

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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.

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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.

# Mrs. Bassey Otu Extoll Improvements at UNICROSS

By Esther Okoi



**T**he wife of the State Governor, Bishop Eyoanwan Bassey Otu has extolled the remarkable improvements at the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS), under the leadership of Prof. Francisca Bassey.

Giving the commendation during a courtesy call on her by the management of the Institution, the Governor's Wife urged the management team to sustain its developmental strides and teamwork.

A proud alumna of The Polytechnic

Calabar, Bishop Eyoanwan Otu expressed satisfaction at the pace of progress and facelift witnessed by the Institution.

She reaffirmed her commitment to continuously support the development and advancement of



UNICROSS, while appreciating their thoughtfulness at the gift presented to her.

She commended Prof. Bassey for the remarkable improvements

recorded at the University under her leadership, noting that she was impressed by the progress being made at UNICROSS.

She encouraged the University Management to sustain its

teamwork and developmental efforts.

Earlier, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS), Prof. Francisca Bassey, expressed the



appreciation of the Institution to the Governor's Wife for her support and her role in facilitating the recent historic visit of the First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, to the institution.

The visit of the First Lady of Nigeria to UNICROSS for the commissioning of the TETFund ICT Experience Centre at the Calabar

Campus marked a historic milestone in the history of the University and further enhanced the institution's visibility.

The courtesy visit to the Governor's wife climaxed with the Vice Chancellor presenting gift items, which were artworks produced by students of the Department of Visual Arts and Technology.

The visit underscores the growing relationship between UNICROSS and key stakeholders in Cross River State and reflects the University Management's commitment to building partnerships that support the institution's development and advancement.



Prof. Bassey was accompanied on the courtesy call by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Stella Maris-Okey; Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Thomas Ojikpong; the Registrar, Dr. (Mrs.) Catherine Osai; University Librarian, Dr. Victoria Iyishu; Prof. Ajibade Babson of the Department of



Visual Arts and Technology and immediate past Director of Academic Planning; Mrs. Emekpe Omong, Acting

Head of Department of Visual Arts and Technology; among other principal officers of the University.

# Odenism Movement Sets Sept. 26 Ikom Rally, Activates 2027 Grassroots Machinery

By Kingsley Agim



**T**he Odenism Movement, arguably the biggest political support group in Cross River Central Senatorial District, has fixed September 26 for a mega rally in

Ikom, where it will formally inaugurate and activate its 2027 grassroots mobilisation structure in support of Governor Bassey Edet Otu, Senatorial candidate Oden Ewa and other All

Progressives Congress (APC) candidates.

The decision was taken at the Movement's meeting on Wednesday, September 9, at



the residence of its Board of Trustees Chairman, Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayambem. Members reviewed preparations for the 2027 elections and resolved to intensify grassroots mobilisation across the Central Senatorial District.

The rally will mark a major step in the Movement's

preparations for the 2027 general elections, with its organisational structure extending from the Central Senatorial District to the six local government areas, wards, communities and polling units.

Ayambem, who is also the Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, said the

Movement was established to provide a credible and coordinated platform capable of contributing meaningfully to political decision-making and electoral success. He described Odenism as "an idea whose time had come", stressing that its strength lay in the calibre, experience



and capacity of its members.

"There's nothing wrong with having different groups come together," Ayambem said, stressing the need for "a group that is more like a higher decision-making body" capable of providing strategic direction for the campaigns.

He said Odenism would continue to prioritise critical thinking, objective analysis and effective strategy over political fanfare, noting that the calibre and experience of its members places the Movement in a strong position to provide the strategic support

required for electoral success. He also urged members to remain united, disciplined and focused on the collective objective.

Ayambem said the September 26 rally would serve as the formal inauguration of Odenism



Movement and its structures, spanning the senatorial district, local government areas, wards, communities and polling-unit mobilisation teams, signalling the commencement of full-scale grassroots mobilisation.

The structure to

be inaugurated comprises a Board of Trustees chaired by Ayambem, with Hon. Ubi Ettah as Deputy Chairman and Hon. Kingsley Ntui as Secretary. Other members are Rt. Hon. Davies Etta, Rt. Hon. Hilary Bisong, Prince Eka Williams, Hon. Kingsley Arikpo (Apolo), Barr. Gilbert Agbor, who serves as Legal

Adviser, Capt. Eno Inah, Hon. Dickson Ovat Agbor, Ntufam Collins Atu Ogar, Hon. Phillip Bette Obi, Engr. Kelvin Njong and Obase Ekaba Mbek.

The Elders Advisory Council is chaired by former Governor of Cross River State, Chief Clement Ebri, with Senator Victor



Ndoma-Egba as Deputy Chairman and Prince Ebuta Ayuk as Secretary. Other members are Chief Okoi Obono-Obla, Elder Bolaji Anani, Prof. Anthony Owan-Enoh, Amb. Chief Soni Abang and Barr. Chris Agara.

Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Hon. Kingsley Ntui, said the elaborate structure was deliberate and designed to take mobilisation "to

the polling-unit level", where actual electoral strength would ultimately be determined.

He explained that while the Board of Trustees would provide strategic direction, the executive structure would handle operations and grassroots mobilisation across the six local government areas, constituencies, wards, communities and polling units.

Director General of the Movement, Ransom Odey, described Odenism as a "child of necessity", established to confront challenges including anti-party activities, voter apathy and inadequate grassroots coordination. He said the Movement would deploy strategic measures to secure victory for the Governor



Otu, Oden Ewa, and other APC candidates.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Asset Management and Recovery, Barr. Gilbert Agbor, who described Odenism as a "generational political coinage", said his support for the Movement was based on the quality of its principal and the

calibre of personalities driving its activities.

Former Chairman of Etung Local Government Area, Ntufam Godwin Etim John, called for a clear and unified organogram for the Movement to ensure effective coordination and prevent duplication of efforts among the various support

groups working for Senator Oden Ewa. He stressed that the immediate priority should be to establish the structure and commence coordinated grassroots mobilisation.

# Nigeria Takes Over UN Peacekeeping Chair, Jimoh Ibrahim Pledges Transparency, Accountability



**N**igeria has assumed the chairmanship of the United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, popularly known as the Committee of 34 (C-34), with Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Jimoh Ibrahim, pledging to lead the

committee with transparency, accountability and a strong commitment to civilian protection.

Ibrahim assumed the chairmanship from Canada, commending the outgoing chair for what he described as an outstanding contribution to the work of the committee and pledging to build on

the progress already recorded.

The Nigerian envoy assured member states that his leadership would be guided by transparency, accountability and effective collaboration, as the committee continues its efforts to strengthen international peace and security.



He said the committee would support initiatives aimed at addressing terrorism and other threats to global stability, while stressing that peacekeeping and counter-terrorism operations must remain focused on maintaining stability and protecting the interests and welfare of civilians.

Ibrahim's emergence as chairman of the C-34 further strengthens Nigeria's leadership position within the United Nations, as he now chairs two important UN committees with responsibilities spanning peacekeeping, administration and finances.

He is also chairman of the United Nations Fifth Committee, which is

responsible for administrative and budgetary matters, giving Nigeria a prominent role in two critical areas of the organisation's work.

The development is significant for Nigeria, given the country's longstanding contribution to international peacekeeping operations and its advocacy for stronger

multilateral cooperation in addressing global security challenges.

Nigeria's assumption of the C-34 chairmanship is expected to provide another platform for the country to contribute to ongoing global discussions on the future of UN peacekeeping, counter-terrorism, civilian protection and international security cooperation.

In assuming the new responsibility, Ibrahim expressed appreciation to Canada for its leadership of the committee and pledged to sustain the gains made under the outgoing chairmanship.

He said effective collaboration among member states would remain central to his leadership, particularly in addressing the complex security challenges confronting the international community.

Ibrahim is serving as Nigeria's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations following his appointment by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

The diplomat, lawyer and businessman is an alumnus of Harvard University, the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge and Obafemi Awolowo University, among other institutions.

His emergence as chairman of the two committees comes within his first 100 days in office as Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the UN, placing him at the centre of key deliberations on the organisation's peacekeeping operations, international security, administration and finances.

Nigeria's leadership of the C-34 is expected to further amplify the country's voice in shaping the future of UN peacekeeping and reinforce its commitment to collective action in promoting global peace and security.

# Carnival Commission Boosts Staff Capacity with In-House Training

By Ibu Harrywills



**T**he Cross River State Carnival Commission has concluded its 2026 In-House Training Exercise, equipping staff with updated knowledge and skills to strengthen professionalism, productivity and service delivery.

The exercise brought together staff of the Commission for practical sessions

focused on key areas of public service administration, including civil service rules, financial regulations and information and communication technology.

The training formed part of the Commission's efforts to promote continuous staff development and ensure that personnel remain conversant with the rules, procedures

and professional standards guiding public service. Such capacity-building initiatives are consistent with the state government's recent emphasis on continuous training to improve efficiency across Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

Barrister Oyama Ndifon facilitated the first session, taking participants

through the Civil Service Rules and Conducts and highlighting the principles, responsibilities and standards expected of public officers in the discharge of their duties.

The session provided staff with a better understanding of the rules governing their conduct and responsibilities, while reinforcing the importance of discipline, professionalism and compliance in public service.

Mr. Charles Ugar handled the second session on the Financial Regulations of the State Civil Service, exposing participants to relevant financial

procedures, accountability requirements and the responsible management of government resources.

His presentation further emphasised the need for strict compliance with established financial regulations as part of efforts to promote transparency, accountability and prudent management of public funds.

The final session, facilitated by Mrs. Mary Leo Ekanem, focused on Information and Communication Technology (ICT), equipping staff with relevant knowledge on the effective application of digital tools and technology in the modern workplace.

The ICT component underscored the growing importance of digital competence in improving communication, productivity and efficiency, particularly as government institutions increasingly adopt technology in their operations.

The exercise also provided participants with an opportunity to refresh their understanding of government procedures, clarify areas of responsibility and acquire practical knowledge required for more effective performance.

# Cross River Declares Stake.com Unlicensed, Orders Public to Stop Wagering

By Ibu Harrywills



**T**he Cross River State Lotteries and Gaming Agency has declared Stake.com an unlicensed gaming operator in the state, warning residents to stop wagering on the platform and patronise

only duly licensed operators.

The declaration was contained in a public notice signed by the agency's Director-General, Michael Eja, in collaboration with the Federation of State Gaming Regulators of

Nigeria (FSGRN), which said Stake.com was not licensed by Cross River or any of the federation's member states to conduct gaming operations.

The regulators alleged that Stake.com had also failed to



register, declare or remit applicable monthly gaming taxes and levies despite receiving no fewer than 10 formal compliance notices over the past two years.

They said the alleged failure to comply with regulatory requirements had necessitated

enforcement action against the operator and other entities facilitating its activities within the affected jurisdictions.

According to the regulators, "appropriate enforcement action" would be taken against Stake.com, its directors and any payment

companies, financial institutions, advertising platforms, influencers or other entities found to be facilitating its operations.

The authorities said the regulatory action was backed by the Supreme Court judgment in

Attorney-General of Lagos State & Ors v. Attorney-General of the Federation & Ors (SC/1/2008), delivered on November 22, 2024, which affirmed the constitutional authority of states to regulate lotteries, betting and gaming.

The regulators said the judgment “reinforces the position that gaming operators must obtain the required state licence before offering gaming services within a state.”

Against this backdrop, the Cross River agency and the FSGRN urged members of the public to “discontinue

wagering on Stake.com” and patronise only gaming operators duly licensed by the relevant state regulatory authorities.

The regulators also called on banks, payment service providers, fintech companies, media organisations and digital advertising platforms to conduct appropriate due diligence and “stop facilitating unlicensed gaming activities.”

They said the enforcement action was aimed at “protecting consumers, safeguarding minors, preserving market integrity” and ensuring that gaming operators comply with applicable state laws and tax

obligations.

The authorities further urged all stakeholders in the gaming industry to respect state licensing requirements, stressing that operators must obtain the necessary approvals before offering gaming services within their jurisdictions.

Eja said the agency remained committed to enforcing the state’s gaming laws, protecting consumers and ensuring that gaming operators meet their licensing, regulatory and tax obligations.

# Cross River Health Ministry Strengthens Ethics Oversight for Health Research

By Nakanda Iyadim



**T**he Cross River State Ministry of Health has strengthened its commitment to ethical and responsible health research with a two-day retraining programme for members of the

State Health Research Ethics Committee, focusing on the protection of human participants and responsible conduct of research.

The capacity-building retreat, held on Wednesday,

September 9 and Thursday, September 10, 2026, in Calabar, was organised under the theme, "Mitigating Irresponsible Conduct of Research Through Community Partnership."



The training brought together health officers, academic staff from the University of Calabar, directors of medical and nursing services, academic partners

and other practitioners to strengthen their capacity to provide effective ethical oversight of health research across the state.

Representing the Commissioner for

Health, Dr Henry Egbe Ayuk, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr Jonah Bassey, declared the meeting open and stressed the importance of ethical oversight in maintaining public



confidence in the healthcare system.

According to Bassey, developments in clinical practice, public health interventions, research, technology and health-data management make it increasingly important to protect the rights, safety, dignity and welfare of individuals and communities.

"It is with a deep

sense of humility and great honor that I stand before you today on this important occasion of the retraining and last census of members of the Cross River State Ministry of Health Ethical Committee to formally declare this two-day meeting open," he said.

He added that the ethics committee should be seen beyond its regulatory function, describing it as a

critical safeguard for ethical standards and public trust in healthcare and research.

"An ethical committee is therefore not merely a regulatory requirement; it is a guardian of ethical standards and public trust," Bassey stated, stressing that the biannual retraining would help ensure that research conducted in Cross

River maintains scientific integrity while protecting human participants from exploitation.

The Lead Training Facilitator and Director of the Centre for Research Ethics and Bioethics Training at the University of Lagos, Professor Kola Oyedeki, said the retraining was designed to refresh members' foundational knowledge while introducing new developments and correcting misconceptions that may have emerged in the course of their duties.

Oyedeki said the participation of UNICAL academics, health directors and other committee

members had made the programme particularly valuable, noting that some discussions had challenged previously held assumptions about research ethics and procedures.

Also speaking, the Vice Chairman of the National Health Research Ethics Committee, Professor Oliver Ezechi, emphasised the need for strict governance of clinical trials and proper regulatory review of research protocols. He stressed that clinical trial protocols must undergo the required reviews by relevant regulatory and ethics bodies, including NAFDAC and ethics committees.

Ezechi also underscored the

importance of community participation in health research, declaring: "You cannot do a project in a community without partnering with that community."

The retreat further focused on strengthening the committee members' competencies in ethical review, research documentation, regulatory compliance and community engagement, with the ultimate objective of improving the quality and integrity of health research conducted across Cross River State.

# 2027: Anyogo Takes Otu's Re-election Campaign to Yala Communities

By Iloke Egbe



A prominent Cross River lawyer and Director-General of Good Governance Advocacy International, Sir Leonard Anyogo, has taken the campaign for the re-election of Governor Bassey Edet Otu to communities across Yala Local Government Area, mobilising

residents and stakeholders ahead of the 2027 governorship election.

Anyogo, who is also Commissioner One in the Cross River State House of Assembly Service Commission and an APC stalwart, commenced the sensitisation and mobilisation at Alifokpa community,

where he engaged residents on the achievements, policies and development plans of the Otu administration.

He said the Alifokpa engagement marked the beginning of a wider mobilisation that would extend to other communities and



wards in Yala, with the aim of educating residents on the administration's programmes and the benefits of continuity beyond 2027.

According to Anyogo, the policies of Governor Otu have both short- and long-term benefits for Cross Riverians, urging the people to support the administration based on its record rather than promises that may

not be fulfilled.

Anyogo described the Governor's performance as empirical and evidence-based, citing the revolution in agriculture and the peace enjoyed across the state as evidence of progress under the administration.

He also cited the Epitome of Good Governance Award recently bestowed on Governor Otu at Channel View Hotel, Calabar, by Good Governance Advocacy

International, saying the recognition was based on visible progress and development recorded across the state.

The Director-General explained that Good Governance Advocacy International promotes good governance, community participation in governance, capacity building for public officials and training for government and corporate institutions, adding that the organisation would continue to sensitise citizens on their role in governance.

Anyogo assured the people of Alifokpa that Governor Otu had

not forgotten the community's development needs, including the Akreha Bridge and Alifokpa community road, but urged them to understand that development requires proper planning, budgeting and systematic execution.

He also cautioned youths against drug abuse, urging them to remain healthy and mentally sound so they could witness and benefit from the development expected to come to their communities under the Otu administration.

Responding, the youth leader, Comrade Ife Dickson, appealed to Anyogo to

remind Governor Otu of the need to accelerate social infrastructure development in the community to reduce the hardship experienced by residents.

The women leader, Mrs Janet Agu, supported the appeal, describing Anyogo as a trusted leader who understands the workings of government. She assured him that the re-election of Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu for a second term remained a priority for the community.

In a related engagement, Anyogo met with community stakeholders, including the Catholic priest of Mater Ecclesiae Parish, Alifokpa-Yache, Rev. Fr.

Raphael Moses, as part of the grassroots mobilisation. The priest accepted to join the campaign against drug abuse and promote a healthier society, peace and grassroots development.

Anyogo said the mobilisation would continue across Yala, stressing that sustained engagement with communities, religious leaders, youths and other stakeholders was essential to deepening participation in governance and building grassroots support for the continuity of the Otu administration in 2027.

# Cross River SUBEB Reviews Basic Education Data Across 18 LGAs

By Joy Ndoma



**T**he Cross River State Universal Basic Education Board (CR-SUBEB), in collaboration with the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), has commenced a two-day annual review of basic education data across the state's 18 Local Government Education Authorities (LGEAs).

The exercise, organised by the Education Management Information System (EMIS) Unit of CR-SUBEB, is taking place at Pyramid Hotel, Calabar, with the participation of EMIS officers and other relevant stakeholders from the 18 LGEAs.

The review is aimed at harmonising data templates,

validating existing information and consolidating credible, evidence-based data to strengthen education planning, policy formulation, resource allocation and monitoring across the state.

It covers data relating to Early Childhood Care, Development and Education (ECCDE), primary



schools and junior secondary schools, with participants expected to review and update information from their respective local government areas.

Representing the Executive Chairman of CR-

SUBEB, Mrs Fidelia Okpo Ene, Board Member 1, Mr Joseph Ogar, described the annual gathering of EMIS officers as a welcome development and urged participants to remain committed to their responsibilities.

Ogar stressed that accurate and reliable education data were critical to effective planning and decision-making, charging the officers to ensure that information collected from the various LGAs was



properly documented, verified and credible.

The EMIS Officer and facilitator of the exercise, Mr Richard Egbe, said the review was designed to establish uniformity in the collection and presentation of basic education data across Cross River State.

According to him, the exercise involves harmonising existing data templates, validating previously collected information and populating new templates for the current year.

Egbe explained that the review became necessary because different templates had previously been used by some LGAs,

resulting in inconsistencies in data collection and reporting.

“The harmonised template will provide a uniform standard for all the local governments and enable the State to speak with one voice on basic education statistics,” he said.

He added that participants would provide their



respective datasets, data distributions and facility information to populate the harmonised templates using verified records, noting that the validation process would ensure that official records correspond with the realities in schools.

Egbe said the meeting would

also provide an opportunity for participants to examine challenges encountered during the previous year and develop practical solutions for improving data collection, processing and transmission.

"The ultimate objective is to produce a harmonised and validated database

that accurately reflects the status of basic education across the State's 18 local government areas," he said.

He noted that the consolidated database would provide credible evidence for planning, policy formulation, resource allocation, monitoring and



implementation of educational interventions.

The Desk Officer for Biase LGA, Mr Emmanuel Itam, commended CR-SUBEB and UBEC for organising the review, saying it would strengthen data accuracy, promote uniform reporting and improve education planning across the LGAs.

Itam also appreciated Governor Senator

Prince Bassey Edet Otu and the Executive Chairman of CR-SUBEB, Mrs Fidelia Okpo Ene, for their support and commitment to the development of the education sector, adding that sustained backing would enable EMIS officers to perform their responsibilities more effectively.

The two-day exercise is expected to conclude with the completion of data entry using the agreed standard templates and

validation of information submitted by the various local government areas. Cross River has continued to strengthen its education data systems, including training EMIS officers on digital data collection for the 2025/2026 school census.

# UNICROSS Deepens Ethics, Accountability as ICPC Sensitisation Ends

By Kingsley Agim



**T**he University of Cross River State (UNICROSS) has deepened its commitment to ethics and accountability with the conclusion of a two-day sensitisation programme organised in collaboration with

the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Akwa Ibom State Office, Uyo.

The programme, which ended on Thursday, September 10, 2026, brought together teaching

and senior non-teaching staff, Heads of Departments and other members of the University community, following the opening session attended by members of Management, Professors and Directors.



The ICPC delegation, led by the Resident Anti-Corruption Commissioner, Mr Baba Alaro Shaiub, addressed participants on ethical conduct, abuse of authority, administrative discipline, information management and institutional effectiveness.

Declaring the second-day session open, the

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Francisca Bassey, commended the ICPC team for the quality and relevance of its presentations and urged participants to apply the knowledge gained to their respective responsibilities.

She challenged staff to take personal responsibility for building a better University, stressing that continuous

self-development, ethical conduct and collective commitment were essential to addressing institutional challenges.

"Staff must take personal responsibility for building a better University. We must continue to develop ourselves, conduct ourselves ethically and collectively commit to addressing the



challenges confronting our institution,” Prof. Bassey said.

The Resident Anti-Corruption Commissioner, Shaiub, commended the Vice Chancellor for her commitment to the programme, describing her as a leader who genuinely cared about the development of

her people. “I want to appreciate the Vice Chancellor for her commitment to this programme. She is a leader who genuinely cares about the development of her people,” he said.

In a presentation titled “Abuse of Power in Academia: Addressing Sexual Harassment, Extortion and Academic Victimization,” the

Head of the Legal Unit, ICPC Akwa Ibom State Office, Dr Kioba Kio Anabraba, examined abuse of authority and urged staff to maintain professional boundaries while supporting accessible and effective mechanisms for reporting misconduct.

The programme

also addressed information management and communication, with the Deputy Director, Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA), and Director, Directorate of Linkages and Collaboration, University of Calabar, Dr Anam Ekpenyong Bassey, highlighting the importance of accurate, timely and properly managed information to institutional effectiveness.

Speaking on "Information Management, Communications and Record Administration," Ekpenyong demonstrated how digital tools could

improve communication, collaboration and records management, while Prof. Bassey disclosed, in response to a question, that Management was working towards making students' transcripts accessible online.

The final presentation, delivered by retired Deputy Registrar of the University of Calabar, Barrister Emmanuel Ndiok, focused on "Administrative Discipline, Timeliness, Performance and Institutional Effectiveness," with emphasis on self-discipline, professionalism, confidentiality, proper record keeping, respectful communication and efficient

management of official information.

The programme concluded with closing remarks by the Registrar, Dr (Mrs) Catherine Ndifon, while the immediate past Head of Department of Industrial Chemistry, Dr Tabi Ntui, delivered a vote of thanks on behalf of the participants, as the University looks to translate the lessons into stronger ethical standards, accountability and improved service delivery.

# Akposi Hails Akamkpa-born Nollywood Star, Queeneth Agbor As Worthy Ambassador

By Nakanda Iyadim



**T**he Chairman of Akamkpa Local Government Council, Hon. Felix Akposi, has described renowned Nollywood actress, Queeneth Agbor, as a worthy ambassador who has projected the

talent, values, and identity of Akamkpa to the world.

Chairman Akposi made the commendation while receiving a delegation from Agbor's Strength Beyond Walls Foundation, an initiative focused

on restoring hope, empowering lives, and creating second chances for people facing difficult circumstances.

He expressed pride in Agbor's achievements and her continued commitment to



the affairs of her community despite the demands of her career.

"I speak with a sense of pride because she is representing the local government well. With what she is doing through her foundation, it further speaks of her humanity and humane

attributes," the Chairman said.

Akposi noted that Agbor's success in Nollywood has taken her beyond the confines of Akamkpa, but she has not allowed fame to sever her connection with home. According to him, her consistent interest in the development of the LGA demonstrates genuine love,

appreciation, and respect for her roots.

The Chairman further described Agbor's philanthropic work as a reflection of her willingness to use her platform to make a difference in the lives of others.

He said her journey from



humble beginnings in Akamkpa to prominence in the Nigerian entertainment industry offers an important message to young people.

"We must never despise our humble beginnings. Queeneth's story shows that with determination,

talent, and perseverance, anyone can rise from a modest background to the national and international stage," he added.

Akposi also stressed the need for successful sons and daughters of Akamkpa to remain connected to their communities and contribute to their

advancement, noting that such commitment strengthens the bond between individuals and their place of origin.

In her response, Queeneth Agbor expressed appreciation to the Chairman for his leadership and support for initiatives that seek to restore



community-based philanthropic initiatives in addressing social challenges and creating opportunities for vulnerable members of society.

For Akamkpa, the Chairman's commendation is not only a recognition of Agbor's accomplishments in Nollywood, but also an acknowledgement of her continued attachment to her roots and her efforts to translate personal success into social impact.

hope, dignity, and opportunities for people in need.

"Your partnership helps us break barriers, empower lives, and build a better future beyond every wall," Agbor stated.

She reiterated the

foundation's mission of "restoring hope, empowering lives, and building second chances."

The engagement underscores the growing importance of collaboration between public leadership and

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

By Kingsley Agim



**T**he 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



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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



**T**he 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 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.

# C'River Government Mourns Elder Statesman Alhaji Bamanga Tukur

By Nakanda Iyadim



**T**he Government and people of Cross River State have expressed

profound sorrow following the passing of Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, a revered Nigerian elder statesman, business icon, and a

cherished friend of the state. He was 90 years old.

In a statement released by the

Commissioner for Information & Orientation, Pastor (Hon.) Ekpenyong Ene Cobham, the State described the late Tukur as more than a prominent businessman and first-class politician, but as "family."

"Alhaji Tukur was more than a prominent businessman and first-class politician. He was family," the statement read. "As an in-law to Cross River, he carried our name with pride and opened doors of opportunity for many Cross Riverians."

The Government highlighted Tukur's lasting legacy in the State, particularly his leadership as

Chairman of the defunct Calabar Wood Export Processing Factory Limited.

According to the statement, his tenure left an indelible mark on the local economy and created livelihoods that touched countless homes.

The statement further emphasized his humanitarian legacy, noting, "He was a man who believed in building people and building institutions. Through his generosity and vision, many lives were lifted and many dreams were given a chance."

Alhaji Tukur passed away peacefully at his residence in Abuja on Saturday, September 12, 2026, following a

brief illness. His death comes just three days shy of his 91st birthday.

The Cross River State Government extended its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, the people of Adamawa State, and the entire nation.

"We pray that God grants his soul eternal rest, and gives his loved ones the strength to bear this great loss," the statement concluded. "Cross River will remember him not just for what he built, but for the warmth, wisdom, and dignity with which he lived," it added.

# Gov Otu Mourns Commissioner Eka Williams, Says His Death Irreparable

By Daniel Bebia



**C**ross River State Governor, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, has expressed profound grief over the death of the Commissioner for Power and Renewable Energy, Prince Eka Williams, describing his passing as an

“irreparable loss” to the Government and people of the state.

Prince Williams reportedly passed away on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at a hospital in Abuja, throwing the Cross River political and administrative establishment into

mourning.

Until his appointment as Commissioner, he had served as Deputy Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Cross River State and was widely regarded as a committed political associate and



public servant.

Reacting to the development, Governor Otu, in a statement released by His Chief Press Secretary and Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mr Linus Obogo, described the death as “a dark shadow of grief” over Cross River State, lamenting that the circumstances of Prince Williams’ departure had made the loss particularly painful.

He said, “His passing, so sudden and poignant, is a painful reminder of the fragility of life and the solemnity of public service.”

The Governor noted that Prince Williams’ death was especially devastating because he had participated in the Ikom New Yam Festival barely a week earlier, when the Governor visited his Ikom country home to celebrate the cherished cultural

festival. Otu said his final public engagement in such an atmosphere of cultural fellowship made his sudden departure “particularly depressing and heartbreaking.”

According to the Governor, Prince Williams brought “uncommon loyalty, courage and fidelity” to every assignment entrusted to him, first as a political leader and

subsequently as a member of the State Executive Council. He said his tenure as Commissioner for Power and Renewable Energy reflected "the dedication, forthrightness and abiding commitment" with which the deceased approached public service.

Otu further recalled Prince Williams' leadership of the Forum of Commissioners for Power and Energy in Nigeria, saying his contributions to the power sector extended beyond Cross River. He described him as "a purposeful public servant" whose stewardship of the power portfolio was

marked by a determination to contribute meaningfully to the development of the state and the country.

"Prince Eka will be remembered for his dedication, forthrightness and abiding commitment to Cross River," the Governor said, adding: "As a valued member of my administration and a brother in service, his footprints in governance, politics and public service will endure." He extended his condolences to the deceased's family, the Akparabong community, the people of Ikom, his political associates and professional colleagues.

Governor Otu prayed that

Almighty God would grant the family and all who mourn the fortitude to bear the loss, while asking God to receive the soul of Prince Eka Williams in eternal peace. "May Almighty God grant us fortitude, receive his soul in eternal peace, and comfort all who mourn this irreparable loss," he said, describing the late Commissioner as a patriot whose memory would remain indelibly etched in the story of Cross River's public service.

# Cross River Govt Deepens Education Reforms, Introduces Student ID Number

By Patricia Oqbeche



**T**he 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



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**T**he 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



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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.



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

By Kingsley Agim



**T**he 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

**T**he 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.



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Carnival Commission in Conjunction with  
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# CARNIVAL FITNESS JAM

*Theme:*

Rethinking Our  
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**Mary Slessor Adjudication Point**  
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# Bekwarra Nation Honours Iyala with 'Ohe Eni Unyuo 1' Chieftaincy Title

By Kingsley Agim



**T**he 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.





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

By Obaseoyi Bassey



**I**n 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.

# 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.



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OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE  
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# 2027: Ayuk, Ndum Get Confidence Vote as Etung APC Stakeholders Close Ranks

By Kingsley Agim



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

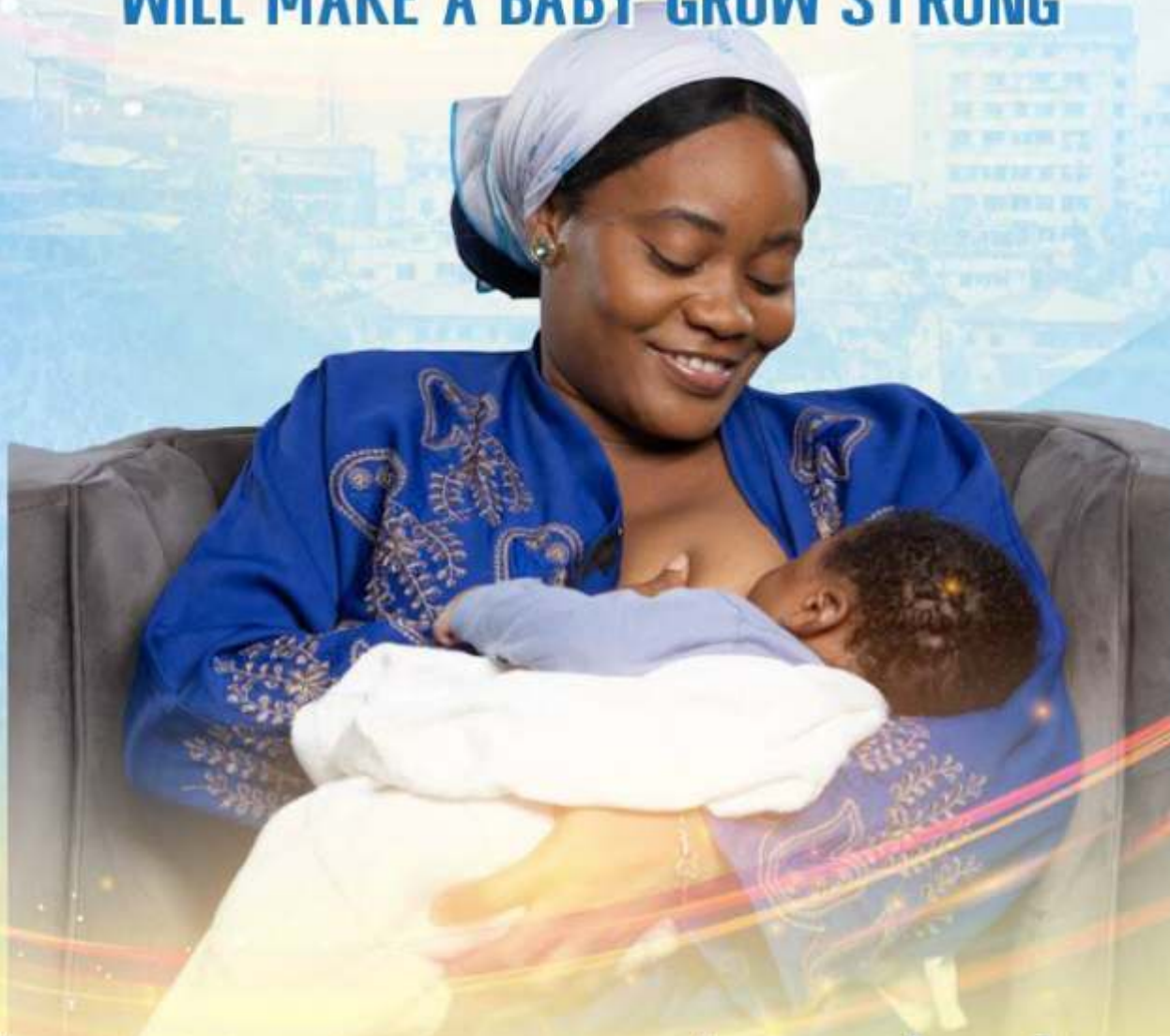


LET'S GROW STRONGER  
**TOGETHER**

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**

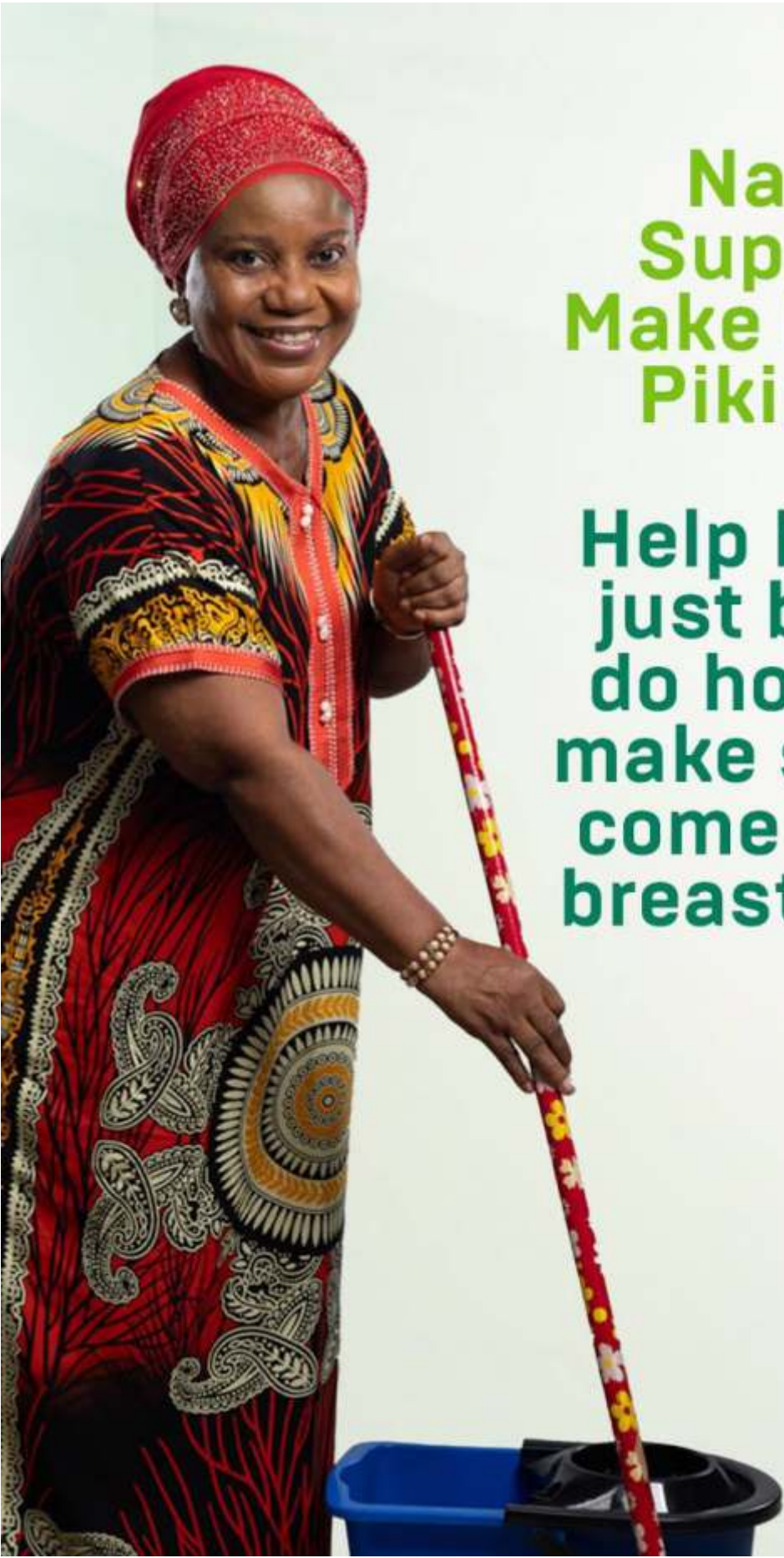
unicef  
for every child

# 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



**Be a part of this experience  
to shape the future of our industry.**

Proudly supported by



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WITH INDUSTRY  
LEADERS**



**LEARN  
THROUGH EXPERT  
SESSIONS**

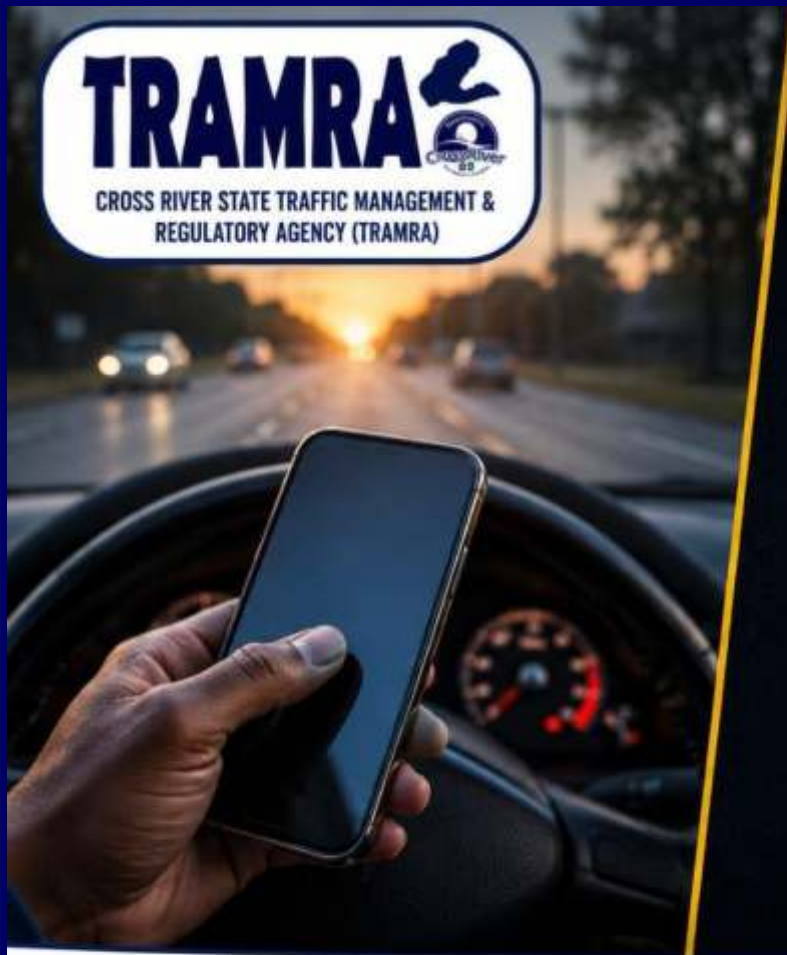


**COLLABORATE  
AND BUILD  
PARTNERSHIPS**



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

**| 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

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026

## PRESS RELEASE

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

Further to the Press Release dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

Cross River Geographic  
Information Agency



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



**THEME**  
Rethinking  
OUR COLLECTIVE  
Destiny

Kingsley Agim, anipr

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

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

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

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

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



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

## 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](http://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](http://www.pgf.ng)

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

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

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

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

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Ministry of Information  
Cross River State

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**Call Customer Care:**

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





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

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

# NATIONWIDE CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (CVR)



## Register to Vote

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

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

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



**New Voters 18+**

**Collect or Transfer your PVC**

**Replace your lost or  
damaged PVC**

**No Multiple Registration**



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

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

**0700-CALL-INEC (0700-2255-4632)**

**INEC Short Code: 4632**  
**09050858629, 09050858675,**  
**09050858649**

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

📱📺📷 @inecnigeria

**Avoid  
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills  
But Kills.**

**Always obey  
speed limits**

**— FRSC —**

**CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND**