

Daily InfoNews Bulletin

A Publication of the Cross River State
Ministry of Information, Calabar

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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.

Articles and stories in this publication may be reproduced.

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Pst. Ekpenyong Cobham **Publisher**

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Nchajeno Richard-Odu

ICT/PRODUCTION MANAGER

Hinang-ovai Uno

PHOTOGRAPHS

Daniel Williams
Joe Alah

Happy
INDEPENDENCE
Anniversary

MAY NIGERIA KNOW PEACE!
2026



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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.

Tanker Fire Claims Two Lives in Odukpani as CR-SEMA, Red Cross Assess Damage

By David Asu



Two persons have been confirmed dead while two others sustained critical injuries following a tanker fire in Odukpani Local Government Area of Cross River State.

The incident occurred in the early hours of Sunday after a tanker conveying diesel reportedly collided with a stationary truck, triggering a fire that also affected nearby shops.

The Director General of the Cross River State Emergency Management Agency, Mr. Efa Nyong, led a joint assessment team comprising officials of CR-SEMA and the Nigerian Red



Cross Society to the scene.

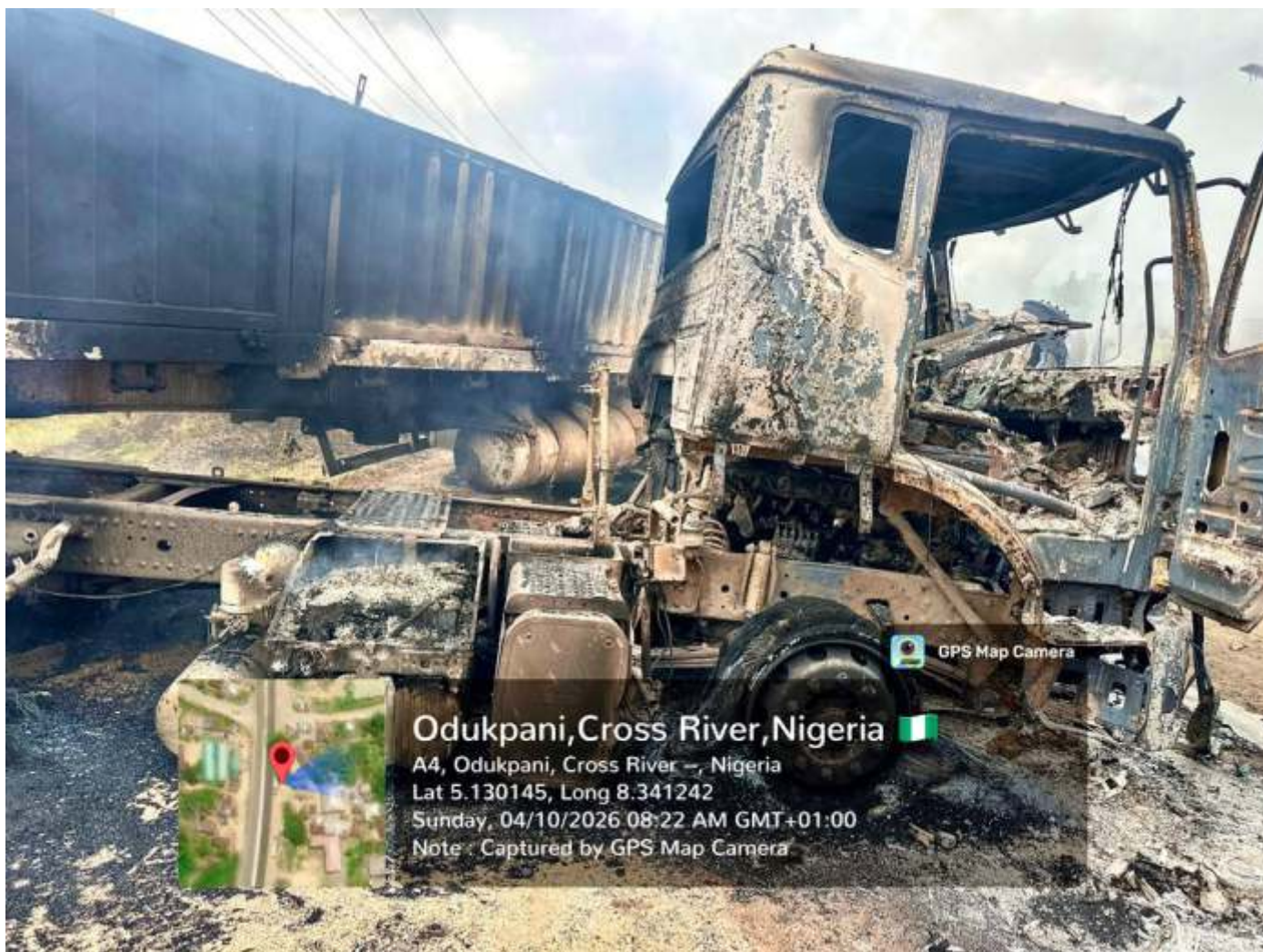
The team was received and taken around the affected areas by the Chairman of Odukpani Local Government Council, Hon. Etim Asido, who provided details of the incident and the extent of damage recorded.

The assessment team observed the impact of the fire on the surrounding shops and other property, while the Cross River State Fire Service continued efforts at the scene to completely contain the inferno.

Speaking at the scene, Hon. Asido

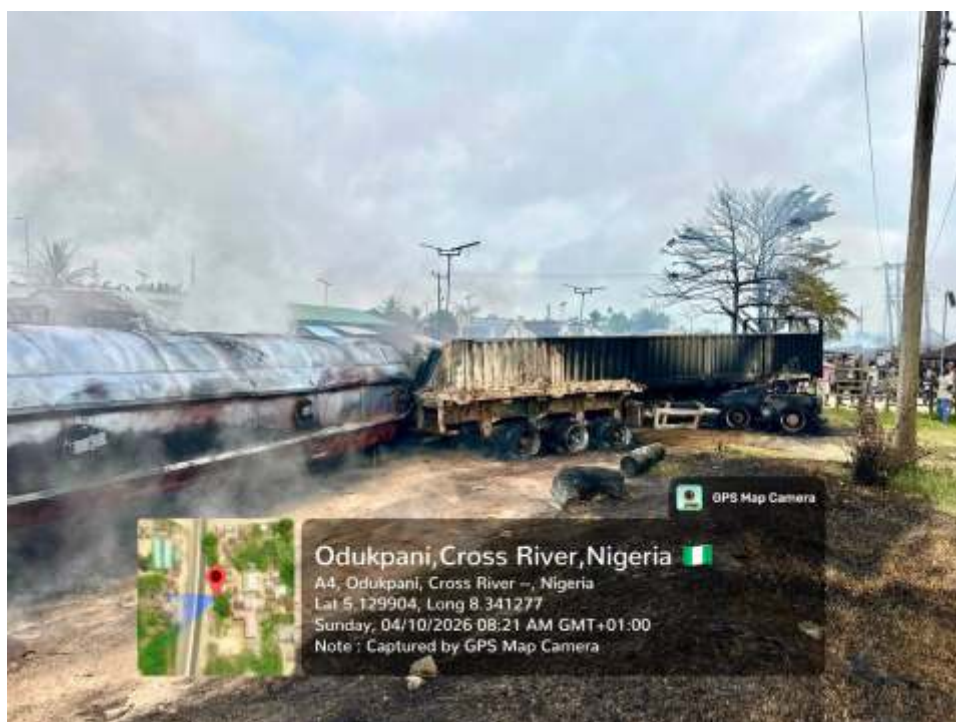
commended the Fire Service for its prompt response and appreciated the State Government and CR-SEMA for swiftly responding to the incident.

Nyong sympathised with the families of the deceased and the injured, as well as business owners



whose shops were affected by the fire.

He assured the affected persons that the State Government, through CR-SEMA and relevant stakeholders, would continue to assess the situation and explore appropriate interventions.





**UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR
DIRECTORATE OF SERVICOM
(VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE)
MEMO**

FROM: DIRECTOR, SERVICOM

TO: All Deans and Directors of Institutes

OUR REF: UC/SERVICOM/AD/10/26/08

DATE: October 4, 2026

**SUBJECT: ON THE CONTINUING EXTORTION OF OUR STUDENTS:
COLLECTION OF DEGREE CERTIFICATES IS FREE!**

Our office has been inundated with complaints of sundry extortions by Faculty Officers who force former students, most of them Prospective Corps Members, to pay a "certificate collection fee", at the point of signing for their certificates. These illegal charges range from N45,000 to N16,000, depending on the "magnanimity" or "lightheartedness" of the authorities of the Faculty or Institute. It is hardly likely that this heinous crime can go on without the knowledge of the Deans and Directors of the various Faculties and Institutes. This is unacceptable!

2. Let me reiterate here for the avoidance of doubt, that **COLLECTION OF CERTIFICATES IN UNICAL IS FREE**, therefore Deans and Directors will be held personally accountable for anything otherwise. It is unfortunate that the only memory that we leave in the minds of our former students is that of extortion, even at the last point of their exit from the University. In the days ahead, SERVICOM will be publishing the various amounts being charged by faculties and Institutes in the guise of "Collection of Certificates". Those concerned should be ready to account for these illegal collections. It certainly cannot be business as usual!

Prof Bassey Oben
Director, SERVICOM



GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND ORIENTATION,
CALABAR



Goodwill Message On The Occasion Of NIGERIA'S 66TH INDEPENDENCE

Anniversary



On behalf of the Cross River State Ministry of Information and Orientation, I heartily felicitate with all Nigerians, particularly the good people of Cross River State, on the momentous occasion of Nigeria's 66th Independence Anniversary.



Sixty-six years after we lowered the colonial flag and hoisted our Green-White-Green, we have every reason to celebrate our resilience as a people, our unity in diversity, and our unwavering faith in the promise of this great nation.

This anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect on our journey - the sacrifices of our founding fathers, the strength of our democracy, and the collective resolve that continues to bind us together as one indivisible nation.

I pay special tribute to the leadership of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, and His Excellency, Vice President Kashim Shettima, GCON, for their steadfast commitment to the Renewed Hope Agenda, economic reform, and national cohesion. Their bold reforms are laying a solid foundation for a more prosperous and secure Nigeria.

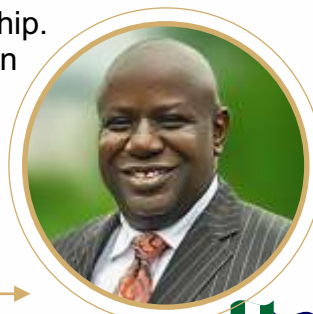
In Cross River State, we are privileged to have a leader whose People First agenda mirrors the national aspiration for renewal. I salute His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, for his purposeful leadership, peace-building efforts, and infrastructural and socio-economic transformation that is returning Cross River to its pride of place.

As we celebrate, let us as Cross Riverians and Nigerians renew our commitment to peace, patriotism, tolerance and responsible citizenship. Let us continue to support our leaders at all levels and play our part in building the Nigeria of our dreams.

Happy 66th Independence Anniversary!

Long Live Cross River State!
Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!

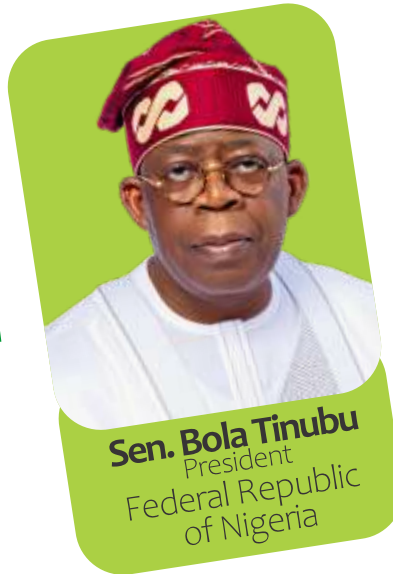
Signed:
Pastor Ekpennyong Cobham
Hon. Commissioner for
Information and Orientation



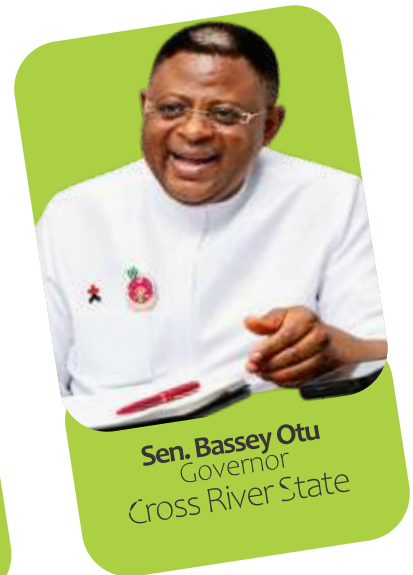


CELEBRATING NIGERIA'S 66TH

**INDEPENDENCE
ANNIVERSARY**



Sen. Bola Tinubu
President
Federal Republic
of Nigeria



Sen. Bassey Otu
Governor
Cross River State

On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Ministry of Commerce, Cross River State, I warmly congratulate His Excellency, the Executive Governor, the government, and the industrious people of Cross River State as we join the rest of the Country to celebrate the 66th Independence Anniversary of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Today's historic milestone affords us a profound opportunity to reflect on our national journey, honor the sacrifices of our founding fathers, and evaluate our progress. Over the past sixty-six years, through economic transitions and societal evolution, the resilience, enterprise, and diversity of our people have remained our greatest strength.

In Cross River State, this occasion serves as a catalyst for renewed commitment. The Ministry of Commerce remains resolute in its drive to build a robust local economy, foster a thriving business ecosystem, empower MSMEs, and create viable commercial pathways for our vibrant youth.

As we celebrate our national sovereignty, let us recommit to unity, economic growth, and sustainable progress. Together, we can unlock the full commercial potential of our State and build a prosperous future for all.

Happy 66th Independence Anniversary! Long live Cross River State, and long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

(Signed)

Dr. (Mrs.) Abigail Duke Orok
Commissioner,
Ministry of Commerce



Gov. Otu Describes World PR Forum As Milestone For Nigeria's Pr Practitioners

By Nakanda Iyadim



Cross River State Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, has described Nigeria's hosting of the 2026 World Public Relations Forum (WPRF) in Abuja as a significant milestone for the country's public relations practitioners. The Governor, who was represented by the Commissioner for

Information and Orientation, Pastor Ekpenyong Ene Cobham, spoke at a sensitisation walk organised by the Cross River State chapter of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) in Calabar. Speaking on behalf of the Governor, Cobham said the event will serve as a veritable platform for practitioners to engage in more productive and

developmental communications that will usher in a new era of information management. "Nigeria hosting this event is a major and significant milestone, because practitioners from all over the world will assemble to expose their Nigerian counterparts to new strategies and fresh working insights, as well



as best practices from different countries," he said. He said the walk was instructive and would raise awareness and mobilise the wider public to take part in the forum, which holds in Abuja from November 15 to 21, 2026. He added that there was a need to raise the bar and achieve

higher standards in the practice. Cobham, who is an associate of the institute, described his participation in the walk as "a mark of honour." He assured the NIPR leadership that the Governor and relevant government functionaries would be part of the forum. "We hope and pray that the forum will be

successful and yield new methodologies that will help us raise the bar of our practice," he said. Earlier, the Chairman of NIPR Cross River State Chapter, Pastor Austin Mboso, who thanked members for defying the early morning rains to participate in the walk across major streets in Calabar terminating at the



share experiences with their global peers."Imagine sitting at the same table with people who make decisions and help shape information and narrative around the world. It is a milestone for the nation and for public relations practice," Mboso said.

U.J. Esuene Stadium, said the walk was part of a nationwide sensitisation campaign ahead

of the forum.He described the forum as a rare opportunity for Nigerian professionals to













**1st
OCT.
2026**



66

Hearty Cheers
TO NIGERIA



On behalf of the Permanent Secretary, Management and Staff of the Cross River State Ministry of Women Affairs, I warmly felicitate the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR; the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON; the amiable Governor of Cross River State, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu; and his Deputy, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, Ph.D, on the auspicious occasion of the 66th Independence Anniversary of our beloved nation, Nigeria.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we remember the sacrifices of our founding fathers whose tireless efforts have sustained our nation. We also recognize the resilience of our leaders who have worked diligently to keep Nigeria united, to restore hope to our citizens, and their unwavering commitment towards advancing the welfare of women, children and vulnerable groups in society at all levels.

May this milestone serve as a reminder of our collective responsibility, resolve and determination to build a healthier, more inclusive, equitable and prosperous nation for all.

Congratulations!

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!
Long live Cross River State!



Hon. Edema Irom
Honourable Commissioner for Women Affairs
Ministry of Women Affairs



Otu Restores 3,000 Local Government Workers, Engages Labour on Welfare

By Daniel Bebia



Cross River State Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, has approved the restoration of about 3,000 local government workers previously removed from the State payroll, following a high-level engagement

with organised labour.

The Governor gave the approval during a meeting with the leadership of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Trade Union Congress (TUC) and Nigerian Union of Pensioners (NUP), Cross River State chapters, at

the State Executive Council Chambers in Calabar.

The meeting focused extensively on workers' welfare and other issues affecting industrial harmony in the State, including recruitment, promotions, salary harmonisation, pensioners' entitlements and the status of workers affected by recent payroll actions.

Presenting labour's concerns, the NLC leadership appealed to the Governor to reconsider the disengagement of

workers who had already spent about two years in service, stressing that many of them were indigenes of the State whose livelihoods had become dependent on their employment.

Responding to the appeal, Governor Otu acknowledged the difficult human consequences of disengaging workers who had relied on their salaries for their daily needs, saying abrupt withdrawal of their income could impose severe hardship on the affected families.

"I want you to believe that their feelings were based on the fact

that people have been used to particular remuneration," Otu said, adding that "to cut them off at short notice will be too much to absorb," especially where the affected employment constituted the workers' entire source of livelihood.

The Governor explained that the government's intervention in the public service was intended to correct existing anomalies, restore due process and ensure that appointments and remuneration were tied to appropriate qualifications and established standards.

He maintained that while government was sensitive to the plight of

affected workers, it also had a responsibility to build a public service where employment opportunities were distributed fairly and qualifications were properly considered.

"Somebody cannot be a secondary school [leaver] and already be getting an appointment," the Governor said, stressing that access to an opportunity should not permanently shut out other qualified Cross Riverians.

Otu said his administration was committed to rebuilding the State on the principles of fairness, productivity and

shared responsibility, urging organised labour to partner with government rather than approach the challenges facing the State solely from a confrontational standpoint.

He said the State's financial position remained challenging, with government contending with inherited liabilities and significant recurring obligations while also striving to improve workers' welfare and provide infrastructure. "Almost every month we are taking out 300 to 600 [million]," he said, referring to payments being made towards outstanding obligations.

The Governor nevertheless expressed optimism that continued efforts to improve internally generated revenue and manage existing liabilities would create greater fiscal space for government to meet its obligations and respond to workers' legitimate concerns.

On the wider economic outlook, Otu said his administration had begun laying the foundation for an economy driven by infrastructure, investment, enterprise, human-capital development and productivity, rather than dependence on limited sources of income.

"The real foundation for the economy has been laid," he said, urging labour and other stakeholders to contribute to the rebuilding process, adding that "we must be ready to fold our shirts and take up the challenge" of developing Cross River.

The Governor also acknowledged concerns over outstanding promotions, salary harmonisation and the welfare of low-income workers and pensioners, assuring the unions that the issues would be subjected to further consideration after relevant documents and



THINK CROSS RIVER

official briefs had been reviewed.

"For the other issues, I will need at least some briefs," he said, directing the labour representatives to submit the necessary documentation while government reviewed its own

records.

The engagement, which provided an opportunity for government and labour to directly address contentious issues, ended with the Governor's approval for the restoration of about 3,000 affected local

government workers to the State payroll, while discussions on other outstanding labour matters are expected to continue.



www.crossriverpay.com

NIGERIA@66 **HAPPY INDEPENDENCE**

As Nigeria celebrates 66 years of Independence, I, on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Cross River Internal Revenue Service, join the good people of Cross River State, and Nigerians at home and in the Diaspora to celebrate our dear Nation.

Independence reminds us of our shared identity, our resilience and the responsibility we all have in building a better Nigeria. As we celebrate our freedom, let us remember that nation-building is also about doing our part. For Taxpayers in Cross River State, that means voluntary compliance and taking an active interest in how our collective resources are used. Every Tax paid is a contribution to the development we all want to see.

At CRIRS, Taxpayers are valued Partners in progress, and we will continue to engage with them and make compliance easier. Together, let us keep contributing to the growth and development of our State and our Country.

*Happy Independence Day, Nigeria!
Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!
Long Live Cross River State!!
Long Live Cross River Internal Revenue Service!!!*

Prince Edwin Okon, Ph.D.
Executive Chairman, CRIRS





66TH INDEPENDENCE: Security Adviser Felicitates Nigeris



Sen. Bola Tinubu
President
Federal Republic
of Nigeria



Sen. Kashim Shettima
Vice President
Federal Republic
Nigeria



Rt. Hon Peter Odey
Deputy Governor
Cross River State



Sen. Bassey Otu
Governor
Cross River State

On behalf of the Special Services Office, I extend felicitations to the Government and good people of Cross River State and indeed all Nigerians as we celebrate the 66th Anniversary of Nigeria's Independence. This occasion provides an opportunity to reflect on our nation's journey since independence, celebrate our achievements, acknowledge the challenges before us and renew our collective commitment to building a peaceful, united and prosperous Nigeria.

As a people, our greatest strength lies in our diversity, resilience and shared commitment to the ideals of nationhood. We must therefore continue to promote peace, unity, mutual respect, justice and responsible citizenship.

As we celebrate this important milestone in our national and state history, I urge all citizens, particularly the youth, to embrace the values of patriotism, hard work, discipline and peaceful coexistence. The Nigeria of our dreams can only be achieved through our collective efforts.

May this 66th Independence Anniversary usher in renewed hope, greater unity, sustainable development and prosperity for our dear nation.

Happy 66th Independence Anniversary!

*Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!
Long live Cross River State!*



Major General O. U. Obono (Rtd.)
Special Adviser

Cross River Govt Shuts 10 Unapproved Schools in Fresh Crackdown

By Patricia Ogbeche



The Cross River State Government has shut down 10 unapproved schools in a fresh enforcement exercise aimed at sanitising the education sector and ensuring compliance with approved

standards across the State.

The enforcement, carried out by the State Ministry of Education through its Quality Assurance Department, targets schools operating without the required

Approval to Operate (ATO).

Commissioner for Education, Senator Prof. Stephen A. Odey, said the exercise was aimed at safeguarding the future of pupils and students by ensuring that





warning that any school sealed by the Ministry and reopened without authorisation would face appropriate sanctions.

Odey said the enforcement would continue across all 18 Local Government Areas, stressing that government remained committed to ensuring that educational institutions operate within the approved regulatory framework.

schools meet the required standards for effective teaching and learning.

"The exercise is aimed at safeguarding the future of our pupils and students by ensuring that

schools meet the required standards for effective teaching and learning," Odey said.

He urged proprietors operating without approval to regularise their institutions,

"The exercise will continue across the 18 Local Government Areas of the State," he said, urging proprietors of unapproved schools to take immediate steps to regularise their





institutions.

As of October 2, 2026, 10 schools had been shut down during the latest enforcement exercise, with nine located in Calabar-South and one in Odukpani Local Government Area.

The affected

schools in Calabar-South are Aunty Offiong's Talent Nursery/Primary School, Dreams and Destiny Manifestation Nursery/Primary School, Abba's Delight Kids Academy, Evangel High School, Destined Headers International School, Phronesis-Sunesis School of

Excellence, Emerald Bay Schools, Elsin Foundation and Bridgeway International Schools.

Also shut down was God'slife Nursery/Primary School in Odukpani Local Government Area.

The



Commissioner reiterated the Ministry's commitment to protecting the quality, safety and integrity of education across Cross River State, stressing that compliance with approved standards was

essential to providing pupils and students with a safe and conducive environment for learning.

The government said the enforcement would continue across the State as the

Ministry intensifies monitoring and regulatory activities to ensure that schools comply with approved requirements.



On the auspicious occasion of Nigeria's 66th Independence Anniversary, I, on behalf of the Management and Staff of the Office of the Auditor-General for Local Government, Cross River State, heartily congratulate our national and state leaders who are steering our country towards sustainable growth, fiscal discipline and grassroots development.

We extend our warmest felicitations to His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria; His Excellency, Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON, Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria; His Excellency, Senator (Prince) Bassey Edet Otu, Executive Governor of Cross River State; and his dependable Deputy, Rt. Hon. Dr. Peter Odey.

Your Excellencies, this day not only reminds us of the sacrifices of our founding fathers, but also spotlights your shared commitment to structural reforms, national healing and economic self-reliance.

At the local government level, we particularly appreciate the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Agenda and the State's People First Agenda under Governor Bassey Otu. These policies have prioritized grassroots governance, strengthened institutional frameworks and enhanced accountability at the community level.

As an office dedicated to upholding financial transparency, value for money and statutory compliance within our local government areas, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to aligning with your visionary leadership.

We pray that Almighty God grants you continued wisdom, sound health and the fortitude to navigate our great nation and state into an era of unprecedented peace and shared prosperity.

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

Signed:

Mr. Bassey Abam Eko,
FCAI, CNA, ACCrFA, IPCT II

Auditor-General for Local Governments,
Cross River State



Indeed, Gov Otu Has “Failed”!

PART (1)

By Linus Obogo



I cannot agree more with the factional PDP support group in Cross River and, indeed, its factional governorship candidate that Governor Bassey Otu has “failed”! He has failed,

monumentally, the most rigorous examination apparently known to contemporary opposition politics in Cross River — the Commissioning Ceremony Test.

By this

extraordinary new standard of public administration, it matters little whether a road exists, whether a bridge carries traffic, whether a hospital functions, whether a school is safe or whether

a community can finally sleep without fear.

The decisive question is much simpler: Has somebody cut a ribbon? If not, the project apparently does not exist.

Thus, a road connecting previously isolated communities is a mirage until the Governor arrives with scissors.

A bridge carrying farmers, traders, schoolchildren and patients across a river remains a "white elephant" until a plaque is unveiled.

A renovated health facility is presumably still dilapidated if there was no photographer present when the paint dried.

And a measurable improvement in security is apparently worthless unless accompanied by a parade, a podium, a bouquet and the obligatory photograph of political dignitaries smiling beneath a banner.

Yes, Governor Otu has indeed "failed".

He must therefore be told, in the strongest possible language, that in this new opposition catechism, the commissioning ceremony has become more important than the commission itself; the photograph more valuable than the project; the ribbon more consequential than the road.

This must be a

fascinating theory of development, and perhaps the first in which scissors have acquired greater developmental significance than bulldozers.

But beneath the satire is a serious question: what exactly should constitute evidence of governance?

By the May 29, 2025 anniversary address, the Otu administration had had more than 80 kilometres of roads constructed or rehabilitated, while the broader road-and-bridge portfolio was estimated at about 200 kilometres.

Whatever reasonable dispute may exist over figures, quality, completion or cost,

the underlying reality cannot be wished away by partisan rhetoric: infrastructure interventions have been undertaken across communities that had endured years of neglect.

Roads around Ukelle, Nfom, Okpoma and adjoining communities have witnessed renewed intervention.

The administration commenced the 10-kilometre Ndok Junction–Mbube–Okubushuyu Road in 2025. The long-abandoned Adiabo–Ikoneto corridor, including difficult bridge sections, is being constructed.

In Bekwarra, work around the Ochagbe, Afrike–Ugboro

Junction and the East-West Boki corridor forms part of the wider effort to reconnect communities.

The Oban–Nsan Road in Akamkpa, stretching approximately 29.87 kilometres and currently under construction, belongs to the same infrastructure story.

Now, perhaps the opposition would prefer that none of these roads count until the Governor has stood at each location, scissors in hand, while a brass band performs the appropriate fanfare. But there is a small problem with that theory.

The farmer does not drive to the commissioning ground.

He drives on the

road.

The trader does not sell the commissioning photograph. She sells her goods.

The student does not cross the bridge because a plaque has been unveiled. The student crosses it because the bridge is there.

The patient does not recover because a government delegation commissioned a clinic. The patient benefits because the clinic functions. That is the inconvenient difference between governance and political theatre.



CROSS RIVER STATE TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND REGULATORY AGENCY (TRAMRA)

NIGERIA @ 66: **TRAMRA** FELICITATES
PRESIDENT TINUBU, GOVERNOR OTU,
NIGERIANS



On behalf of the management and staff of the Cross River State Transport Management and Regulatory Agency (TRAMRA), I extend heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR; His Excellency, the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON; His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State, Senator (Apostle) Prince Bassey Edet Otu; His Excellency, the Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey; all elected political office holders; and all Nigerians on the occasion of our nation's 66th Independence Anniversary.

Sixty-six years ago, Nigeria chose the path of self-determination. As we reflect on our journey as a nation, we are reminded that nation-building is a collective responsibility that requires unity, resilience, patriotism and dedicated service to the people.

Under your visionary leadership, Mr. President, and the People First agenda of His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State, we have witnessed renewed commitment to security, infrastructure development, good governance and the welfare of citizens. At TRAMRA, we reaffirm our commitment to our mandate of ensuring safer roads, orderly traffic and efficient transport management across Cross River State as our contribution to building a stronger, safer and more prosperous Nigeria.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, we pray for continued peace, progress, prosperity and unity across our nation. May the sacrifices of our founding fathers never be in vain, and may Nigeria continue to rise to greater heights.



Happy 66th Independence Anniversary, Nigeria!

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!
Long live Cross River State!

Signed:

Engr. Standley Akam

Head of Agency

Cross River State Transport Management and Regulatory Agency
(TRAMRA)

C'River, UNICEF Unite to Intensify Awareness Against Disease Outbreaks

By Nakanda Iyadim and Alicent Obriku



The Cross River State Government, in partnership with the United

Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has intensified efforts to raise awareness and

prevent disease outbreaks across the State.

The sensitization

unicef



for every child

meeting, organised as part of UNICEF's communication and awareness drive, was held at the weekend in Calabar, to create awareness on cholera, Lassa fever and flood-related risks, with participants drawn from relevant sectors and communication backgrounds.

Speaking at the event, the Head of SOMTEC and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Orientation, Mr Anthony Okon represented by the State Director of Information, Mrs. Rekpene Uket, said the collaboration underscores the People First administration of Governor Bassey Otu's commitment to preventive

healthcare and community health education.

According to her, the State is not just responding to outbreaks, but building resilient systems that empower families and communities with the right information to protect themselves.

"I take this exercise very

seriously because prevention is cheaper and more effective than cure.

What we are doing with UNICEF is taking the message to the grassroots, to markets, schools, worship centres and hard-to-reach communities using mass media and social media so that our people know how to prevent infection, when to seek care, and how to keep their environment safe," she said.

She noted that the state has had its own share of flooding that has devastated households and rendered many homeless, expressing hope that the campaign messages and

distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials will help prevent future occurrences.

In her presentation, the State Epidemiologist, Dr. Blessing Ekpenyong, lauded UNICEF for the exercise and disclosed that despite the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system tracking 45 notifiable diseases, cholera, Lassa fever, Mpox, measles and yellow fever remain yearly recurring priority diseases in Cross River.

She said the situation is compounded by the state's shared inter-State

boundaries and international land crossings with Cameroon, which increase cross-border transmission.

Dr. Ekpenyong revealed that almost all 18 LGAs report suspected cholera cases yearly, with Obubra, Abi, Biase, Odukpani, Obanliku, Ikom, Etung, Yakurr, Bakassi and Calabar Municipality as hotspots, worsened by open defecation and washing, bathing and defecating into water bodies.

She recalled that the worst-case scenario was in 2023, when the state recorded 724 suspected and confirmed cases, including





deaths.

On Lassa fever, she said outbreaks occur yearly with high fatality, with at least two deaths annually, largely due to shared boundaries with endemic states like Ebonyi and Benue, listing Obubra, Yala, Abi, Ikom, Yakurr and Ogoja as hotspot LGAs.

She added that Mpox is reported every year, with more cases in

Calabar Municipality and Calabar South than other LGAs, though fatality is rare, and named Calabar Municipality, Calabar South, Akpabuyo, Akamkpa, Boki and Ikom as hotspots.

She urged residents to maintain personal and environmental hygiene, stop open defecation, keep food away from rodents, practice regular handwashing and

promptly report suspected cases, while calling on community leaders, traditional institutions and the media to join the campaign.

During the meeting, Mr. Agaji Ntamu and Dr Charles Effiong, Resource Persons from the University of Calabar, presented the final scripts which was adopted for production and airing



GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



Sen. Bola Tinubu
President
Federal Republic
of Nigeria



Sen. Bassey Otu
Governor
Cross River State

Goodwill Message On **NIGERIA'S 66TH INDEPENDENCE** *Anniversary*

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; and his Vice Senator Kashmir 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 presents another opportunity for us to renew our commitment to peace, unity, good governance and sustainable development.

We commend the 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 towards building a peaceful, united and prosperous society.

Happy 66th Independence Anniversary, Nigeria!



Signed:

Chief Victor-Felix Idem
Honourable Commissioner,
Ministry of Local Government Affairs





NIGERIAN ARMY
Guard of the Nation

NIGERIAN ARMY RECRUITMENT



92 REGULAR RECRUITS INTAKE FOR TRADES/NON-TRADESMEN AND WOMEN

GUIDELINES

- The application is free for interested candidates.
- Applicants are to apply once. Multiple applications will lead to outright disqualification.
- Interested candidates are advised to log on to <https://recruitment.army.mil.ng> to complete online registration.
- Note: Recruitment into the Nigerian Army is a call for national service with a competitive process and thus not a Guaranteed form of Employment.

The Nigerian Army wishes to inform the general public that the online registration for 92 Regular Recruits Intake Exercise for Trades/Non-tradesmen and women will commence from 9 September to 21 October 2026 for all interested and qualified candidates.

REGISTRATION STEPS

- Apply online via the recruitment portal <https://recruitment.army.mil.ng>.
- Log into the above mentioned link using your username and password earlier generated.
- Complete the application form, upload photos, print a copy and complete the Candidate Form as appropriate.
- Candidates should ensure they submit their application online after posting their Photo Card. Failure to submit online will lead to disqualification.
- Ensure you bring duly signed copies of the following documents to your screening exercise: Photo Card, Declaration by Applicant, Parent/Guardian Form, Certification by LGA Chairman/Secretary, Certificates by Divisional Police Officer and Commander's Form.

RECRUITMENT INTO THE NIGERIAN ARMY IS FREE

BASIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant must be single, Nigerian citizen by birth, and must possess National Identity Card (NIC) and Bank Verification Number (BVN) Slip.
- The name and date of birth on the NIC must correspond with those on the BVN and all other credentials.
- Applicant must be mentally, physically and psychologically fit in accordance with Nigerian Army Standard.
- Applicant must have no criminal conviction by any court of competent jurisdiction.
- Applicant must possess at least a minimum of 4 passes, including English Language, in not more than two sittings in WAEC/CE/NECO/NABTES/NAAB.
- In addition to the above qualifications, those applying as tradesmen/women must also possess a TRADE TEST/CITY AND GUILD CERTIFICATE.
- Applicant must possess a valid Birth Certificate endorsed by the National Population Commission, Hospital or local government council. Age declaration endorsed by a competent court can also suffice.
- Applicant must be at least 18 and 22 years for non-tradesmen and women, while tradesmen and women must not be more than 26 years by 21st October 2026.
- Applicant must not be less than 1.68 metres and 1.65 metres tall for males and females candidates respectively.
- Applicants must apply using their State of Origin and not State of Residence.
- Applicant must possess a valid Certificate of State of Origin.

BENEFITS OF SERVING IN THE NIGERIAN ARMY

1. Career stability and progression with clearly defined promotion criteria.
2. Enhanced and regular pay/allowance.
3. Access to continuous military education and specialized training both within and outside Nigeria.
4. Opportunity for further education.
5. Social integration with people from various tribes and religions.
6. Good welfare such as access to comprehensive medical care for personnel and their families.
7. Pension and Gratuity on retirement.
8. Opportunity to serve your country both within and outside Nigeria.
9. Post Service Opportunities.

ALL DOCUMENTS WILL BE VERIFIED FROM THE APPROPRIATE ISSUING AUTHORITIES. ALL THOSE WITH FAKE DOCUMENTS WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE POLICE FOR PROSECUTION.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING

- Candidates are to make their own way to the recruitment exercise.
- No Special access for recruitment.
- All screening of potential recruits will be conducted at the screening exercise point of origin.
- Candidates are not to bring electronic equipment to the exercise at the last recruitment exercise.
- Screening exercise is to be held at the last recruitment exercise.
- Multiple screenings of the exercise for similar are not allowed.
- Candidates must ensure all required documents are submitted.
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- A candidate will be withdrawn from the exercise if found to have forged or falsified documents.
- Candidates are advised to ensure they do not give any form of information or information to any person or group of persons involved in the recruitment exercise.
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Join the Nigerian Army and contribute to the preservation and protection of Nigeria's sovereignty and territorial integrity

<https://recruitment.army.mil.ng>

RECRUITMENT INTO THE NIGERIAN ARMY IS FREE

Major General IM Abdullahi
 Chief of Administration (Army)
 for Chief of Army Staff



Join the Nigerian Navy

APPLICATION FOR RECRUITMENT EXERCISE INTO THE
NIGERIAN NAVY BASIC TRAINING SCHOOL **BATCH 39**

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **The Nigerian Navy Recruitment Exercise 2026 for Batch 39** commences from **2 to 31 October 2026**. The online registration and other recruitment processes are **FREE OF CHARGE** and **no payment should be made at any point to anyone throughout the Exercise**. Interested and qualified applicants are to apply at www.joinnigeriannavy.navy.mil.ng

2. Only a single valid application is permitted, multiple online applications shall be disqualified.

3. Applicants are to print out the under listed documents after completion of application online:

- Acknowledgement Form.
- Parent/Guardian Consent Form.
- Local Government Attestation Form (To be signed by a military officer of the rank of Commander in the NN or equivalent in the AFN or Police officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police and above or Local Government Chairman).
- Guarantor's Certification Form.

ELIGIBILITY

4. Applicants must be Nigerian citizens by birth and possess National Identification Number (NIN).

5. Applicants must not be less than 1.69m height for males and 1.65m height for females.

6. Applicants must be medically, psychologically and physically fit and must meet the Nigerian Navy medical and employment standards.

7. Applicants must be free of any previous conviction(s) on criminal grounds by a court of law.

GUIDELINE FOR APPLICANTS

8a. Applicants with O'Level/SSCE results must be between the ages of **18 and 22 years** as at **31 December 2026**. They must possess a minimum of 5 credits including Mathematics and English in not more than 2 sittings in WAEC/NECO/GCE/NABTEB not older than 2020.

b. Applicants with OND/NCE must be between the ages of **18 and 26 years** while those for Chaplain/Imam Assistant and Drivers/Mechanic must be between **18 and 28 years** of age as at **31 December 2026**. They must possess a minimum of 5 credits including Mathematics and English in not more than two (2) sittings in WAEC/NECO/GCE/NABTEB not older than 2015.

c. Tradesmen applying for the following categories must possess Trade Test certificates as well as a credit in English Language with minimum of 4 passes in other subjects in WAEC/NECO/GCE/NABTEB not later than 2017:

- (1) Tailoring
- (2) Carpentry
- (3) Plumbing
- (4) Masonry
- (5) Welding
- (6) Electrician
- (7) Painting
- (8) Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technology.

d. Applicants applying for professions allied to medicine must possess ND from recognized training institutions in Nigeria and a valid practicing license.

e. Applicants applying as sportsmen/women are to present evidence of their experience, which shall include certificates and medals.

f. All applicants must be proficient in the use of English Language, inability to communicate in basic English Language shall lead to disqualification at any stage of the Recruitment process.

NOTE

9. The date and venues for the recruitment examination shall be communicated in due course.

10. Successful applicants will undergo basic military training and on completion will be recruited into the Service of the Nigerian Navy as Ordinary Seamen.

11. For further information, see the instruction page on the website www.joinnigeriannavy.navy.mil.ng from **2 October 2026** or call the following support lines from **Monday to Friday, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM: 09036059234** or email: recruitment@navy.mil.ng

Signed:
Navy Secretary

IG: [nigeriannavyhq](#)
facebook: [Nigerian Navy](#)
X: [@NigerianNavy](#)
LinkedIn: [Official Nigerian Navy](#)



Cross River Water Resources Commissioner Felicitates Nigerians @66; expresses optimism for a better Nigeria

By Benedict Okache



The Cross River State Commissioner for Water Resources, Obol Dr. Moses Osogi, has congratulated Nigerians on the occasion of the nation's 66th Independence Anniversary,

calling for renewed commitment to democracy, national unity, and sustainable development.

In a goodwill message issued in Calabar on Wednesday, Dr. Osogi, on behalf of

his family, the Permanent Secretary, management, and staff of the Ministry of Water Resources, extended warm congratulations to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Vice President Kashim Shettima,



Senate President Godswill Akpabio, Speaker of the House of Representatives Tajudeen Abbas, members of the National Assembly, Federal Executive Council, and all Nigerians

on this auspicious 66th Independence Anniversary.

The Commissioner also felicitated with the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, his

deputy, Dr. Peter Odey, the Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Elvert Ayambem, members of the 10th State House of Assembly, Chairmen of the

18 Local Government Areas, and other democratic stakeholders across the State.

According to him, "Nigeria's Independence Anniversary serves not only as a celebration of the country's sovereignty but also as a reminder of the collective responsibility of citizens to build a stronger and more prosperous nation."

Dr. Osogi reaffirmed the commitment of the Ministry of Water Resources to delivering on its mandate through effective policy implementation, sustainable water management, improved access

to water resources, and innovative solutions aimed at enhancing the quality of life of Cross Riverians.

He noted that under the current administration, the Ministry remains focused on strategic initiatives that will support socio-economic development and improve service delivery in the water sector.

The Commissioner further urged Nigerians to use the anniversary celebration as an opportunity to renew their commitment to the ideals of democracy, good governance, peace, and national development.

"Together, we shall continue to

advance the vision of a Nigeria where every citizen thrives in dignity and opportunity," he stated.

Dr. Osogi expressed optimism about the future of the country and called on citizens at all levels to continue supporting efforts geared towards national growth and unity.

He concluded his message by wishing the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Cross River State, and the Ministry of Water Resources continued progress and prosperity.



Celebrating Giant of AFRICA @ 66



Sen. Bola Tinubu GCFR
President

Sen. Kashim Shettima GCON
Vice President

Rt. Hon. Peter Odey
Deputy Governor

Sen. Bassey Otu
Governor

The Honourable Commissioner for Industry, Cross River State, Dr. Mathias Unimke Angioha, has felicitated 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, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, PhD, the Speaker of the 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.

Dr. Angioha described the anniversary as 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 its growth and development.

He commended 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.

He reaffirmed the importance of sustained collaboration among the Federal Government, State Governments, the private sector and other stakeholders in building a productive and prosperous Nigeria.

According to him, industrialisation remains central to Nigeria's economic transformation, as a vibrant industrial sector can create employment, stimulate innovation, strengthen local value chains, increase government revenue and promote sustainable development.

Dr. Angioha reiterated 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.

He called on Nigerians to continue to uphold the values of unity, patriotism, peaceful coexistence, hard work and responsible citizenship, expressing optimism that through determination, innovation and constructive cooperation, the country will overcome its challenges and fulfil its enormous potential.

He congratulated all Nigerians at home and in the diaspora and wished the President, the Vice President, the Governor, the Deputy Governor, the Speaker and the 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
Commissioner

CRSHIA, UNICROSS Partner on Health Insurance for Staff, Students

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Health Insurance Agency (CRSHIA) and the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS) have commenced discussions on extending health insurance coverage to staff and students of the institution.

The development followed a courtesy visit by the Director-General of CRSHIA, Chief (Sir) Godwin Iyala, and his team to the university on Friday, October 2, 2026.

Iyala said the visit was to explore a partnership that would make quality healthcare more accessible and

affordable to members of the university community while reducing the financial burden of medical treatment on individuals and families.

He said the Agency was ready to collaborate with UNICROSS and accredit the university's health



centre to facilitate access to healthcare services for beneficiaries enrolled under the scheme.

The CRSHIA boss also introduced the Tertiary Institutions Social Health Insurance Programme (TISHE), which provides a framework for extending health insurance coverage to members of tertiary institutions.

Iyala stressed the

importance of collective responsibility in expanding health insurance coverage, noting that participation in the scheme would help provide financial protection for staff and students when they require medical attention.

Responding, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, Prof. Thomas Ojikpong, who represented the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Francisca Bassey, welcomed

the proposal and thanked CRSHIA for initiating the engagement.

Ojikpong described the proposed collaboration as a welcome development, stressing that the health and wellbeing of staff and students were essential to the effective functioning of the university.

He said health insurance offered a practical means of reducing the



financial burden of healthcare and expressed optimism that the proposed collaboration would provide meaningful benefits to members of the university community.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor also commended the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, for policies and programmes aimed at improving the

wellbeing of residents across the state.

Both parties expressed optimism that the discussions would culminate in a partnership that would expand access to quality and affordable healthcare services for UNICROSS staff and students.

The university delegation included the Registrar, Mrs Catherine Osai Ndifon; Bursar, Mr Wilson Aniyom; immediate Past Director of

Academic Planning, Prof. Babson Ajibade; and Public Relations Officer, Mr Ebri Onen Ebri.

CRSHIA officials at the meeting included the Director of Administration, Mrs Aje Ayuk Asam; Director of Planning, Research and Statistics, Mr Raymond Abugioye; Director of Accounts, Dr John Ekanem; and other officials of the Agency.



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY,
NIGERIA!



Sen. Bola Tinubu
President
Federal Republic
of Nigeria



Sen. Kashim Shettima
Vice President
Federal Republic
Nigeria



Rt. Hon Peter Odey
Deputy Governor
Cross River State



Sen. Bassey Otu
Governor
Cross River State

As Nigeria marks her Independence Day, the Cross River Geographic Information Agency (CRGIA) proudly celebrates with His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, His Excellency, Senator (Prince) Bassey Edet Otu, Executive Governor of Cross River State and the good people of our great nation.

We commend the leadership and continued efforts towards building a peaceful, prosperous and united Nigeria, while acknowledging the steadfast commitment of the Cross River State Government to the “People First” mandate, which continues to advance infrastructural development, restore the beauty of Cross River State, and unlock its rich tourism and agricultural potentials.

Your Excellency’s continuous message of harmony, peace and shared prosperity reminds us that our strength lies in our unity. As an Agency operating within this vibrant State, CRGIA remains committed to supporting the vision of the government and contributing meaningfully to the realization of the “Season of Sweetness” for every resident.

Independence Day is not only a celebration of our freedom; it is also a reminder of our collective responsibility to nation-building.

At CRGIA, we believe that building a stronger Nation requires the active synergy of government, the private sector and civil society. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to accurate geospatial information, efficient land administration and management innovation, sustainable development and the creation of opportunities that contribute to the growth and prosperity of Cross River State and Nigeria.

As we celebrate another year of nationhood, we pray for divine wisdom, good health, peace and strength upon our President, our Governor and all leaders across the nation.

May Nigeria continue to grow in peace, unity and shared prosperity.

Happy Independence Day, Nigeria!

Long live Cross River State!

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!



Mr William Achibong Jr.
Special Adviser



Felicitating Our Great Leaders



66th NATION'S INDEPENDENCE



Sen. Bola Tinubu GCFR
President



Sen. Kashim Shettima GCON
Vice President



Rt. Hon. Peter Odey
Deputy Governor



Sen. Bassey Otu
Governor

On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Cross River State Agency for Industrial Development, I warmly felicitate 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, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, PhD, the Speaker of the 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.

This anniversary offers a significant moment to reflect on our nation's journey since independence and to honour the sacrifices of our founding fathers and heroines who laid the foundation for the Nigeria we have today.

As we celebrate this milestone, the Cross River State Agency for Industrial Development remains committed to supporting initiatives that drive industrialisation, investment, entrepreneurship, job creation and sustainable economic development in Cross River State and Nigeria at large.

We commend the leadership at the federal and state levels for their sustained efforts in strengthening the economy, promoting investment and creating opportunities for citizens. We are confident that through collective commitment, innovation, patriotism and purposeful leadership, Nigeria will continue its march towards greater prosperity.

On this auspicious occasion, I call on all Nigerians to renew our commitment to peace, unity, productivity and national development, and to support initiatives that harness our abundant human and natural resources for present and future generations.

May our beloved nation continue to grow in strength, unity and prosperity.

Happy 66th Independence Anniversary!

Long live Cross River State!

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!



Engr. Raymond Nandi
Director General



CROSS RIVER STATE
OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE

— HAPPY —
New Month
OF
OCTOBER

As Nigeria Turns

66[@]
INDEPENDENCE DAY



On behalf of the entire Civil Service in Cross River State,
I, **OROK BASSEY OKON**, Head of Service, warmly welcome
you all to a new month of October.

As we celebrate Nigeria's 66th Independence Anniversary,
let us renew our commitment to excellence, diligence and
dedication in service to our dear State and our great Nation.

May this new month bring fresh strength, greater productivity,
peace and more reasons to be proud of our nation.

*Together, we build
a greater Cross River State*

**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY
NIGERIA!**

*One Nation. One People.
One Future.*



COURTESY:

OROK BASSEY OKON

HEAD OF SERVICE, CROSS RIVER STATE

*Service
with
Integrity*

2027: C'River Northern Stakeholders Validate Otu's Second-Term Bid, Seek Bloc Votes for Tinubu

By Kingsley Agim



Stakeholders from the five Local Government Areas of Cross River State's Northern Senatorial District have validated Governor Bassey Edet Otu's second-term bid, reaffirming their

support for his administration and calling for strong bloc votes for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in the 2027 elections.

The stakeholders made their position known on Saturday during the Northern

Senatorial District sensitisation tour of the Cross River State Consultative Forum at the Ogoja Local Government Council Headquarters, after a sensitisation walk from Ajengnle Junction to the



venue of the engagement.

The forum brought together political leaders, traditional rulers, youths, women and other stakeholders from Ogoja, Obanliku, Obudu, Yala and Bekwarra, providing an opportunity for the people to

assess the Otu administration and articulate their expectations ahead of the 2027 elections.

Chairman of the Elders Advisory Council and former Governor of the state, Chief Clement Ebri, said the tour, organised by the Consultative Forum, enabled

the Council and the Forum to obtain first-hand information from the people on their assessment of the administration.

"We are more like a fact-finding team," Ebri said, explaining that the team would also hold private engagements



with stakeholders to hear concerns that might not be expressed publicly before briefing Governor Otu on the people's views.

He said the Governor had asked the elders for good advice and had demonstrated a willingness to

listen and make adjustments whenever genuine shortcomings were brought to his attention, urging the people to be patient as the administration addresses inherited infrastructure and other development challenges.

Ebri also

commended Otu's efforts in the campaign to restore Cross River's oil-producing status, saying the matter, which had been neglected for years, had received renewed attention under the present administration. He urged the people to support



the Governor's second-term bid and give Tinubu a strong bloc vote, arguing that such support would strengthen Cross River's recognition and bargaining position at the national level.

Chairman of the Consultative Forum, Barr. Eyo Nsa Ekpo, said the Ogoja engagement was the Forum's first

outing in the Northern Senatorial District, thanking the people for their continued support for Otu. He described the gathering as an engagement among friends, brothers and stakeholders of like minds rather than a campaign rally.

Ekpo said the response from the five LGAs amounted to a

strong affirmation of the Governor's second-term bid, urging the people to sustain mobilisation for Otu and Tinubu while ensuring that their votes counted in 2027. He also called for fact-based criticism of government and peaceful political engagement.

The State Chairman of the APC, Rt. Hon.



Chris Etta, presented by his Deputy Chairman, Rt. Hon. Ugana Lukpata, commended the stakeholders for their commitments and urged the party to intensify grassroots mobilisation. Etta said the APC must reach both members and

non-members, declaring that "we cannot record anything below five over five" in support of its candidates.

Etta highlighted ongoing projects across the Northern Senatorial District and said the improved relationship

between the state and Federal Government had strengthened Cross River's efforts to recover its oil assets. He said Cross River had 46 oil wells in its coffers, with exploration already commenced, and urged continued support for Otu and Tinubu to



sustain the gains recorded by the state.

The communiqué issued at the end of the engagement acknowledged ongoing projects and interventions under the Otu administration, reaffirmed stakeholders' support for the continuity of the Governor and President Tinubu, and called for completion of ongoing projects and sustained

attention to development needs across the district.

The stakeholders resolved to intensify grassroots mobilisation, sustain peaceful political engagement and deepen consultations with communities and political stakeholders, while reaffirming support for Tinubu, Otu and other APC candidates at the national, state and

local levels. The communiqué was unanimously adopted and signed by the Forum's Chairman, Barr. Eyo Nsa Ekpo; Secretary, Dr Julius Okputu; Chairman of the Communiqué Drafting Committee, Ntufam (Barr.) Fidelis Ugbo; and Secretary, Prof. Michael Okom.

Stakeholders Seek Stronger Community Action Against Neglected Tropical Diseases in Cross River

By Iloke Egbe



Stakeholders in Cross River State have called for stronger community participation and collaboration to accelerate efforts to eliminate neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) affecting communities across the state.

The call was made at a one-day workshop organised in Calabar by Nigeria Health Watch, in partnership with the Cross River State Government, to address challenges limiting the effective control and elimination of NTDs, particularly onchocerciasis,

commonly known as river blindness.

The workshop, held recently in Calabar, brought together officials from the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Cross River State Ministry of Health, Cross River State Primary



Healthcare Development Agency, NTD Unit, Carter Center, development partners, traditional institutions, local government and community health officers, civil society

organisations and religious leaders.

The programme, currently at the pilot stage in Akamkpa, Etung and Boki Local Government Areas, focuses on communities considered vulnerable to the

transmission of onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis because of their forested terrain, fast-flowing rivers and proximity to the Cameroon border.

The Cross River State Coordinator



of Nigeria Health Watch, Ms Hannah Achu, said the organisation was collaborating with the Global Institute for Disease Elimination (GLIDE) on advocacy and

communication efforts aimed at eliminating onchocerciasis in the state.

Achu said Cross River remained a major concern on the onchocerciasis map because of its extensive border

communities, particularly those linked to areas in Cameroon where recrudescence of the disease had been reported. She expressed satisfaction with the quality of participation and deliberations at



the workshop, saying the 21-point commune could provide a basis for further action.

The State Coordinator of Neglected Tropical Diseases, Mr Godwin Omeji, said the engagement would strengthen sensitisation and community participation, particularly in addressing cultural practices that sometimes affect medicine

distribution. He called for increased government funding to support interventions against NTDs in the state.

The Ekiem Clan Head, His Royal Highness Elder Malloy Erem, commended the organisers for what he described as a serious and sincere approach to tackling NTDs, saying the workshop had opened a new chapter for community

involvement in disease elimination. Public health epidemiologist, Dr Ekpo Ofem, also said the engagement provided an opportunity for experts and communities to identify gaps, build synergies and develop practical solutions.

The workshop featured presentations and discussions on evidence from



GLIDE and the KAPB baseline assessment, community knowledge of NTDs, integrated community engagement, gaps in primary healthcare and community health systems, as well

as community perspectives on barriers and enablers to onchocerciasis elimination and quality primary healthcare. Participants subsequently developed a 21-point communique outlining proposed

actions and commitments towards strengthening community engagement and accelerating the elimination of NTDs in Cross River State.

SUBEB, UBEC Mobilise C'River Communities Against Climate Change

By Joy Ndoma



The Cross River State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), in conjunction with the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), has mobilised communities across the State to take greater responsibility for environmental protection through tree planting,

protection of water bodies and preservation of indigenous conservation practices.

The call formed part of a Community and Street-to-Street Awareness Campaign on Climate Change and Global Warming held from September 21 to October 2, 2026, under Pillar 4 of

the 2025 Greening Schools and Climate Change Education Intervention (GSCCEI).

The Desk Officer and facilitator of the campaign, Mr. Ellah Constant Arobor, urged residents to end indiscriminate felling of trees, warning that the continued loss of vegetation was contributing to



environmental degradation, erosion and excessive heat.

Arobor said communities should replace trees that had been cut down and make tree planting a regular practice rather than waiting for government intervention, stressing that environmental protection was a collective responsibility.

“Everybody is involved. It is a

collective duty,” he said.

As part of the campaign, tree seedlings were distributed to participating communities for planting and nurturing, while Arobor encouraged residents to establish and protect buffer zones around rivers and streams to prevent activities that destroy vegetation around water bodies.

He said sustained

protection of such areas over five to 10 years could significantly contribute to the restoration of degraded ecosystems, stressing that communities could take action without waiting for government.

“Creating a buffer zone, you mustn’t wait for government. Planting trees to protect the environment, you mustn’t wait for government,” he



said.

The Desk Officer expressed concern over the declining presence of trees in some school environments, noting that some schools that previously had diverse tree species were gradually losing their vegetation.

He advised schools to designate portions of their premises for tree planting and ensure that

seedlings were properly nurtured to maturity, while encouraging communities to revive indigenous knowledge and traditional practices that support environmental conservation.

Arobor also urged residents to seek technical assistance and improved seedlings from relevant government agencies, including the Ministry of Agriculture and the Forestry Commission, and

to begin with actions within their capacity.

Also speaking, the Director of Academic Services, Cross River SUBEB, Mrs Caroline Ana, and another facilitator, Mr Effiom Ekpo, stressed the importance of community participation in climate change education and environmental protection, while the campaign promoted practical action to protect the



State's natural resources.

The campaign covered Akamkpa, Ayembam Village,

Odukpani, Ikot Okon, Biase and Ikot Ogbora in the Southern Senatorial District; Ikom, Alok, Nkim and Enagebe in

the Central District; and Ogoja and Oboja-Ishibori in the Northern District.

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



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)





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.



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.

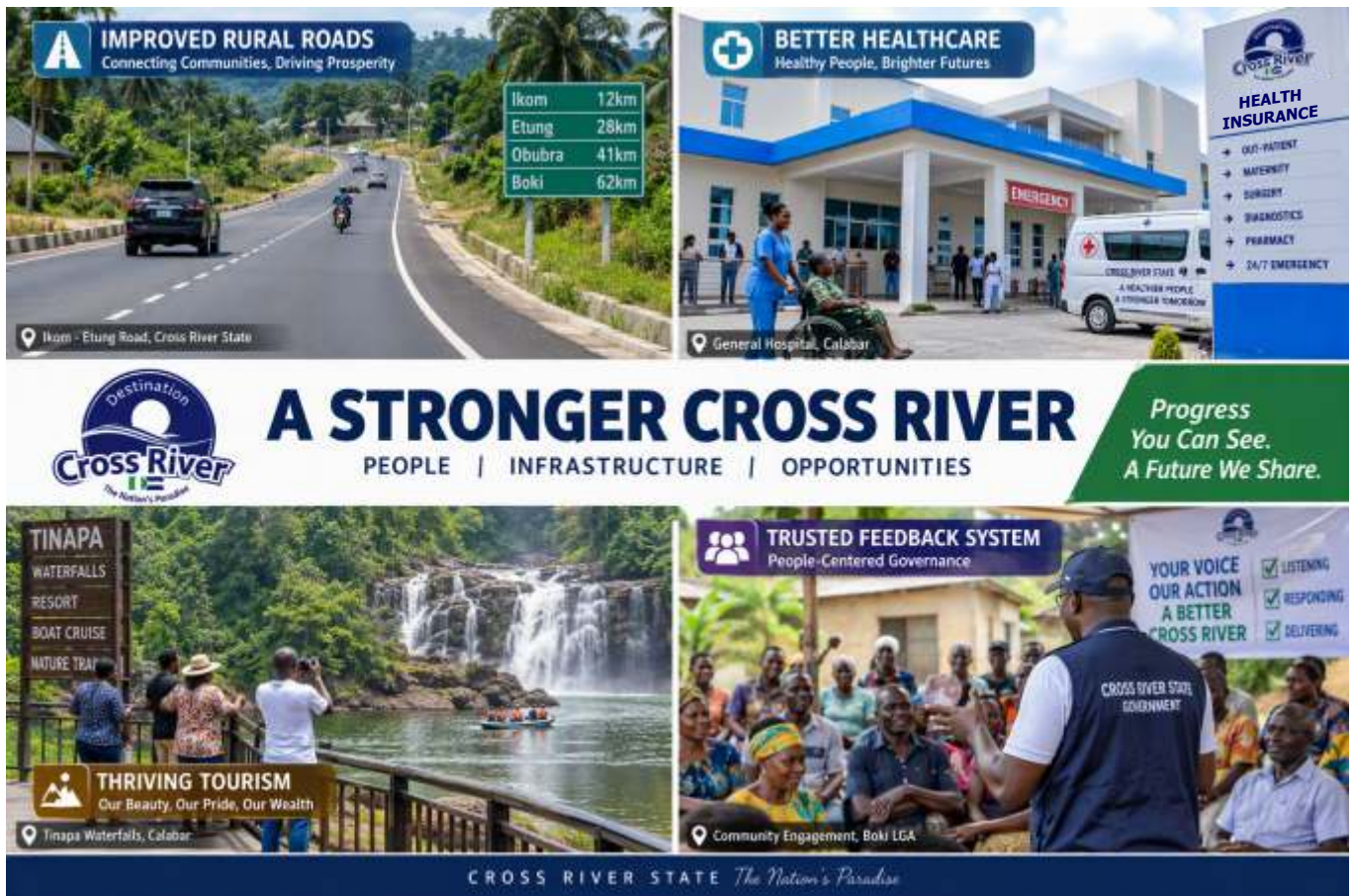
SIGNED: MANAGEMENT

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.

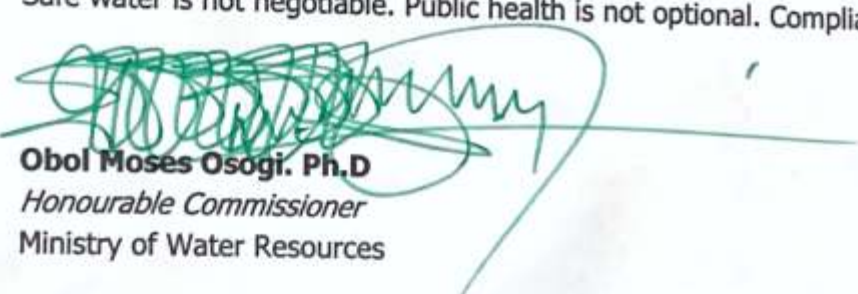
In this regard, the Government wishes to point out that Enforcement Teams shall be deployed across the State to identify and prosecute defaulters. Any individual or organization found drilling boreholes without authorization, operating without registration, violating established standards, falsifying 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 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.

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.



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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





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



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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.**





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Health & Social Welfare
Federal Republic of Nigeria

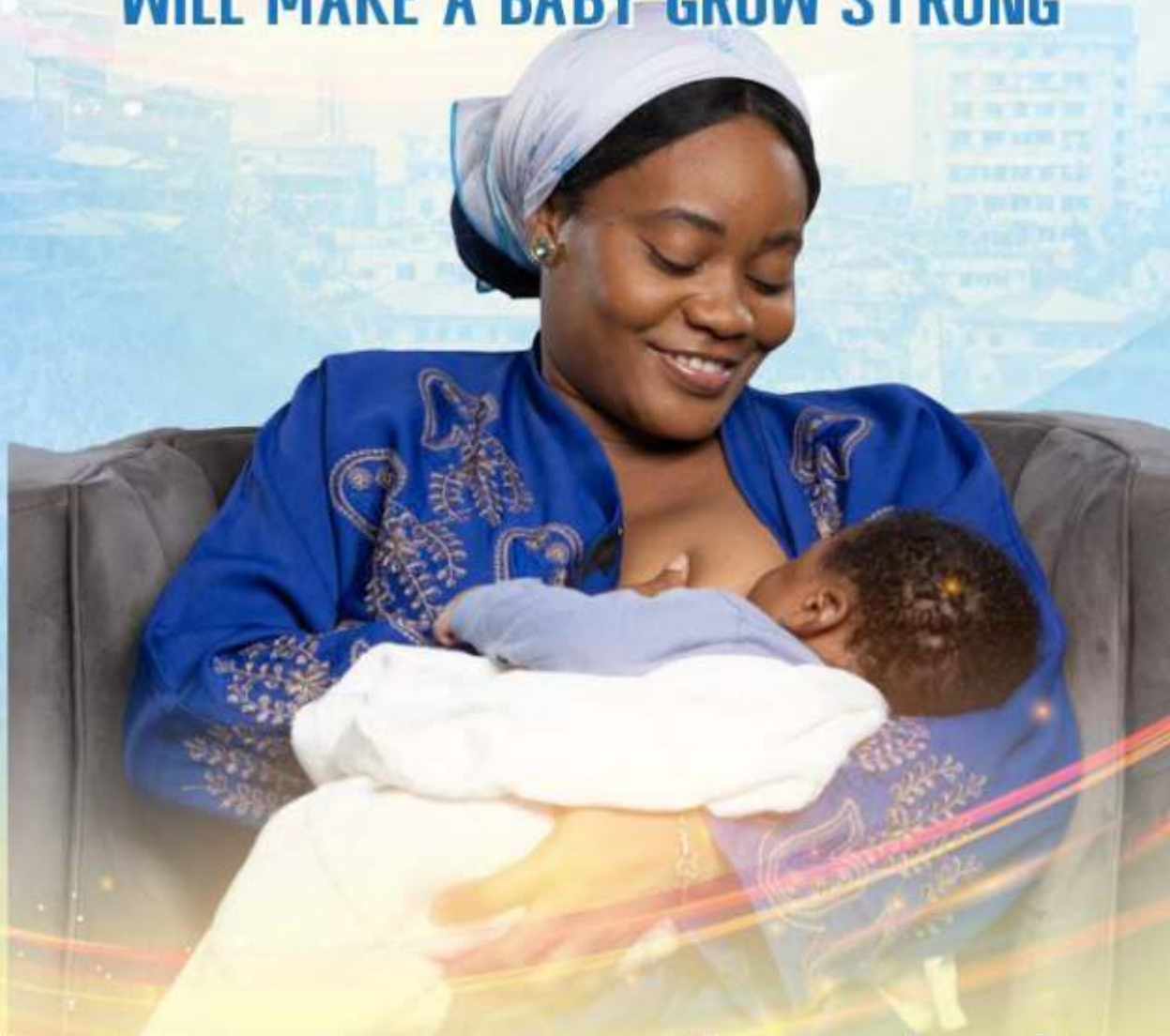


LET'S GROW STRONGER
TOGETHER

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
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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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23RD – 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2026



VENUE:
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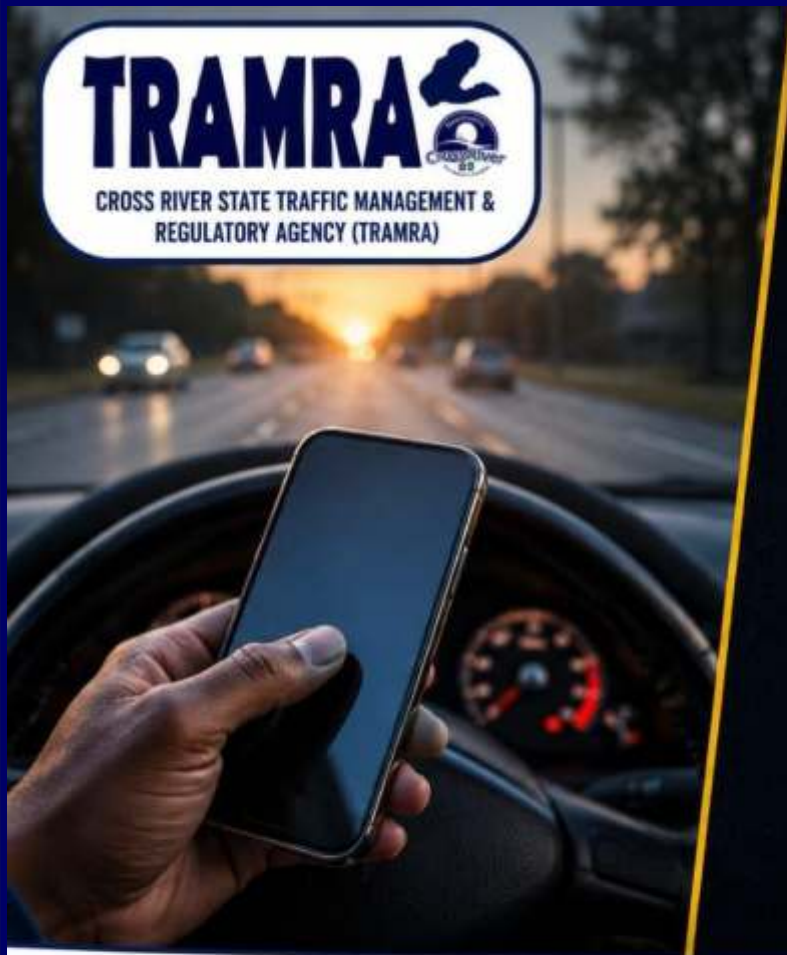


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ON THE ROAD.**



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SAFETY TODAY

ORDER ALWAYS

MOBILITY FOR ALL



FLOOD ALERT



BE PREPARED, STAY SAFE

The rainy season is here again
how can we **prevent flooding**?

WHAT TO DO



**CLEAR THE GUTTERS
AND DRAINAGE.**



**AVOID DUMPING
REFUSE AND PLASTICS
IN THE GUTTER.**



**STAY UPDATED ON
WEATHER NEWS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

DURING THE FLOOD



**DO NOT WALK OR
DRIVE IN FLOODED
PLACES.**



**LIFT IMPORTANT
THINGS TO A
HIGH LEVEL.**



**FOLLOW
EVACUATION
ORDERS.**



**EVACUATE IF
NECESSARY.**



**TURN OFF ALL
ELECTRICAL
APPLIANCES AND GAS.**



**YOUR SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY.
TOGETHER, WE CAN REDUCE
RISK AND SAVE LIVES.**



**POWERED BY
CROSS RIVER STATE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**



Listen to
authorities.



Help your
neighbors.



Be prepared,
stay safe.



Government of Cross River State, Nigeria

23rd July 2026

PRESS RELEASE

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

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

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

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



Ededem Charles Ani, Esq

Attorney General & Commissioner for Justice



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



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



Attorneygeneral@crossriverstate.gov.ng



www.crossriverstate.gov.ng



PUBLIC ADVISORY



RAINY SEASON DRIVING STAY SAFE. ARRIVE ALIVE.

KEY SAFETY TIPS



REDUCE YOUR SPEED

Wet roads,
longer stopping
distance.



KEEP SAFE DISTANCE

Leave enough
space between
vehicles.



USE HEADLIGHTS

Improve visibility
during rain.



AVOID FLOODED ROADS

Water hides
dangers.



NO MOBILE PHONES

Stay focused.
No distractions.



CHECK YOUR VEHICLE

Tyres, wipers,
brakes & lights
must be good.



WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT

Protect yourself
and your
passengers.



USE INDICATORS

Signal before
you turn or
change lanes.



AVOID OVERTAKING

Be patient.
Drive
responsibly.



POOR VISIBILITY?

Pull over safely
and wait for
conditions
to improve.



LET'S PROTECT LIVES ON OUR ROADS

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



STAY ALERT.
DRIVE SAFELY.
ARRIVE ALIVE.

E-signed :

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





FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY CORPS
RS6.2 CROSS RIVER SECTOR COMMAND

RAINY SEASON DRIVING TIPS

Drive Smart. Arrive Safe.

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



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

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

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

SAFE DRIVING TIPS



01

CHECK YOUR VEHICLE

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



02

REDUCE SPEED

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



03

KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE

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



04

USE YOUR LIGHTS

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



05

AVOID FLOODED ROADS

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



06

STAY FOCUSED

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



07

BUCKLE UP – EVERY TIME

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

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

FRSC EMERGENCY NUMBER
122

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

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Stay Alert
Stay Alive**

CRGIA

Cross River Geographic
Information Agency



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Your Children and
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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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**THE CROSS RIVER STATE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**





Statewide Environmental Sanitation

Holds Every Last Saturday of the Month

from 7:00am -10:00am



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



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



KEEP CROSS RIVER STATE

CLEAN & GREEN

WHAT TO DO

Sweep your surroundings



Cut the Grasses around you



Clear drains/gutters



Dispose Garbage Appropriately



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



PGF VALUE REORIENTATION CAMPAIGN

**Responsible
Citizens.
Responsive
Nation.**



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Cross River State

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(+234)7047108136
01-4482998





STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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

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**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— FRSC —

CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND