

Daily InfoNews Bulletin

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Daily InfoNews...

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



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CROSS RIVER STATE

VISION STATEMENT

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

MINISTERIAL MANDATE

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

VISION

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

Mission

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

Gov. Otu Bags Governor of the Year Award for Digital IGR Innovation

By Daniel Bebia



Cross River State Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, has been honoured as Governor of the Year in Digital Revenue and Internally Generated Revenue (IGR)

Innovation at the Nigeria eGovernment Excellence Awards 2026.

The award is in recognition of his administration's contributions to advancing digital governance and driving innovative

reforms in revenue generation in Nigeria.

Governor Otu received his award following the ceremony held in Lagos. He was represented at the event by the Commissioner



for Science and Technology, Dr. Justin Beshel, who received the award on his behalf.

The Nigeria eGovernment Excellence Awards celebrates leaders and institutions that have demonstrated outstanding commitment to deploying technology to

improve governance, transparency and service delivery.

Governor Otu's recognition comes on the heels of deliberate reforms introduced by his administration to digitize revenue collection processes, block leakages, and improve the State's IGR profile through technology-driven solutions.

The award organizers noted that Cross River State has shown remarkable progress in leveraging digital tools to strengthen fiscal sustainability and promote accountability in public finance management.





C'River Assembly Wants Probe Into Alleged Criminal Activities At Lemna Road Temporary Tanker Park

By Itam Offor



The Cross River State House of Assembly has called for a thorough investigation into alleged criminal activities at the Temporary Tanker Park, Lemna

Road, Calabar, following a petition by landlords and residents of the area. The petition, which was considered during plenary, alleged that the facility, originally established as a

Temporary tanker park, has become a security and environmental threat to the host community. According to the petitioners, the illegal activities at the facility include prostitution and



sexual exploitation of young girls, illicit drug dealings, cultism, harbouring of suspected criminals, armed robbery, internet fraud and illegal foreign exchange activities. They further alleged that the park was being used for child trafficking, including the sale of newborn babies, and called

for urgent intervention by the House. The petitioners prayed the House to direct the Nigeria Police Force, National Intelligence Agency, NAPTIP, Homeland Security and other relevant agencies to conduct a joint investigation into the allegations, and to recommend demolition of all illegal structures which pose a

threat to public peace. In her contribution, Hon. Mercy Akpama commended the petitioners for approaching the Assembly. She expressed concern over the allegations emphasising that government has a duty to protect vulnerable persons from exploitation and called for thorough



investigation and appropriate sanctions. Also contributing, Hon. Thomas Aruku said he was familiar with the security challenges in the area as a resident, noting that movement around the vicinity at night had become difficult. He added that public infrastructure, including

streetlights, had been vandalised, worsening the security situation. The deputy Leader of the House, Hon. Davies Etta, noted that the facility was originally provided by the State Government as a temporary location for trailer drivers but had allegedly been put to uses beyond its intended purpose. He called for an

on-the-spot assessment of the area and raised concerns over its sanitary condition. Other lawmakers in their contributions stressed that, Cross River State is known for cleanliness, orderliness and tourism, adding that, the allegations must be verified and appropriate legal



and administrative actions taken where established. In his remarks, the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayambem, said the House will not condone any activity that threatens public safety and public health. He condemned the social vices being perpetrated in the area while pledging the 10th

Assembly's commitment to assist the Executive provide good and effective governance to ensure a better Cross River State. He assured that the Assembly will liaise with relevant security agencies to investigate the petition and take necessary legislative action to address the problem. The

House subsequently took an oversight visit to the area to ascertain the situation on ground. Members condemned the situation at the trailer park and vowed to ensure that things improve as soon as possible.



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BISHOP DR. EYOANWAN
BASSEY EDET OTU**
WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR, CRS
/FOUNDER HUWIB

C'River NG-CARES Records N49.43bn, Sets Stage for Phase 2

By Ukongikwen Adie



Cross River State Government has inaugurated the State Steering Committee for the implementation of Nigeria Community Action for Resilience and Economic Stimulus (NG-CARES) 2.0, following the

state's strong performance under the first phase of the Federal Government-World Bank intervention.

State NG-CARES Coordinator and Secretary of the new committee, Chief Henry Egbelo, disclosed that Cross

River ranked second nationally and first in the South-South under NG-CARES 1.0, recording ~~N~~49.43 billion in total earnings and ~~N~~32.52 billion in reimbursements.

Egbelo gave the figures on Tuesday



at Government House, Calabar, during the inauguration of the State CARES Steering Committee by Governor Bassey Edet Otu, represented by his Deputy, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey.

He said the first phase supported vulnerable households through social protection interventions, while vulnerable youths and street sweepers were engaged under the

Labour-Intensive Public Works component of the programme.

According to him, farmers across major value chains also benefited through FADAMA, while the Community and Social Development Agency implemented community infrastructure projects and eligible micro and small enterprises received grants.

Inaugurating the committee,

Governor Otu charged members to build on the gains recorded under the first phase and ensure effective implementation of NG-CARES 2.0 in the overall interest of Cross River citizens.

Represented by Deputy Governor Peter Odey, the Governor said the programme was designed to strengthen existing social safety nets, provide livelihood support and improve

agricultural value chains, among other interventions aimed at strengthening the economic resilience and wellbeing of vulnerable citizens.

He commended the State NG-CARES coordinating team for its performance under the first phase and assured the newly inaugurated committee of the state government's continued support to enable it deliver on its mandate.

Otu said the choice of experienced and competent individuals for the committee reflected the administration's commitment to effective management and successful implementation of

NG-CARES 2.0 in the state.

He urged members to approach their responsibilities with diligence, accountability and a strong sense of service, particularly by ensuring that programme benefits reach the intended beneficiaries.

Responding on behalf of the committee, Commissioner for Finance and Chairman, Dr. Michael Odere, thanked the Governor for the confidence reposed in the members and pledged prudent management of resources in strict compliance with NG-CARES objectives and guidelines.

Odere also assured that the committee would uphold

transparency and accountability while working to deliver effectively on its mandate and make the state proud.

Egbelo thanked the state government for its support and the enabling environment that contributed to the successful implementation of NG-CARES 1.0, saying the achievements demonstrated Cross River's capacity to deliver development interventions targeted at improving livelihoods and strengthening economic resilience.

C'River Directs Butchers to End Cash Payments, Strengthens Meat Safety Oversight

By Arit Ubi



The Cross River State Government has directed slaughterhouse operators and butchers across the State to discontinue cash payments to unauthorised agents and third parties as part of measures to strengthen

revenue administration, public health oversight and the upgrading of slaughter facilities.

The Commissioner for Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries Development, Hon. Francis Edet Ekpenyong, gave the directive on

Tuesday when he received members of the Butchers Association on a courtesy visit to his office in Calabar.

Ekpenyong directed operators to pay all revenues directly into designated government accounts using



approved revenue codes, warning that payments to individuals or unauthorised third parties would no longer be recognised.

“Those legacy arrangements from the former Ministry of Agriculture are no longer valid. All payments must go directly into government-designated accounts through the appropriate revenue codes,” the Commissioner

said.

He explained that the new payment system would promote transparency, eliminate revenue leakages and ensure that government resources were available for the upgrading and modernisation of slaughter facilities across the State.

The Commissioner also called for closer collaboration

between the ministry and butchers to improve sanitary conditions at slaughterhouses and ensure that facilities meet appropriate standards for safe meat production.

The Personal Assistant to the Governor on Livestock Licensing, Mallam Nasiru Gombe, said the State Government was working to



streamline the livestock sector through proper licensing, registration and structured documentation.

Gombe said the planned central livestock database would provide a reliable record of legitimate operators while enabling registered members of the association to access government support, grants

and development loans.

Representing the Director of Veterinary Services, Dr. Jude Undiandeye, Dr. Regina Tambe stressed the importance of veterinary inspection in protecting public health.

"All animals must undergo proper veterinary inspection and

certification before slaughter to ensure that only safe meat gets to the public," she said.

She added that the requirement applied to all slaughtering facilities, including those located within military establishments, noting that compliance was essential to guaranteeing safe meat for human



consumption.

Responding, the Chairman of the Butchers Association, Mr. Peter Amon, commended the Commissioner for his open-door approach and expressed the association's readiness to cooperate with the ministry.

"Our previous payment practices were based on the legacy structures we inherited from the former

ministry. We are ready to work with the government and comply with the new system of direct payments," Amon said.

Also speaking, Mr. Eyo Nsa commended the State Government for its attention to the welfare of livestock operators and pledged the association's cooperation in maintaining hygiene at slaughtering slabs and supporting the

forthcoming statewide registration and livestock database exercise.

The engagement is expected to strengthen government-industry collaboration while laying the foundation for improved revenue accountability, safer meat production and upgraded slaughter facilities across Cross River State.

C'River Assembly Passes Customary Court Bill 2026 Into Law, Introduces Judicial Reforms



CROSS RIVER STATE
HOUSE *of* ASSEMBLY

The Cross River State House of Assembly has passed the Cross River State Customary Court Bill, 2026 into law.

The Bill was passed following the presentation and consideration of the report of the

House Committee on Judiciary, Public Service Matters, Public Petitions and Complaints Commission.

Presenting the report, the Chairman of the Committee, Rt. Hon. Davies Etta, said the Committee engaged relevant

stakeholders including the Chief Judge of the State, traditional institutions, customary court stakeholders and members of the public through a widely publicized public hearing.

He explained that the Bill seeks to reform the existing customary court system established under the 1976 Law codified in 2004, with the aim of strengthening customary justice administration, enhancing professionalism and improving record keeping across the State.

Key reforms in the new law include a provision that a

person appointed as Chairman of a Customary Court must be a legal practitioner with the requisite years of professional experience, to improve the quality of adjudication at the grassroots.

The law also provides minimum qualifications for other members of the court and improved conditions of service.

Another major reform is the introduction of proper court registers and systematic record keeping, where designated officers will be responsible for recording proceedings and maintaining official records, as against the old practice where the Chairman and

members doubled as record keepers.

The law was restructured from two parts, 65 sections and one schedule into 10 parts, 66 sections and two schedules, to accommodate submissions from stakeholders.

It covers establishment and jurisdiction of customary courts, proceedings, ancillary powers, control, transfer of cases, appeals, officers of the court, rules of court and miscellaneous provisions.

It also provides for the composition of the court to consist of a Chairman and two members, with provisions on quorum, tenure, and expanded jurisdiction to accommodate

matters appropriate for local determination, including gender-based violence matters within the limits of the law.

After consideration of the report, the Bill was read for the third time and passed into law.

In his remarks, the Speaker of the Assembly, Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayambem, said the passage of the Bill marks a major step in the Assembly's commitment to judicial reform and improved access to justice at the grassroots.

He commended members and stakeholders for their contributions to the legislative process.



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

5th October, 2026.

INTERVIEW FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS

The underlisted persons (see list attached), who applied for various positions as medical officers through the Cross River State Civil Service Recruitment portal, have been adjudged successful in their applications.

In view of the above, they are invited to attend an oral interview with originals of their credentials, at the Civil Service Commission's conference room, New Secretariat Complex, Calabar, according to the schedule hereunder:

DATE	CADRE	TIME
Wednesday 7 th October, 2026	Medical Officers I Medical Officers II	10:00am
Thursday 8 th October, 2026	Principal Medical Officers I Principal Medical Officers II	10:00am

Grateful, for compliance.

 5/10/26
Sir Maurice Effiwatt, KSJI, JP⁺
Chairman



MEDICAL DOCTORS				
ABI				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	001/91028343IA	WILCOX IDO EGAZI	8103174416	MALE
2	001/19796104YN	PAMTONGHO AUGUSTINE ETORTI	8164902170	MALE
3	001/07030419IU	DAVIES ETTA ENYIOFEM	8039112051	MALE
4	001/90117287CN	JOHN IMOKE IDAKA	8069603959	MALE
5	001/00911684HY	FELIX UROM OHAN	8038385484	MALE
AKAMKPA				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	002/75281811DY	PATRICK JOHN OMIN	8037624374	MALE
2	002/94073616HL	EDIMA MICHAEL OLORY	7038597841	FEMALE
3	002/16933390NR	AKPANG AKPANG OLORY	7038839166	MALE
4	002/52483005LI	EKPE ETIM OKPO	8063609494	MALE
AKPABUYO				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	003/79897081AQ	EKIKERE EFFIOM OKON	7032147190	FEMALE
2	003/38752640ND	EYO BASSEY EFFIWATT	8035069109	MALE
BAKASSI				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	004/75871699RT	RITA ASUQUO NYONG	8107594259	FEMALE
2	004/00782913WZ	ENEANWAN CHARLES ABASIEN	8130451387	FEMALE
BEKWARRA				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	005/86517675JY	REGINA ERU EDE	8085909606	FEMALE
2	005/64691970OM	ADIE IMAJI JANET	8102774468	FEMALE
3	005/39253417GC	DAVID ODEY INYAMBE	8068389655	MALE
BIASE				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	006/15509288WD	SAMUEL EGBAI UROM	8143568582	MALE
2	006/18255017UC	AHO IGBOR UPEH	7085000671	MALE
3	006/89541374WZ	ONETE UKAM ONETE	7067921704	MALE
BOKI				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	007/20071029FQ	VICTORIA BANKU BISONG	8100878683	FEMALE
2	007/94424160IO	ROSE OJIE KAJANG	8166990172	FEMALE
3	007/49681710KD	ASHIBEKONG ASHINOR PAUL	8163051408	MALE
CALABAR MUNICIPALITY				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	018/14273876GT	ARIT ETENG EFFIOM	8163675918	FEMALE
2	008/60343929BO	VICTORIA NSA EYO	8067888025	FEMALE
CALABAR SOUTH				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	009/90059412PM	EMMANUEL ITA GEORGE	8168464775	MALE
2	009/47028528CE	BASSEY BASSEY EDEM	8063686379	MALE
ETUNG				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER

[Signature] 03/10/26

1	010/34761534SQ	JAMES YUSU JANET	7083964523	MALE
IKOM				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	016/89037170ET	EJIRO AGBOR ASUK-ENIM	7063606296	MALE
OBANLIKU				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	011/70397083UA	SHARON UNANUNG ADAH	8101609189	FEMALE
2	011/48674793JL	BIGMAN URUBUKEH ETERIKA	7038582618	MALE
3	011/70471276OE	AJILEYE DAVID DAVID ASHUA	7059597826	MALE
OBUBRA				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	012/69120727DN	LARRY ENINGHA NVANI	7030602080	MALE
2	012/36600229BC	CHRISTIAN EBAK OBO	8141821646	FEMALE
3	012/77289099UB	JUDE A. ANTHONY OKPECHI	8133293239	MALE
OBUDU				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	013/88913247GB	USHIE JOSEPH ADA	7015859521	MALE
2	013/84270951EW	JENNIFER AWHOUNDE A.	8134857266	FEMALE
3	013/13119957FR	MARY OMALI ENAMHE	8133589588	FEMALE
ODUKPANI				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	014/43850929GD	ETIM OKON EFFIONG	8034168705	MALE
OGOJA				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	015/93447579MX	EMMANUEL MOSE NKOMBE	8065923702	MALE
2	015/83168125WS	JOHN EFUMA GBAJI	8030785789	MALE
3	015/80369719PN	OKEM OZIOMA OZIOMA THERESA	7060884028	FEMALE
YAKURR				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	018/12742281AG	KEDEI UBI INAH	8038100583	FEMALE
2	018/18490295VE	OTTOH MICHAEL OTTOH	2.35E+12	MALE
3	018/18868313DU	SUNDAY ENO UBANA	7041463392	MALE
4	018/25580897FL	BLESSING EDISON ETENG	8166259512	FEMALE
YALA				
S/NO	APPLICATION NO	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT PHONE	GENDER
1	017/37115894LX	OGAR ODEY PATRICK	7010312432	MALE
2	017/60314715LZ	INAKU GODFREY GODFREY I.	9021346159	MALE
3	017/04759078EO	ESTHER OHOTU ODEY	8133344849	FEMALE

[Signature] 05/10/26

SUBEB Holds Zonal Basic Schools Sports Competition Across Three Senatorial Districts

By: Offiong Itang



The Cross River State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), in collaboration with the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), has held the Basic

Education Schools Sports Zonal Competitions across the three senatorial districts of the state.

The competitions, which took place simultaneously at the U.J. Esuene

Stadium, Calabar; Ikom Township Stadium, Ikom; and Ogoja Township Stadium, Ogoja, brought together pupils from basic education schools to compete in various sporting



activities.

The Director of Academic Services, Mrs. Caroline Ana, said the event provided an avenue for pupils to demonstrate their sporting abilities while promoting physical fitness, teamwork, discipline, healthy competition and the discovery of young sporting

talents across the state.

Mrs. Ana noted that the occasion was not only about identifying the best athletes but also a celebration of health, teamwork and fair play. She emphasized that sports form an important part of basic education, as pupils learn valuable lessons on cooperation,

handling defeat with grace and rising above challenges.

"These values are essential in building strong character and responsible citizenship," she said.

She encouraged the pupils to give their best, support their colleagues and



respect their opponents, stressing that every participant was a champion for showing up and making an effort.

She also acknowledged the contributions of teachers and coaches, appreciating their dedication in guiding, training and encouraging the young talents.

Also speaking, the Director of Teacher Professional Development, Mr. Moses Ozang, emphasized that sports provide opportunities for pupils to develop important life skills beyond what is taught in the classroom.

He explained that through sports, children learn

cooperation, resilience and how to handle defeat with grace and rise again after a fall.

According to him, these experiences help to build strong character and responsible citizens who will contribute positively to society.

Mr. Ozang



encouraged the pupils to compete with confidence, cheer their friends and respect their opponents, stressing that true victory is measured not only by winning but also by effort and determination.

He further urged

all participants to ensure that the games remained safe, joyful and fair, while observing the rules guiding the various sporting activities.

Activities featured at the competitions included track and recreational events such as 100-metre, 400-metre and 800-metre races,

sack race and javelin, giving pupils the opportunity to demonstrate speed, endurance, agility and sporting talent.



C'River Sustains Education Sector Cleansing, Seals 14 Unapproved Schools in Calabar South

By Patricia Ogbeche



The Cross River State Government has sustained its cleansing of the education sector with the sealing of 14 schools in Calabar South Local Government Area for operating without the required Approval to Operate (ATO).

Carried out by the

Ministry of Education through its Quality Assurance Department, the enforcement exercise, is part of the government's ongoing drive to sanitise the sector and ensure that schools across the State operate within approved standards.

The exercise is aimed at protecting pupils and students by ensuring that educational institutions provide safe, conducive and standard environments for effective teaching and learning.





Speaking on the ongoing drive, Tuesday, the Commissioner for Education, Senator Professor Stephen A. Odey, said the continued enforcement was necessary to safeguard the future of learners and ensure that only schools that meet government's requirements are permitted to

operate.

Odey urged proprietors of unapproved schools to regularise their institutions by obtaining the necessary approval, stressing that compliance with established regulations was essential to maintaining standards in the education sector.

He warned that any school sealed by government and reopened without authorisation would face appropriate sanctions, as the State would not allow operators to undermine the ongoing cleansing exercise.

The Commissioner said the enforcement





would continue across the 18 Local Government Areas of the State until illegal schools are identified and brought into compliance with the required standards.

According to him, the exercise is not

simply about shutting down schools, but about creating an education system where children can learn in safe, properly regulated and conducive environments.

The 14 schools sealed in Calabar South are De-

Famous Academy International School, 9 Orok Effiom Street; Glory Academy, 14 Antigha Street; Aunty Febas Preparatory Schools, 38 Umo Orok Street; Treasure Kids Academy, Abasi Orok Street; and Emerald Bay School, 9 Abasi Orok Street.

Others are Great Destiny Kingdom Schools, 13 Ene Obong Street; Great Ambassadors, 8 Otokang Street; Splended Nursery and Primary School, 15 Orok Effiom Street; Jubilant Montessori, 11/13 Howell Street; and Ability International Schools, 31 Umoh Orok Street (Secondary).



Also sealed were The River of God Academy, 31 Umoh Orok Street (Secondary); Mary Melody N/P School, 46 Eyo Ita Street; Divine Golden Nursery/Primary School, 10 Archibong Lane; and Vato-Gold Academy Nursery/Primary

School, 25/27 Eyo Ita Street.

The State Government reiterated that the education sector cleansing would be sustained across the State, with emphasis on compliance, quality assurance and the protection of

learners, while proprietors of affected schools are encouraged to regularise their operations through the appropriate government channels.

Heartland Alliance Hands Over Operations to ECEWS, Begins Exit Transition

By Asari Eso



The Heartland Alliance has commenced its transition process in Cross River State, with plans to hand over patients and relevant

structures under its care to the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS).

The organisation disclosed this during a briefing

with the Cross River State Agency for the Control of AIDS (CR-SACA), where its State Lead, Ajah Igiriga, briefed the Director-General, Dr. Charles Iwara,



on the transition process.

Igiriga said Heartland Alliance would ensure that all activities and services it had been providing are properly captured in relevant systems and incorporated into the State's response as the transition progresses.

He added that all

patients currently under the care of Heartland Alliance would be handed over to ECEWS to ensure continuity of care.

Responding, the Director-General of CR-SACA, Dr. Charles Iwara, stressed that continuity of care remains the most critical consideration in the transition

process.

Dr. Iwara urged that every patient be properly transferred to ECEWS, while relevant structures are adequately captured to prevent gaps in care and ensure a smooth transition.

He expressed confidence in the capacity of



ECEWS to take over and sustain the necessary care and support services.

Also speaking, Dr. Joseph Umana of ECEWS assured that the patients would be in good hands, adding

that the organisation would do its best to ensure seamless continuity of care throughout the transition.

The engagement provided an opportunity for Heartland Alliance,

CR-SACA and ECEWS to coordinate the transition and ensure that patients and structures are properly handed over without disruption to care.

Optometrists Raise Alarm Over Quackery, Shortage of Manpower

By Daniel Nsa and Eme Edet



Optometrists in Cross River State have raised alarm over rising quackery and shortage of manpower in eye care delivery in the State.

The practitioners raised the concern in Calabar during a

courtesy visit to the Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham, ahead of the 2026 World Sight Day celebration.

Speaking through the Chairperson of the Nigerian Optometric Association, Cross

River State Chapter, Dr. Ogechi Cecilia Chukwu, the professionals appealed for stronger government support for the employment and deployment of optometrists, particularly in underserved communities, as



well as the integration of eye-care services into primary healthcare.

She disclosed that the shortage of optometrists remains a major concern and stressed the need to improve access to qualified eye-care professionals, warning that residents could be exposed to serious health risks when they continue to patronise

unqualified practitioners.

Dr. Chukwu further appealed to the Ministry of Information and Orientation to use its media platforms to educate Cross Riverians on eye health and the dangers of patronising quacks, stressing that public enlightenment is essential to the fight against eye-care quackery.

She also announced the

Association's plan to mark World Sight Day on Thursday, October 9, 2026, with eye-health education and vision screening for teachers, whom she described as the most neglected group, while equipping them to identify possible visual challenges among their pupils and students.

She described eye health as a public health concern



and commended the State Government for enacting the Health Anti-Quackery (Prohibition) Law, but urged Government to move beyond legislation by creating greater public awareness and ensuring its effective enforcement and implementation.

Responding, the Commissioner for

Information and Orientation, Pastor Ekpenyong Ene Cobham, assured the Association that the Ministry would provide visibility for its programmes through government media platforms and collaborate with the NOA on public enlightenment campaigns.

Cobham also backed the call for more optometrists,

advising the Association to formally communicate its manpower needs to Governor Bassey Edet Otu, which he promised to personally present and facilitate further discussions with relevant authorities.



C'River CJ Orders Etung Criminal Cases to Effraya

By Kingsley Agim



Cross River State Chief Judge, Hon. Justice Akon B. Ikpeme, has ordered the transfer of all pending criminal cases originating

from Etung Local Government Area from courts in Ikom to the Etung Chief Magistrate's Court, Effraya.

Justice Ikpeme also directed that

all new criminal matters arising from Etung be filed at Effraya, irrespective of the distance involved.

Contained in Chief Registrar's Circular No. 7-2026, dated June 29, 2026, the directive was signed by the

Chief Registrar,
Iquo B. Ekanem,
Esq.

It followed a complaint brought before the Chief Judge by the Legal Adviser of Etung Local Government Council, Daniel Enage Mgbe, Esq., in a letter dated June 18, 2026.

According to the circular, prosecuting agencies in Ikom had "consistently" filed criminal complaints arising from Etung in Ikom "instead of Effraya," citing distance and convenience.

Justice Ikpeme consequently directed that "all matters emanating from Etung must be filed at Effraya

irrespective of distance," while matters originating from Ikom should remain in Ikom.

The directive is in line with Section 92(1) of the Cross River State Administration of Criminal Justice Law, 2016.

All Etung matters currently pending in Ikom courts are to be transferred to Etung forthwith, while subsequent cases from the area must be filed at Effraya.

According to the circular, the arrangement is intended "to keep Magistrate's Court in Etung busy and prevent redundancy."

For effective implementation, the Administrative Magistrate was

mandated to ensure compliance with the directive and monitor the handling of affected cases.

Judicial officers, police authorities, prosecuting agencies and staff within the affected jurisdictions were consequently directed to take note and comply with the new filing arrangement.

The directive places Etung criminal cases firmly within the appropriate judicial division, while giving the Effraya Magistrate's Court a clearer and more active role in administering justice in the area.

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.



GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

MINISTRY OF WEALTH CREATION AND EMPLOYMENT
NEW SECRETARIAT COMPLEX, CALABAR

Ref: CR/MWC/AD/26/VOL. II/85

5th October, 2026

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

RE:92 REGULAR RECRUITS INTAKE FOR TRADES AND NON-TRADES MEN AND WOMEN/RECRUITMENT INTO NIGERIAN NAVY BASIC TRAINING SCHOOL BATCH 39

The Cross River State Government wishes to inform all young Cross River State indigenes from Ages 18 to 22 to take advantage of the on-going online registration for the 92 Regular recruits intake for Trades and Non-Trades Men and Women into the Nigerian Army as well as the on-going recruitment Exercise into the Nigerian Navy Basic Training School Batch 39.

The Nigerian Army 92nd recruitment Exercise is to run from 9th September to 21st October, 2026 while that of the Batch 39 recruitment of the Nigerian Navy Basic Training School commenced on Friday, 2nd October, 2026 and it is expected to close on Saturday, 31st October, 2026.

All interested and qualified Candidates are hereby advised to go online and visit <https://recruitment.army.mil.ng> for the Nigerian Army 92nd Regular recruits intake for Trades and Non-Trades Men and Women as well as www.joinnigeriannavy.navy.mil.ng for the Nigerian Navy recruitment exercise 2026 for Batch 39 into the Basic Training School, to carefully review all eligibility guidelines, requirements and available Trades for each exercise before filling the application form and uploading all documents as requested, please.

Applicants are further directed to note that all recruitment application forms are free of charge throughout the processes and only single valid application shall be permitted while all multiple online applications shall be disqualified.

All interested and qualified applicants should please take note and be guided accordingly as the State Government expects maximum participation by our Men and Women **so that the State Slots would not taken by other States in the Federation.**

For more details and clarifications, contact the Employment Desk Officer in the Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, New Secretariat Complex, Calabar.

e-signed:
Hon . Patrick Egbede
Commissioner





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, Certification 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 to bring documents (proof of address) in the form of the last two consecutive bills.
- Screening exercise is to be held at the last two consecutive bills.
- Multiple screenings of the same candidate are not allowed.
- Candidates must ensure they are not carrying any weapons, including firearms and explosives (ammunition).
- Candidates must not bring any weapons.

- A candidate will be withdrawn from the exercise if found to be a fake recruit.
- Candidates are advised to ensure they are not carrying any weapons, including firearms and explosives (ammunition) to the recruitment exercise.
- Candidates must ensure they are not carrying any weapons.
- Candidates are advised to ensure they are not carrying any weapons, including firearms and explosives (ammunition) to the recruitment exercise.
- Screening exercise will be held at the last two consecutive bills.
- Candidates must ensure they are not carrying any weapons.
- Candidates are advised to ensure they are not carrying any weapons, including firearms and explosives (ammunition) to the recruitment exercise.



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 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*



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.

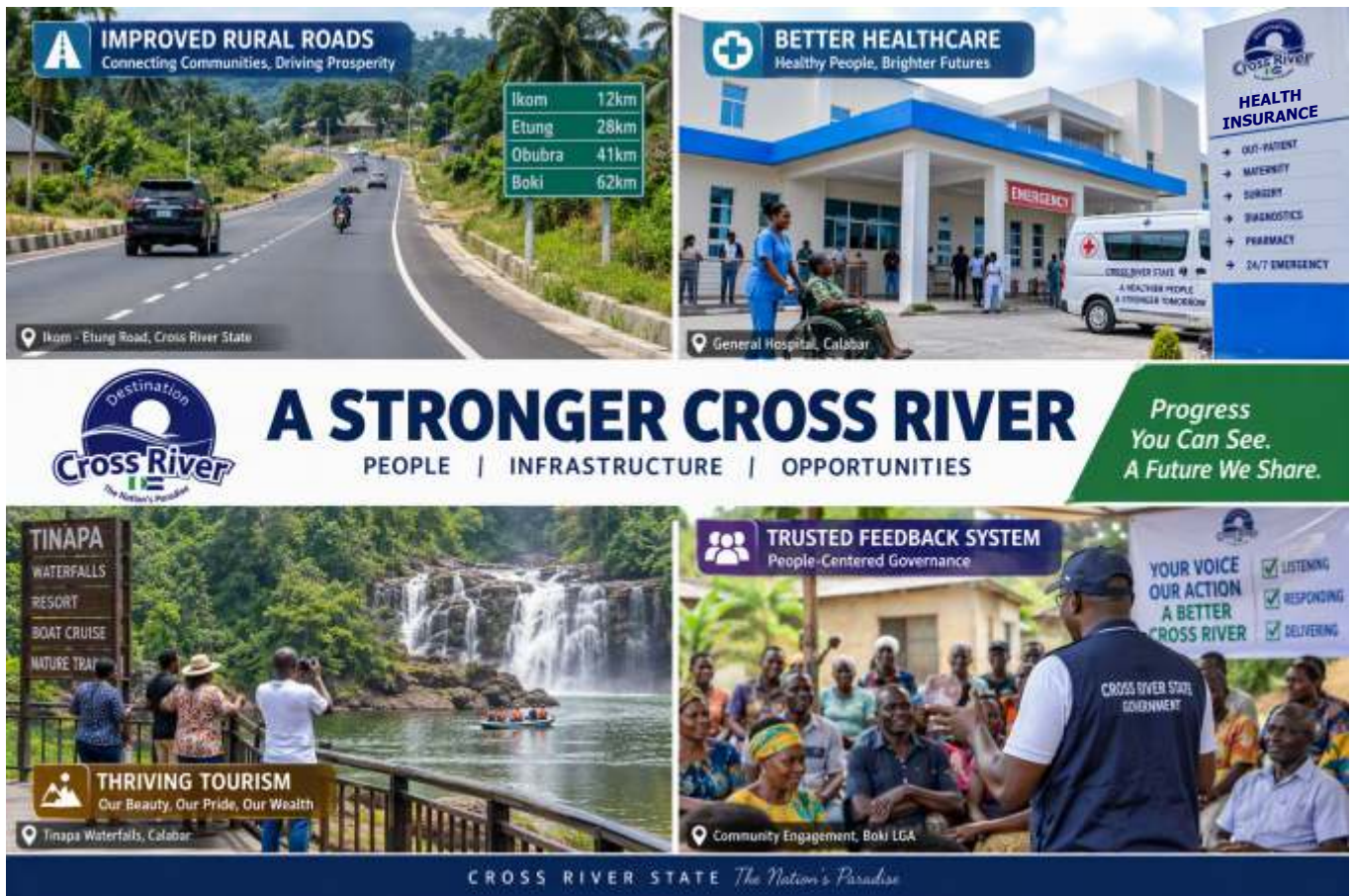
SIGNED: MANAGEMENT

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.

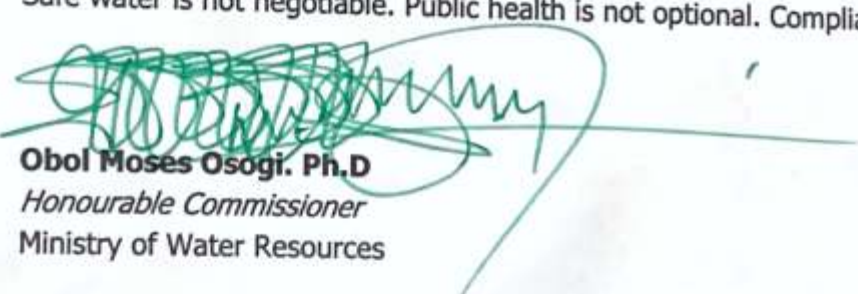
In this regard, the Government wishes to point out that Enforcement Teams shall be deployed across the State to identify and prosecute defaulters. Any individual or organization found drilling boreholes without authorization, operating without registration, violating established standards, falsifying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



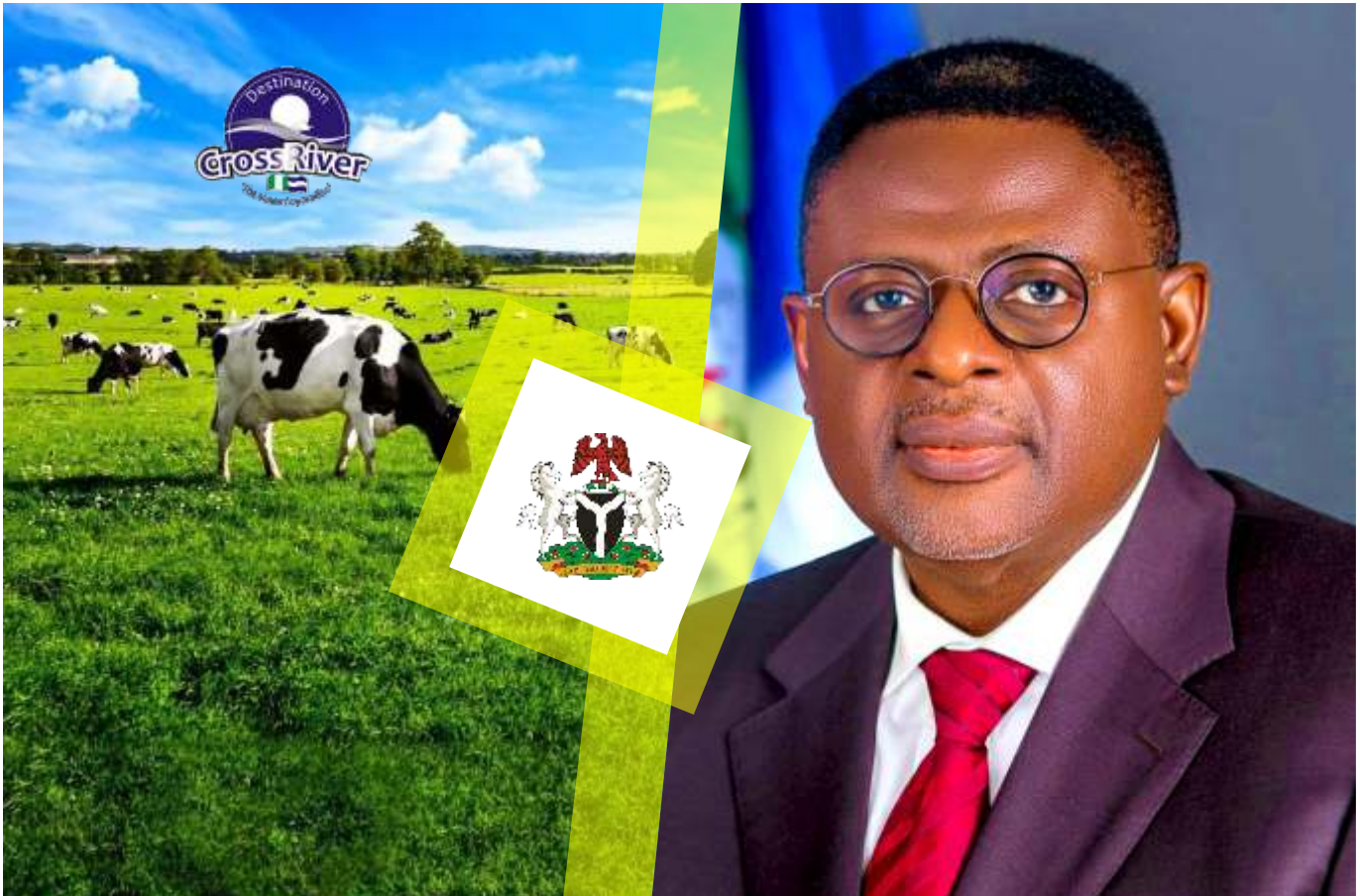
Obol Moses Osogi. Ph.D

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.

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.



THEME:
**RETHINKING
OUR COLLECTIVE
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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





Bakassi International Fish Festival



YEARS OF IMPACT 2022-2026

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

NOVEMBER 24-25, 2026 10:00 AM DAILY

GRAND FINALE — NOVEMBER 25

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CROSS RIVER STATE**

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Now we are building the economic platform behind it.



FROM FESTIVAL TO PLATFORM

CULTURE

Celebrating the heritage and identity of coastal communities.

FISHERIES

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FOOD SECURITY

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

BLUE ECONOMY

Opening conversations around sustainable coastal enterprise, investment and innovation.

PEACE & REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Using commerce and culture to bring diverse communities together.

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THE PARTNERSHIP

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DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS | MEDIA | COMMUNITY LEADERS

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

THE STAGE

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

THE SEAFOOD EXPERIENCE

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

THE VISIBILITY PLATFORM

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

THE ENTERPRISE & FUNDING PLATFORM

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

THE BIG MOMENT

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WHY PARTNER WITH BIFF?

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

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2026

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



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE
CROSS RIVER STATE

PUBLIC NOTICE

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



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Personnel Audit Verification support



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



Official feedback and complaints



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**MONDAY TO
SATURDAY**



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



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



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE
CROSS RIVER STATE

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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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Federal Republic of Nigeria

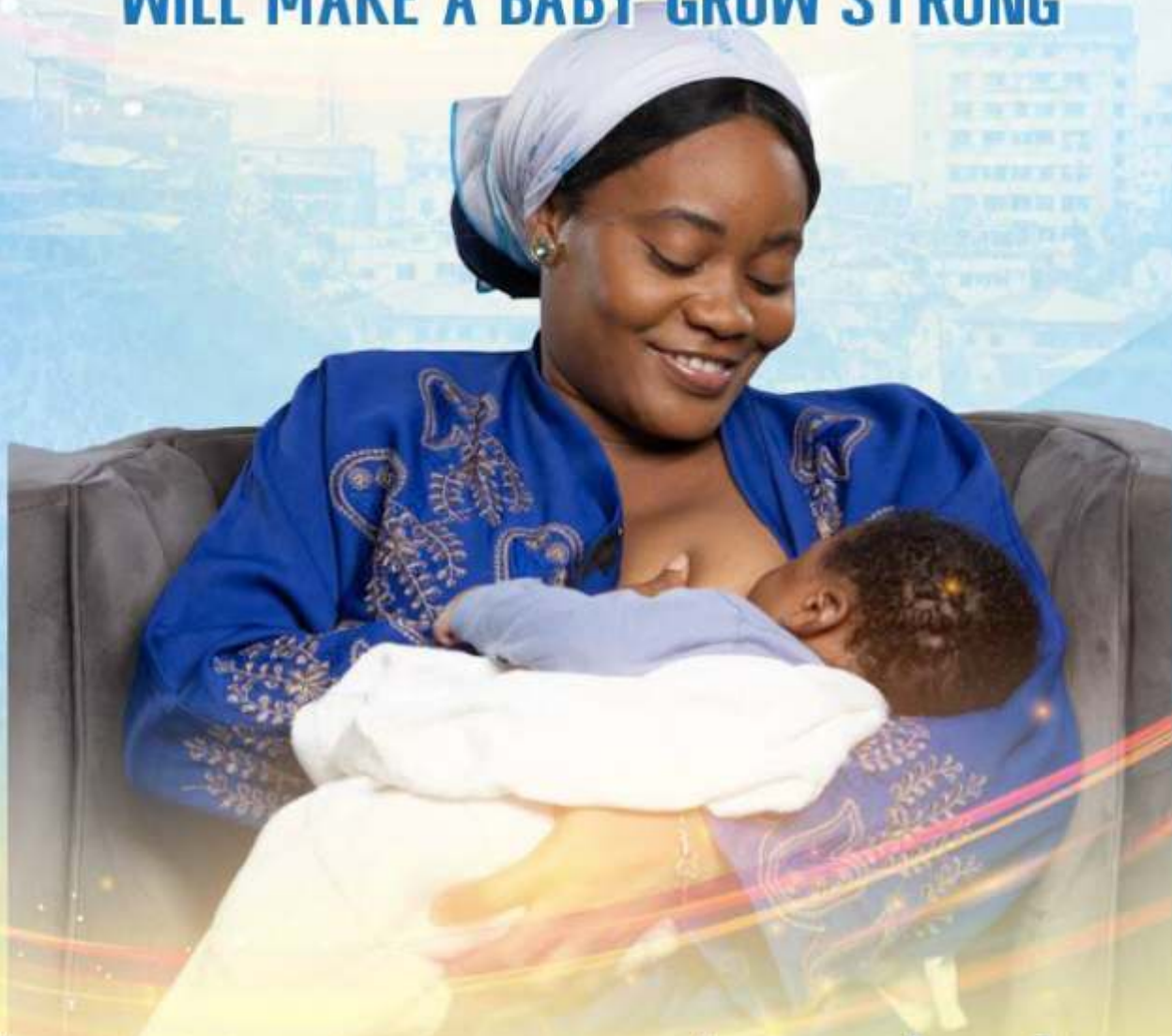


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Federal Ministry of
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Federal Republic of Nigeria



LET'S GROW STRONGER
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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.**

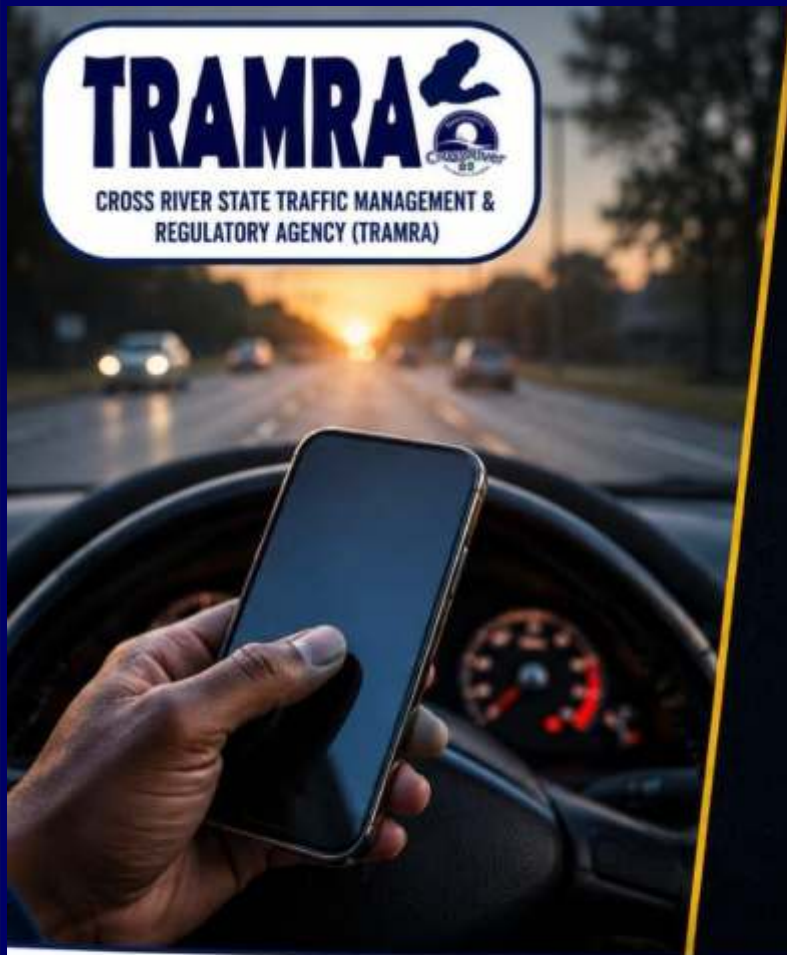
EVERY GREAT STORY NEEDS A STRONG BEGINNING

MAKE WE GROW STRONG TOGETHER

**E GO SOON REACH
YOUR SIDE**

**EVERY GREAT STORY
NEEDS A STRONG
BEGINNING**





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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



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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
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Creating a safe motoring environment for all.*

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Stay Alert
Stay Alive**

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PROTECT
SAVE LIVES



RESPECT
CYCLISTS



RESPECT
MOTORCYCLISTS



RESPECT
PEDESTRIANS



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SAVE TOMORROW

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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
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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

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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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Statewide Environmental Sanitation

Holds Every Last Saturday of the Month

from 7:00am -10:00am



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



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



KEEP CROSS RIVER STATE

CLEAN & GREEN

WHAT TO DO

Sweep your surroundings



Cut the Grasses around you



Clear drains/gutters



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STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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

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CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND