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Daily InfoNews...

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

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CROSS RIVER STATE

VISION STATEMENT

To become a leading Nigerian State with prosperous, healthy and well educated citizens; living in harmony with people and nature, and pursuing legitimate interest in freedom moderated by good governance.

MINISTERIAL MANDATE

To project and protect the image of Government and act as Chief Image Maker/Spokesman for the State as well as supervision of the State Media Organisation.

VISION

To be the best organ of the State for the promotion of positive values, its image and overall endowment to Cross Riverians, Nigerians and the Diaspora.

Mission

To utilize in harmony all apparatus of government media to effectively disseminate information, educate and entertain the public, using the electronic, print media and interpersonal communication channels.

Otu Tasks Evidence Group, Youths to Mobilise 4m Votes for Tinubu

By Daniel Bebia and Kingsley Agim



Cross River State Governor, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, has charged the Evidence Group and youths across the state to mobilise support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu ahead of the 2027 general elections, setting a target of four million votes for the President.

Governor Otu said achieving the target would strengthen Cross River's bargaining power at the national level and enhance the state's capacity to negotiate more effectively for its interests.

The Governor gave the charge on Saturday while addressing

members and supporters of the Evidence Group, a youth-focused movement established to deepen youth engagement, civic participation and showcase the achievements of his administration. Represented by the Deputy Speaker of the Cross River State House of



Assembly, Hon. Sylvester Agabi, Otu commended the Convener for establishing a platform that places young people at the centre of political participation and governance.

By David Asu

"It is time for the youth. That is why we are putting the youths first," the Governor said, urging the participants to mobilise support

for President Tinubu across the state. "We must produce four million votes for the President in the state so that we can have proper negotiating power at the national level," he added.

The Chief of Staff to the Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Ironbar, said the large turnout at the event was evidence of what he described as the positive impact of the

administration on the lives of residents.

"Evidence, in the first place, is evidence of good living and evidence of the performance of our Governor, as well as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria," Ironbar said.

Ironbar noted that participants had come from Calabar and other parts of





the state, adding that the exercise provided an opportunity for them to express their support for the Governor. He also described the event as an avenue to showcase the beauty of Calabar and some of the routes associated with the city's Carnival activities.

He said the

participation of youths, women, elders and people from different sections of society demonstrated growing interest in the movement, adding that the initiative was intended to build a stronger and sustained support base.

The Convener of the Evidence Group and Special Adviser

to the Governor, Comrade Edem Dominic Bassey, described the initiative as a platform designed to deepen youth engagement and participation in governance. He commended President Tinubu and Governor Otu for what he described as their achievements, saying the large turnout reflected



the level of support for both leaders.

The Director-General of the Evidence Group,

Bassey Henry Eyoma, said the movement was established to harness the energy of young people and channel it

towards productive engagement, civic participation and leadership. He stressed that the group was not created to







compete with or undermine existing organisations, but to provide a platform for young people to unite and contribute positively to society.

Eyoma said the Evidence Group would focus on showcasing projects and programmes of the Otu administration in education, healthcare, agriculture and infrastructure, stressing that its guiding philosophy was, "No Noise, Just Proof."

He also disclosed

that the group was working with the Cross River State Planning Commission on the development of what he described as the "Yellow Economy," aimed at exploring ways of converting the social media activities and digital engagement of young people into income-generating opportunities.

Eyoma warned that unemployed and disengaged youths could become vulnerable to social vices, stressing the need to create opportunities for meaningful

participation in governance and economic activities.

He added that young people were already playing important roles in the state administration, with youths occupying positions in the State Executive Council and increasingly participating in electoral politics, urging them to leverage such opportunities for constructive engagement and leadership.

Voice of God Not a Shrine: Info Commissioner Debunks Claims, ...Says Gov. Otu Worships a Living God

By Nakanda Iyadim



The Cross River State Commissioner for Information, Pastor Hon. Ekpenyong Ene Cobham, has dismissed claims in some quarters that the church is a shrine, insisting that Governor Bassey Edet Otu worships a living God.

Cobham spoke at the Federal Housing Estate branch of the Voice of God Mission Church in Calabar, where he worshipped with the congregation on Sunday.

Addressing the faithful as a



servant of the Most High God, a descendant of a bishop and a third-generation worshipper, he said he had come to respond to insinuations that the place of

worship was a shrine of the devil.

He said he felt the power of God upon entering the sanctuary and offered what he called evidence that the Governor

serves a living God.

He recalled the preacher's reference to the strong opposition the Governor faced during the governorship

race, saying God prevailed.

Offering some insights to what he described as the administration's achievements as proof of divine backing, Cobham said Cross River remained classified as a non-oil-producing State for almost 16 years and today under the Governor's three and a half years in office, the State has again been accredited as an oil-producing State.

He said the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) had earlier reported that the State was not oil-producing, and

therefore did not receive the 13 per cent derivation due to oil-producing States. He added that the report was set aside a few days ago.

Cobham also said gratuities and pensions went unpaid in the State for over 10 years, with some elderly people dying for lack of drugs costing as little as ₦5,000. He said the Governor is now paying gratuities.

Speaking to journalists after the service, Commissioner Cobham said he was moved by curiosity to verify claims he had seen on social media. "I am not a very emotional person, so I like to do my work thoroughly," he said.

He said he had previously visited the church for events but attended this time purely for worship, and was deeply moved by the sermon.

He said what he witnessed was completely at odds with accusations being circulated by an individual against the State's leadership. He described the atmosphere as one wholly dedicated to the worship of the living God and said he was proud to have been part of the service.

Cobham urged Cross Riverians to be mindful of what he called the level of desperation in the

polity. He said the opposition's claims lacked substance and fact.

He said the Governor's achievements in a short time had changed the State's status and there was no need to look back. "There is no alternative," he said, calling on the people to consolidate the gains so far and strengthen the Governor's hands to do more.

In her sermon titled "Living A Victorious Life," Pastor Odo Bassey, drawing her text from Genesis 1:26-29, said living a victorious life entails overcoming sin, self and daily

challenges, and living a life led by the Holy Spirit. She added that to succeed, one must have faith in God.

She recalled the ordeal Governor Otu faced during the electioneering period, with so much opposition and said the God of Voice of God gave him victory to the shame of all those who openly fought his ambition.

Attesting to God's mercy upon all who diligently serve Him, the pastor said, "Today, our first family has received so much benefit because they genuinely serve God. We can attest to all that God has used the Governor to achieve for our dear State."

She admonished Christians to shun all works of the flesh, which she noted have overwhelmed many faithful who now turn to idol worship, put their hope in man and live self-centred lives, adding that God, whom they must serve wholeheartedly, remains the only way to salvation.

The service featured spirit-filled high praise, testimonies and elevated choir ministration.

NACA Strengthens HIV Response with Human Rights, Gender Training in C'River

By Asari Eso



The National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) has strengthened the capacity of stakeholders in Cross River State on human rights, gender, legal literacy and protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, as part of efforts to improve the state's HIV response.

The week-long training, held last week at the Marian Hotel Conference Hall, Calabar, brought together the Cross River State Agency for the Control of AIDS (CR-SACA), implementing and development partners, government institutions, law enforcement agencies, human rights actors, community representatives and

other stakeholders in the HIV response.

Declaring the training open, the Director-General of CR-SACA, Dr Charles Iwara, stressed the need for stronger collaboration among stakeholders in addressing issues affecting vulnerable populations.

Iwara said the



Human Rights and Gender Response Team is an important part of the HIV response, as it provides an opportunity for stakeholders to assess their activities, identify gaps and improve their interventions.

He urged participants to take

the training seriously and apply the knowledge gained in their various areas of work, particularly in reaching and supporting vulnerable populations.

The Director-General also reaffirmed CR-SACA's commitment to continued

collaboration with implementing partners, development partners and community networks towards strengthening HIV interventions in Cross River State.

In her welcome address, Mrs Favour Iyamu of NACA said the



training was designed to help stakeholders assess their interventions from gender and human-rights perspectives.

She explained that the engagement would enable participants to identify gaps in their programmes and strengthen their approaches to addressing the needs of

vulnerable populations.

Also speaking, Human Rights Director, Remijus Ajuga, said participants were introduced to gender and human-rights self-assessment tools to enable them to assess how effectively their organisations respond to issues affecting vulnerable groups.

Ajuga identified discrimination, victimisation and harassment among the human-rights concerns requiring deliberate attention, noting that the knowledge gained from the training would help strengthen stakeholders' response to such issues.

The training,



facilitated by Emeka Nwafor of NACA, featured sessions on Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH), access to justice, legal literacy, gender, discrimination and non-discriminatory healthcare services. Participants examined different forms of

discrimination, including gender, HIV-related, religious, disability, ethnic and age discrimination, as well as direct, indirect, systemic or institutional and multiple discrimination. The sessions also focused on barriers faced by vulnerable populations in accessing justice and healthcare

services, particularly those seeking HIV, tuberculosis and malaria services. On legal literacy, participants discussed the importance of knowing their rights, understanding relevant laws and knowing where to seek redress when their rights are violated. The training also emphasised the responsibility of institutions to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment and to provide safe environments for people accessing their programmes and services. Speaking on behalf of the Nigeria Police Force, Maurice Bisong stressed the responsibility



of the police to protect the rights of citizens and respond to complaints irrespective of the status of the complainant. He said the training had provided additional knowledge that would help strengthen the discharge of responsibilities by stakeholders, particularly in responding to human-rights concerns. Other stakeholders who contributed to the

training included Shanaan Abdullahi of the Muslim Community, Rose Anyafulu of CCRN, Nepwhan Umoh Essien, Edmond Cishan and Arikpo of the TB Network, Ministry of Health. They emphasised the need for continued collaboration among stakeholders in addressing human-rights and gender-related challenges affecting vulnerable populations. The five-day training provided stakeholders with an opportunity to

examine existing interventions, identify gaps and strengthen their understanding of human rights, gender and legal literacy within the HIV response. The engagement ended with a call for stakeholders to put the knowledge and tools acquired into practice and strengthen the integration of human rights and gender considerations into HIV interventions across Cross River State.

Hope Rises for C'River as RMAFC Reopens Oil Wells Probe, Dumps Old Report



Cross River State's long-standing campaign for recognition as an oil-producing state has received a fresh lifeline as the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) moves to reopen the verification of disputed and newly drilled oil and gas wells, effectively setting

aside its previous draft report. The Commission on Wednesday inaugurated a reconstituted Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC) to verify wells drilled from 2017 to date, following widespread claims, counterclaims and grievances over the earlier draft. The renewed exercise aims to establish the precise coordinates of disputed wells, plot

them on approved official maps, and definitively settle their locations and boundaries for proper revenue allocation. In a statement issued in Abuja, RMAFC Chairman, Dr. Mohammed Bello Shehu, said the exercise aligns with the Commission's constitutional mandate to monitor the Federation

Account, which is vital for the equitable distribution of the 13 percent derivation fund. He directed the committee to carefully weigh relevant court judgments, rely strictly on approved maps and conduct physical field verifications where necessary. To safeguard the credibility of the process, RMAFC has established a two-tier structure comprising technical experts and an executive committee. Crucially, the Surveyors-General of affected states and representatives of the Senate Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) will

participate as observers. Also speaking, RMAFC Secretary, Tosin Adeyanju, reminded members that the renewed exercise will face heightened scrutiny, drawing critical lessons from previous exercises. For Cross River State, this development breathes new life into a grievance pursued for years. A February report by the IATC had indicated the verification of 119 crude oil and gas wells for the state, alongside a recommendation for a refund of revenue arrears from neighbouring Akwa Ibom State. However, RMAFC later classified that document as a mere draft, forwarding it to the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory

Commission (NUPRC), the National Boundary Commission and the Office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation for comprehensive review. Governor Bassey Otu has consistently framed the struggle as a fight for economic justice deeply rooted in the fallout of the Bakassi Peninsula cession. Experts believe that with State Surveyors-General now engaged as observers and physical field verifications back on the table, Cross River State has a renewed opportunity to present its geological and hydrographic evidence for formal acceptance.



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Mega Walk: Youth's Clear Endorsement of Gov. Otu — Evidence Group

By Nakanda Iyadim



Organisers of the Evidence Group mega solidarity walk have described Saturday's massive youth turnout in Calabar as a clear endorsement of Governor Prince Bassey Edet Otu's people-centred administration.

They described the rally as an unprecedented and overwhelming show of solidarity in recent times.

Thanking young people across the State for flooding the major streets of Calabar, the group said the walk was a total declaration of

support for an administration whose performance, it noted, is visible across all sectors.

The organisers said the procession was a definitive statement of youth participation, citing the tangible developments of

the "Season of Sweetness" under the Governor's leadership.

In an appreciation message issued by Andrea Ekeng Inyang, Director of Media and Publicity, the group noted that while addressing the mammoth crowd, its leader, Edem Bassey, stressed that the event was more than a traditional street procession, but a dynamic platform for young people to affirm progress in governance.

The organisers captured the spirit of the day thus: "Una come out.

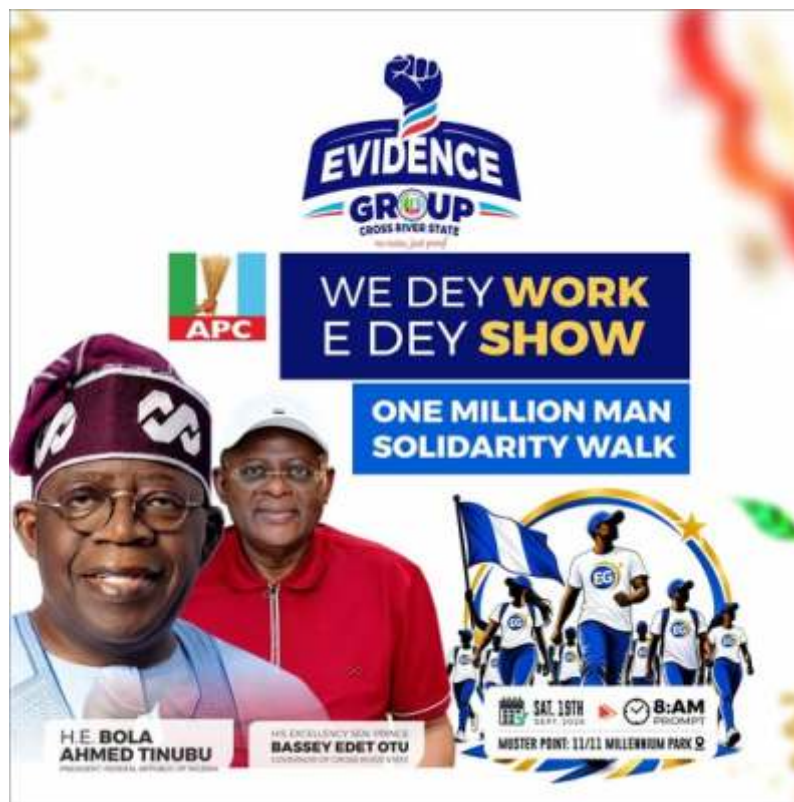
Una walk. Una show say young people get voice. We dey work, e dey show!"

"Today's solidarity walk was more than a procession. It was a peaceful

eagerness of youths to contribute actively to the conversation on the state's socio-economic direction. It added that the peaceful conduct of the walk drew warm praise from political and security stakeholders

The organisers thanked the state leadership for ensuring a secure and welcoming atmosphere throughout the walk.

"We sincerely appreciate His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, for providing an enabling environment for



expression of youth participation and an affirmation of the evidence of the Season of Sweetness," the statement added.

According to the group, the turnout showed the

young people to gather, express themselves peacefully and return safely to their various homes," the group stated.

They also thanked Rt. Hon. Christopher Etta, State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), for his unwavering support and encouragement, and Hon. Dr. Emmanuel Ironbar, Chief of Staff to the Governor, for his backing.

Hon. Sylvester Agabi, Deputy Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, was also acknowledged, alongside senior government functionaries and security personnel.

The orderly and peaceful execution of the walk was credited to cross-sector collaboration involving law enforcement, traffic management, volunteers, coordinators and media practitioners.

"The sentiment of the youth was distilled into a rallying cry: 'You did not just talk about the message. You showed it. WE DEY WORK. E DEY SHOW. THE EVIDENCE DEY SHOW!'

"The early hours of Saturday saw the streets of Calabar pulsate with energy and chants of solidarity as thousands of young people took part in the procession, which passed through major streets of the city in

an impressive display of civic engagement.

As the dust settled on a historic day of civic expression, the Evidence Group reaffirmed its commitment to serving as a catalyst for youth involvement, transparent communication and continuous development across Cross River State.



GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

September 17th, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

CROSS RIVER COMMENCES STATEWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF IMPROVED COWPEA SEEDS

The Cross River State Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development will commence the statewide distribution of improved SAMPEA 20-T PBR cowpea seeds, developed by the Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR), to interested farmers from Monday, September 21, 2026.

SAMPEA 20-T is an improved cowpea variety developed through agricultural research, with high genetic purity and resistance to the major pod-borer pest, *Maruca vitrata*. The variety is known for early maturity, improved yield performance and reduced dependence on insecticide applications compared with susceptible conventional varieties.

The intervention is aimed at increasing cowpea production, strengthening food security and improving access to nutritious food, particularly for women and children, while enhancing farmers' productivity and livelihoods.

Distribution will be carried out in collaboration with the State Chapters of the Cowpea Farmers Association and Women in Agriculture (WIA).

Interested farmers are required to proceed to their respective Local Government Councils for documentation and collection of the improved seeds.

Farmers are advised to adhere strictly to the designated collection arrangements. The seeds are solely for planting purposes and are not for human consumption.

For further enquiries:

Director, Agricultural Services: 08038878637, Agro-Pocket Desk Officer: 07089279620

Hon. Johnson Andiambey Ebokpo, KSM
Commissioner



C'River Re-aligns Economic Recovery Around Agriculture — Information Commissioner

By Jeno Richard Odu



The Cross River State Government is set to re-align its economic recovery strategy around agriculture, while strengthening information outreach to ensure that citizens have access to emerging opportunities in



the sector.

The Commissioner for Information, Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham, stated this when he received

the Chairman of the Cross River State Agricultural and Loan Board, Mr Tony Ikpeme, in his office in Calabar.



Pastor Cobham said Governor Senator Prince Bassey Otu was determined to restore Cross River's position as a major agricultural hub, noting that a revitalised agricultural sector would boost the local economy and help transition the state from "a disconnected

economic system to a cohesive system for economic recovery."

The Commissioner commended the Governor for establishing the Agricultural and Loan Board, describing it as an important intervention capable of empowering Cross Riverians, particularly indigenous entrepreneurs and

farmers, to become stronger participants in the international and export market.

He observed that Cross Riverians had yet to fully maximise opportunities in the international and export sectors, largely due to challenges associated with access to credit facilities,

expressing optimism that the Board's interventions would help bridge the financing gap and change the narrative.

Pastor Cobham pledged the Ministry's commitment to providing the necessary communication support to publicise the innovative opportunities available through the Board and ensure that information reaches the people who need it most.

He added that effective utilisation of such opportunities would contribute to building "a functional economy that is not dependent on

Federal Allocation (FAAC)," while strengthening the productive capacity of citizens and the state.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Cross River State Agricultural and Loan Board, Mr Tony Ikpeme, said the Board was established to improve livelihoods through agricultural transformation and create an enabling environment for farmers and agribusinesses to thrive.

Ikpeme said the Board's vision was to develop an agricultural hub capable of enhancing food security, promoting price stability and expanding Cross River's export capacity, while addressing financing challenges

confronting both small- and large-scale farmers.

He called for a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Information to disseminate information on the Board's agricultural roadmaps, grants, loans and other opportunities to farmers and prospective beneficiaries across the state.

The Chairman further disclosed that the Board was promoting the Cross River State Farmers Data Management System to digitalise farmers' registration, stressing that registration on the platform had become mandatory for individuals seeking



access to agricultural grants, loans or guarantees.

According to him, the system would provide accurate data on land

hectarage, crop types and GPS locations, thereby improving planning, monitoring and efficiency in the agricultural sector, while requesting the Ministry's support in

helping citizens navigate the digital platform through sustained public information and awareness campaigns.

Ishibori Leaders Insist Ogoja Nursing College Remains Government Institution

By Kingsley Agim



Traditional rulers and community leaders of Ishibori Community in Ogoja have unanimously declared that the Monaya campus of College of Nursing Sciences, Ogoja, should

remain a government institution as directed by government at its Monaya reaffirming their support for the institution and its continued operations in the community.

The position was made known, Friday, during a stakeholders' engagement between the community leadership and the Cross River State Commissioner for Health, Elder Dr



Henry Egbe Ayuk, who met with the chiefs and leaders to address concerns arising from a reported proposal by the Catholic Diocese of Ogoja to take over the Monaya campus of the College.

Leading the community delegation, the

Ntol of Ishibori Community, Ntol Mgbeje Ama III, said the traditional institution and people of Ishibori were united in their resolve to retain the College as a government institution as it is currently is in the community and ensure that it continues to serve its educational

purpose.

Ntol Ama III said the community would formally communicate its position to both the Catholic Church and the Cross River State Government, stressing the importance of resolving the matter through dialogue and



established channels.

Other prominent community leaders, including Ntol Clement Ashaba, Ntol of Ndok Clan; Chief Sir Thomas Ngaji Ntaji; and Chief Ada Ita Akuku, also spoke in support of the continued presence of the

College in Ishibori, reinforcing the community's unanimous position.

Speaking to the gathering, Dr Ayuk explained that the establishment of the College of Nursing Sciences, Ogoja, was part of the State Government's deliberate policy to

strengthen the health workforce by expanding opportunities for professional training and producing more qualified healthcare personnel for Cross River.

The Commissioner emphasised that the people of



Ishibori, as landlords of the College, remained critical partners in the government's efforts to develop and sustain the institution, noting that their cooperation was essential to achieving the broader objective of improving healthcare delivery across

the state.

Dr Ayuk also clarified that he was not aware of any proposal by any group or organisation seeking to establish or take over a college of nursing, assuring the community that the government remained focused

on strengthening existing health training institutions and expanding the state's human-resource capacity in healthcare. He further said that any organization seeking to own or take over any institution must follow due process as determined by



government

The engagement provided an opportunity for the Commissioner to directly interface with the traditional institution and community leadership, listen to their concerns

and provide clarification on the issues surrounding the reported proposal.

The community leaders, in turn, reaffirmed their willingness to engage relevant authorities and stakeholders

peacefully, while pursuing appropriate channels to communicate their position and protect the continued presence and operation of the College in Ishibori.



GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE OF NIGERIA
CROSS RIVER STATE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

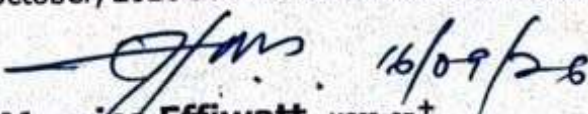
JOBS APPLICATION ADVERTISEMENT

Following the approval of His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, the Executive Governor of Cross River State, for the employment of eligible Medical Officers into the Civil Service, the Commission is hereby Calling for applications from suitable qualified candidates who are between the ages of 18 and 45 years to fill the underlisted vacant posts.

S/NO	POSTION	QUALIFICATION
1.	Medical Officer	MBBCH 1-4 Years of Practice
2.	Senior Medical Officer II	MBBCH 5-9 Years of Practice
3.	Senior Medical Officer I	MBBCH 10-15 Years of Practice
4.	Principal Medical Officer (Consultant) II	Postgraduate fellowship 1-4 years of Practice
5.	Principal Medical Officer I (Consultant)	Postgraduate fellowship 5 Years and above of Practice

METHOD OF APPLICATION

1. Application should be made online (FREE) at the Commissions dedicated website (<https://portal.crscsc.crossriverstate.gov.ng>).upload the following documents using PDF format.
 - a. Highest academic certificate
 - b. Certificate of Local Government Origin
 - c. Birth Certificate/Age declaration
 - d. NYSC discharge/Exemption/Exclusion Certificate-where applicable.
2. All Certificates must be obtained from Government recognized institutions and uploaded from originals.
3. Applications are required to print out a hard copy of the submitted application form.
4. All shortlisted applicants will be notified via Email or WhatsApp and on the Cross River Civil Service Commission website (<https://crscsc.crossriverstate.gov.ng>) between 2nd October, 2026 to 5th October, 2026.
5. The application portal opens on Friday, 18th September, 2026 and closes Friday 25th September, 2026.
6. Shortlisted applicants will attend oral interview on physical appearance between Monday 5th October to 9th October, 2026 at the Commission's conference room, Calabar.


Sir Maurice Effiwatt, KSJI JP⁺
Chairman





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

September 16, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

**CONSTITUTION OF JUDICIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO
UGEP-IDOMI COMMUNAL CLASH**

His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, has approved the constitution of a Judicial Commission of Inquiry on the Ugep-Idomi Communal Clash

2. The Commission is made up of the following:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| i) Hon. Justice Obojor Ogar (Rtd) | - | Chairman |
| ii) Peter Bassey Esq | - | Member |
| iii) Takon Takon Esq | - | Member |
| iv) Justina Ogban Esq. | - | Counsel/Secretary |

3. The Terms of Reference of the Commission are as follows:

- To ascertain the immediate and remote causes of the communal clash between Ugep and Idomi communities;
- To determine the extent of loss of lives, destruction of property and displacement of persons;
- To identify persons, groups or institutions directly or indirectly responsible for the crisis;
- To recommend appropriate measures to forestall future occurrence and ensure lasting peace between the two communities; and
- To make any other recommendations that will be useful to Government in achieving peace, reconciliation and development in the affected areas.

4. The Commission is given three (3) weeks from the date of its inauguration to submit its report.

5. The Government of Cross River State calls on all stakeholders, particularly the people of Ugep and Idomi, to give the Commission maximum cooperation as Government is committed to ensuring justice and sustainable peace.

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



NIPR Commends Ekpang, Applauds Transformation at Lands Ministry

By Affiong Ndem



The Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Cross River State Chapter, has commended the Commissioner for Lands, Dr Erasmus Ekpang, for his contributions to the transformation of the Ministry of Lands, describing his professional experience as an asset to effective land administration

and public service.

The State Chairman of NIPR, Pastor Augustine Mboso, stated this recently when he led members of the Institute on a courtesy visit to the Commissioner, congratulating him on his appointment and commending his commitment to the development of the ministry.

Mboso described Ekpang as a distinguished member of NIPR whose professional experience and commitment to public service had continued to make the Institute proud. He said, "We are here to congratulate you on your appointment and also to appreciate the support you have continued to



give to NIPR and its members.”

The NIPR chairman commended the transformation taking place in the Ministry of Lands, noting that Ekpang’s background in public relations and his previous service as Commissioner for Information had positioned him to bring valuable communication

and leadership expertise to the land administration sector.

He recalled the Commissioner’s contributions while serving in the Ministry of Information and expressed optimism that his wealth of experience would continue to translate into positive developments in the Lands Ministry. He also disclosed the Institute’s plan to

participate in the forthcoming World Public Relations Forum in Abuja.

Mboso described the forum as a major international gathering of public relations practitioners and appealed to the Commissioner to sustain his support for the Institute, while encouraging relevant officers in the Ministry of Lands to join NIPR and embrace professional



communication.

Responding, Dr Ekpang thanked the NIPR delegation for the visit, describing the Institute as an important part of his professional journey. He said, "NIPR has contributed immensely to my professional development. My years in the Ministry of Information exposed me to the

importance of communication, confidence and effective engagement with the media and the public."

The Commissioner said his experience with NIPR had significantly strengthened his communication skills and prepared him for the demands of public service, adding that the lessons acquired over the years remained relevant

to his current assignment as Commissioner for Lands.

According to him, "Public relations is not only about talking to the media; it is about understanding people, communicating government policies effectively and building confidence among stakeholders. That experience remains very useful in my



present responsibility.”

Ekpong emphasised the importance of professionalism, teamwork and continuous capacity building among public servants, urging staff of the Ministry of Lands to uphold the

standards expected of them and work collectively towards achieving the objectives of government.

He expressed appreciation to the Cross River State Government for the confidence reposed in him and pledged to continue contributing his

quota to the development of the state, stressing that effective communication would remain central to the successful implementation of government policies and programmes.



Bakassi International Fish Festival



YEARS OF IMPACT 2022-2026

THEME: **GATEWAY TO THE GULF OF GUINEA**
ADVANCING THE BLUE ECONOMY, FOOD SECURITY AND COASTAL PROSPERITY

NOVEMBER 24–25, 2026 **10:00 AM DAILY**

GRAND FINALE — NOVEMBER 25

**IKANG TOWN, BAKASSI LGA,
CROSS RIVER STATE**

Bakassi is a living coastal economy. A fishing hub where fisherfolk, women processors, traders, young people and businesses depend on the resources of the Gulf of Guinea. It is also a meeting point for diverse communities with varying culture and traditions but connected by fishing, seafood trade and coastal livelihoods.

BIFF brings them together.
For five years, we have used culture as the entry point.
Now we are building the economic platform behind it.

FROM FESTIVAL TO PLATFORM

CULTURE

Celebrating the heritage and identity of coastal communities.

FISHERIES

Strengthening the people and businesses within the fisheries value chain.

FOOD SECURITY

Supporting the systems that move seafood from our waters to Nigerian tables.

BLUE ECONOMY

Opening conversations around sustainable coastal enterprise, investment and innovation.

PEACE & REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Using commerce and culture to bring diverse communities together.

This is 5th Edition

4 editions delivered

5 years of community engagement

Thousands reached through festival activities and media

10+ cultural communities represented/connected through the festival ecosystem

WE ARE NO LONGER ASKING WHETHER BIFF CAN SURVIVE.
WE ARE BUILDING WHAT IT CAN BECOME.



THE PARTNERSHIP

WE ARE INVITING YOU TO BE PART OF THE NEXT CHAPTER.

BIFF 2026 WILL BRING TOGETHER

FISHERFOLK | WOMEN | YOUTH | GOVERNMENT | BUSINESS | INVESTORS
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS | MEDIA | COMMUNITY LEADERS

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

THE STAGE

A platform for home-grown artists, traditional performances, entertainment and the creative economy.

THE SEAFOOD EXPERIENCE

A celebration of Bakassi seafood, connecting visitors directly with the food, people and businesses behind the catch.

THE VISIBILITY PLATFORM

Media, storytelling, documentary, digital content and national visibility for Bakassi, partners and participating brands.

THE ENTERPRISE & FUNDING PLATFORM

Connecting coastal entrepreneurs, women, youth, businesses, financial institutions, investors and development partners.

THE BIG MOMENT

THE GREAT FISHERMAN'S POT

A signature community seafood experience designed to attract attention, create participation and put Bakassi's fishing culture on a national stage.

WHY PARTNER WITH BIFF?

Your organisation can:

REACH: Thousands of consumers, community members and visitors.

ENGAGE: Directly with coastal communities and grassroots economic actors.

ACTIVATE: Products and services through physical experiences at the Festival.

BUILD: Relationships with government, communities and emerging enterprises.

LEAD: Conversations around food security and the Blue Economy.

CREATE LEGACY: Support initiatives that remain relevant beyond the two-day event.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

PARTNER | SPONSOR | EXHIBIT | ACTIVATE | INVEST | JOIN



GATEWAY TO THE GULF OF GUINEA

ADVANCING THE BLUE ECONOMY,
FOOD SECURITY AND COASTAL PROSPERITY

Ikang Town, Bakassi LGA,
Cross River State
November 24–25, 2026

10:00 AM Daily
Grand Finale — November 25

BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT.

Frank Edima
Founder, Bakassi International Fish Festival
+2347083357636

bakassifishfestival@gmail.com // [@bakassifishfestival](https://www.instagram.com/bakassifishfestival)



CARNIVAL CALABAR 2026

ESSAY & CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

THURSDAY
**10TH
SEPT.**
2026

RELEASE OF FORMS

FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS &
TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

ENQUIRIES

JAMES BULEM - 08035150378

PROF. EYO MENSAH - 08037161192

EXAMINATION CENTERS

CALABAR • AKAMKPA • UGEP • IKOM • OGOJA • OBUDU



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



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE
CROSS RIVER STATE

PUBLIC NOTICE

OFFICIAL ENQUIRY PHONE LINE
NOW AVAILABLE

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



OFFICIAL PHONE NUMBER:

0814 121 0691



THIS LINE IS DEDICATED TO:



General enquiries



Personnel Audit Verification support



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



Official feedback and complaints



SERVICE HOURS:



**MONDAY TO
SATURDAY**



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



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



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE
CROSS RIVER STATE

Committed to Service Excellence.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



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

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



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



TRANSPARENCY



ACCOUNTABILITY



DEMOCRACY



INEC ANNOUNCES 2027 CAMPAIGN TIMETABLE

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

KEY CAMPAIGN DATES



PRESIDENTIAL & NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



Campaign opens
19 August 2026



Campaign closes
15 January 2027



Election day
16 January 2027



GOVERNORSHIP & STATE ASSEMBLY



Campaign opens
9 September 2026



Campaign closes
5 February 2027



Election day
6 February 2027



WHAT THE ELECTORAL ACT REQUIRES

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



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





Federal Ministry of
Health & Social Welfare
Federal Republic of Nigeria

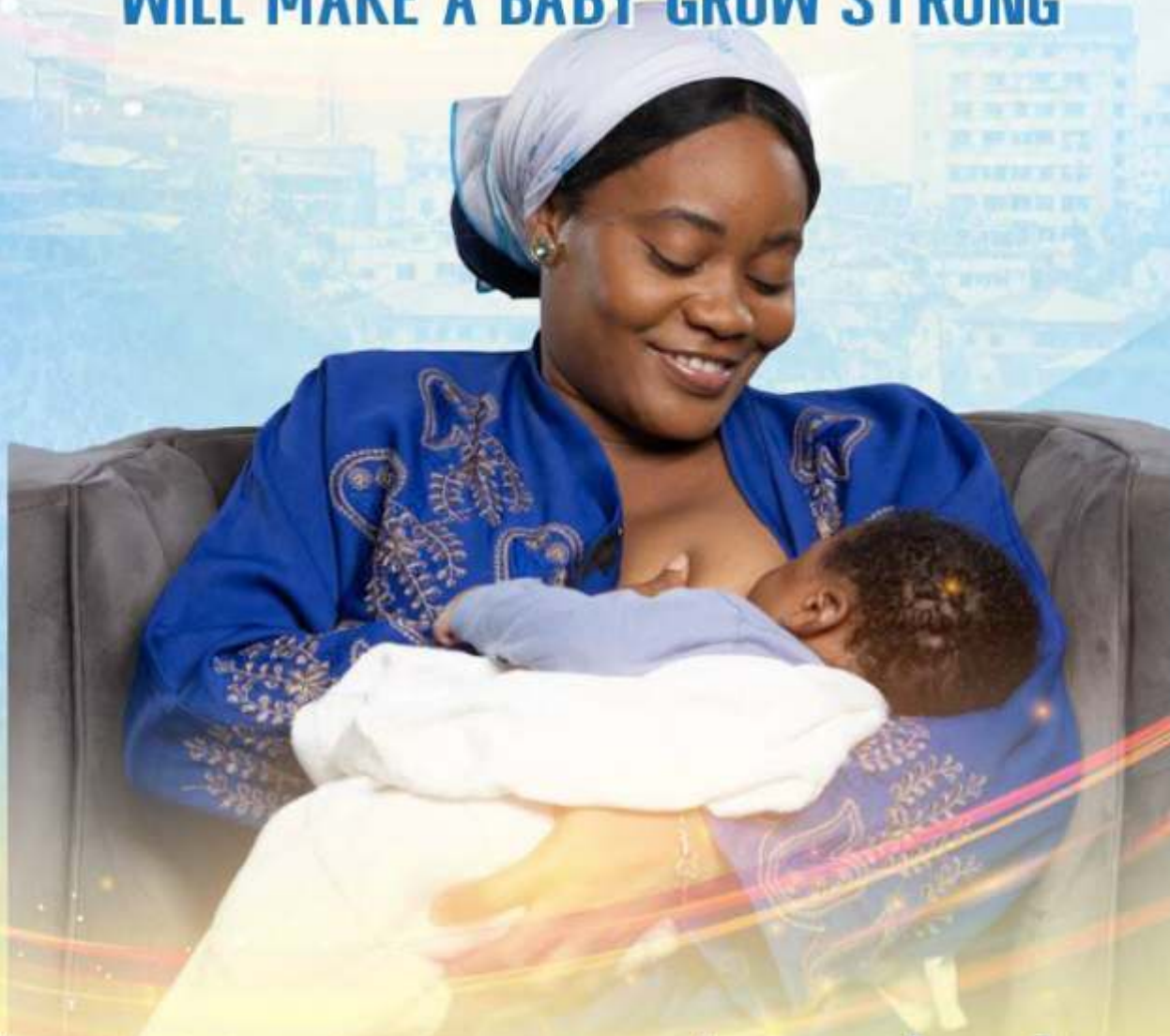


LET'S GROW STRONGER
TOGETHER

unicef
for every child

ONLY BREASTMILK FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS

WILL MAKE A BABY GROW STRONG



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

EVERY GREAT STORY NEEDS A STRONG BEGINNING



Federal Ministry of
Health & Social Welfare
Federal Republic of Nigeria



LET'S GROW STRONGER
TOGETHER

unicef
for every child

FIRST HOUR BREASTFEEDING IS A MUST!



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

EVERY GREAT STORY NEEDS A STRONG BEGINNING

A woman with a warm smile, wearing a red headwrap and a vibrant, patterned dress in red, yellow, and black. She is holding a long, red stick with yellow and white floral patterns, which is positioned over a blue plastic bucket. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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

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



Federal Ministry of
Health & Social Welfare
Federal Republic of Nigeria



LET'S GROW STRONGER
TOGETHER

unicef
for every child

SIX MONTHS OF BREASTFEEDING IS POSSIBLE, Even With Work!



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

EVERY GREAT STORY NEEDS A STRONG BEGINNING

MAKE WE GROW STRONG TOGETHER

**E GO SOON REACH
YOUR SIDE**

**EVERY GREAT STORY
NEEDS A STRONG
BEGINNING**



THE CREATIVE DESIGNERS GUILD OF NIGERIA

IN COLLABORATION WITH
CALLYWOOD STUDIO

Host CDGN Annual Zonal Congress In Calabar



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

HON. ERIC ANDERSON
SPECIAL ADVISER TO
THE GOVERNOR ON CALLYWOOD

PST. MRS. AKINYEMI OSAWARU JOY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

EMMANUEL ASUQUO
CROSS RIVER STATE
CHAPTER CHAIRMAN

ANNUAL GENERAL CONGRESS **2026**

— SHAPING THE FUTURE OF DESIGN —



DATE:
23RD – 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2026



VENUE:
CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE



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

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THROUGH EXPERT
SESSIONS**

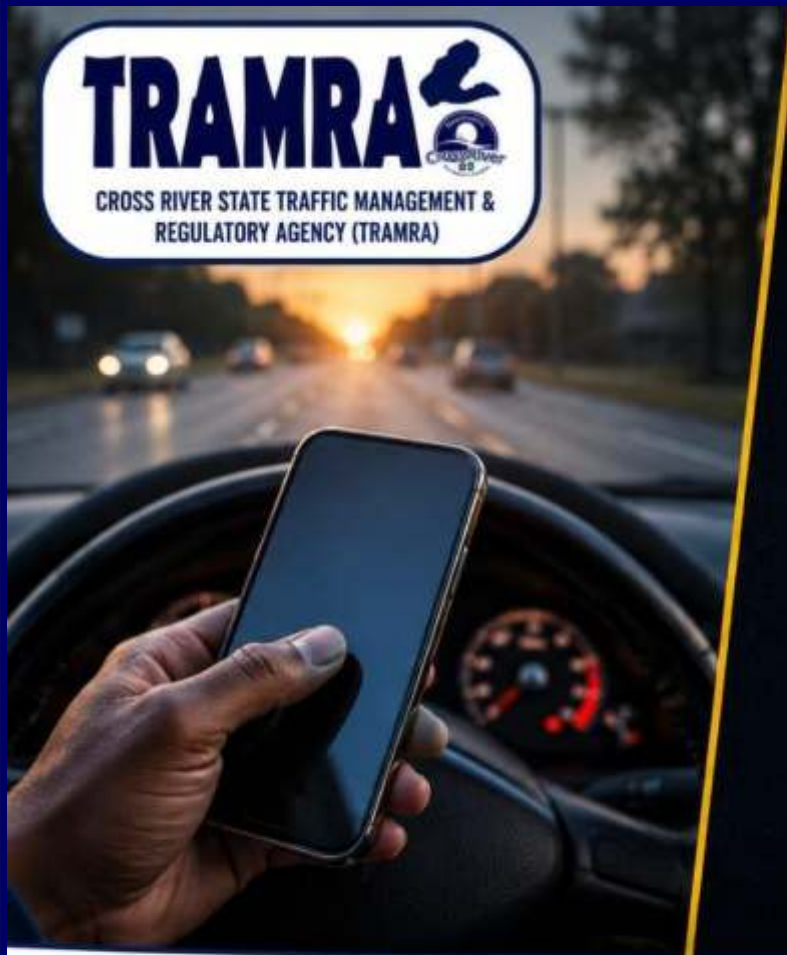


**COLLABORATE
AND BUILD
PARTNERSHIPS**



**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.**



REPORT TRAFFIC ISSUES
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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

23rd July 2026

PRESS RELEASE

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

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

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

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



Ededem Charles Ani, Esq

Attorney General & Commissioner for Justice



Office of the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice Cross River State



Ministry of Justice, New Secretariat Complex,
Murtala Mohammed Highway, Calabar



Attorneygeneral@crossriverstate.gov.ng

www.crossriverstate.gov.ng



PUBLIC ADVISORY



RAINY SEASON DRIVING STAY SAFE. ARRIVE ALIVE.

KEY SAFETY TIPS



REDUCE YOUR SPEED

Wet roads,
longer stopping
distance.



KEEP SAFE DISTANCE

Leave enough
space between
vehicles.



USE HEADLIGHTS

Improve visibility
during rain.



AVOID FLOODED ROADS

Water hides
dangers.



NO MOBILE PHONES

Stay focused.
No distractions.



CHECK YOUR VEHICLE

Tyres, wipers,
brakes & lights
must be good.



WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT

Protect yourself
and your
passengers.



USE INDICATORS

Signal before
you turn or
change lanes.



AVOID OVERTAKING

Be patient.
Drive
responsibly.



POOR VISIBILITY?

Pull over safely
and wait for
conditions
to improve.



LET'S PROTECT LIVES ON OUR ROADS

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



STAY ALERT.
DRIVE SAFELY.
ARRIVE ALIVE.

E-signed :

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





FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY CORPS
RS6.2 CROSS RIVER SECTOR COMMAND

RAINY SEASON DRIVING TIPS

Drive Smart. Arrive Safe.

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



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

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

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

SAFE DRIVING TIPS



01

CHECK YOUR VEHICLE

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



02

REDUCE SPEED

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



03

KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE

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



04

USE YOUR LIGHTS

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



05

AVOID FLOODED ROADS

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



06

STAY FOCUSED

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



07

BUCKLE UP – EVERY TIME

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

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

FRSC EMERGENCY NUMBER
122

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

**Slow Down
Stay Alert
Stay Alive**

CRGIA

Cross River Geographic
Information Agency



REGISTER YOUR LAND TODAY!

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



Opposite Metropolitan Hotel,
Murtala Mohammed Highway, Calabar.

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CRGIA
CROSS RIVER GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AGENCY

ROADS ARE SHARED SPACES,

RESPECT CYCLISTS,
MOTORCYCLISTS AND
PEDESTRIANS TO CREATE
A SAFER ROAD



RESPECT
SHARE
PROTECT
SAVE LIVES



RESPECT
CYCLISTS



RESPECT
MOTORCYCLISTS



RESPECT
PEDESTRIANS



SHARE TODAY,
SAVE TOMORROW

TRAMRA

Cross River State Traffic
Management and Regulatory Agency



TRAMRA

Cross River State Traffic Management and Regulatory Agency

CARNIVAL calabar 2026

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



THEME
Rethinking
OUR COLLECTIVE
Destiny

Kingsley Agim, anipr

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

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

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

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

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



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

INFORMATION SECTOR

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



Kingsley Agim, anipr

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

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



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

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

State's visibility on the national and international stage.

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

Governor Otu's administration responded with deliberate investments





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

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

These reforms improved operational efficiency while

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

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

Under Governor Otu, the Commissioner for



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

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

significant improvements in government media presence in recent years.

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

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

The restoration of the website was



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

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

Government estimates indicate that the

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

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

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



restoration of official government documentation.

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

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

These publications have strengthened

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

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

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



initiatives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

investor confidence in the state's development agenda.

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

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

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

reached communities that traditionally had limited access to digital media.

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

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

CRBC's Digital Revolution

If the Ministry of Information experienced institutional renewal, the





Cross River Broadcasting Corporation underwent a complete technological transformation.

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

The Corporation introduced a fully paperless digital newsroom, enabling

real-time news production and significantly improving operational efficiency.

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



outages.

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

These improvements have substantially enhanced staff productivity and broadcast quality.

Perhaps the most transformative

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

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

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

Today, CRBC reaches audiences across more



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

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

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

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

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

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

promoting Cross River's rich heritage to wider audiences.

Strengthening Institutional Capacity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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







SECTORIAL STRIDES









THIS IS CROSS RIVER STATE

TOGETHER LET'S KEEP IT **CLEAN, GREEN & SERENE**



Refuse in the gutters blocks the drains



Use the skip bins closest to you



Dumping refuse outside the skip bins is unpleasant



A clean Environment starts with proper waste disposal



A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS



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

This message is brought to you by

**THE CROSS RIVER STATE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**





Statewide Environmental Sanitation

Holds Every Last Saturday of the Month

from 7:00am -10:00am



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



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



KEEP CROSS RIVER STATE

CLEAN & GREEN

WHAT TO DO

Sweep your surroundings



Cut the Grasses around you



Clear drains/gutters



Dispose Garbage Appropriately



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



PGF VALUE REORIENTATION CAMPAIGN

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Citizens.
Responsive
Nation.**



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Ministry of Information
Cross River State

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





STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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

NATIONWIDE CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (CVR)



Register to Vote

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

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

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🌐 www.inecnigeria.org
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**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— FRSC —

CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND