

Daily InfoNews Bulletin

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NIGERIA'S 66TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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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MANAGEMENT

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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.

Explaining the NIGERIAN COAT OF ARMS NATIONAL DAY



NIGERIA

Together, we stand strong, united, and proud
of our great nation's heritage.

FG Approves Upgrade of Calabar, Onne, Delta Ports

By Nakanda Iyadim



The Federal Government has approved the comprehensive modernisation and upgrade of the Calabar, Onne, Rivers and Delta ports, the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, has announced.

According to a statement on Sunday by the Minister's Special Adviser, Dr. Bolaji Akinola, the approval is in addition to the earlier approval for the modernisation of Apapa and Tin Can Island ports in Lagos, underscoring the Federal

Government's determination to develop a balanced, efficient and competitive national port system.

Oyetola said the latest approval is part of the administration's broader strategy to reposition Nigeria's maritime sector as

a major driver of economic growth, trade, investment and employment under President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda.

"This approval marks another important step in our determination to transform Nigeria's maritime infrastructure and unlock the enormous economic potential of our ports," the Minister said.

He added that President Tinubu had made it clear that infrastructure renewal and economic diversification were central to the Renewed Hope Agenda, noting that modern, efficient and competitive ports are critical to achieving these

objectives because they facilitate trade, support industry, attract investment and create jobs.

Oyetola explained that extending the modernisation programme to ports outside Lagos would complement investments in Apapa and Tin Can Island and help decongest Lagos by creating additional efficient gateways for international trade.

He noted that improved infrastructure and operational efficiency at Onne, Rivers, Delta and Calabar ports would enhance cargo handling, reduce vessel turnaround times, improve regional connectivity and make movement of goods more predictable and

cost-effective.

"These ports have strategic roles to play in our trade, industrial and regional development, and we are determined to equip them to meet the demands of a growing economy," Oyetola said.

According to him, the combination of modernising existing ports and developing new deep seaports will significantly expand Nigeria's maritime capacity and create stronger economic corridors across the country.

"Our approach is comprehensive. We are modernising existing ports while facilitating the development of new deep

seaports. This will give Nigeria greater capacity to handle increasing volumes of trade, attract investment and position our country as a major maritime and logistics hub in Africa," Oyetola stressed.

He added that the Federal Government's vision is to establish an integrated maritime and logistics system in which ports, roads, rail, inland waterways and other transport infrastructure work together to facilitate seamless cargo movement.

"Our ambition is to build a port system that is efficient, transparent and globally competitive. We want Nigerian

businesses to spend less time and resources moving their goods, while creating an environment that encourages investment and supports job creation," Oyetola said.

He reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to working with state governments, terminal operators, investors, shipping companies and other stakeholders to ensure the projects translate into tangible improvements in the marine and blue economy.

"Nigeria has the geography, market and maritime resources to become a leading maritime hub. Our responsibility is to provide the infrastructure,

policies and enabling environment to turn that potential into sustainable economic value. This is what the Renewed Hope Agenda is about," Oyetola added.

The approval is part of a wider expansion of Nigeria's maritime infrastructure and comes in addition to Federal Government approvals for new deep seaports, including Bakassi Deep Seaport in Cross River, Ibom Deep Seaport in Akwa Ibom, Agge Deep Seaport in Bayelsa, Gateway Deep Seaport in Ogun, Ondo Deep Seaport in Ondo, and Bonny Deep Seaport in Rivers.



HIS EXCELLENCY
BOLA AHMED TINUBU, GCFR
President, Federal Republic of Nigeria



HIS EXCELLENCY
KASHIM SHETTIMA, GCON
Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria



HIS EXCELLENCY
SEN. PRINCE BASSEY EDET OTU
Governor, Cross River State



HIS EXCELLENCY
RT. HON. PETER ODEY
Deputy Governor, Cross River State

ONE
NATION
STRONGER
TOGETHER

*A Brighter
Nigeria
A Greater
Tomorrow*

66 Cheers to Nigeria!

On this landmark occasion of Nigeria's 66th Independence Anniversary, I join millions of Nigerians in celebrating our resilience, unity, and enduring hope as a people.

To His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, and His Excellency Vice President Kashim Shettima, GCON: I salute your courage and commitment to steering the nation through these defining times. Your reforms, though tough, are laying the foundation for a stronger economy, improved security, and opportunities that will reach the ordinary Nigerian on the street. The **Renewed Hope Agenda** is giving Nigerians a reason to believe again.

To His Excellency Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, and His Excellency Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, Deputy Governor: I am proud of the "People First" leadership you have given us. In just a short time, your administration has touched lives in real ways, from restoring dignity to pensioners to investing in transportation, health, education, agriculture, infrastructure and debt servicing. You have brought the government closer to the people and reminded us that governance is about service.

At 66, Nigeria has weathered many storms, but we have also recorded giant strides. The progress we see in Cross River today reflects the vision and partnership between the Federal Government and our State Government.

As we mark this independence anniversary, my prayer is that the gains of your administrations will continue to bring relief to families, create wealth for our youths, and secure a better future for every Nigerian child.

Happy 66th Independence Anniversary to our dear nation.

May God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
May God bless Cross River State.

Pastor (Hon.) Ekpenyong

Hon. Commissioner for Information & Orientation
Cross River State

GREATER
PEOPLE
BRIGHTER
CROSS RIVER



NIGERIA
Resilient People | Endless Possibilities



CROSS RIVER STATE
People First | A Brighter Tomorrow

TOGETHER
FOR A GREATER
NIGERIA

Gov. Otu Gives 18 SPAR Fire Victims N450m Lifeline

By Daniel Bebia



Cross River State Governor, Prince Bassey Edet Otu, has presented cheques of ₦25 million each to 18 business owners affected by the recent fire incident at SPAR Calabar, describing the intervention as a critical lifeline to help them rebuild their businesses and restore their

livelihoods.

Otu made the presentation on Monday at the Executive Chambers of the Governor's Office, Calabar, where he reaffirmed his administration's commitment to supporting small and medium-sized businesses across the state.

The Governor

acknowledged that accidents could sometimes be unavoidable, but said the critical consideration was how government responded to people affected by unfortunate circumstances.

"I know that accidents happen, and there is sometimes little that anybody can



do about them. But the important thing is how we respond to such unfortunate situations,” Otu said.

He said his administration placed strong emphasis on supporting small businesses because of their contribution to the state’s economy and the livelihoods of residents.

“This government believes principally

in supporting small businesses, recognising their importance to the economy and the livelihoods of our people. That is why we are prepared to provide support in every way possible,” he stated.

Otu recalled the visit of the First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, to Cross River State on September 1, 2026, for the launch of the South-South

Zone of the National Community Food Bank Programme, saying the visit had produced positive multiplier effects beyond the immediate purpose of the programme.

He expressed appreciation to the First Lady for her practical disposition and empathy, describing the intervention for the fire victims as a demonstration



of compassionate leadership.

The Governor also commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for what he described as the people-centred focus of the Renewed Hope Agenda, saying the intervention would help alleviate the economic hardship faced by the affected families.

"Besides, the Renewed Hope Agenda of

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is people-centred. The programme gives hope to the hopeless, succour to the suffering, and protection to the oppressed and vulnerable in society," Otu said.

He urged the beneficiaries to use the funds productively, stressing that the financial assistance should translate into sustainable livelihoods and the rebuilding of their

businesses.

"It is important to mention at this point that the financial lifeline provided by Mr. President should be translated into productive lives and sustainable livelihoods, in order to justify his love, sacrifice and goodwill," he said.

Otu assured the beneficiaries that his administration would continue to encourage and support them as



they work towards stabilising and rebuilding their businesses.

He expressed gratitude to the Federal Government for the intervention, noting that the support would help reduce the anguish and economic burden on the affected families.

"As a responsive and responsible government, my administration will

continue to support small and medium-sized enterprises to thrive, recognising the informal sector as the engine room of our economy," the Governor stated.

He also urged entrepreneurs in the state to take advantage of government-supported business advisory services, soft loans and grants available through the ministry responsible for financing and

enterprise development.

"The doors of the Ministry responsible for financing and enterprise development are always open to entrepreneurs seeking business advisory services, soft loans and grants. I therefore encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to grow your businesses and improve your



livelihoods," Otu added.

The SPAR Calabar Branch Manager, Mr. Gbenga Ewarawon, thanked President Tinubu and Governor Otu for their commitment to the welfare of the affected businesses and for restoring hope to the victims.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, the Chief Executive Officer of AM

Global, Andifonkan Samuel, expressed appreciation to the Governor, Federal Government and other stakeholders for the intervention and support.

Samuel said the presence of government officials and other stakeholders at the presentation demonstrated the importance attached to restoring hope and helping those affected by the incident return to

productive economic activity.

The beneficiaries also commended President Tinubu for the intervention, saying the support would assist them in rebuilding their businesses and returning to productive livelihoods.



PEOPLE
NATURE
OPPORTUNITIES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
CROSS RIVER STATE

OBUDU
MOUNTAIN RESORT

Nigeria: Saluting A Giant At

66TH

INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

OUR NATION
OUR PEOPLE
OUR STRENGTH
OUR FUTURE

On behalf of the Ministry of Local Government Affairs, Cross River State, I warmly congratulate the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, **Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, GCFR; the Vice President, His Excellency, **Senator Kashim Shettima**, GCON; the Governor of Cross River State, His Excellency, **Senator (Prince) Bassey Edet Otu**; his Deputy, **Rt. Hon. Peter Odey**; members of the State Executive Council, political appointees, traditional rulers, and the good people of Cross River State and Nigeria at large, on the occasion of Nigeria's 66th Independence Anniversary.

As we commemorate this significant milestone, we reflect on our journey as a nation and celebrate the resilience, unity, strength, and unwavering determination of Nigerians. This anniversary offers yet another opportunity to renew our commitment to peace, unity, good governance, and sustainable development.

We commend the visionary leadership of Mr. President and the purposeful administration of His Excellency, **Senator Bassey Edet Otu**, for their dedication to the growth, progress, and prosperity of our dear nation and Cross River State.

As we celebrate, I urge all Nigerians, particularly the people of Cross River State, to continue to support government at all levels and contribute meaningfully toward building a peaceful, united, and prosperous society.

Happy 66th Independence Anniversary, Nigeria!

Chief Victor-Felix Idem

Honourable Commissioner
Ministry of Local Government Affairs
Cross River State



A STRONGER
NIGERIA
FOR GENERATIONS



UNITED
IN DIVERSITY



**GREATER
OPPORTUNITIES**
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

TOGETHER FOR
A PROSPEROUS NIGERIA
AND A GREATER CROSS RIVER

Gov. Otu Urges Renewed Commitment to Unity, Peace at 66th Independence Anniversary Service,

By Nakanda Iyadim, Daniel Bebia and Daniel Nsa



Cross River State Governor, Sen Bassey Edet Otu, has called on Nigerians to remain committed to peace, unity, and the collective

responsibility of building a nation that future generations will be proud to inherit.

The Governor made the call through the Speaker of the

Cross River State House of Assembly, Rt Hon Elvert Ayambem, at an Interdenominational thanksgiving Service held at the Christian Central



Chapel, Ikot Eneobong, 8 Miles, Calabar, to commemorate Nigeria's 66th Independence Anniversary.

Describing the anniversary as an opportunity to appreciate God's faithfulness and reflect on the sacrifices of past heroes, Otu said: "Independence is more than the remembrance of a

date in our history. It is a reminder of the sacrifices of those who came before us and of the responsibility placed on our generation to build a nation that future generations will be proud to inherit."

He noted that despite the challenges Nigeria has faced since 1960, the national spirit has endured. "Nigeria has

travelled a long road since 1960. Yet, through it all, the Nigerian spirit has endured. Our people remain resilient, enterprising and deeply committed to the hope of a better country," he said.

The Governor said his administration remained conscious of the work required to improve lives



through opportunities for youths, stronger education and healthcare, support for enterprise, improved infrastructure, and increased investment. Reaffirming his People First agenda, he stated: "We will continue to work deliberately towards a state where our people can live in peace,

work with dignity and look to the future with confidence. But the government cannot do this alone."

He called for collective effort from the Church, traditional institutions, the private sector, civil society, young people, and citizens at large to advance the development of Cross River State and Nigeria.

Otu further called for prayers for wisdom for leaders, peace in communities, protection for security personnel, and comfort for struggling families. "As we pray for Nigeria today, let us pray for wisdom for our leaders at every level. Let us also pray for greater unity in our country," he said.

On the subject of



diversity, the Governor urged Nigerians to embrace their differences as a source of strength rather than division. "Our diversity should not divide us. We may come from different ethnic groups, speak different languages and practise different faiths, but we share one country and one collective destiny," he said, calling on citizens to reject

violence, uphold the rule of law, and remain hopeful and committed to nation-building.

In his sermon, titled "Using Your Past Testimonies to Unlock Your New Miracle," the President of Christian Central Chapel International Faith Mansion World Centre, Archbishop Emma Gospel Isong, drew on Exodus 15:22–27 to recount the Israelites'

experience at Marah following their crossing of the Red Sea.

He noted that although the Israelites encountered bitter water in the wilderness, God provided a solution through Moses, transforming the water into a source of sustenance, an account, he said, that demonstrates how past testimonies can

strengthen faith in difficult moments.

The Archbishop encouraged Nigerians to remember God's faithfulness, remain hopeful, and continue praying for wisdom for leaders, peace across communities, protection for security personnel, and greater opportunities for young people. Cautioning against divisive rhetoric that castigates and criminalises leaders, he urged citizens instead to engage government through constructive, solution-oriented criticism, and to remain united, reject hatred and violence, and speak positively about Cross River State and Nigeria

at all times.

Speaking to journalists shortly after the service, the Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Pastor Hon Ekpenyong Ene Cobham, who read the second Bible lesson, from Hebrews 11:23–29, urged Nigerians to remain hopeful and focused, cautioning against comparing individual progress with that of others without regard for differing circumstances. "We see some of our peers that started with us that are ahead of us. We fail to understand that it could have been worse. Every child has his own time, and we are moving at our own pace and time within the confines of God's covenant with us," he said.

Cobham said Nigeria had sufficient reason to celebrate its progress despite prevailing difficulties, expressing confidence in the country's economic recovery. "The prospects are enormous, and we have cause to thank God, in spite of all the challenges we might have," he said, adding that the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu had brought renewed hope and placed the country on a path of economic revitalisation. "All the indicators, economically, show that Nigeria is on the path of revitalisation and recovery," he said.

On developments in Cross River State, the

Commissioner said the Otu administration had brought significant change, with increased economic activity and growing confidence in the state's future, citing rising air travel through Calabar as one indicator of expanding movement and economic activity. He urged Cross Riverians to remain focused and confident in the direction of the State.

Also speaking, the Special Adviser to the Governor on General Duties, Barrister Ekpenyong Akiba, said the Independence anniversary offered an opportunity to give thanks to God for sustaining

Nigeria's unity despite its diversity. "For me, it is all glory to God because, despite our diversity in religion, politics, culture and tradition, and our multiplicity of languages, Nigeria has remained united since independence," he said. He urged Nigerians to continue praying, remain hopeful, promote national unity, and support their leaders in advancing the country's development, acknowledging the nation's challenges while maintaining that sustained progress remained achievable through unity and peace.

The Chief Judge of the State, Justice Akon Ikpeme, read the first Bible lesson, from Exodus

15:22–25. The service was attended by leaders of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), senior government officials, traditional rulers, and service commanders, and featured a unity dance-drama presentation by youths in high praise with prayer offered for Cross River State, Nigeria, and its citizenry.

CR-ROMA Moves to Heal Jagged Potholes on Calabar South Roads

By Christiana Ushang



Traversing the bustling corridors of Calabar South, the daily

commute has long tested the patience of motorists, traders and commuters.

Maneuvering a maze of jagged potholes, dodging sudden dips and enduring



By Christiana Ushang

frustrating traffic bottlenecks have been the norm.

But a much-needed transformation is finally underway.

The Cross River State Road Maintenance Agency (CR-ROMA) has rolled

into action, bringing renewed hope and heavy machinery to some of the local government's most battered and high-traffic arteries.

Spearheaded by the agency's Director-General, Hon. Christopher Ntui, the intervention is a targeted strike against urban decay.

Rather than empty promises, CR-ROMA has deployed engineers, field workers and state-of-the-art road maintenance equipment to the front lines of the city's infrastructure challenges.

Backed by funding from the Cross River State Government, the



rehabilitation blitz focuses on critical, high-stress nodes. Strategic junctions and corridors including Mayne Avenue by Atamunu, Mayne Avenue by Ekpo Abasi, the Ekpo Abasi Roundabout and the busy axis near New Airport Road have already been resuscitated.

Hon. Ntui is transparent about the scope of the project, managing

expectations while emphasising practical impact. "This work does not cover the entire stretch of the road," Hon. Ntui clarified.

"Rather, it involves surface patching, asphalt overlay and remediation of failed sections to eliminate potholes and ease traffic flow on that axis."

While the initiative is focused on spot remediation rather than total reconstruction, its

economic and social benefits are profound.

For a commercial hub like Calabar South, smooth roads translate directly into reduced vehicular wear and tear, shorter travel times and a safer environment for pedestrians and motorists.

Local business owners and commercial drivers, who have long borne the brunt of lost



productivity and high vehicle maintenance costs due to poor road conditions, are already welcoming the change. Smoother movement means goods get to market faster, customers can access shops with ease, and the daily grind of transit becomes less

exhausting. As the rumble of construction equipment echoes along Mayne Avenue and Ekpo Abasi, it serves as a tangible reminder of proactive governance. For residents of Calabar South, this intervention is more than a quick fix of asphalt and gravel, it is a promise kept. Hon.

Ntui assures residents and commuters that the state government, through CR-ROMA, is only just warming up, and the agency remains firmly committed to keeping Cross River's vital road networks safe, seamless and motorable for years to come.



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



CROSS RIVER STATE

ZUMA ROCK
ABUJA

NATIONAL MOSQUE
ABUJA

Celebrating Our Nation and Great Leaders at 66

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY
NIGERIA

CONNECTING
PEOPLE
UNITING
OPPORTUNITIES

AVIATION
TOURISM
PROSPERITY

ONE
NIGERIA
BRIGHTER
TOGETHER

On behalf of the management and staff of the Cross River State Ministry of Aviation, I extend warm felicitations to the leadership of our great nation and our beloved state on this historic occasion of Nigeria's 66th Independence Anniversary.

To His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and His Excellency, Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON, Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

Mr. President, your steadfast commitment to national transformation under the Renewed Hope Agenda continues to steer our country toward structural growth and economic resilience. We commend your administration's visionary focus on critical infrastructure, which serves as a powerful catalyst for connecting communities and unlocking economic opportunities across the federation.

To the Governor of Cross River State, His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, and his dependable deputy, Rt. Hon. Dr. Peter Agbe Odey:

Your Excellencies, today we celebrate not just our national freedom, but the remarkable transformation of Cross River State under your dynamic leadership through the People First Agenda. You have ushered in a Season of Sweetness for our people, repositioning our state as a model of peace, infrastructural development and economic progress.

In the aviation sector, your unalloyed support towards positioning Cross River as a premier aviation and tourism hub is yielding significant milestones. We remain absolutely committed to actualising your bold vision of an interconnected, accessible and economically vibrant state.

As the green-white-green flies high today, let us reinvigorate our shared patriotism, strengthen our unity and continue working collaboratively towards a peaceful and prosperous Nigeria.

**Happy Independence Day, Nigeria.
Long live Cross River State.
Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.**

Capt. Eno Utum Inah (Rtd)
Commissioner, Ministry of Aviation
Cross River State



SAFER SKIES
STRONGER ECONOMY



MORE CONNECTIONS
BRIGHTER FUTURES



AVIATION DRIVES
OPPORTUNITIES

HIGHER
CONNECTING
CROSS RIVER
TO THE WORLD

Cross River Delegation Visits Uganda to Study Coffee Value Chain Development

By Blessing Enagu



A Cross River State delegation led by the Commissioner for Agriculture and Irrigation Development, Hon. Johnson Andiambey Ebokpo, has arrived in Uganda for a knowledge tour aimed at strengthening the State's emerging

coffee value chain.

The visit forms part of Governor Bassey Edet Otu's coffee development initiative, which includes farmer profiling, training and the ongoing distribution of subsidised Arabica and Robusta seedlings in Calabar and across

the State's Local Government Areas. The trip was facilitated by Johnvent Industries in collaboration with the Cross River State Government.

According to Commissioner Ebokpo, the delegation brings together



government officials, legislators, technical officers, and representatives of women and young people to learn how Uganda supports coffee farmers and sustains its industry. The team will examine community infrastructure,

processing, value addition, quality standards, traceability and market development.

He explained that the delegation was deliberately constituted to provide broad representation of stakeholders in Cross River's coffee

development efforts. It includes the Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture, Hon. Bette Obi; Chairman, Cross River State Forestry Commission, Rt. Hon. George Oben-Etchi; Senior Special Adviser to the Governor on Agriculture, Prof.

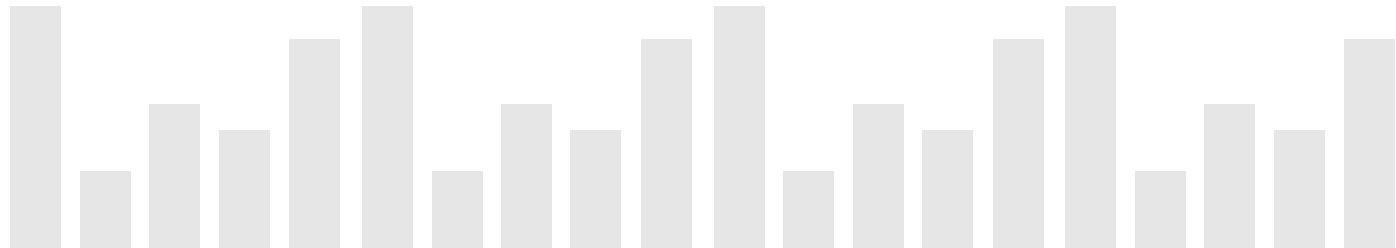


John Shiyam; Special Adviser, Office of the Wife of the Governor, Dr. Inyang Asibong; the Chairman and Secretary of the Multi-Stakeholder Committee on Cocoa, Coffee and Oil Palm, Prof. Mrs Susanna Ohen and Ntufam Ekpe Bassey; the Director of Coffee

and Coffee Desk Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development, Mr. Omini Eyong and Mrs Joy Ugbong; representatives of the National Youth Council of Nigeria, Cross River State Chapter, Elizabeth Idiku and the National Association of

Nigerian Students, Emmanuel Iwara

Ebokpo also acknowledged the Wife of the Governor, Bishop Dr. Mrs. Eyoanwan Bassey Edet Otu, for mobilising women to participate in the State's coffee initiative, noting that the



involvement of women and young people is important to building an inclusive and sustainable coffee sector.

He said the tour would also provide the delegation with insights into the institutional arrangements, partnerships and

systems supporting Uganda's coffee industry, particularly in farmer support, youth entrepreneurship, processing, value addition, quality assurance and market access.

Lessons from the tour are expected to inform practical

recommendations for implementing and further strengthening Cross River State's coffee development programme.

Cross River-Born Corps Member Donates Learning Materials to 100 Abuja Pupils

By Nakanda Iyadim, Daniel Bebia and Daniel Nsa



A Cross River-born National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) member, Ms. Precious Nkere Ewa, has donated educational materials and other items to 100 pupils of L.E.A. Primary School, Kuduru, Bwari, Abuja, through her foundation, Little

Light Foundation.

Ewa, who hails from Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State, made the donation when she visited the school last Monday as part of the foundation's efforts to support children and encourage learning.

A graduate of

Linguistics and Communication Studies from the University of Calabar, Ewa is currently serving with the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), Abuja, as her Place of Primary Assignment under the NYSC scheme.

The items



donated through the Little Light Foundation included books, pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, socks and biscuits, which were presented to 100 pupils of the school.

Speaking during the visit, Ewa said the gesture was aimed at providing some of the basic things the pupils need while encouraging them to remain focused on their education.

"Every child deserves a chance to learn. Through the Little Light Foundation, we are simply doing our part to provide some of the basic things these pupils need and encourage them to stay focused on their education," she said.

She encouraged the pupils to take their studies seriously, remain disciplined and make good use of the opportunities

available to them.

Ewa said her love for children and desire to support their educational development informed the decision of the Little Light Foundation to reach out to the pupils.

She expressed appreciation to the school authorities for welcoming the foundation and providing the opportunity to reach out to the



pupils.

The school community received the donation with appreciation, while the pupils

expressed excitement over the learning materials and other items presented to them.

The gesture forms

part of the activities of the Little Light Foundation, founded by Ewa, to support children and contribute to their



educational development.

Ewa, who is currently undertaking her

mandatory national service in Abuja, said she remained committed to using the foundation to

make a positive contribution to the lives of children.

We're One People — Gov Otu Woos Muslim Community at Independence Jumaat Service



Cross River State Governor, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to inclusivity, assuring the Muslim community of their integral role

in his people-centred Government, regardless of religious background.

The Governor gave this assurance on Friday during a Jumaat service at the Izala Central Mosque in Calabar,

as part of activities marking Nigeria's 66th Independence Anniversary.

Represented by his Special Adviser on Religious Affairs, Apostle Frank Umo, Governor Otu disclosed that



a significant number of Muslims have already benefited from the recent oil and gas empowerment programme and promised that more members of the community especially the youth would be captured in subsequent initiatives.

Accompanied by the Chairman of the Cross River State Muslim Welfare and Pilgrims Board, Imam Kabeer Olowolayemo, the Special Adviser commended the Muslim community for its role in sustaining peaceful coexistence in the State, emphasising

that the present period calls for unity rather than division.

He further noted that the Federal Government, under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has rolled out laudable programmes and reforms aimed at improving the fortunes of



Nigerians, urging citizens to be patient for the reforms to fully materialise.

"Today, we celebrate unity in our diversity. Cross River is now more peaceful than ever, and the Governor is committed to providing a more conducive business environment for

anyone pursuing legitimate enterprise in the state," he said, adding that Nigeria and Cross River State must be collectively protected.

Also speaking, the Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Pastor Ekpenyong Ene Cobham, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Mr.

Anthony Okon, thanked the Muslim community for remaining reliable partners in the development of Cross River State and assured them of more opportunities in the years ahead.

In his remarks, the Imam of Izala Central Mosque, Yusuf Ibrahim, affirmed the congregation's



unwavering support for President Tinubu and Governor Otu.

He pledged the community's readiness to mobilise for continuity of Government at both the Federal and State levels, describing continuity as a sure bet for sustainable development.

The Imam commended Governor Otu for consistently carrying the Muslim community along in the affairs of the State, describing his leadership as one that has positively impacted the lives of many residents.

Highpoint of the well-attended Jumaat service was a special

prayer session for peace, successful governance, and the continued good health and long life of both the President and the Governor, in commemoration of the nation's 66th Independence Anniversary.



HEARTY CHEERS TO NIGERIA @66

As the Federal Republic of Nigeria marks her 66th Independence Anniversary today, it is with tremendous joy, deep appreciation, and unfaltering allegiance that I join the government and the great people of our dear nation in celebrating this colossal benchmark of national growth. Sixty-six years as the Giant of Africa is a testament to our enduring strength, cultural diversity, and collective resilience through every season of our national journey.

On behalf of my family, the Board, Management, and the entire staff of the Cross River Road Maintenance Agency (CR-ROMA), I felicitate our visionary leader and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, alongside the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON. We also extend our warm congratulations to the Senate President, Senator Godswill Akpabio, the Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, all Distinguished Federal Legislators, members of the Federal Executive Council, and patriotic citizens across the country who continue to lay the groundwork for a prosperous future.

Here at home in our beloved paradise State, this celebration shines even brighter under the transformative leadership of our esteemed "People First" Governor, His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, and his beloved wife and First Lady, Her Excellency, Bishop Dr. Mrs. Eyoanwan Otu, dedicated Deputy, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey. Their relentless commitment to grassroots development, economic revitalization, and infrastructural renewal continues to set a stellar benchmark for public service.

We equally celebrate the Honorable Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Elvert Eyambem, and members of the Assembly; the State Chief Judge, Justice Akon Ikpeme; members of the State Executive Council; and the tenacious, industrious people of Cross River State.

At CR-ROMA, we recognize that durable road infrastructure is the arterial network of economic integration, agricultural growth, and rural-urban connectivity. As we celebrate 66 years of nationhood, our resolve remains absolute, to support the "People First" agenda by ensuring our roadways remain safe, motorable, and structurally sound to drive commerce and mobility across Cross River State. Let us continue to work hand in hand, building a stronger, safer, and more prosperous Nigeria from the grassroots up.

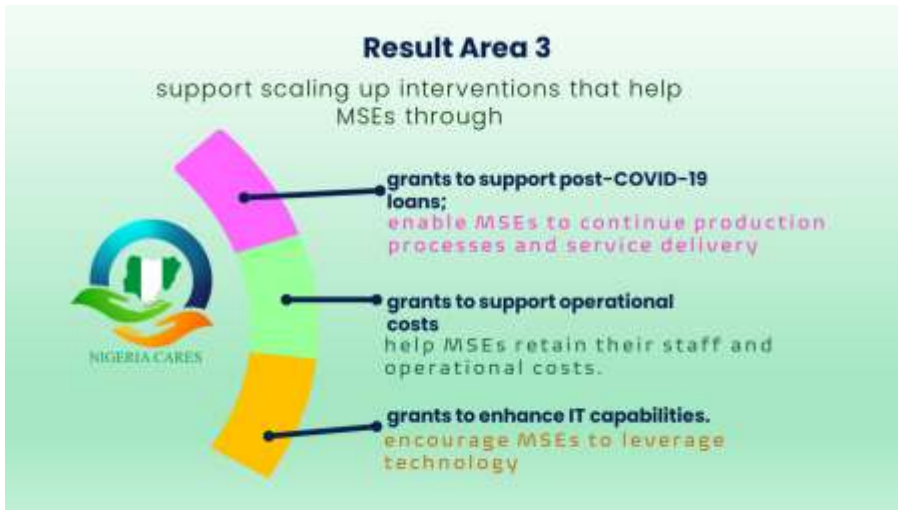
Congratulations Your Excellencies!
Long Live Federal Republic of Nigeria!!
Long Live Cross River State!!!
Long Live Road Maintenance Agency!



Hon. Christopher Ntui
Director General
Cross River Road Maintenance
Agency (CR-ROMA)



Cross River Revamps FADAMA Projects Through NG-CARES



Cross River State Government is reviving and expanding old FADAMA-style agricultural interventions through the Nigeria Community Action for Resilience and Economic Stimulus (NG-CARES) programme.

The World Bank-supported NG-CARES operates on a "P for R – Performance for Results" model, where states

invest first, get verified, and are then reimbursed.

NG-CARES is using a community-driven approach where funds are channelled through community development plans approved by the Cross River Community and Social Development Agency (CSDA).

Projects funded include classroom blocks, health posts, solar boreholes and VIP toilets in

communities.

The Cross River State Government has stated that no projects will be abandoned.

Through the Commissioner for Information, government reaffirmed that all projects funded with public money, including those inherited, will be completed.

The State is also reviewing the Cross River Agricultural and Rural Empowerment Scheme (CARES) to cut duplication and reposition it for greater impact.

Works Commissioner Assures Quality on Bakassi Deep Seaport Access Road

By Monica Ogar



The Cross River State Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Hon. Ankpo Pius Edet, has assured of strict quality compliance in the

construction of the access road to the Bakassi Deep Seaport, following a comprehensive inspection of the ongoing works.

Edet said the

access road is a critical component of the proposed deep seaport, which is envisioned as a major maritime and logistics hub to strengthen economic connectivity and attract investment to the state, stressing that all phases must meet approved standards and technical specifications.

While inspecting the ongoing construction of the access road to the Bakassi Deep Seaport, Ankpo alongside a team from Forestry Commission maintained that the inspection underscores the



State Government's commitment to delivering quality infrastructure and enhancing regional connectivity.

During the site visit, the Commissioner

assessed the progress of work and reviewed key engineering aspects of the project.

He emphasised the need for all phases of construction to be executed in strict compliance

with approved standards and technical specifications.

The access road is a critical infrastructure component of the proposed Bakassi Deep Seaport.



As a major maritime and logistics hub, the seaport is strategically envisioned to strengthen economic connectivity, attract foreign and domestic investments, and unlock wide commercial opportunities for Cross River State and the wider sub-region.

The routine oversight visit reflects the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure's dedication to effective project monitoring, strict quality control and timely delivery to ensure optimal value for public investment.

Under the leadership of

Governor Prince Bassey Edet Otu, the Cross River State Government continues to prioritise strategic, high-impact infrastructure capable of driving sustainable growth and transforming the economic landscape of the State.



66th Independence Anniversary: Dr. Mathias Unimke Angioha Felicitates President Tinubu, Governor Otu, Other Leaders And Nigerians

By Ann Bassey

The Honourable Commissioner for Industry, Cross River State, Dr. Mathias Unimke Angioha, felicitates with the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the Vice President, His Excellency, Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON, the Executive Governor of Cross River State, His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, the Deputy Governor of Cross River State, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, PhD.

Cross River State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayambem and all elected political office holders across the country on the occasion of Nigeria's 66th Independence Anniversary.

The anniversary is a significant milestone in Nigeria's journey as a sovereign nation and an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices, resilience and patriotism of the nation's founding fathers and all Nigerians who have contributed to the growth and development of the country.



I commend the leadership at the national and state levels for their continued efforts towards strengthening the economy, promoting peace and security, improving infrastructure and creating an enabling environment for investment, enterprise and Industrial development particularly reaffirming the importance of sustained collaboration among the Federal Government, State Governments, the private sector and other stakeholders in building a productive and prosperous Nigeria.

Industrialisation remains central to Nigeria's economic transformation, as a vibrant Industrial sector can create

employment opportunities, stimulate innovation, strengthen local value chains, increase government revenue and promote sustainable development. I therefore reiterates the commitment of the Cross River State Ministry of Industry to supporting policies and initiatives that will attract investment, promote local Industries and harness the abundant economic potential of the State for the benefit of its people.

I call on Nigerians to continue to uphold the values of unity, patriotism, peaceful coexistence, hard work and responsible citizenship which I'm optimistic that through determination, innovation and constructive cooperation, the country will continue to overcome its

challenges and fulfil its enormous potential.

Congratulates to all Nigerians at home and in the Diaspora and wishes the President, Vice President, Our Dear Governor, deputy Governor, able speaker State House of Assembly and entire people of Nigeria a joyous and memorable 66th Independence Anniversary.

May the Federal Republic of Nigeria continue to grow in peace, unity, prosperity and industrial strength.

Happy 66th Independence Anniversary, Nigeria!

Dr. Mathias Unimke Angioha
Honourable
Commissioner for
Industry
Cross River State.

UNICROSS Engineering Faculty Installs 6KVA Solar System for Practical Training

By Kingsley Agim



technology.

The project, according to the Dean of the Faculty, Engr. Prof. Simon Ogbeche Odey, was conceived and executed as part of the practical requirements for GET 306 – Renewable Energy Systems and Technology.

Odey said the project was designed in line with the Course Learning Outcomes prescribed by the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) and the National Universities Commission (NUC), with the

The Faculty of Engineering of the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS) has installed a 6KVA solar power

system at the Dean's Office and adjoining offices to provide reliable electricity and give students hands-on experience in renewable energy



functional renewable energy system within the Faculty.

The system comprises 4.7kWp solar panels, a 6kW hybrid inverter, 5kWh battery storage and other accessories, and was professionally installed and tested for efficient operation.

According to the Dean, the system is currently supplying uninterrupted power to essential loads within the Deanery, including lighting, computers, printing equipment and other critical facilities.

Beyond its power supply function, Odey said the installation would serve as a practical

aim of exposing students to the practical application of renewable energy principles.

He explained that

the installation would help bridge the gap between classroom instruction and practical experience by providing students with a



laboratory where students could acquire first-hand experience in solar power system design, sizing, installation, operation and maintenance.

He said students

would also use the system as a practical case study for load analysis, system design and cost-benefit evaluation, while the facility would encourage research and innovation in renewable energy

within the Faculty.

Odey, who is also the Dean of Deans, said the project demonstrated the Faculty's commitment to practical and experiential



learning, as well as the promotion of sustainable energy solutions across the University.

He added that the installation would reduce the Deanery's dependence on public electricity supply and the

University's generator, while ensuring more stable power for essential academic and administrative activities.

The Faculty of Engineering expressed appreciation to the Vice Chancellor for

the opportunity to contribute to the University's academic and technological development, pledging continued support for efforts that promote practical engineering education and innovation.



PUBLIC NOTICE

STATEWIDE ENFORCEMENT OF NAFDAC BAN ON SACHET ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND BOTTLES BELOW 200ML

In line with the ban imposed by NAFDAC on alcoholic beverages in sachets and PET/glass bottles below 200ml, the Cross River State Consumer Protection Agency shall be embarking on a statewide enforcement exercise. All manufacturers, distributors, dealers, retailers and consumers are advised to ensure strict compliance.

✓ PROHIBITION

- Sale, distribution, or possession of alcoholic drinks in sachets is strictly prohibited.
- Sale or distribution of alcoholic drinks in PET or glass bottles below 200ml is strictly prohibited.
- Display, advertisement, or promotion of the banned products is prohibited.

✓ ENFORCEMENT

- Effective Date: 26th September 2026.
- Statewide enforcement exercise commences across all Local Government Areas in Cross River State.
- Inspection of shops, markets, distributions, and retail outlets will be conducted by authorized officers.
- Seizure and confiscation of prohibited products will be carried out.

✓ PENALTIES

- Confiscation and destruction of all banned alcoholic products.
- Fines in accordance with State Consumer Protection Laws and NAFDAC Regulations.
- Closure/sealing of premises found in violation.
- Prosecution of offenders where applicable.

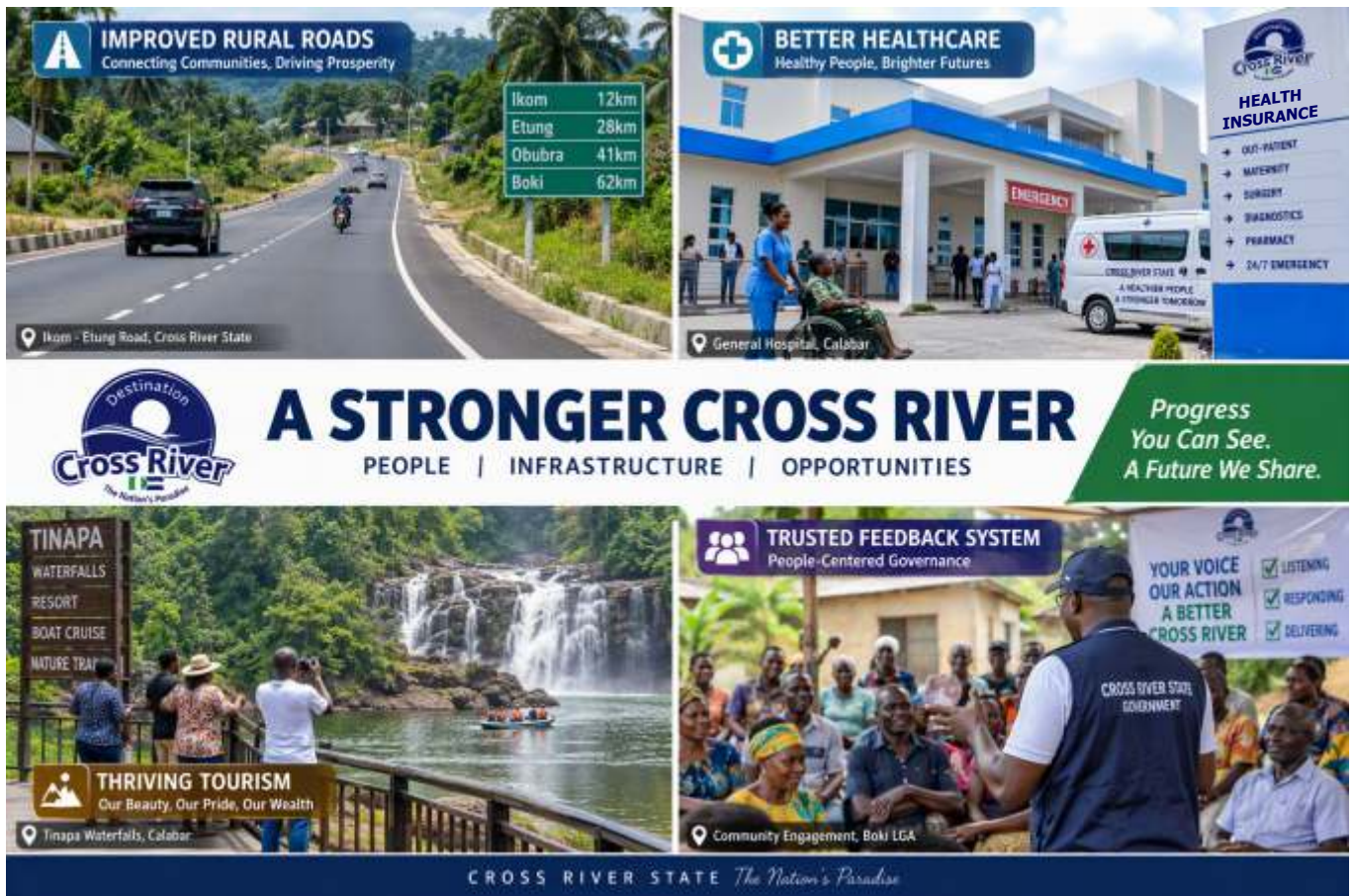
SIGNED: MANAGEMENT

Cross River State Consumer Protection Agency

Date: 26th September 2026 • Address: Okoi Arikpo House, Calabar

Gov Otu's People-first Agenda In Cross River: Rural Roads, Healthcare, Tourism And Feedback

By Ukongikwen Adie Nzuanke



There is a point in governance when promises must move beyond campaign rhetoric to take physical shape in the lives of citizens.

Recent developments in

Bekwarra, Ogoja and Obudu Local Government Areas in the Northern Senatorial District offer a glimpse into efforts to make that transition under Governor Bassey Otu's administration.

From a 10-kilometre rural road in Bekwarra, to a 40-bed hospital in Idum-Mbube and renewed efforts to reposition the Obudu Ranch Resort as an international tourism

destination, an emerging pattern of development built around connectivity, welfare, economic opportunity and investment is taking shape.

The flag-off of the 10-kilometre Ugboro–Ukpah–Afrike Road in Bekwarra represents more than just another road project. For communities along the corridor, the road has the potential to transform their economic fortunes.

Representing Governor Otu at the flag-off, Deputy Governor Peter Odey described the project as another milestone in the implementation of the administration's People First

agenda.

According to him, the road will improve access to rural communities, facilitate the movement of agricultural produce, stimulate commerce, strengthen access to healthcare and education, and create new economic opportunities.

Odey urged the contractor to engage qualified local labour and source materials locally where practicable, while calling on community leaders and youths to support the contractor and create an environment conducive to timely completion.

In appreciation, the Executive Chairman

of Bekwarra LGA, Hon. Egbung Odama, described Governor Otu as a promise-keeper and welcomed the intervention as a response to a long-standing infrastructural need.

In Idum-Mbube, Ogoja Local Government Area, Deputy Governor Odey performed the groundbreaking for the 40-bed Oturikang Hospital, an initiative established through his personal intervention.

He described the project as more than a ceremonial groundbreaking, assuring residents that construction would commence immediately.

The facility is intended to provide quality, accessible healthcare to residents of Idum and neighbouring communities, reducing the burden of travelling long distances for medical attention.

The Deputy Governor also committed ₦100 million towards commencement of construction.

The intervention is significant because it combines public leadership with personal philanthropy and community development. Traditional authorities in Idum welcomed the initiative, describing it as capable of making a direct difference in the lives of residents.

At the same ceremony, Dr. Odey, who is also Lekwel E' Mbe 1 of Mbube, reiterated the state government's commitment to ongoing infrastructure projects, including the Ndok-Mbube Road and the proposed extension towards Utugwang.

The message from the community was therefore not simply gratitude for one project, but an expectation that individual interventions would become part of a wider development corridor linking roads, healthcare, commerce and communities. Perhaps nowhere is the administration's ambition for economic transformation more visible than in Obudu.

During a banquet in honour of Foreign Defence Advisers and Defence Attachés visiting Cross River State, Deputy Governor Odey used the occasion to articulate the state's tourism and investment position.

His message was straightforward: Cross River's natural endowments should not merely be admired; they should be converted into sustainable economic opportunities.

The administration's effort to revitalise and reposition the Obudu Ranch Resort as a world-class tourism destination is part of a larger

economic strategy.

Tourism has the potential to generate employment, stimulate hospitality and transportation businesses, attract investment and increase Cross River's visibility beyond Nigeria.

Odey also linked tourism development to peace and security, presenting Cross River as a peaceful and secure environment capable of supporting investment and international engagement.

The presence of Foreign Defence Advisers and Defence Attachés at Obudu provided an unusual but important diplomatic

opportunity.

The state was able to showcase its tourism assets while simultaneously presenting its security environment and investment potential.

The delegation's programme included a guided tour of the resort, cultural displays, a bonfire ceremony and presentation of souvenirs.

The Chief of Defence Intelligence, Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Parker Undiandeye, represented by Major General Ojogbane Adegbe, said the visit was designed to expose the foreign defence representatives to Nigeria's geography, culture, security environment and development

priorities.

That convergence of tourism and international engagement is important.

For Cross River State, the objective is no longer simply to attract tourists for short visits. The larger ambition is to build a destination capable of attracting investment, partnerships and sustained economic activity.

The tourism conversation also reinforces security as a pillar of Governor Otu's development strategy.

By emphasising Cross River's peaceful environment before an international audience, the

administration effectively presented security as part of the state's economic infrastructure.

That is a strategic shift in how development is understood. Security is not merely a law-and-order issue; it is a prerequisite for tourism, agriculture, commerce and investment.

At the centre of several of these engagements is Deputy Governor Rt. Hon. Dr. Peter Agbe Odey, whose public interventions have increasingly provided a window into the administration's broader development philosophy.

As Deputy Governor, Odey

has represented Governor Otu at major projects and diplomatic engagements, but his interventions have also increasingly reflected a distinct emphasis on community participation, local content and direct human impact.

At Bekwarra, the emphasis was on opening up rural communities and strengthening economic activity.

At Idum-Mbube, it was healthcare and personal investment in community welfare.

At Obudu, the emphasis shifted to tourism, international partnerships, security and investment.

Similarly, Governor

Otu reaffirmed that public feedback remains an indispensable pillar of good governance, describing citizens' participation as critical to building a responsive, accountable and people-centred government.

The Governor's position was conveyed by Deputy Governor Odey, who represented him at the Public Advocacy Summit themed, "The Role of the People in the People's Government: Institutionalizing the Feedback Mechanism," organised by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Content Development and Archiving.

Declaring the

summit open at the Metropolitan Hotel, Calabar, Odey said the People First administration recognises public feedback as a vital instrument for shaping policies and programmes, stressing that governance is most effective when it reflects the aspirations and concerns of the people.

He noted that democracy extends beyond the electoral process, stressing that continuous engagement between government and citizens fosters trust, accountability and inclusive development, while describing the People First mantra as a deliberate commitment to

placing the welfare of Cross Riverians at the heart of governance.

He emphasised that the voice of the people remains a key measure of purposeful leadership, noting that the administration consistently reviews its policies in response to citizens' feedback.

He therefore encouraged political office holders to sustain regular town hall meetings to remain connected to the needs and aspirations of the people.

The common denominator in all these engagements is PEOPLE.

That consistency is important because development is rarely achieved

through isolated projects.

Healthcare facilities require roads to connect the communities they serve.

Tourism requires roads, security and hospitality infrastructure. Agriculture requires access roads to markets. Investment requires stability. Governor Otu's development philosophy appears increasingly anchored on a simple proposition: put people at the centre, build the infrastructure that connects them to opportunities, invest in their welfare, and create conditions for private enterprise and international partnerships to flourish.



GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER

Ref:CR/MWR/

Date: 21st September, 2026.

PRESS STATEMENT:

STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF WASH POLICY REGULATIONS IN CROSS RIVER STATE

The Cross River State Government wishes to formally notify all Borehole Drilling Companies, Water Service Providers, Consultants, developers, Institutions, Communities, Households and relevant stakeholders that it is commencing the strict implementation and enforcement of all existing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) policy regulations governing groundwater development and water supply services across the Eighteen Local Government Areas of the State.

The State Government has observed with grave concern the increasing rate of indiscriminate Borehole drilling, operation of unregistered Water Service Providers, non-compliance with established technical standards, and the proliferation of unsafe water infrastructure in many parts of the State. These practice poses serious risks to public health, groundwater resources, environmental sustainability, and the welfare of citizens in general.

Government further wishes to place on record that access to safe and clean water is a fundamental right of every citizen. However, this right can only be guaranteed when water supply systems are developed and managed in accordance with approved standards and regulatory requirements. The era where individuals and companies operated without accountability in the water sector in the State is over.

Consequently, the Cross River State Government through the Ministry of Water Resources, in collaboration with relevant Regulatory Agencies and Stakeholders, shall immediately intensify implementation, monitoring, inspection, compliance verification, and enforcement activities throughout the State.

All Borehole Service Providers are hereby directed to comply with the following requirements:

Mandatory Registration and Licensing:

No individual, company, or organization shall engage in borehole drilling, rehabilitation, water supply installation, or related services without registration and licensing by the Cross River State Ministry of Water Resources.

Mandatory Permit and Authorization:

No borehole project shall commence without prior approval, permit, or authorization from the Ministry of Water Resources.

Compliance with Technical Standards:

All proposed boreholes projects must undergo the required geophysical and geological investigations before drilling.

Appropriate drilling methods, approved materials, well casing, grouting procedures, and water quality standards must be strictly adhered to.
Water quality testing shall be mandatory before commissioning and utilisation of any borehole facility.

Submission of Drilling Records:

All Operators must maintain and submit drilling logs, completion reports, pumping test records, and other relevant technical documentation as may be required by the Ministry.

Environmental Protection Measures:

All Service Providers must ensure environmentally responsible drilling practices and safe disposal of drilling waste to prevent pollution of groundwater and surrounding ecosystems.

The Government further directs all residents, institutions, schools, hospitals, hotels, industries, estate developers, and community organizations to engage only licensed and approved Borehole Service Providers. Citizens are encouraged to demand evidence of registration, permits, and water quality certification before making any payment for borehole services.

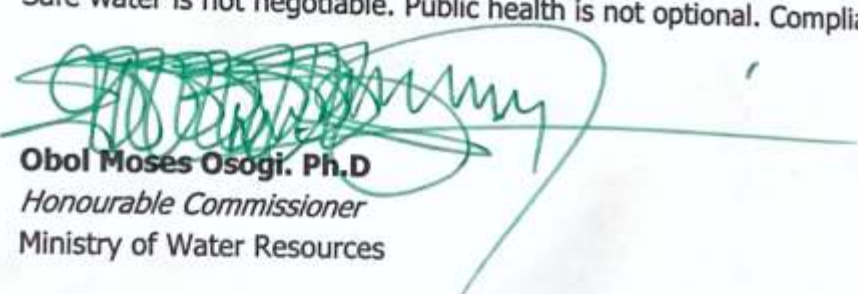
In this regard, the Government wishes to point out that Enforcement Teams shall be deployed across the State to identify and prosecute defaulters. Any individual or organization found drilling boreholes without authorization, operating without registration, violating established standards, falsifying records, or compromising public water safety standard shall face the full weight of the law, including sanctions, closure of operations, fines, and prosecution where applicable.

This exercise is not intended to frustrate legitimate businesses; rather, it is aimed at sanitizing the sector, protecting consumers, promoting professionalism, preserving groundwater resources, and ensuring that every citizen has access to safe and potable water.

The Government remains committed to achieving universal access to clean water and sanitation in line with national WASH objectives and Sustainable Development Goal 6. Such goals can only be realized through collective responsibilities, strict compliance, and effective enforcement.

The message is simple and unequivocal: all Borehole Service Providers must comply with WASH regulations or face the consequences of non-compliance.

Safe water is not negotiable. Public health is not optional. Compliance is mandatory.



Obol Moses Osogi. Ph.D

Honourable Commissioner

Ministry of Water Resources

The Frontier Shield: How Cross River Is Restructuring Its Livestock Empire From The Borders Out

By Arit Ubi



At the quiet edge of Etung Local Government Area, along the lush corridor of Cross River State, a long-standing vulnerability in West African agriculture is finally being

dismantled.

For decades, open borders meant invisible risks: thousands of cattle, goats and sheep moving across regional boundaries largely unchecked, carrying the silent threat of

transboundary animal diseases. Today, that vulnerability meets a high-tech wall of biosecurity.

The Federal Government has officially commissioned Nigeria's inaugural

Border Animal Holding and Quarantine Facility in Nfum, Ajaso Clan.

Built under the World Bank-assisted Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support (L-PRES) Project, the state-of-the-art complex marks a tangible milestone in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda for the newly established Federal Ministry of Livestock Development.

Commissioning the complex, the Minister of Livestock Development, Dr. Idi Mukhtar Maiha, framed the Nfum site not merely as physical infrastructure, but as a structural turning point.

"This facility demonstrates the Federal Government's commitment to transforming Nigeria's livestock industry into a modern, resilient, productive and globally competitive sector," Dr. Maiha emphasised.

Every head of livestock crossing through the Nfum corridor will now undergo a strict diagnostic protocol: entry reception, temporary quarantine, health inspection, documentation and biosecurity certification before gaining entry into the domestic market.

The Nfum facility is merely the vanguard.

Dr. Maiha revealed that it is the first of

12 international border animal holding and quarantine centres slated for construction across Nigeria's strategic livestock corridors, with upcoming sites earmarked for Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, Jigawa, Kano, Sokoto, Niger and Kebbi States.

Conceived under the Innovation and Institutional Systems Strengthening component of the World Bank-supported L-PRES Project, the facility directly supports the statutory mandate of the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS).

According to Dr. Sanusi Abubakar, National Coordinator of the L-PRES Project, the

vision extends well beyond basic quarantine.

It involves geospatial tracking — integrating technology to provide pastoral advisory services and map herds — and traceability integration that generates critical entry data for rapid response to regional disease outbreaks.

Aligning with Governor Bassey Otu's People First Agenda, the strategic siting of the facility in Cross River State underscores the powerful alignment between federal priorities and the state government's vision.

Representing the Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, the Secretary

to the State Government, Prof. Anthony Owan-Enoh, commended the Federal Government for locating the landmark project in Cross River and assured federal authorities of the state's total commitment to protecting the investment.

Crucial to this partnership is Governor Otu's People First Agenda, which places heavy emphasis on gender-responsive development, social inclusion and economic empowerment.

As Cross River continues to expand opportunities across all socio-economic sectors, the new facility is positioned to stimulate border-community

commerce, creating sustainable, gender-inclusive livelihoods for livestock traders, women entrepreneurs and local workers.

At the operational helm in Cross River State, state-level project execution and professional veterinary oversight are unified under the single leadership of Dr. Undiandeye Jude.

Serving concurrently as the Director of Veterinary Services in the Ministry of Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries Development and the State Project Coordinator for the L-PRES Project, Dr. Undiandeye directly bridges

local World Bank project implementation with state veterinary biosecurity.

Dr. Undiandeye identified transboundary animal diseases as one of the most persistent threats confronting Nigeria's livestock sector.

Leveraging his dual mandate, he outlined key strategies to ensure long-term operational impact, including directing both state L-PRES implementation and veterinary regulatory checks to ensure seamless disease interdiction and border biosecurity.

While the commissioning marks an unprecedented

leap forward, operational leaders are already focused on scaling the site to maximum capacity.

Speaking on behalf of the Comptroller-General of NAQS, Dr. Vincent Isegbe, Assistant Comptroller-General Dr. Tekla Ekechukwu highlighted key expansion requirements, including full perimeter fencing, enhanced grid integration and sustained supplies of specialised veterinary chemicals.

Echoing these points, the Executive Chairman of Etung LGA and the Paramount Ruler of Etung, His Royal Majesty Ambassador Anthony Ntui Etta, who facilitated the

initial three-hectare land donation, urged the inclusion of local host-community youths and women in operational staffing to promote genuine community ownership.

As regional commerce under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) accelerates, the Nfum facility establishes a clear standard: Nigeria is securing its borders, protecting its food systems and building an inclusive, modern livestock supply chain ready for the global stage.

C'River Govt Backs Local Businesses at Calabar Pop-Up Market

By Obaseoyi Bassey



The Cross River State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), as the three-day Calabar Pop-Up Market 2026 provided a platform for local entrepreneurs to

showcase their products, connect with customers and expand their businesses.

The market, organised in partnership with the Cross River State Ministry of Commerce, brought together small-scale vendors, consumers

and business enthusiasts for three days of commerce, networking and entertainment.

Declaring the market open, the Commissioner for Commerce, Hon. Dr. Mrs. Abigail Duke Orok, expressed delight





at the impressive participation of vendors and encouraged the entrepreneurs to remain confident in their businesses despite starting small.

“Do not be scared of your small beginnings,” Orok

told the participating business owners, assuring them that the state government remained committed to creating a supportive environment for MSMEs to grow.

The Commissioner said the government was prepared to assist local enterprises with financial interventions, including soft loans and grants, to enable them expand their operations and improve their



THE SOUP
SWEET!

Farm Of
KE

KALABAR
POP-UP

STALL 7



CRUDE
OIL FROM
MY PALM OIL

2L

I COOK
WELL

MY PALM OIL
2021 KALABAR POP-UP
10 MAY 2021 MY PALM OIL



WHOLESALE

PARTY
SOUVENIR

PRODUCT
BUNDLES

56101305

Abia, Cross River State



capacity.

She said the support was part of the government's efforts to ensure that small businesses receive the assistance required to become sustainable and contribute more to the state's economy.

Also speaking, the General Manager, Capacity Building and Enterprise Development, Cross River State Microfinance and Enterprise Development Agency (MEDA), Mrs. Enwongo-Abasi Okon, pledged the agency's support to small businesses in Calabar.

Okon said MEDA would continue to

provide guidance and capacity-building support to entrepreneurs, helping them strengthen their businesses and take advantage of available opportunities.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Calabar Pop-Up Market, Miss Tracy Adie, expressed appreciation to the Cross River State Government for supporting local vendors and recognising the importance of small businesses to the economy.

Adie assured consumers that businesses in Calabar were steadily improving the quality of their products and services, saying products from the city could compete favourably with

international standards.

Throughout the three-day event, shoppers had access to a wide range of locally made products and services, while participating businesses gained exposure, attracted new customers and established contacts across different sectors.

The event ended with a grand shopping party featuring interactive games, food stalls and live music, providing a celebratory close to the market while highlighting the creativity and commercial energy of Calabar's growing community of entrepreneurs.

C'River Moves to Enforce WASH Regulations, Warns Illegal Borehole Operators

By Benedict Okache



The Cross River State Government has announced the commencement of strict implementation

and enforcement of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) regulations governing groundwater development and

water supply services across the State, warning Borehole Service Providers and other Stakeholders to comply with established standards or face sanctions.



groundwater resources, and the overall welfare of citizens.

He noted that while access to safe and clean water remains a fundamental right, such access can only be guaranteed when water infrastructure is developed and managed in line with approved regulatory requirements.

The directive was contained in Press Statement issued by the Commissioner for Water Resources, Obol Moses Osogi, who said the government was concerned about the increasing rate of indiscriminate borehole drilling, the activities of unregistered

operators, and widespread violations of technical standards in the water sector.

According to the Commissioner, the proliferation of poorly regulated borehole projects poses significant threats to public health, environmental sustainability,

"The era of operating without accountability in the water sector is over," Osogi declared, adding that the Ministry of Water Resources, working with relevant Regulatory Agencies and Stakeholders, would intensify monitoring, inspections,

compliance verification, and enforcement activities across the State.

Under the new enforcement guidelines, all Borehole Drilling Companies, Consultants, Developers, Institutions, and Water Service Providers are required to obtain registration and licensing from the Ministry of Water Resources before engaging in any drilling, rehabilitation, water installation, or related services.

The government also directed that no borehole project should commence without obtaining the necessary permit or authorisation from the designated

Regulatory Authority within the Ministry.

As part of efforts to ensure quality and safety, the Ministry mandated that all proposed boreholes projects must undergo



geophysical and geological investigations before drilling. Operators are also required to comply with approved drilling methods, utilise standard materials, follow proper well casing and grouting

procedures, and conduct compulsory water quality testing before any borehole is commissioned for public use.

In addition, Service Providers providers must maintain and submit drilling logs, pumping test records, completion reports, and other technical documentation required by the government, stressing

further that the importance of environmental protection, directing operators to adopt environmentally responsible drilling practices and ensure the safe disposal of drilling waste to prevent groundwater contamination and

damage to surrounding ecosystems.

The Government in the Statement, equally appealed to residents, schools, hospitals, hotels, industries, estate developers, and community organisations to patronise only licensed and approved Borehole Contractors. Citizens were also encouraged to request evidence of registration, permits, and water quality certification before engaging any service provider.

Obol Osogi warned that enforcement teams would be deployed throughout the State to identify and prosecute violators, noting that individuals or

organisations found drilling boreholes without authorisation, operating without registration, breaching technical standards, falsifying records, or endangering public water safety would face penalties, including fines, closure of operations, and prosecution where necessary.

The Water Resources Commissioner explained that the enforcement exercise is not designed to hinder legitimate businesses but rather to sanitise the sector, enhance professionalism, protect consumers, preserve groundwater resources, and guarantee access to safe drinking water.

Reaffirming the State's commitment to national WASH objectives and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Six on clean water and sanitation, Obol Osogi said meaningful progress would only be achieved through collective responsibility, strict compliance, and effective enforcement.

He warned Borehole operators to henceforth be properly guided, adding that compliance with WASH regulations is now mandatory.

"Safe water is not negotiable. Public health is not optional. Compliance is mandatory," the Commissioner said.

Life After Retirement: Governor Otu's Administration Promotes Retiree Entrepreneurship Development Initiative

By Innocent Ashiwhobel



The Cross River State Government, under the leadership of Governor Bassey

Edet Otu, has continued to promote policies and programmes aimed at improving the welfare of

retirees through the Retiree Entrepreneurship Development Initiative.

The initiative is designed to prepare retired civil servants for a productive and sustainable life after active service.

It recognises that retirement should not mark the end of a person's productive contribution to society.

Rather, it can be an opportunity for retirees to convert their years of experience, skills and knowledge into viable businesses and other income-generating ventures.

Through the programme, retirees are encouraged and supported to acquire entrepreneurial

skills, develop business ideas and explore opportunities in areas such as agriculture, agro-processing, small-scale manufacturing, trading, services and other sectors



with potential for sustainable income.

The Governor Otu-led administration believes that empowering retirees will not only improve their quality of life but also reduce financial

dependence and enable them to remain active contributors to the state's economy.

The initiative also places emphasis on entrepreneurship training, mentorship, financial literacy and access to opportunities that can help beneficiaries establish and manage small businesses successfully.

For many civil servants, retirement comes with a major transition from a regular salary structure to a different financial reality.

The Retiree Entrepreneurship Development Initiative

therefore seeks to make this transition less difficult by equipping retirees with practical tools for life beyond government employment.

Beyond financial empowerment, the programme promotes dignity and self-reliance among retirees.

It encourages beneficiaries to see retirement not as an end, but as the beginning of another phase where experience can be transformed into productive ventures.

The initiative is also expected to contribute to employment creation and local economic

development, as retirees who establish successful businesses can employ other members of their communities.

The Otu administration's approach reflects its broader commitment to inclusive development, human capital development and policies that place people at the centre of governance.

With appropriate training, mentorship and support, retirees can continue to contribute meaningfully to society while securing additional sources of income for themselves and their families.

Ultimately, the

Retiree Entrepreneurship Development Initiative represents a shift in the perception of retirement — from a period of inactivity to an opportunity for reinvention, enterprise and continued service to society.

For Cross River retirees, the message is clear: retirement is not the end of the journey; it is the beginning of a new chapter of possibilities.

Calabar City Must Grow beyond The State Capital Like Lagos And Abuja - MD UGBE



The Managing Director of Hit Fm Radio Calabar Mr. Patrick Ugbe opined that Calabar City must grow beyond the state capital like Lagos State where people rarely know the boundary

between the capital Ikeja and surrounding areas, he said that Ogun and Abeokuta are benefiting from Lagos expansion that people rarely know the capital of Lagos most people live at Ogun and Abeokuta, he stressed that Abuja FCT is also

witnessing same trend as Nasarawa state, Kogi State and surroundings are also benefitting from the development from Abuja which has moved into the surrounding area.

Mr. Patrick Ugbe a former



commissioner of information in Cross River State and proprietor of the pioneer private radio station in Calabar said that with Calabar being the first capital of southern protectorate of Nigeria, the

growth and development in Calabar should move beyond the state capital to Odukpani, Calabar South, Akpabuyo, Bakassi, Biase and Akampka LGAs. If Ogun and Abeokuta has benefited from Lagos expansion

then surrounding local government areas of Calabar Capital should benefit same. As at today Akpabuyo, Odukpani, Akampka, Biase shouldn't be a rural area anymore, the Greater Calabar Summit should be a cause in terms of growing Capital Cities out of Calabar. He promised to partner and ensure effectively publicity of the Greater Calabar Summit and commend the government of Cross river State for the initiative.

Speaking earlier the Director General of Greater Calabar Capital City Developments Authority Hon. Basey Effiom said





the agency is poised to check unbridled development, illegal structures and sue for synergy with the radio house, he said this Summit is geared towards complementing the effort of the governor towards delivering dividends of democracy.

Also speaking the Pioneer DG and Chairman Greater Calabar Summit Chief Dr Kingsley Ita Asanye

Ikpeme commend the CEO/MD of Hit Fm radio for citing his radio house in Calabar which has created employment and contribute to the socio-economic development of Greater Calabar. He said that the aesthetic of Calabar must be restored and arbitrary urban sprawl, erecting of illegal structures, conversion of verges and residential layouts to commercial and industrial area

must be reverted to protect our tourism destination. He said a clear cut demarcation between residential, industrial and commercial areas are sacrosanct in developing a modern city to meet 21st century demand.

EHOAN Elects Igiri, Vows Stronger Environmental Health Drive in C'River

By Kingsley Agim



The Environmental Health Officers Association of Nigeria (EHOAN), Cross River State Chapter, has elected a new State Executive Council to steer the affairs of the association for the next three years.

The election was

conducted during the association's Triennial General Meeting held at the Local Government Council Hall, Ikom, which also featured a meeting of Heads of Environmental Health facilities across the state to deliberate on critical issues affecting Environmental Health practice and service delivery.

Declaring the meeting open, the Chairman of Ikom Local Government Council, represented by the Head of Local Government Administration (HOLGA), Mrs. Felicia Okongor, commended Environmental Health Officers for their indispensable



contributions to sanitation, disease prevention and public health protection.

Okongor reaffirmed the council's support for Environmental Health programmes and urged members of the association to sustain unity, professionalism and dedication to

duty.

The meeting was attended by the National General Secretary of EHOAN, Barr. Emmanuel Eyo, who represented the National President, alongside representatives of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Cross River State Chapter.

Following the dissolution of the former State Executive Council led by San. Dr. Obogo Simon Idoko, members conducted a peaceful electoral process which produced San. Comrade Ben Igiri as the new State President.

Other members of



the newly elected executive are San. Scholastica Beshel, Deputy President; San. Asuquo Henry Eyibio, General Secretary; San. Blessing Inyang, Treasurer; and San. Edwin Ushaka, Vice President, North.

Others are San. Emmanuel Enang, Vice President, Central; San. Otei Epom, Vice President, South; San. Eke Okon Edet, Financial

Secretary; San. Emelda Edom, Auditor; and San. Anthony Ugbe, Provost Marshal.

In his acceptance speech, Igiri expressed gratitude to members for the confidence reposed in the new leadership and pledged to run an all-inclusive administration.

He said the new executive would prioritise members' welfare, professionalism and

advocacy, while working to strengthen the practice of Environmental Health and its contribution to public health in Cross River State.

The new president also pledged to work with members and relevant stakeholders to address challenges confronting the profession and improve Environmental



Health service delivery across the state.

The meeting provided an opportunity for Heads of Environmental Health facilities to share experiences and deliberate on issues requiring attention to strengthen the effectiveness of Environmental Health services across the state.

The event ended with a renewed commitment by members to the ideals of the association and its enduring motto: "Sanitas, Sanitatum... Omnia Sanitas."

Repositioning the Public and Civil Service: The Otu Administration's Transformation Agenda through the Ministry of Establishments, Training and Pensions

By Otu Orlando



of His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu. Since 2023, the Ministry, under the leadership of the Commissioner, Hon. Mrs Lawrencia E Ita, has pursued reforms focused on strengthening workforce administration, improving pensions management, developing human capital, modernising records and establishment processes, and promoting professionalism across the service. One of the Ministry's major achievements is the operational

The Ministry of Establishments, Training and Pensions has remained a

strategic pillar in the transformation of the Cross River State Public and Civil Service under the administration

take-over of a modern database centre. The initiative represents a significant step towards digital governance, delivering

establishment records and its information and communication technology infrastructure, with the aim of reducing bureaucratic bottlenecks, improving personnel

Ministry has sustained various capacity-building initiatives for officers across the state. Orientation and induction programmes have been organised for



improved data management, better coordination, and more efficient processing of establishment and pension records. The Ministry is also advancing the computerisation of

documentation, and making public and civil administration faster and more efficient. Recognising that an efficient public and civil service depends largely on the quality and competence of its workforce, the

newly recruited officers across the state's 18 local government areas, equipping them with knowledge of public and civil service rules, ethics, responsibilities, and expected standards of

conduct. The Ministry has also conducted training programmes and workshops designed to strengthen professionalism, institutional efficiency, and service delivery. In its effort to improve documentation and administrative efficiency, the Ministry organised a two-day workshop on effective registry and records management for staff of ministries, departments, and agencies across the state. The programme was aimed at strengthening the documentation culture, improving file security and retrieval, promoting accountability, and ensuring efficient management of

official records. Pensions administration remains a critical responsibility of the Ministry, which has instituted reforms aimed at improving the management and digitalisation of pension records and personnel data. These efforts are geared towards making pensions administration more organised, transparent, and efficient, while strengthening the integrity of pension documentation and reducing avoidable delays. Another significant initiative is the conduct of the Annual Compulsory Examination for Administrative and Professional Officers in the Cross River State Public and Civil Service. The examination is conducted across the three senatorial

districts, with centres in Calabar, Ikom, and Ogoja, giving officers the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge of relevant laws, and of management, personnel, financial, and security matters. The initiative reinforces professionalism, competence, and continuous development within the public and civil service. The Ministry has equally continued to strengthen institutional governance through administrative reforms, the implementation and review of schemes of service, personnel documentation, and the standardisation of public and civil

service operations. The provision of ICT tools, office furniture, and modern file-management equipment has further enhanced the working environment and supported more effective service delivery. Going forward, the Ministry remains committed to deepening digital transformation, sustaining manpower development programmes, improving pension administration, strengthening records management, and promoting continuous professional development. Its goal is to build a more efficient, professional, digitally driven, and accountable public and civil

service — one capable of responding effectively to the needs of government and the people of Cross River State. The achievements of the Ministry of Establishments, Training and Pensions reflect a deliberate commitment to public and civil service renewal under the People First Agenda of Governor Bassey Otu. From digital governance and workforce orientation to institutional reform, training, records management, and pension administration, the Ministry is steadily repositioning the Cross River State Public and Civil Service for greater efficiency, professionalism, accountability, and

excellence in service delivery. The journey continues, with a clear vision of a modern public and civil service built on competence, technology, integrity, and service to the people.

Effective Public Relations Strategies for Sustainable Development

By Joe Ashibekong



In an era defined by rapid technological advancement and digital transformation, effective communication has become the ultimate lifeblood of organizational success.

Public relations (PR) now stands firmly at the forefront, playing a pivotal role in

shaping public perception, fostering enduring relationships, and navigating an increasingly complex digital landscape.

For modern enterprises and institutions, PR is far more than simply managing media relations or crafting compelling press releases.

It encapsulates a holistic approach to building trust with diverse stakeholders, from customers and employees to investors and the general public. As our world functions more like a hyper-connected global village, an organization's

digital footprint is frequently its first enduring point of contact.

A meticulously designed website, active social media profiles, and consistent, relevant content creation serve as the pillars of credibility in the modern age.

However, when it comes to the monumental challenge of sustainable development, the stakes are higher still.

Turning high-level environmental and social goals into real, grassroots community action requires a

fundamental shift in how organizations communicate.

Championing Transparency Over "Greenwashing" At the heart of any credible sustainability initiative lies absolute transparency.

In a marketplace saturated with eco-friendly buzzwords, organizations must actively avoid greenwashing by backing every claim with rigorous, verifiable data.

Building genuine public trust demands clarity. Organizations must openly communicate their current performance

metrics, acknowledge ongoing operational challenges, and clearly outline future reduction targets.

This commitment to honesty forms the bedrock of long-term reputation management.

Moving Toward Two-Way Dialogue Traditional PR often relied on simple message broadcasting, a one-way street of information delivery. Sustainable development, however, requires a two-way symmetrical communication model.

By fostering open dialogue between corporations, government

bodies, and local communities, organizations can cultivate mutual accountability. Creating structured feedback loops where stakeholders can freely voice concerns, ask critical questions, and co-create local sustainability solutions ensures that initiatives are truly collaborative rather than top-down mandates.

Macro-level frameworks, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), can often feel abstract to the everyday citizen. Effective PR bridges this gap through human-centered, culturally grounded storytelling.

By replacing heavy scientific jargon with simple, accessible language and engaging visuals, communicators can connect global goals to daily concerns. When sustainability initiatives directly address local health, job creation, and community growth in regional languages, complex global ideas become digestible and deeply personal.

Internal Advocacy and Grassroots Partnerships

Sustainable development cannot succeed in a vacuum; it requires internal alignment and external collaboration.

Organizations must train and empower their employees to become authentic brand ambassadors by keeping them actively involved in internal sustainability initiatives.

Externally, true impact is achieved through deep local partnerships. Collaborating closely with grassroots groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community leaders ensures that projects fit local cultural contexts, fostering a genuine sense of ownership within the community.

Proactive Crisis Management and Corporate Responsibility

In the unpredictable environment of modern business, no organization is entirely immune to crises.

However, reputational damage is rarely determined by the crisis itself, but rather by how an organization responds.

Proactive crisis management—identifying potential risks in advance, running response simulations, and maintaining swift, transparent communication—is essential to preserving public trust during turbulent times.

Complementing risk management is the strategic deployment of Corporate Social Responsibility



(CSR).

Being a responsible corporate citizen is both a moral imperative and a powerful PR asset. By embedding yearly community projects, charitable initiatives, and environmental preservation efforts into their

operational DNA, businesses not only enhance their brand image but also build lasting consumer loyalty in an increasingly crowded and conscious marketplace.

Ultimately, as sustainable development becomes the definitive challenge of our time, public

relations serves as the bridge between corporate intention and meaningful societal impact.

What steps is your organization taking to ensure its sustainability messaging translates into real, measurable community impact?

The Economic Implications of Electric Vehicle Policy and State Development: Otu's Pioneering and Enterprising Spirit

By Iloke Egbe



Since the inception of the administration of His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, as Governor of Cross River State, policies have been consciously crafted to reflect the Governor's "People First" mantra and to demonstrate the sincerity of his intent to reduce multidimensional

poverty among residents of the state.

It is remarkable to reflect on the positive results of these policies, which carry both short- and long-term impacts on the people and the environment, while demonstrating the Governor's deep understanding of the challenges facing Cross Riverians and residents of the state.

Within the forty-four months of the Governor's stewardship, numerous policies have been formulated and implemented to address

fundamental challenges that had long served as indices of a retrogressive economy in the state.

These include the restoration of the state's status as an oil-producing state, the return of the premium Tinapa Resort, the Calabar Deep Seaport project, and the supply of electric vehicles to Permanent Secretaries under a pilot scheme to encourage a green economy.

Others include a revolution in the agricultural sector; the upgrading and construction of

health facilities across the state's 196 political wards; the establishment of the University of Education and Entrepreneurship; and the revival of the state's air fleet to support and reposition the tourism subsector, among others.

These initiatives are aimed at re-establishing the state's mission as the "People's Paradise." Among the many policies and programmes implemented by the administration, one aspect deserves closer analysis for its wide-ranging benefits to government and individuals alike: the electric vehicle policy promoted by the

present administration.

The Governor deserves commendation for the visionary leadership, foresight, and bold steps he has taken to change the narrative of the state — evident in the return of peace and the creation of a business environment that promotes stability and economic growth, to the mutual benefit of government and the governed.

The benefits of adopting electric vehicles as a pillar of economic growth extend well beyond expectation, and the sector alone holds real potential to expand economic inclusion for young people, regardless of

gender or age.

A closer examination of the electric vehicle subsector shows its potential to deliver cost savings, spur new industries, and support cleaner economic growth.

The adoption of electric vehicles can reduce dependence on imported petrol and diesel, enabling both government and individuals to spend less on fuel — freeing up funds for redirection into other productive sectors of the economy.

The rise of electric vehicles can create jobs in areas such as vehicle assembly, battery-charging

infrastructure, maintenance, software development, and solar power development.

A state with well-developed electric vehicle infrastructure stands to attract automobile companies, technology firms, renewable-energy investors, and related businesses.

Further benefits of the policy include reduced government spending: when official fleets run on electric vehicles, recurrent expenditure on fuel declines.

The state can also generate new revenue streams through electric vehicle

registration, carbon credits, charging-station licences, and related taxes and fees.

The sector further stimulates growth in the energy sector by driving demand for stable electricity and renewable energy, while delivering meaningful social and environmental benefits — reduced air pollution, lower healthcare costs associated with respiratory illness, and reduced noise pollution making cities quieter and contributing to broader climate goals.

Taken together, these benefits diversify the economy, create opportunities, and encourage broader participation a win-

win policy for government and citizens alike.

In interviews, several Permanent Secretaries reflected on their experience with the vehicles. Mr Kingsley Ndem Eyibio, Permanent Secretary, State Planning Commission, said mobility is central to his ability to deliver public services and support government activities, and that the electric vehicle has enhanced both his mobility and his effectiveness.

He noted that the vehicle lends credibility to government during official functions and demonstrates the Governor's

commitment to improving the welfare of Permanent Secretaries.

He thanked the Governor and urged the administration to consider establishing dedicated maintenance and servicing centres, noting that electric vehicle technology requires specialised upkeep.

The State Statistician-General, Mrs Akedoh Okoi Edet, said she had experienced no issues with the vehicle, describing the technology as smooth and efficient. "If I have my way, Nigerians should key into this

technology. It has made life very easy.

Just help me thank the Governor," she said, adding a call for greater private-sector participation in what she described as one of the administration's positive innovations.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Establishments, Training and Pensions, Mr Donatus Ejemot Esu, also thanked the Governor, describing the vehicle as excellent. He noted that it has no conventional engine, does not run on petrol, and requires minimal maintenance lasting up to five days on a full charge with its two batteries.

He commended the Governor for an innovation that has helped Permanent Secretaries save on fuel costs, and noted that the vehicle's suspension is comparable to that of a Toyota Corolla.

He expressed confidence that the Governor would, in due course, facilitate the establishment of charging and maintenance stations across the state, adding that with proper care, the vehicles could serve for many years without major issues.

Mr Esu further observed that the initiative had restored the dignity and



prestige of Permanent Secretaries, removing the stigma once associated with their mobility challenges.

It is fitting, once again, to commend the pioneering and enterprising spirit of the visionary Governor, His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu,

for placing the growth and development of Cross River State at the top of his agenda.

This appreciation extends equally to the members of the State Executive Council, whose continued unity and commitment remain vital to the state's progress. At the same time, there is a clear case for the

gradual expansion of the electric vehicle programme's coverage and beneficiaries, as Cross River State positions itself as a leading state in the South-South region in this emerging area of transportation and economic development.

The Mensah Push: A New Blueprint For Environmental Renewal

By Sylvia Okoi



When Barr Bassey Offiong Mensah assumed responsibility for the Cross River State Ministry of Environment following the July 2026 cabinet reshuffle, he

inherited a portfolio sitting at the intersection of public health, urban development, climate vulnerability, and sanitation — one central to the state's ambition of reclaiming its status as the cleanest

state in Nigeria, a reputation it once proudly held.

Tasked with realising the Ministry's vision of becoming Nigeria's reference point in environmental standards and

practice, promoting public health and socio-economic development through sustainable initiatives aimed at a circular economy — Mensah is taking the campaign for a cleaner, safer, and greener Cross River beyond rhetoric.

Though the assignment appeared daunting, the new Commissioner has, within a relatively short period, established a pattern of intervention that suggests an administration determined to move environmental management from periodic enforcement to a sustained culture of environmental

responsibility.

The Commissioner's activities to date reveal a philosophy built around cleanliness, enforcement, prevention, public engagement, and partnership. Environmental sanitation has been one of Mensah's earliest and most visible priorities.

At the August 2026 statewide sanitation exercise, he personally inspected compliance and expressed concern over residents who continued trading and playing football during the restricted hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

For Mensah, sanitation cannot remain an occasional government exercise — it must become part of residents' everyday

behaviour. He has challenged Cross Riverians to take personal responsibility for their surroundings, insisting that environmental cleanliness must extend beyond the monthly sanitation day, and has consistently called on residents to end indiscriminate refuse dumping and maintain clean surroundings.

That philosophy also underpins the Ministry's plans to strengthen enforcement around major markets, including the proposed deployment of mobile courts to address persistent environmental violations.

Perhaps the most visible dimension of Mensah's approach has been

the renewed effort to reclaim spaces gradually taken over by informal activity.

The Commissioner led a major clean-up operation around Atimbo Roundabout, the Airport Field, IBB/Edim Otop/CUDA Junction, Etta Agbor Roundabout, and Rabana Junction, directing traders operating from tables, kiosks, POS stands, and makeshift structures on pedestrian walkways to relocate to designated markets.

The intervention was not framed merely as an aesthetic exercise: Mensah linked the obstruction of walkways to

pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, and accessibility challenges for wheelchair users and others with mobility aids.

The exercise extended to government-reserved green areas as well.

At the Margaret Ekpo International Airport Field and the open space behind the airport along IBB Way, the Commissioner moved to reclaim land being used for football, food vending, refuse dumping, and burning, activities damaging the reserves' intended purpose.

The government's position, Mensah stated, is that green areas are public environmental assets, not vacant land to be

appropriated at will — an important dimension of the drive to restore order while preserving Calabar's urban character.

Addressing flooding before the rains turn disastrous has been a pivotal focus of the Ministry's work under Mensah.

Cross River has been significantly affected by flooding, erosion, and landslides, prompting the Commissioner to conduct an on-the-spot inspection of environmentally vulnerable locations across Calabar Metropolis and Akpabuyo Local Government Area — including the landslide-prone Anansa area, the

drainage project at WAPI Junction, and the gully erosion site at Ikot Offiong Mbiang in Akpabuyo.

The visit reflected an important shift from reactive disaster response towards identifying vulnerable areas and pursuing preventive measures.

The Ministry's collaboration with technical experts and the Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP) is particularly significant given the scale and technical complexity of the erosion and landslide challenges facing parts of the state.

For a city with intense rainfall,

drainage is more than an infrastructure concern — it is a matter of environmental and public safety.

Mensah has placed strong emphasis on desilting drainage channels, with the Ministry ensuring that debris generated during operations is properly evacuated rather than left to return to the drains.

The Commissioner has warned that desilting without prompt evacuation would defeat the purpose of the exercise.

This approach is especially relevant as parts of Calabar continue to experience flooding linked to heavily silted drains.

The Ministry has carried out major

desilting operations in Ettagbor, Watt Market, and Eight Miles, with further intervention sites under identification.

Mensah has recognised that government cannot shoulder the environmental burden alone.

During a meeting with Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc, he identified areas where private-sector organisations could support environmental sustainability through their corporate social responsibility programmes — part of a broader effort to bring CSR into environmental management.

Another key component of the

emerging environmental agenda is the regulation of activities that have spilled onto public roads and pedestrian spaces.

The Commissioner has directed roadside traders around Watt Market and the Mobil/MCC axis to relocate, with the Fruit Arcade in Ikot Ishie proposed as an alternative site.

Similarly, mechanics operating without designated workshops along Bedwell, Kings, White House, and Victor Akan Streets in Calabar South have been directed to vacate the areas.

Mensah described roadside mechanic activity as an environmental

nuisance that obstructs traffic and contributes to urban deterioration, calling for urgent intervention to clear the roads.

The move represents an effort to restore the distinction between commercial spaces, residential areas, traffic corridors, and environmental reserves.

Mensah's agenda has also taken institutional shape with the inauguration of a Special Environmental Task Force, mandated to enforce environmental laws and address indiscriminate waste disposal, illegal structures, street trading, and other violations. At its inauguration, the Commissioner charged members to act with integrity,

dedication, and selfless service, while emphasising that enforcement must remain within the bounds of responsibility and due process.

Mensah has also engaged directly with communities affected by environmental challenges.

When representatives of Obutong Community raised concerns over worsening erosion and landslides threatening homes, roads, and livelihoods, the Commissioner assured them of government intervention and stressed the need for professional, sustainable solutions.

He also encouraged

residents to avoid practices that aggravate environmental problems, including indiscriminate refuse disposal, deforestation, and construction along natural drainage channels.

This community dimension matters: many environmental problems begin at the grassroots and cannot be resolved from an office in Calabar alone.

Mensah has repeatedly linked his environmental agenda to Governor Bassey Edet Otu's vision of restoring Cross River's reputation as a clean, attractive destination and a major tourism hub.

His message since

assuming office has been consistent: to return Cross River to the standard of cleanliness for which it was once known.

The early months of his tenure show a Commissioner working on several fronts

simultaneously — sanitation, drainage desilting, erosion control, green-space protection, traffic and walkway management, regulation of roadside activity, enforcement, community engagement, and private-sector collaboration.

Ultimately, the measure of this renewed environmental push will not be the number of enforcement operations carried out or directives issued, but whether

streets remain clean after sanitation exercises, drains stay free of refuse, green spaces are protected, flooding is reduced, and citizens come to see environmental responsibility as a shared civic duty.

Barr Bassey Offiong Mensah continues to match words with action, with a promise to sustain the momentum.

With the right institutional support, strengthened infrastructure through partnerships, and responsible citizenship, the campaign to reclaim Cross River's clean and green identity could become a lasting culture.

Prof Odey Charges School Heads on Compliance, Accountability

By Patricia Ogbeche



The Cross River State Commissioner for Education, Senator Prof. Stephen Odey, has charged principals and head teachers in the Central Senatorial District to demonstrate strong leadership, accountability and commitment to improving teaching and

learning.

Speaking during an interactive session with school heads, Senator Odey urged them to comply with Ministry directives on school administration, ensure proper registration of students, maintain accurate records and embrace the Student

Identification Number (SIN) system as part of efforts to strengthen digital education management.

He warned against illegal levies and unauthorised collection of funds, stressing the need for transparency and accountability in the management



of school resources.

The Commissioner further urged school heads to maintain clean and conducive learning

environments, utilise the revised curriculum, ensure timely submission of continuous assessment records, protect government property and live

up to their responsibilities.

He disclosed that the State examination results have been released, commending



Governor Bassey Edet Otu for providing the necessary funds that enabled the prompt release.

Senator Odey assured teachers of the administration's commitment to improving their

welfare and called on all education stakeholders to work collectively towards a more efficient and effective education system.

Stakeholders and school heads commended the Commissioner for

his consistent engagement with education managers, describing the interactions as valuable in addressing challenges and advancing the education sector in the state.





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Edu Commissioner Charges Northern Zone School Heads on Discipline, Accountability

By Patricia Ogbeche



The Cross River State Commissioner for Education, Senator Professor Stephen Odey, has charged principals and head teachers in the Northern Education Zone to demonstrate discipline, integrity, accountability and strong leadership

in the management of their schools.

Speaking during a meeting with school heads, Senator Odey stressed the need for administrators to maintain clean school environments, effectively supervise teaching and learning, dress appropriately and

ensure that teachers are regular and committed to their duties.

The Commissioner warned against absenteeism, illegal levies and other unauthorised collections, stressing that such acts would attract

appropriate sanctions.

He also directed school heads to ensure the proper distribution of Basic Education Certificates, compliance with the Student Identification Number programme, accurate submission of students' records and prompt resolution of examination and results-related

issues.

"Performance and adherence to established rules will remain key considerations in continued leadership roles."

Senator Odey commended the Governor Bassey Edet Otu, for his visionary leadership and passion for education, particularly for providing funds that facilitated the prompt release of

students' results.

He announced that the Ministry would intensify monitoring of schools and urged Education Secretaries, Coordinating Directors, principals and head teachers to take full responsibility for their respective schools and improve performance.





The Commissioner further disclosed ongoing efforts to address teacher shortages and improve school infrastructure, while directing school administrators to

ensure strict compliance with approved textbooks and the implementation of the new curricula.

He also reiterated the need for timely payment of

teachers' salaries, noting that the Ministry would engage relevant local government authorities to address delays and ensure that teachers receive their entitlements.



Senator Odey urged school administrators to uphold fairness,

professionalism and integrity, stressing that performance and adherence to established rules

would remain key considerations in their continued leadership roles.

Otu Pays Tribute to Undiandeye's Mother-in-Law

...Hails Undiandeye's Mother-in-Law as Virtuous Matriarch



Governor Bassey Edet Otu of Cross River State has described the late Mrs. Rose Obla Agbenem Orim, mother-in-law of the Chief of Defence Intelligence, Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Undiandeye, as a

virtuous matriarch whose life was defined by faith, discipline, love and sound upbringing.

The Governor, who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, at the funeral held in Utugwang, Obudu

Local Government Area, on Saturday, said the late Mrs. Orim's life was a testament to the enduring values of family, faith and responsible upbringing.

Governor Otu said, "Mama lived



a life defined by faith, discipline, love and sound upbringing. The positive impact of her life is evident in the character and achievements of the children she raised."

He urged the bereaved family to draw comfort from the legacy she left behind, saying, "At this time of grief, I

urge the family to take solace in the beautiful legacy she has left behind and the lives she touched."

The Governor also prayed for the repose of the deceased's soul and those of other departed members of the family, recalling that some of them were his friends during their growing-up years.

Reflecting on his relationship with his late mother-in-law, Lt. Gen. Undiandeye recalled her countless prayer sessions, counsel and words of encouragement, which he said remained a source of strength throughout their relationship.

The Chief of



Defence Intelligence said Mrs. Orim treated him as her own son and gave him unwavering support, love and guidance, adding that her impact on his life and family would remain indelible.

He said her prayers and counsel had played an important role in

his life, noting that her memory would continue to live on through the values she instilled in the family.

Also paying tribute, Senator Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe described Mrs. Orim as a mother figure and mentor who played a significant role in his life and the wider Ogoja community.

Jarigbe said the deceased's motherly disposition, wisdom and kindness made her a source of guidance and encouragement to many people beyond her immediate family.

Born in 1939 in Gakem, Bekwarra Local Government Area, Mrs. Orim



was a Lady of St. Mulumba and a successful businesswoman who also undertook pilgrimage to Jerusalem despite having no formal education.

She died at the age of 87 and is survived by six children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren,

including Mrs. Jane Ekor Undiandeye, wife of the Chief of Defence Intelligence.

The funeral was attended by the member representing Obanliku/Bekwarra /Obudu Federal Constituency, Chief Hon. Peter Akpanke; Chief of Staff to the Governor, Chief Hon. Emmanuel

Ironbar; Chairman of Obudu Local Government Area, Hon. Dr. Peter Undaiandeye; senior military officers, government officials, religious leaders, traditional rulers and other dignitaries.





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Calabar, 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





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.

BIF 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

DON'T MISS IT

Contact Us:

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Socials: @bakassifishfestival. Email: bakassifishfestival@gmail.com



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

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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

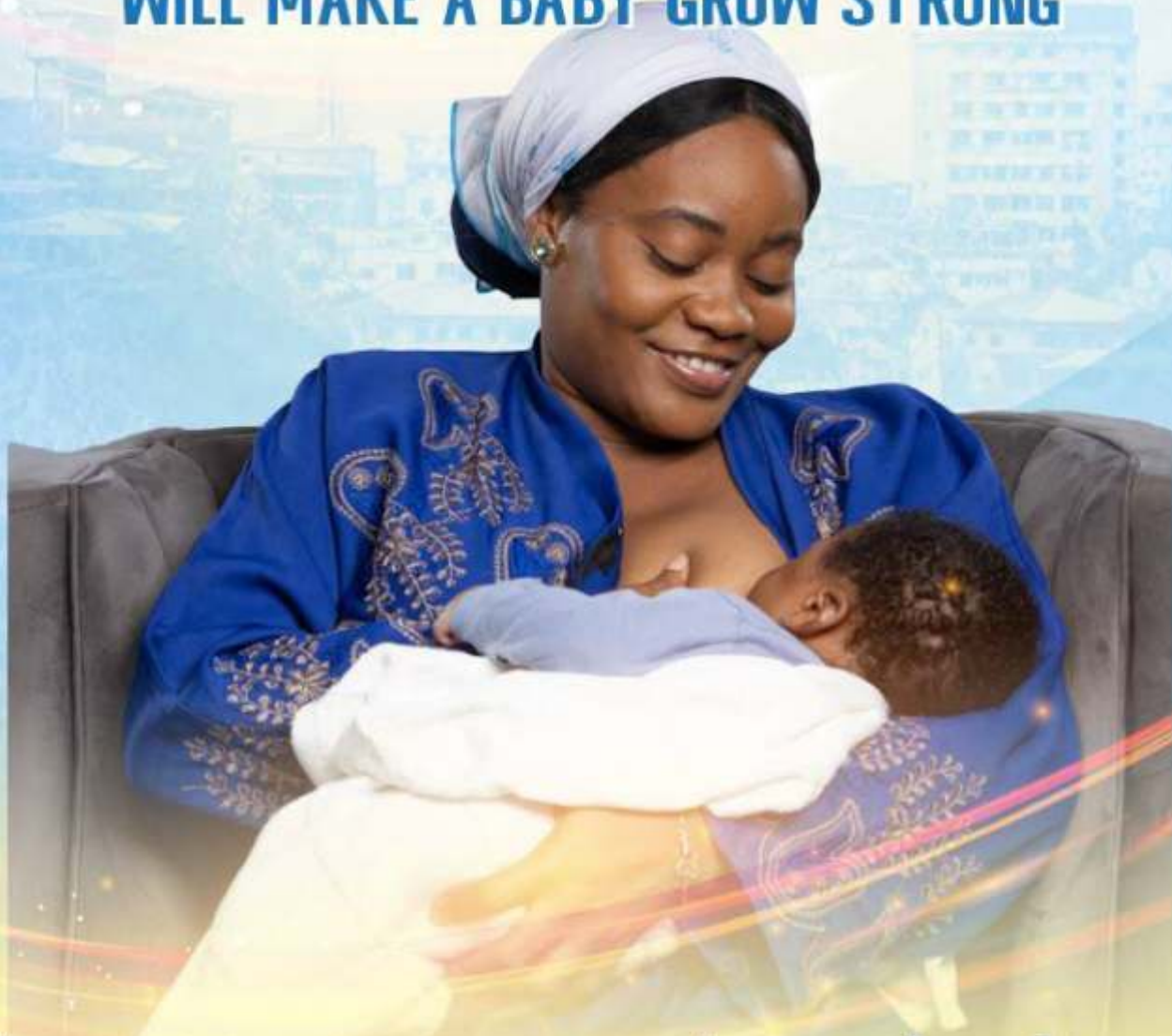


LET'S GROW STRONGER
TOGETHER

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 —



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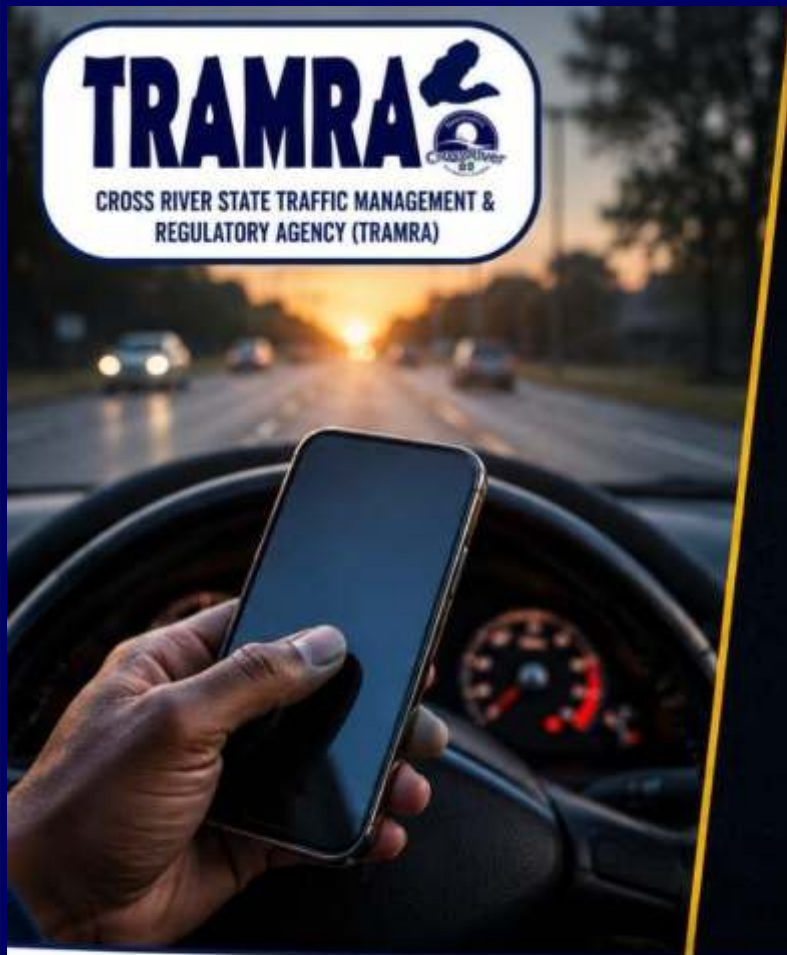


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AND BUILD
PARTNERSHIPS**



**INNOVATE
FOR A SUSTAINABLE
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| SAFETY TODAY

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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
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and protect yourself,
Your Children and
Generations from
Land Grabbers.



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CROSS RIVER GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AGENCY

ROADS ARE SHARED SPACES,

RESPECT CYCLISTS,
MOTORCYCLISTS AND
PEDESTRIANS TO CREATE
A SAFER ROAD



RESPECT
SHARE
PROTECT
SAVE LIVES



RESPECT
CYCLISTS



RESPECT
MOTORCYCLISTS



RESPECT
PEDESTRIANS



SHARE TODAY,
SAVE TOMORROW

TRAMRA

Cross River State Traffic
Management and Regulatory Agency



TRAMRA

Cross River State Traffic Management and Regulatory Agency

CARNIVAL calabar 2026

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



THEME
Rethinking
OUR COLLECTIVE
Destiny

Kingsley Agim, anipr

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

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

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

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

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



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

INFORMATION SECTOR

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



Kingsley Agim, anipr

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

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



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

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

State's visibility on the national and international stage.

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

Governor Otu's administration responded with deliberate investments





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

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

These reforms improved operational efficiency while

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

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

Under Governor Otu, the Commissioner for



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

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

significant improvements in government media presence in recent years.

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

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

The restoration of the website was



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

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

Government estimates indicate that the

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

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

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



restoration of official government documentation.

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

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

These publications have strengthened

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

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

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



initiatives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

investor confidence in the state's development agenda.

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

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

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

reached communities that traditionally had limited access to digital media.

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

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

CRBC's Digital Revolution

If the Ministry of Information experienced institutional renewal, the





Cross River Broadcasting Corporation underwent a complete technological transformation.

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

The Corporation introduced a fully paperless digital newsroom, enabling

real-time news production and significantly improving operational efficiency.

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



outages.

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

These improvements have substantially enhanced staff productivity and broadcast quality.

Perhaps the most transformative

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

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

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

Today, CRBC reaches audiences across more



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

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

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

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

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

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

promoting Cross River's rich heritage to wider audiences.

Strengthening Institutional Capacity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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







SECTORIAL STRIDES









THIS IS CROSS RIVER STATE

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



Refuse in the gutters blocks the drains



Use the skip bins closest to you



Dumping refuse outside the skip bins is unpleasant



A clean Environment starts with proper waste disposal



A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS



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

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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



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Cross River State

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STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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

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CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND