramount Ruler, the organising committee and

fellow awardees, promising to continue working for the progress of the community and declaring that he would strive to take Bekwarra "higher and higher and higher."

The ceremony, which brought together traditional rulers, political leaders, government

officials, community leaders and guests, also provided an opportunity for the people to celebrate their cultural heritage, honour distinguished personalities and reaffirm their commitment to the unity and development of Bekwarra.





CARNIVAL CALABAR 2026

ESSAY & CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

THURSDAY
**10TH
SEPT.**
2026

RELEASE OF FORMS

FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS &
TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

ENQUIRIES

JAMES BULEM - 08035150378

PROF. EYO MENSAH - 08037161192

EXAMINATION CENTERS

CALABAR • AKAMKPA • UGEP • IKOM • OGOJA • OBUDU



Application forms can be obtained from principals of Secondary Schools and the Carnival Commission, or DOWNLOAD @ jemzbee68@gmail.com

C' River Positions For Global BPO Market As Stakeholders Co-create Policy Framework In Calabar

By Obaseoyi Bassey



In a strategic bid to diversify its economy and create thousands of formal digital jobs for its youth, the Cross River State Government,

through the Ministry of Commerce, has hosted a high-level, two-day State Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), Policy Roundtable in

Calabar.

Organized in partnership with the Tech Talent Service, TTS, Nigeria Programme, a consortium supported by the



Mastercard Foundation, Tech4Dev, Policy Innovation Centre, Univelcity, and Semicolon, the dialogue convened government officials, industry

leaders, and development partners to build an inclusive BPO, ecosystem for the State.

Speaking during the opening remarks, the

Commissioner for Commerce, Dr. Mrs. Abigail Duke Orok, said the state's emerging status provides a solid baseline for rapid growth.



"The goal of this policy framework is to turn our readiness into immediate investment and jobs by closing investor-critical gaps, leveraging existing assets, and ensuring our youth are job-ready for international and domestic buyers," she stated. Also speaking, the

Commissioner for Finance, Dr. Michael Odere, emphasized that the initiative aligns with the administration's youth technology development agenda, which has already engaged over 400 young residents in digital skills programs.

He noted that Cross River is well-

positioned to tap into the global BPO market, projected to reach \$696 billion by 2033. With over 350,000 post-secondary educated residents and 1.93 million workers currently in informal employment, the BPO sector offers a sustainable

pathway to transition local talent into structured, high-value digital roles.

Presenting findings from the TTS Nigeria State Readiness Index, program facilitators revealed that Cross River ranks 9th out of 15 assessed states in Nigeria with a 55.5% readiness score.

Throughout the event, stakeholders co-created and validated a 9-Pillar BPO Policy Architecture covering talent development, digital infrastructure, investor incentives, regulatory standards, and inclusive hiring mandate.

Structuring state fiscal and non-fiscal packages tied to verified hiring quotas for women, marginalized youth, and Persons with Disabilities, PWDs.

Setting up a dedicated single-window office within the Ministry of Commerce to streamline investor aftercare and regulatory approvals.

Embedding mandatory inclusive hiring requirements into state public-private contracting frameworks.

Finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, with Tech4Dev/TTS Nigeria to launch a demand-led

training and job-placement pilot program in Calabar.

The event concluded with a joint commitment by the state government, private operators, and development partners to finalize the executive policy document for state approval, paving the way for immediate implementation.



IKOMCCIMA
Inter Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mining and Agriculture



IKOMCCIMMA In collaboration with:
CROSS RIVER INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (CRIRS) and
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS IN THE CENTRAL CROSS RIVER

Presents

A ONE-DAY SENSITIZATION CONFERENCE

TAX HARMONIZATION BETWEEN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CROSS RIVER CENTRAL EXPERIENCE (FOCUS: MULTIPLE TAXATION)



MRS. FLORA TAKIM-NDIFON
President/Chairman of Council,
IKOMCCIMMA

HOST



PRINCE EDWIN OKON PH.D
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN,
Cross River Internal Revenue Service

SPECIAL GUEST



HON. YIBALA INYANG INCIRI
Executive Chairman, Yakurr Council and
Chairman of All Chairmen, Cross River Central

CO-HOST



DR. AKORNAYE U. ADIE
Managing Partner, Akornaye Adie
& Co. Chartered Accountant
and Tax Practitioner

GUEST SPEAKER

**WED 9TH
SEPT 2026 | 10:00 AM
PROMPT**

**ICC Hotel Hall,
Four Corners, Ikom,
Cross River State**

ENQUIRIES: 08037321961, 08167081631 || Email: ikomccimma@gmail.com

Emulate Gilbert Agbor's Grassroots Touch, Akpabuyo Chairman Tells Political Appointees

By Obaseoyi Bassey

... Hails Ogar for hosting football competition



The Chairman of Akpabuyo Local Government Area, Hon. Effiom Bassey Effiong, has called on political appointees across Cross River State to emulate the grassroots touch

of the Special Adviser to the Governor on Asset Management and Recovery, Barr. Gilbert Agbor, by staying connected to their people and using their positions to foster community development.

Effiong made the call on September 4 when he joined Agbor, community leaders and residents of Etomi in Etung Local Government Area for the Etung New Yam Festival, which also



featured the grand finale of a football tournament organised to bring the community together.

The Akpabuyo chairman said Agbor's continued identification with his people demonstrated the kind of grassroots leadership

expected of political appointees, noting that Governor Bassey Edet Otu could not personally be present in every community.

"The Governor, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, cannot be everywhere. That is why his foot soldiers, like

Gilbert Agbor, are representing him at various levels," Effiong said, commending Agbor for providing leadership and identifying with his people.

He urged other politicians and political appointees to "borrow a leaf"



from Agbor by consistently returning to their communities, listening to their people and supporting initiatives capable of promoting peace, unity and development. He particularly described football

as a potent instrument for bringing people together.

Effiong also commended Mr. Abednego Ogar, a recent appointee as a Director in the State Lottery Board, for hosting the football

tournament, describing the initiative as a practical demonstration of the "People First" mantra of the Otu administration.

He said Ogar's decision to return to his community and use the New



Yam festivities to create an avenue for recreation, interaction and celebration showed that public appointments should deepen, rather than weaken, the bond between leaders and their communities. "That is the way to go. I commend him," Effiong said.

Effiong said the joy and happiness displayed by the people of Etomi showed that the "Season of Sweetness" associated with Governor Otu's administration was being felt at the grassroots, urging political appointees to sustain direct engagement with their communities.

The Akpabuyo

chairman, who said he had chosen to attend the festival despite other important engagements in Calabar, also donated ₦500,000 towards the organisation of the celebration.

Also speaking, an elder statesman and political leader of Etomi,



Ntufam Gabe Odu Oji, praised Agbor for demonstrating what he described as exemplary leadership since his appointment, saying he had continued to enjoy the admiration and support of the people of Etomi and Etung at large.

Odu Oji equally commended Ogar, whom he described as Agbor's protégé, saying the hosting of the tournament showed that he was learning fast and following the example of his political mentor by giving back to his community.

The football competition ended

in an exciting finale, with Etomi Strikers defeating Draggers in a penalty shootout to clinch the top prize, adding sporting excitement to the cultural celebration.



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE
CROSS RIVER STATE

PUBLIC NOTICE

**OFFICIAL ENQUIRY PHONE LINE
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The Office of the Head of Service is pleased to announce an **Official Enquiry Phone Line** to enhance communication with civil and public servants across Cross River State.



OFFICIAL PHONE NUMBER:

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THIS LINE IS DEDICATED TO:



General enquiries



Personnel Audit Verification support



Requests for information on Office of the Head of Service programmes and services



Official feedback and complaints



SERVICE HOURS:



**MONDAY TO
SATURDAY**



Members of the public and all civil and public servants are encouraged to use this line **responsibly**. Please note that the number is **strictly for official business**, and callers are expected to maintain courtesy during all interactions.



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



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE
CROSS RIVER STATE

Committed to Service Excellence.

2027: Ayuk, Ndum Get Confidence Vote as Etung APC Stakeholders Close Ranks

By Kingsley Agim



Determined to strengthen its unity and secure victory for the All Progressives Congress (APC) across elective positions in the 2027 elections, political stakeholders in

Etung Local Government Area have passed a vote of confidence in the leadership of the area's political leader, Prince Ebuta Ojong Ayuk, and the party's chapter chairman, Hon. Emmanuel Ndum.

The stakeholders

expressed their commitment to closing ranks and intensifying grassroots mobilisation during a stakeholders' meeting with the APC senatorial candidate for Cross River Central, Mr. Oden Ewa, held at the

country home of Prince Ayuk in Effraya, headquarters of Etung Local Government Area.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the stakeholders to rally behind Ewa and assure him of their support as the APC candidate for the Central Senatorial District, with participants emphasising the need to consolidate the party's structures across Etung and the district ahead of the 2027 election.

The stakeholders expressed optimism that with a united party structure, sustained grassroots mobilisation and the commitment of its leaders and

members, Ewa would emerge victorious at the senatorial election, urging all APC faithful to work collectively towards delivering the party's candidate.

Speaking on behalf of the stakeholders, elder statesman, former Commissioner and former Chairman of Etung Local Government Area, Ntufam Gabe Odu Oji, said the confidence vote reflected their genuine satisfaction with Ayuk's leadership and determination to preserve the unity required to deliver victory for the APC in 2027.

Odu Oji said, "We are satisfied with the leadership of Prince Ebuta Ojong Ayuk. The things being said on social

media are unfounded and, in our view, come from sheer ignorance of what is happening on the ground in Etung."

He said the political leadership in Etung had remained focused on bringing stakeholders together and strengthening the APC ahead of the 2027 elections, adding that the prevailing cohesion within the party was evidence of the progress being made.

Odu Oji thereafter moved a motion for a vote of confidence in Ayuk's leadership, which was seconded by the member representing Etung State Constituency in the Cross River

State House of Assembly, Hon. Kingsley Ntui Isong, and supported by the stakeholders.

Responding, Ayuk, a former Special Adviser to the President on Informal Sector, thanked the stakeholders for the confidence reposed in him and pledged to continue steering the political process with diligence, integrity and commitment to the collective interest of the people.

"I appreciate the confidence you have reposed in me. I will continue to steer the political process with diligence and integrity, and I will remain committed to the collective interest of our

people," Ayuk said.

He particularly attributed the political peace and stability enjoyed by the APC in Etung to the astuteness and grassroots efforts of the chapter chairman, Hon. Emmanuel Ndum, describing him as the "lifeblood" that had kept the party intact despite the competing interests and aspirations of its stakeholders.

Ayuk said, "Emmanuel Ndum is the lifeblood that has kept this party intact. Despite our different interests and differences, his astuteness and grassroots efforts have helped to maintain the peace and stability we are enjoying in Etung APC."

He expressed optimism that the

APC would continue to wax stronger in Etung and contribute meaningfully to the party's anticipated electoral victory in 2027, urging members to translate the unity demonstrated at the meeting into increased grassroots mobilisation.

"We must all cooperate and double our efforts. If we remain united and committed, I am confident that Etung APC will contribute meaningfully to the imminent victory of our party from top to bottom in 2027," he said.

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

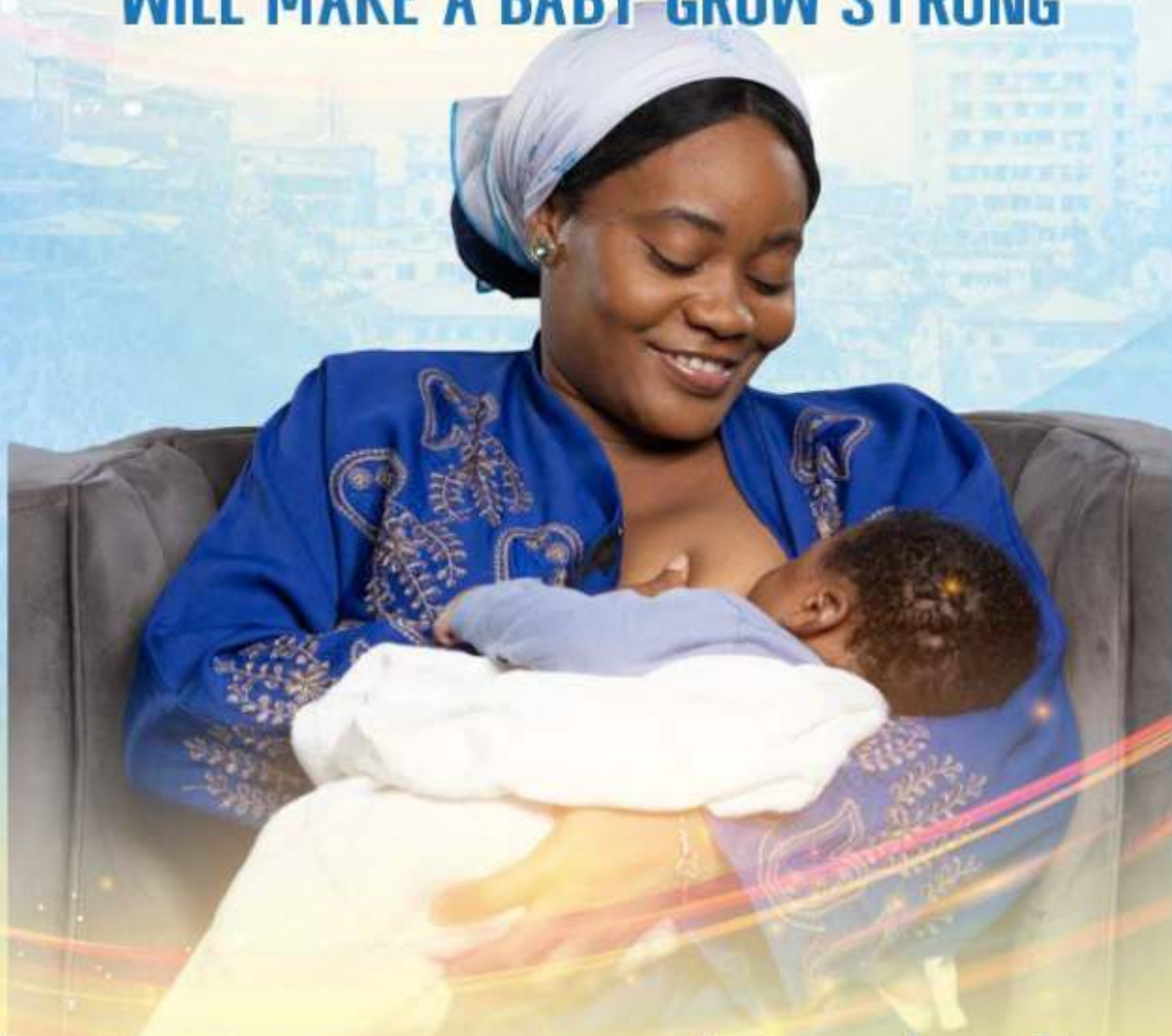


LET'S GROW STRONGER
TOGETHER

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 long, red stick with yellow and white floral patterns, which is positioned over a blue plastic 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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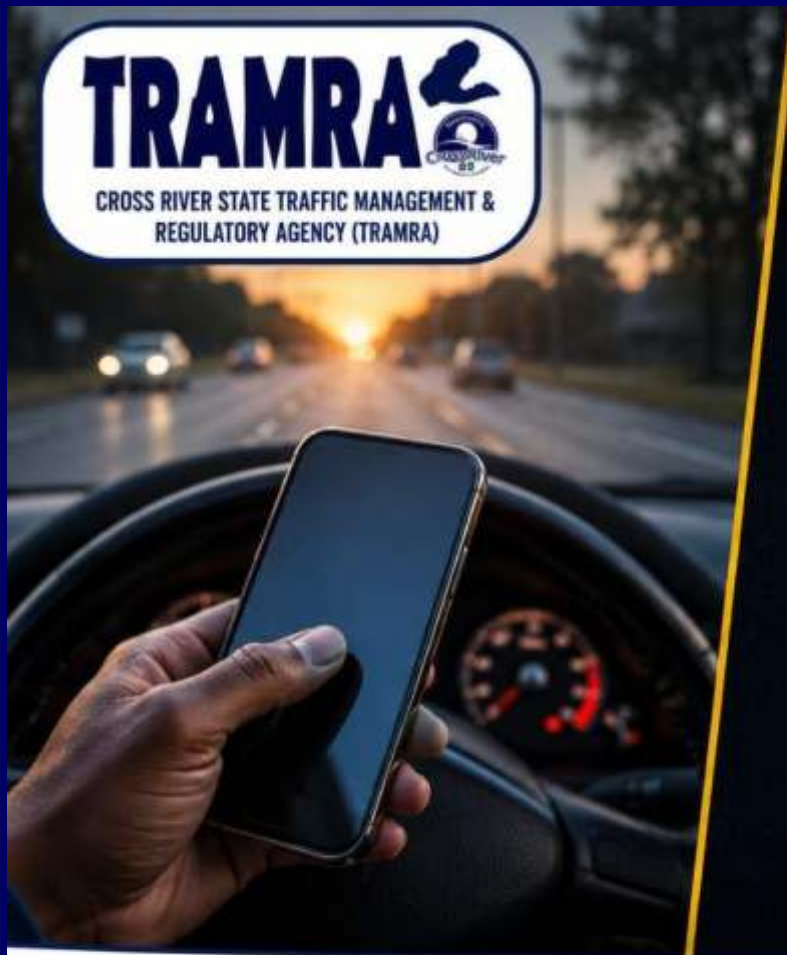


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AND BUILD
PARTNERSHIPS**



**INNOVATE
FOR A SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE**

CREATIVITY • UNITY • EXCELLENCE • IMPACT



TRAMRA

CROSS RIVER STATE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT &
REGULATORY AGENCY (TRAMRA)

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



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| SAFETY TODAY

| 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

*Federal Road Safety Corps...
Creating a safe motoring environment for all.*

**Slow Down
Stay Alert
Stay Alive**

CRGIA

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Register your Land
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**Cross River
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and protect yourself,
Your Children and
Generations from
Land Grabbers.



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CRGIA
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

E-mail: info@pgf.ng

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

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

Tiktok: https://www.tiktok.com/@pgf_2023

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Ministry of Information
Cross River State

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(+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)

INEC Short Code: 4632
09050858629, 09050858675,
09050858649

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

📱📺📷 @inecnigeria

**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— FRSC —

CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND