Daily InfoNews Bulletin

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

SUNDAY, 18TH OCTOBER - MONDAY, 19TH OCTOBER, 2026

SPECIAL 67TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY EDITION

ETUNG PLEDGES TOTAL SUPPORT FOR OTU, TINUBU AS EVIDENCE GROUP INAUGURATES EXECUTIVES

CROSS RIVER, AMET SIGN FISHING TERMINAL DEAL TO CREATE 6,000 JOBS

NEMA, CR-SEMA ASSESS FLOOD-RAVAGED COMMUNITIES IN BIASE, RESIDENTS SEEK RELIEF SUPPORT

Daily InfoNews...

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DailyNews Bulletin is a daily publication of the Cross River State Ministry of Information and Orientation for the Entertainment and Education of 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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A Publication of the Cross River State Ministry of Information & Orientation, Calabar

MONDAY, 19TH OCTOBER , 2026

SPECIAL 67TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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Contents

- ETUNG PLEDGES TOTAL SUPPORT FOR OTU, TINUBU AS EVIDENCE GROUP INAUGURATES EXECUTIVES — PAGE 37
- CARNIVAL CALABAR: COMMISSION TARGETS GLOBAL REACH THROUGH INNOVATION, CULTURAL PRESERVATION — PAGE 6
- CROSS RIVER, AMET SIGN FISHING TERMINAL DEAL TO CREATE 6,000 JOBS — PAGE 12
- NEMA, CR-SEMA ASSESS FLOOD-RAVAGED COMMUNITIES IN BIASE, RESIDENTS SEEK RELIEF SUPPORT — PAGE 17
- CROSS RIVER FLAGS OFF FIRST RALLY FOR COFFEE FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL NIGERIA 2026 — PAGE 25
- CROSS RIVER STATE REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO COMBATING FOOD INSECURITY AT WORLD FOOD DAY 2026 — PAGE 32

CHECK INSIDE

FOR MORE STORIES

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As His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, marks another birthday, I join the good people of Cross River State in celebrating a man who epitomizes intentional leadership, discipline and an uncommon sense of duty. In three years, you have confronted long-standing challenges with courage.

One of the most visible legacies of Your Excellency's administration is the determined effort to reclaim and rehabilitate decaying infrastructure across our State.From roads and public facilities to housing, power, water and other essential services, you have demonstrated that development is not merely about promises, but about deliberate action and visible results.

You have also made commendable strides in stabilizing security and restoring public confidence. Your commitment to security is not limited to rhetoric; it is reflected in coordinated action, stakeholder engagement and sustained investment in the safety of lives and property. By rightly prioritizing security,you have demonstrated that a secure environment is the foundation for education, commerce, agriculture and investment.

Beyond infrastructure and security,you have shown a clear commitment to agriculture, youth empowerment, education, healthcare, skills acquisition, support for farmers and agribusiness.Your successful efforts to reclaim Tinapa,an investment that was almost lost,and your acquisition of several aircrafts to strengthen Cally Air are legendary masterstrokes worthy of the highest commendation.

I am honoured to have embarked on this journey of service with Your Excellency, a man of good conscience and piety who has refused to be swayed by praise or daunted by criticism. I am proud to share in the accolades that have accrued from your purposeful leadership, which represent the collective progress of our State and the renewed hope of our people.

Your Excellency,Sir,I continue to pray,as I have done every year since we began this journey, that the Almighty will grant you even more strength, wisdom, good health and compassion to continue leading Cross River State to greater heights.May He sustain you in all your endeavours, and may your leadership remain a beacon of hope for us all.

Happy 67th Birthday, Your Excellency

Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Peter Odey
Deputy Governor of Cross River State

FORUM OF COMMISSIONERS

CROSS RIVER STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE COMPLEX,
CALABAR

CELEBRATING
A VISIONARY LEADER
@67

The Forum of Commissioners, Cross River State Executive Council, joyfully felicitates His Excellency, Senator, Prince, Bassey Edet Otu,PNIPR, Governor of Cross River State, on the auspicious occasion of his 67th Birthday.

Your Excellency, at 67, you exemplify purposeful leadership. You lead not by words alone, but by visible results.

In you, we have found a Captain who charts the course with clarity, a father who governs with empathy, and a statesman who inspires with integrity.

Under your "People First" mantra, Cross River has regained its pride of place. Confidence is restored. Hope is renewed. Development is no longer a promise - it is happening.

As members of your Executive Council, we are proud to be part of your success story. You challenge us to think bigger, work harder, and serve better. You have shown us that leadership is service and that power is for the people. On this landmark birthday, we celebrate your courage, your wisdom, your kindness and your unwavering commitment to a greater Cross River.

We pray the Almighty God grants you long life in excellent health, renewed strength, and uncommon wisdom to continue to lead our dear State to greater prosperity.

Happy Birthday Your Excellency!

Signed:

Senator Prof. Stephen Odey
Forum Chairman

Pastor (Hon.) Ekpenyong Cobham
Forum Secretary

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Carnival Calabar: Commission Targets Global Reach Through Innovation, Cultural Preservation

By Ibu Harrywills

The Cross River State Carnival Commission has reaffirmed its commitment to expanding the global reach of Carnival Calabar through technological innovation, cultural preservation and youth empowerment as preparations for the 2026 festival gather pace.

The commitment was highlighted at a multi-faceted event featuring a Recognition of Dignity Award Ceremony, a creative writing initiative for young people and discussions on cultural identity, indigenous languages and the sustainability of Carnival Calabar as a tourism and creative industry product.

The recognition ceremony honoured consultants, cultural advocates and members of the Chinese Studies Essay and Creative Writing Committee for their contributions to the

Commission's activities. Those recognised included Chief A.C.A., the capital consultant; international tourism consultant and Chief Executive Officer of Akwaaba Travel Markets, Mr Ikechi Uko; and Lady Bukky Ojo of Africa Carols Canada.

The committee's Chairman, Professor Eyo Mensah, and Secretary, Professor Gloria B.I. Okon, were also honoured alongside other members, including Mrs Eugenia Komola Faye, Cornel Ella, Dr Ayan Izan Ayan, Dr Ape Kolumba, Mrs Harriet Potter Onaga, Mr Charles Asuncor Ifeon, Professor Rory Agbor, Chief M.P. Item and Professor Jonas Agbor. The programme also featured a cultural presentation by the Kiddies Music Festival.

Speaking on behalf of Nugitech's Chief Executive Officer, Lady Ajoke Akinlabi, Miss Regina Oliver emphasised the importance of technology in expanding Carnival Calabar's international audience and creating new opportunities for public participation. She explained that the company's carnival voting and band membership platforms were designed to improve audience engagement and simplify band registration and management.

Oliver said technology offered opportunities to connect cultural expression with wider audiences, enabling young people to showcase their talents and project Cross River's cultural identity beyond Nigeria. She commended the Commission for promoting intellectual development and creative expression alongside entertainment, urging participants in the creative writing exercise to nurture

their talents and take advantage of opportunities for personal growth.

Tourism stakeholder, Mr Ikeji, stressed that consistency, effective planning and private-sector participation were essential to sustaining Carnival Calabar as a viable cultural and tourism brand. He observed that although several states had attempted to establish carnival events, maintaining them over time remained a challenge without proper organisation and sustained stakeholder commitment beyond successive government administrations.

Ikeji noted that the colourful costumes, music, dance and street processions associated with Carnival Calabar were supported by substantial intellectual and organisational work. He also emphasised the importance of involving young people in the creative industry, noting that their participation could contribute fresh ideas to the festival's continued development. He described the carnival's international recognition as an opportunity to project Nigeria's and Africa's cultural heritage to a global audience.

Nigerian-Canadian cultural advocate and publicist, Lady Bukky Ojo, called for deliberate efforts to preserve African languages and traditions, warning that declining proficiency in indigenous languages among younger generations could weaken the transmission of cultural knowledge and identity. She urged parents, educators and communities to encourage children to learn their native languages and appreciate their cultural heritage.

Ojo announced plans for a pilot initiative, Afrika Rose, which will explore an African Christmas experience during the 2026 Calabar Festival.

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ESSAY & CREATIVE WRITING
COMPETITION 2026
1ST PRIZE
WINNER
N500,000

2ND PRIZE
WINNER
N300,000

2ND PRIZE
WINNER
N300,000

ESSAY & CREATIVE WRITING
COMPETITION 2026
1ST PRIZE
WINNER
N500,000

A FABULOUS BIRTHDAY TO A FINE GENTLEMAN

Apostle Sen. Prince
Bassey Edet Otu
Governor of Cross River State

On this special occasion, I warmly felicitate His Excellency, Apostle Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, as he celebrates another year of life.

Your Excellency, your birthday offers an opportunity to reflect on your years of service and the work being done to move Cross River State forward. Through your People First agenda, your administration has continued to pursue development in infrastructure, education, security, and the economy, with projects and programmes touching different parts of the state.

Across the state, several road projects stand out. In Calabar South, the 2.8-kilometre Etinyin-Abasi, Otomo Street, Uwanse and Atamunu road network has restored access to communities that endured years of poor road conditions. In Ogoja, the 10-kilometre Ndok Junction – Mbube – Okubushuyu Road is part of efforts to improve rural connectivity. Your administration has also revived work on the 10-kilometre Adiabo – Eseku – Ikoneto Road, an important alternative route into and out of Calabar, while road construction and rehabilitation continue in other parts of the state. These projects demonstrate the importance of infrastructure to commerce, agriculture, and the daily lives of our people.

In education, your administration has supported the payment of WAEC registration fees for students in public secondary schools, invested in classroom construction and rehabilitation, and established the University of Education and Entrepreneurship in Akamkpa. These interventions are helping to expand access to education and create opportunities for young people to acquire knowledge and practical skills for the future. Your administration has also continued to address security concerns through collaboration with security agencies and community stakeholders. The improvement in security in parts of the state is important for businesses, tourism, investment, and the confidence of residents. We recognise that sustaining peace requires continued attention, cooperation, and investment.

Equally noteworthy are the efforts to strengthen the state's revenue base, improve financial accountability, and recover public assets. A stronger revenue system gives the government greater capacity to fund infrastructure, provide public services, and meet its obligations to the people. The continued growth of tourism and the revival of major events such as Carnival Calabar also offer opportunities to attract visitors, support businesses, and create jobs for our people.

Your Excellency, these efforts reflect the responsibility that comes with leadership and the work required to build a state that serves its people. As Chief of Staff, I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to your administration's service to Cross River State and remain committed to supporting the realisation of its development goals.

As you celebrate this birthday, I pray that Almighty God grants you good health, wisdom, strength, and a renewed sense of purpose. May He continue to guide your decisions, bless your family, and give you the grace to accomplish even more for Cross River State.

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency. May God continue to bless you and Cross River State.

Hon. Chief Emmanuel Ironbar
Chief of Staff to the Governor
Cross River State

Cross River, AMET Sign Fishing Terminal Deal to Create 6,000 Jobs

By Arit Ubi

The Cross River State Government has signed a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) concession agreement with AMET INDUSTRIES FP LIMITED to revitalise the Eburutu Fishing Terminal, a project expected to create 6,000 direct and indirect jobs, boost government revenue and strengthen the state's aquatic economy.

The agreement provides for the redevelopment and commercialisation of the long-dormant facility through private sector investment in modern fishing operations, seafood processing, storage and distribution. The project is also expected to improve access to affordable fish and other seafood products across the state.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Friday, the Commissioner for Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries Development, Hon. Francis Edet Ekpenyong, said the state government had fulfilled the necessary administrative and legal requirements to facilitate the commencement of the project. He expressed the government's readiness for the concessionaire to mobilise to the site and begin work.

Ekpenyong said the project would enable Cross River to harvest, process, preserve and market fish locally, reducing dependence on imported and externally processed seafood while making fish more affordable to consumers. He added that restoring the terminal would expand economic activities within the state's fisheries sector.

Presenting the operational plan, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of AMET INDUSTRIES FP LIMITED, Mrs Margaret Ovonlen, said the investment was designed to stimulate economic growth and create employment without imposing a financial burden on the government, as her company would provide the full project capital.

She explained that the concession would operate under a 25-year renewable agreement through a Special Purpose Vehicle, Eburutu Fishery Development Limited. Under the initial arrangement, the company would receive 60 per cent of the revenue, while the state government would retain 40 per cent. If the agreement is renewed for another 25 years, the sharing formula would be reversed, giving the government 60 per cent and the company 40 per cent, with AMET continuing as the operator.

Ovonlen disclosed that the project would feature 15 commercial fishing trawlers, an integrated seafood processing plant, an industrial feed mill, a maritime toll terminal and distribution centres across all 18 local government areas of Cross River State.

She said the facilities were projected to generate 1,000 direct jobs and 5,000 indirect employment opportunities for indigenes, opening up employment opportunities in fishing, processing, transportation, storage and distribution while strengthening the state's fisheries value chain.

The AMET chief executive noted that fish harvested from Nigerian waters had historically been transported elsewhere for processing before being returned to local markets at

higher prices. She said the investment would help retain more economic value within the country by enabling fish caught in the state's waters to be processed and distributed locally.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries Development, Elder Dr Odey Ikongha, commended the Ministry of Justice's legal team, past and present political leadership of the ministry, the Federal Department of Fisheries and the host landowning communities for their contributions towards finalising the concession arrangements and making the land available for the project. He particularly acknowledged the contributions of the former commissioner and the incumbent, Ekpenyong.

Also speaking, the Business Manager, Public Sector, First Bank of Nigeria Plc, Evarn Riman, expressed the bank's readiness to contribute its financial expertise towards developing a bankable framework to support the successful implementation of the investment. The ceremony concluded with the execution of the concession documents, prayers and expressions of optimism from representatives of the participating institutions and organisations.

Stakeholders at the signing ceremony expressed optimism that the revitalisation of the Eburutu Fishing Terminal would create employment opportunities, increase government revenue, expand local seafood processing and distribution, and improve access to affordable fish across Cross River State. They also identified the project as an opportunity to strengthen the state's fisheries value chain and retain more economic benefits from fishing activities within local communities.

How Elder Bassey Abam Eko is restoring financial discipline to C' River's 18 LGAs, one audit at a time

By Omang Ekong

Six months into his tenure, the Auditor-General for Local Governments, Elder Bassey Abam Eko, has a message for anyone still hoping the old ways will survive: the books are being opened, and they are being read closely.

His half-year scorecard shows an office that has moved quickly against payroll irregularities and pension abuse, two problems that have long drained resources meant for the 18 Local Government Councils.

The sharpest finding came from a review of the ongoing promotion implementation at the Local Government level, an exercise approved by Governor Bassey Edet Otu. The audit established that 672 civil servants were drawing salaries well above their approved promotion grades.

The total financial loss is still being calculated. According to the Auditor-General, it will be established and recovered to the government treasury in the coming days. He credits the result to an uncompromising stance on fraud within the Local Government system.

The office also uncovered inflated pension payments to certain identified pensioners. In response, the Auditor-General says deliberate strategies are now in place to stop the padding of payrolls and the illegal inclusion of names in the monthly wage and pension bills.

The office also delivered on its statutory duties. Elder Eko inherited the 2025 audit of the 18 Councils when it was about 21 days behind schedule. It was completed and submitted to the Cross River State House of Assembly within the period required by law.

The Consolidated Financial Statements of the Councils were then published on the Auditor-General's website so that all stakeholders could access them. A copy has been presented to the Deputy Governor, Rt Hon Peter Odey, PhD. Monthly wage bills and pension schedules have also been audited and cleared on time.

Inside the office, Elder Eko has focused on capacity. Specialised training has been delivered to address identified skill gaps among auditors and other categories of staff. A departmental reshuffle was carried out to put the right people in the right roles and raise productivity.

He attributes these gains to the support of Governor Otu and Deputy Governor Odey, who he says consistently approved funding for his office's operations. The Auditor-General reaffirmed a policy of zero tolerance for every form of illegality.

The scorecard also carries a warning. By the end of December 2026, the office stands to lose about 70 per cent of its most experienced staff to retirement. It currently has only 13 trained auditors to cover the workload of 18 Councils, and it has not recruited in years.

Until that gap is filled, the routine audit spot-checks across the Councils are being handled by the Chief of Staff to the Governor.

Six months on, the early record is one of recovery and enforcement. Whether it lasts will depend on what happens next: how much of the 672-case overpayment is actually recovered, and whether the office is allowed to recruit and replace the experience it is about to lose.

Congratulations,

Your Excellency

I heartily felicitate with His Excellency, Apostle Senator (Prince) Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, on the joyous occasion of his 2026 Birthday Thanksgiving Celebration.

This special moment offers an opportunity to celebrate not only the gift of life but also the grace, wisdom, strength and purposeful leadership that God has bestowed upon His Excellency in service to our dear state.

Your Excellency, your administration's People First philosophy reflects a deep commitment to the welfare of the people, inclusive governance, peace and sustainable development. Your dedication to advancing the interests of Cross Riverians continues to inspire hope and confidence in our collective aspiration for a more prosperous state.

I particularly appreciate your commitment to industrial growth, investment promotion, economic diversification and the creation of an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. These efforts are essential to building a stronger economy, creating employment opportunities and securing a brighter future for our people.

As you mark this significant milestone in an atmosphere of thanksgiving, I pray that Almighty God will continue to renew your strength, enlarge your wisdom, preserve your health and grant you greater grace to lead Cross River State towards unprecedented progress.

May your days be filled with divine favour, sound health, peace of mind and enduring accomplishments. May the years ahead bring even greater fulfilment to your vision for a peaceful, prosperous and economically vibrant Cross River State.

Once again, I congratulate His Excellency on this memorable Birthday Thanksgiving Celebration. May the Almighty God continue to uphold you, bless your family, strengthen your administration and crown your service to Cross River State with greater achievements.

Happy Prolific Birthday, Your Excellency!

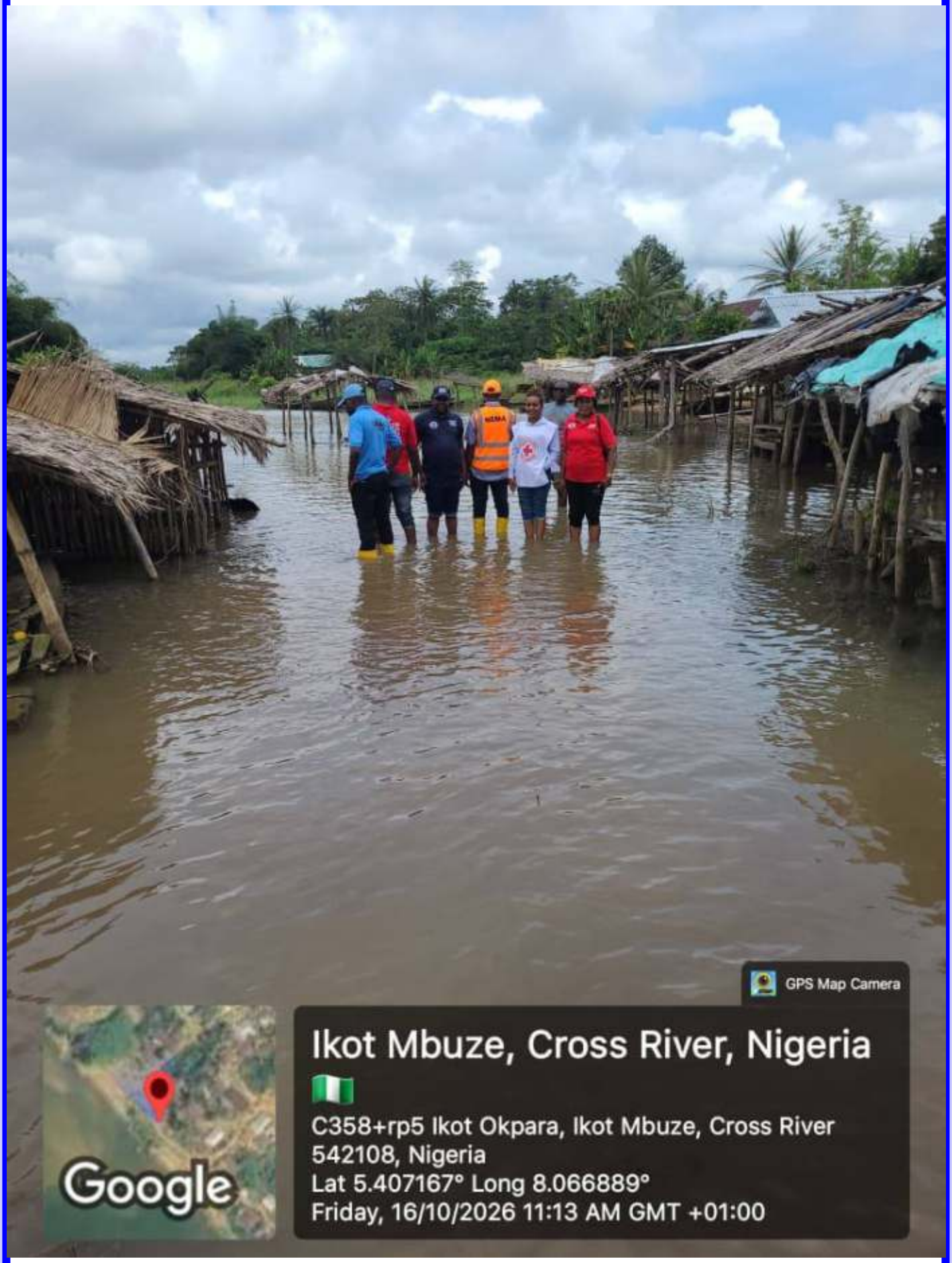
DR. MATHIAS UNIMKE ANGIOHA
Honourable Commissioner for Industry
Cross River State

NEMA, CR-SEMA Assess Flood-Ravaged Communities in Biase, Residents Seek Relief Support

By David Asu

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), in collaboration with the Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (CR-SEMA) and Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) in Biase, has assessed flood-ravaged communities in Biase Local Government Area following widespread flooding that displaced residents, submerged farmlands and disrupted livelihoods.

The assessment team, which comprised officials from NEMA's Uyo Operations Office, CR-SEMA and LEMC, commenced the exercise at Ikot Okpora, where floodwaters had submerged large portions of the community, including residential buildings, market areas and other vital locations.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The team relied on canoes to access some affected areas, as floodwaters had rendered several sections of the community inaccessible by road.

Speaking during the assessment, the Youth Leader of Ikot Okpora commended the Federal and State Governments for responding swiftly to the community's concerns through the assessment visit.

He appealed for urgent relief assistance, particularly non-food items, to support residents in rebuilding their homes and restoring normalcy when the floodwaters receded.

The team subsequently visited Agwagune, where extensive flooding had submerged farmlands and plantations, including palm tree plantations, raising concerns over agricultural losses and the impact on the livelihoods of farming households.

Further assessments were conducted at Erei South and Ibini, where communities were also experiencing significant flooding and related challenges.

Speaking during the exercise, the CR-SEMA Director General, Mr. Efa Nyong, represented by the Vice Chairman of

Biase Local Government Area, Hon. Ekuma Ngwu, emphasised the importance of on-the-spot assessments in determining the extent of flood damage and identifying the immediate needs of affected residents.

He stressed the need for sustained collaboration among NEMA, CR-SEMA, LEMCs and other relevant stakeholders to ensure proper documentation of the situation and facilitate appropriate interventions for the affected communities.

Also speaking, the Acting Head of Operations, NEMA, Akwa Ibom and Cross River States, Mr. Austin Awoji, said the assessment would provide firsthand information on the extent of the flooding, damage to property and disruption of livelihoods to guide further action by the agency.

He further urged residents of riverine communities to take flood early warnings seriously and relocate to higher ground before floodwaters rise to dangerous levels, stressing that early evacuation remained essential to protecting lives and reducing the impact of flooding.

NEMA
NIGERIAN RED CROSS
GPS Map Camera
Biase,Cross River,Nigeria
Biase, Cross River –, Nigeria
Lat 5.748737, Long 7.919687
Friday, 16/10/2026 04:16 PM GMT+01:00
Note : Captured by GPS Map Camera

Cross River Water Resources Boss Felicitates Gov.otu At 67

By Benedict Okache

The Honourable Commissioner for Water Resources, Cross River State, Dr. Moses John Osogi, has extended warm congratulations and heartfelt birthday wishes to the Governor of Cross River State, His Excellency, Apostle Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, PNIPR, on the occasion of his 67th birthday Anniversary.

In a goodwill message commemorating the milestone, Dr. Osogi described Governor Otu as a visionary leader, a statesman, and a committed servant of the people, whose dedication to the progress and development of Cross River State continues to inspire hope and confidence among citizens.

The Water Resources Commissioner offered prayers for God's continued guidance, wisdom, strength, and good health upon the Governor as he continues to steer the affairs of the State with humility, compassion, and purpose.

"God bless His Excellency, Apostle Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, PNIPR. God bless the Ministry of Water Resources. God bless the Government and the good people of Cross River State," the Water Resources Boss stated..

Dr. Osogi further commended the Governor's commitment to sustainable development, infrastructure renewal, and the improvement of the welfare of Cross Riverians, noting that his administration has continued to lay a solid foundation for greater prosperity across the State.

On behalf of the Ministry of Water Resources, Management, and Saff, the Commissioner wished Governor Otu a joyous and memorable 67th birthday celebration, praying for many more years of impactful leadership and service to humanity.

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

Bakassi International Fish Festival

5 YEARS OF IMPACT 2022-2026

THEME: **GATEWAY TO THE GULF OF GUINEA**

ADVANCING THE BLUE ECONOMY, FOOD SECURITY AND COASTAL PROSPERITY

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

GRAND FINALE — NOVEMBER 25

IKANG TOWN, BAKASSI LGA,
CROSS RIVER STATE

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

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

Cross River Flags Off First Rally For Coffee Festival International Nigeria 2026

Cross River State has commenced preparations for Coffee Festival International Nigeria 2026, with the Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture and Irrigation Development, Hon. Johnson Andiambey Ebokpo, flagging off the first rally ahead of the international festival scheduled for October 30 to November 1 in Calabar.

Holding at ASUU Hall, University of Calabar, the second edition will welcome coffee experts from approximately 30 countries under the theme: “Sustainability: Building the Future of Coffee in Nigeria.”

Following its maiden edition in Jos, Plateau State, in 2025, the festival brings the global coffee conversation to Cross River at a time when the state is advancing its ambition to develop coffee into a viable agricultural and commercial value chain.

Beyond the lectures, trainings, panel discussions, exhibitions, barista competition, pageantry and international networking, the festival presents an opportunity to connect farmers, entrepreneurs and investors with the knowledge, technology and market partnerships needed to strengthen Nigeria’s coffee industry.

For Cross River, the strategic opportunity lies in translating agricultural potential into measurable economic outcomes: increased production, value addition, employment, stronger farmer incomes and expanded agribusiness investment.

The policy imperative is clear: move beyond

CFN
2026

producing coffee to building a sustainable coffee economy, one that creates value from farm to market and positions Cross River as a significant contributor to Nigeria's coffee future.

From Jos to Calabar, the journey continues. This October, Cross River welcomes the global coffee community to advance a shared ambition: a sustainable, competitive and investment-ready Nigerian coffee industry.

SUSTAINABILITY: BUILDING THE FUTURE OF COFFEE IN NIGERIA.

HOSTING IN CALABAR
CFIN
COFFEE FESTIVAL
INTERNATIONAL
2026
SUSTAINABILITY:
LINGZHI
CFIN
COFFEE FESTIVALS
INTERNATIONAL
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Coffee festival
International Nigeria
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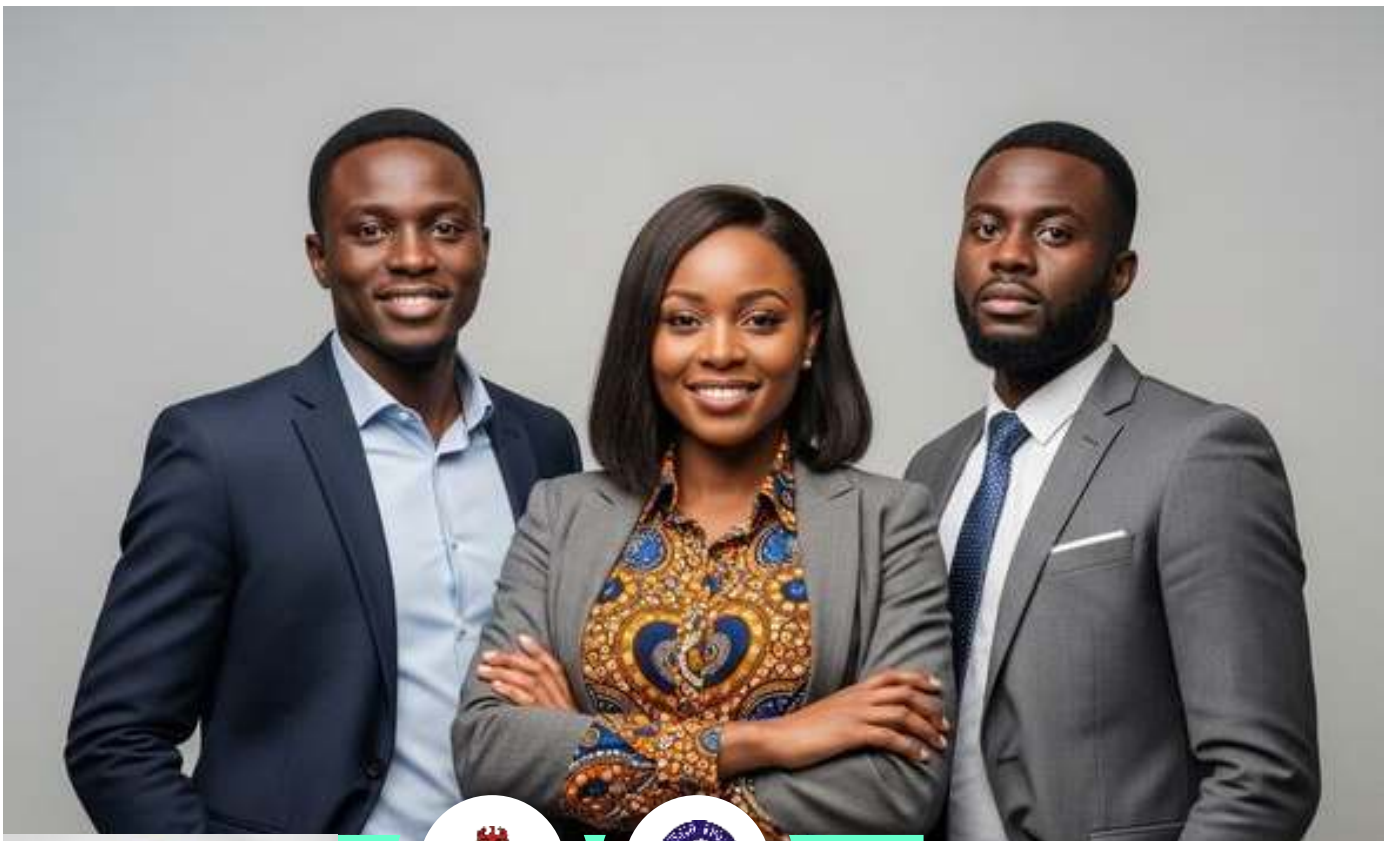

The Public Servant Of The Future

A public servant of the future is not only an ideal public servant but an exemplar. He is one who is physically fit, technologically savvy, citizen-centric, continually learning, ethically conscious and whose worldview is above par.

As developments evolve, expectations from both leaders and the governed continue to grow on an exponential scale. This growth is not only spontaneous but mounts at an immeasurable rate.

It becomes even more intense with the rising consciousness of citizens who see cutting-edge innovations in public service beyond national boundaries and become deeply interested in happenings on digital platforms.

Within these realities, the public servant is constantly pressured to either align with the changing times, scale up operations and stay ahead of the curve, or become as dead as mutton.

Staying abreast of these ideals requires courage, commitment and investment. On a micro level, the individual who must remain relevant has to be intentional about aligning with the realities of the

public service of the time, which mirrors the future. On

a macro level, governments at the local, sub-national and national levels must be genuinely committed to entrenching this future-oriented way of life in those who render service to communities.

This ultimately speaks to training and retraining. Of courage, commitment and investment, the most pertinent are investment and commitment. Courage, within the context of governance, flows naturally.

Within sub-nationals, the deliberateness of investing in and committing to these expectations has to be as clear as crystal. A good starting point would be the inclusion of substantial votes in annual budgets to cater for training and retraining.

The vehicles of governance across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) such as the Offices of the Head of Service, Civil Service Commissions, Humanitarian Affairs, Human Capital Development and others must be well-oiled.

The collaboration expected among MDAs with training mandates must be hinged on clarity, strict adherence to established policies, and constant monitoring and evaluation to achieve concrete outcomes.

It is pertinent at this point to eulogize governments at any level that have committed to preparing public servants to fit the model we are projecting. Specifically, the Cross River State Government has been investing on an increasing scale in programmes geared towards the training and retraining of public servants.

This is evident in the significant improvement in its training votes and the regularity of training among key MDAs over the years. We especially commend the Office

of the Head of Service for stopping at nothing to entrench digital skills in public servants and for organizing monthly physical fitness exercises to keep them healthy, and the Ministry of Establishments, Training and Pensions for consistently focusing on topical training issues such as succession planning, mentorship, attitudinal change, ethical conduct and communication skills in the service, among others.

A properly midwifed governance mechanism can positively impact revenue generation and service efficiency through the public servant who lives in the future. Such a public servant will be a natural revenue enhancer and one who can deliver service with speed and efficiency. This holds true when viewed from the perspectives of cost savings, removal of bureaucratic red tape and improved public trust.

In concluding this piece, paragons in public service across nations like Singapore, Australia, the United Kingdom and France readily come to mind. Public servants in these climes are groomed within models and environments that are citizen-centric, digitally interoperable, psychologically and physically safe, and focused on continually measuring outcomes, public value and co-designing solutions with affected communities.

In conclusion, it needs to be emphasized that the public servant of the future is emerging on an unprecedented scale across sub-nationals, and Cross River State is not left behind in the train that seeks to reinvent, strengthen and positi on the public serva nt for tomo rrow.

Cross River State Reaffirms Commitment To Combating Food Insecurity At World Food Day 2026

The Cross River State Government has reiterated its commitment to combating food insecurity and building sustainable food systems as the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries Development and other key agricultural stakeholders, commemorated the 2026 World Food Day on October 16, 2026, in Calabar.

Celebrated under the theme “Innovate Today, Nourish Tomorrow,” the event brought together government officials, farmers, development partners, and other stakeholders to renew their collective commitment to eliminating hunger and strengthening food and nutrition security across the state.
The celebration commenced with an awareness walk from the Ministry of Agriculture through IBB Way and Marian Road, culminating at the Calabar Municipal Council, where an exhibition of agricultural produce and processed food products showcased the potential of the state’s agricultural sector.

In his address, the Commissioner for Agriculture and Irrigation Development, Hon. Johnson Andiambey

Ebokpo, KSM, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Odey Joseph Ikongha, described the theme as relevant to the urgent need for innovative solutions to food insecurity. He highlighted the deliberate efforts of Governor Bassey Edet Otu's administration to boost agricultural production, improve farmers' access to essential inputs, and promote sustainable food systems throughout Cross River State, noting that the Ministry's innovative interventions include the seed yam multiplication programme, with 40 community-led seed centres across the state; the cowpea programme, supported by 12 seed centres; and the soybean programme, aimed at strengthening food production and improving farmers' economic opportunities.

The Commissioner also highlighted the establishment of agricultural research outstations across the three senatorial districts in collaboration with relevant research institutes, as well as irrigation development initiatives designed to promote year-round farming and improve productivity.

He further cited the Coffee Revolution initiative and efforts to develop cocoa, oil palm and other priority crops

as part of the state's strategy to diversify agricultural production, strengthen value chains and create economic opportunities for rural communities. Ebokpo emphasised that these interventions reflect the government's commitment to building sustainable food systems that improve nutrition, create jobs and strengthen livelihoods.

Similarly, the Commissioner for Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries Development, Hon. Francis Ekpenyong, represented by Mrs. Glory E. Edet, stressed the importance of collaboration across the agricultural value chain in achieving food and nutrition security, noting that a coordinated approach is essential to building a resilient and productive agricultural sector.

Other critical stakeholders and participating organisations reaffirmed commitment to advancing food security and agricultural development in the state. They included the State Project Coordinator of the FAO-GEF FOLUR-IP Project, Mr. Cletus Ogbidi; the President of Women in Agriculture, Comrade Philomina Eyo; the Second Vice District Governor of Lions Clubs International, Sir Anthony Adeojo; the Chairman of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Cross River State Chapter, Rev. Nyiam Bisong, represented by the Vice Chairman, Apostle Sunday Effiom; and the State Project Coordinator of the Cross River State Homestead Farming Programme, Chief Nwogu Alban, alongside other agricultural stakeholders.

A major highlight of the celebration was the inspection of exhibition stands featuring fresh agricultural produce and processed food

products. The exhibition demonstrated the ingenuity of local farmers and agro-processors, highlighting their contributions to food availability, value addition, employment generation, and economic growth.

In her vote of thanks, the Director of Food and Nutrition in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development and host of the event, Mrs. Benedethe Ntiero Mgbe, expressed appreciation to Governor Bassey Edet Otu for creating an enabling environment for agricultural development. She also commended the farmers, participating organisations, and other stakeholders for their active participation and contributions to the success of the celebration.

The commemoration reaffirmed Cross River State's resolve to harness innovation, strengthen agricultural partnerships, and empower farmers towards building a more resilient food system that guarantees food availability, affordability, and improved nutrition for its citizens.

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Etung Pledges Total Support for Otu, Tinubu as Evidence Group Inaugurates Executives

The people of Etung Local Government Area of Cross River State has pledged total support for Governor Bassey Otu, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and other All Progressives Congress (APC) candidates ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The pledge was made at Etomi Community during the inauguration of the Evidence Group's Etung chapter and ward executives. The colourful event attracted a wide range of grassroots support groups, including Etung Women in Politics, Etung Women Network, Kalakuta Republic, the Defendable Force, Amazon Ladies, among others, who turned out in solidarity with the group and its political mission.

The event also featured educational assistance for students and

financial support for petty traders, women's groups, cyclists and youths, reflecting the group's emphasis on grassroots engagement and community support.

The Vice Chairman of Etung Local Government Council, Hon. Assam Amba, who represented the Council Chairman, Hon. Njar Anom, described Etung as a strong support base for Governor Otu and the APC. He recalled that the people had honoured the governor with a traditional title before supporting his governorship ambition in 2023.

"We have decided that we are going to be consistent with Prince Otu and the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for 2027," Amba declared.

He acknowledged the Special Adviser to the Governor on Asset Management and Recovery, Barr. Gilbert Agbor, as a formidable political force in Etung, identifying him, former council chairman and former Commissioner for Water Resources, Ntufam Gabriel Odu Oji, and other stakeholders as key figures in grassroots mobilisation. He assured that the process would remain peaceful and that the local government would stand firmly behind the APC.

Odu Oji urged the people to support Governor Otu, citing his efforts to recover Cross River State's lost oil wells. According to him, the governor's determination to restore the state's status as an oil-producing state could strengthen its economic prospects.

"The fact that Otu has fought for Cross River to return as an oil-producing state is enough to bring economic stability," he said.

On infrastructure, Odu Oji disclosed that the contractor handling the Ikom–Etomi–Agbokim Waterfalls road had assured him that work would resume before the end of October following the release of funds. He also commended the Evidence Group for extending support to vulnerable residents, petty traders, women and other occupational groups.

The Community Relations Officer of Etung Local Government Area and leader of E-NET, Mrs Victoria Njar, pledged to mobilise women across the area for Governor Otu, President Tinubu and other APC candidates. She described women as central to household and community development, expressing confidence that they would play a decisive role in securing electoral support in 2027.

Njar also appreciated Governor Otu for appointing Etung indigenes, including Professor Anthony Owan-Enoh as Secretary to the State Government and Barr. Gilbert Agbor as Special

Adviser on Asset Management and Recovery. She said the appointments reflected recognition of the area and would encourage continued support for the administration.

The initiator of the Evidence Group, Mr Francis Edem Bassey, described the organisation as a youth-based platform designed to bring young people closer to government and governance. He urged youths to identify with the group and participate actively in its activities.

“Evidence Group is a youth-based support group which has come on board to give the young people of Cross River State a chance to be close to government,” Bassey said.

Following the inauguration of the Etung chapter and ward executives, Bassey charged the new officials to work as a team and mobilise support for Governor Otu, President Tinubu and other APC candidates ahead of the 2027 elections.

In his acceptance remarks, the Etung Chapter Coordinator, Dr Nji Nji, advocated continuity in governance, commending Governor

Otu for addressing gratuity obligations and pursuing infrastructure development. He urged the government to prioritise projects that directly benefit residents and pledged the chapter's commitment to mobilising support for the governor, the president and APC candidates.

Highlights of the event included the inauguration of chapter and ward executives, educational assistance to students and financial support for petty traders, women's groups, cyclists and youths.

EVIDENCE
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CROSS RIVER STATE
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E-NEI

Scenes from the **2026/2027 Legal Year Thanksgiving Service** of the Cross River State Judiciary held at The Apostolic Church, Nigeria, Edgerley Road, Calabar, on September 28, 2026.

SEAL OF THE GOVERNOR OF CROSS RIVER STATE

Gov. Otu Backs Upgrade of FCE Obudu to Federal University of Education

By Ukongikwen Adie

Cross River State Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Otu, has pledged to support efforts to upgrade the Federal College of Education (FCE), Obudu, to a Federal University of Education, assuring that his administration would work with the state's representatives in the National Assembly to advance the proposal.

Governor Otu, represented by his deputy, Rt. Hon. Dr. Peter Odey, gave the assurance on Wednesday when the Chairman of the 8th Governing Council of the College, Hon. Abdullahi Ahmed, led a delegation on a courtesy visit to the State Government at the Government House, Calabar.

The governor welcomed the visit, describing it as an opportunity to renew cooperation between the College and the state government. He noted that such engagement had not taken place in many years and commended the institution for its longstanding contributions to teacher education in Cross River State and Nigeria.

"We are delighted to receive the Governing Council of the Federal College of Education, Obudu. This visit provides an opportunity to renew our relationship and strengthen collaboration between the College and the Cross River State Government," Otu said.

The governor noted that the College had been running bachelor's degree programmes in affiliation with the University of Calabar since 2011, demonstrating its experience in degree-level teacher training and readiness for further academic advancement. He also highlighted the absence of a university of education in the South-South geopolitical zone, noting that other geopolitical zones already had such institutions. "The College has come of age and has demonstrated the capacity to take on greater responsibilities in teacher education. Its upgrade to a university of education would be a welcome development, particularly as the South-South geopolitical zone does not have such an institution," the governor stated.

While acknowledging that the conversion or renaming of a federal institution fell within the purview of the Federal Government, Otu assured the delegation that his administration would work with the state's

representatives in the National Assembly to advance the proposal. He also pledged to advocate for the institution to be named after the late former Senate President, Joseph Wayas, as either Joseph Wayas College of Education or Joseph Wayas University of Education, depending on the outcome of the proposed upgrade.

Earlier, Ahmed appealed to the state government to assist the College with solar power installations to address unreliable electricity supply and reduce the high cost of diesel used to power its facilities. "Reliable electricity is essential to the effective running of the College. Support for solar power installations would help us address the challenges of irregular electricity supply and the high cost of diesel," the Council Chairman said.

He also requested government support for the provision of buses to improve transportation between the College's campuses in Obudu and Obanliku Local Government Areas, explaining that improved mobility would facilitate the movement of staff and students and enhance coordination

between the two locations. Ahmed expressed confidence that the proposed conversion would become a reality with the support and advocacy of the state government. He said the College was counting on Otu's commitment and the cooperation of the state's representatives in the National Assembly to help realise the ambition of establishing a Federal University of Education in Obudu.

The Council Chairman also conveyed the goodwill of the Governing Council, management, staff and students to Governor Otu, wishing him success in his forthcoming re-election bid. Ahmed was accompanied on the visit by the Provost of the College, Dr. Richard Ugbaha Utubaku; the Registrar, Dr. Evans Osakwe Ikenya; Navy Captain Charles I. Ogwa (Rtd.); Dr. Mohammed Maru; and other members of the Governing Council.

Sights and scenes from the **66th Independence Day celebration** at the U. J. Esuene Stadium, Calabar, on October 1, 2026.

HOLY CHILD
SECONDARY SCHOOL
ACTIONS
NOT
WORDS
MARIAN HILL - CALABAR

GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND ORIENTATION, CALABAR

GOODWILL MESSAGE TO

HIS EXCELLENCY,
SENATOR, PRINCE, APOSTLE,

BASSEY EDET OTU,PNIPR

ON HIS 67TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the management and staff of the Ministry of Information, I heartily felicitate with you on the occasion of your 67th Birthday.

At 67, you have not just added a year - you have added wisdom, courage and uncommon results to the story of Cross River State.

You lead with clarity. You govern with empathy. You inspire with action. In you, Cross Riverians have found a leader who does not just promise progress, but delivers it - boldly, visibly, and inclusively.

As your Information Commissioner, I have seen up close your passion for truth, your insistence on excellence, and your deep love for our people. You are a leader who listens, a reformer who acts, and a father figure who unites.

On this special day, I pray that God Almighty grants you longer life, renewed strength, sound health and greater wisdom to continue steering our dear State to enviable heights.

Happy 67th Birthday, Your Excellency!

Signed:
Pastor Ekpenyong Ene Cobham
Hon. Commissioner for Information and Orientation

Sight and Scene:

TINUBU INAUGURATES APC 2027 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN COUNCIL

The Banquet Hall of the State House in Abuja came alive on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, as President Bola Ahmed Tinubu formally inaugurated the All Progressives Congress (APC) 2027 Presidential Campaign Council (PCC).

The high-profile event drew heavyweights from across the political spectrum, signaling an early and aggressive mobilization for the upcoming presidential polls.

Happy Birthday

My Boss

On behalf of the management and staff of the Cross River State Rural Development Agency (RUDA), I heartily congratulate His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, on the joyous occasion of his birthday. This milestone offers another opportunity to celebrate a visionary leader whose commitment to purposeful governance, inclusive development, and the welfare of Cross Riverians continues to inspire hope across the state.

Under your people first administration, rural communities across Cross River State are already feeling the positive impact of your leadership through renewed attention to grassroots development, rural infrastructure and improved community welfare. Your commitment to ensuring that development reaches the people at the grassroots reaffirms the importance of RUDA's mandate and strengthens our resolve to support your vision of a more prosperous, inclusive and economically vibrant state.

As you celebrate another year, I commend your dedication to the service of our people and reaffirm RUDA's commitment to advancing your rural transformation agenda. I pray that Almighty God grants you sound health, greater wisdom, renewed strength and many more years of fruitful service to Cross River State and humanity.

Congratulations and happy birthday, Your Excellency! May your years ahead be marked by greater accomplishments, enduring legacies and continued progress for the good people of Cross River State.
Signed,

Comr. Agbor Bassey Njar
Director-General
Cross River State Rural Development Agency (RUDA)

Every great destination begins as an idea of what a place could become. Before a visitor climbs into the mist of the Obudu plateau, stands beneath the falls at Agbokim, or loses track of time in the rhythm of the Calabar Carnival, someone first had to believe that this land was worth arriving at. Then they had to do the patient, unseen work of making it so.

At 67, His Excellency, Apostle, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, PNIPR, embodies that belief. Your People First philosophy has taught us something every serious student of tourism eventually learns. Visitors may come for the scenery, but they return because of the people. They return for the warmth of our communities, the safety of our roads, the pride of our workers and the confidence of those who invest in us. A paradise is only as real as the lives of those who call it home.

An old wisdom holds that we do not inherit the land from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children. Under your stewardship, Cross River is being prepared to return to its children richer in opportunity, in reputation and in hope than it was received. That is the quiet arithmetic of good leadership. Its returns are counted in generations, not seasons. As you mark this milestone, the Cross River State Tourism Bureau renews its commitment to translating your vision into experiences the world will travel to see. We will keep telling the Cross River story with the excellence it deserves.

May the Almighty grant you wisdom for the journey, strength for the work and many more years to see the harvest of the seeds you are sowing.

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency.

Mr. John Atsu
Managing Director/CEO
Cross River State Tourism Bureau.

TRIBUTE TO A VISIONARY STATESMAN @ 67

The Director-General, Board, Management, and entire staff of the Cross River State Road Maintenance Agency (CR-ROMA) proudly join in celebrating the 67th birthday of our dear Governor, His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu — a trailblazing leader whose devotion to Cross River State continues to reshape our collective destiny.

Your Excellency, sixty-seven years marks both a personal milestone and a testament to a life dedicated to high-impact governance, deep wisdom, strategic progress, and compassionate public service.

Under your guidance, Cross River State has entered a new epoch of infrastructural renewal, where vision is consistently translated into tangible progress across every community.

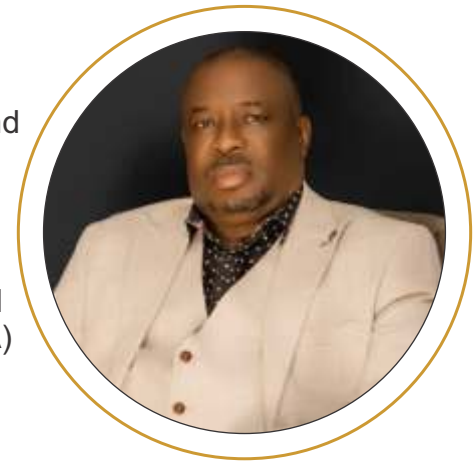
Here at CR-ROMA, we have witnessed your steadfast support, which has energized our operations and enabled us to fortify critical transport networks, bridge commerce between rural and urban centres, and guarantee smoother, safer passage for all Cross Riverians.

You have shown us that every rehabilitated kilometre of road is a gateway to economic expansion and improved livelihoods.

As you reflect on nearly seven decades of God's grace and accomplishment, we celebrate your exemplary stewardship and unwavering loyalty to the People-First agenda.

We pray that the Almighty continues to bless you with robust health, divine guidance, and unshakeable strength as you pilot our beloved State toward a luminous path forward.

Happy 67th Birthday, Your Excellency!
May your years ahead be filled with love, peace, joy, and happiness.



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

Calabar Landslide Damage Beyond State's Capacity, We Have Run to FG for Help

— Environment Commissioner

In this exclusive intervie with ***Info Daily Bulletin***, our editorial eam led by he Editor-in-Chief, **Rekpene Uket**, alongside Production Editor, **Nakanda Iyadim** and Environment Correspondent, **Sylvia Okoi**, engaged the Cross River State Commissioner for Environment, **Barr. Bassey Mensah**, who bares his mind on the environmental challenges currently confronting the state, efforts being made to address them, and the way forward.

***EXCERPTS:**

Q: *Honourable Commissioner, it is no longer news that several parts of Calabar have been affected by landslides, leading to loss of lives and destruction of property. What is your official assessment of what went wrong?*

A: Thank you so much. It is unfortunate, even though people have attributed different meanings to the incident. Some attribute it to the goddess Anansa, while others believe it has to do with the inability to offer sacrifices to the gods. However, I disagree with such explanations.

To the best of my knowledge, this is a consequence of climate change. It is not happening here alone. If you follow developments on social media, you will see similar incidents occurring in other countries. Unfortunately, this is the reality of climate change.

It is a very sad and pathetic situation, but I thank God that the Anansa incident did not claim any lives, unlike the other incident that occurred at another location, where about four people reportedly died.

We went on an assessment visit with the relevant committee, and its members were astonished, particularly by the collapse of the entire hospital built by Lafarge. We

are concerned about the situation.

As a state, we have conducted our assessment and realised that the scale of the damage is beyond our financial capacity. That is the honest truth. This informed our decision to visit Abuja about two weeks ago.

Fortunately, we met with the Permanent Secretary of the Ecological Department, who expressed sympathy for Cross River State and acknowledged the severity of the situation. The Federal Government has since set up a committee to assess the situation. By the grace of God, the committee will visit the state next week to inspect the affected areas.

Following our assessment, we examined the cost implications and realised that the state government could not shoulder the financial burden alone. The NNPC and Lafarge are also affected by the incident. The Federal Government's team is expected to arrive next Wednesday, all things being equal, to conduct a further inspection and determine the necessary interventions.

Q: *Is there a long-term engineering solution to Calabar's drainage crisis?*

A: I believe there is a need for a comprehensive drainage master plan. Calabar in the 1980s was not as densely populated as it is today. Some of the infrastructure developed at the time did not adequately anticipate the level of population growth and urban expansion we are experiencing now.

There is, therefore, an urgent need for the Ministry of Works, the Ministry of Environment and the relevant Town Planning authorities to sit together and address these challenges comprehensively.

There is so much work to be done, honestly speaking, but environmental management cannot be the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment alone. There must be synergy among the relevant ministries

and agencies to ensure that we get things right.

Q: *We understand that the Greater Calabar Development Agency is proposing a 50-year development plan for Calabar. How is your ministry collaborating with the Agency to ensure actualization of this lofty plan?*

A: The only way we can succeed is by working together. We are all working towards the same destination, and collaboration is essential to achieving our objectives. My ministry is committed to working in partnership with the Greater Calabar Development Agency because we can achieve more when we work as a team.

Q: *Can you tell us if Cross River has been able to access the Ecological Fund, given the enormity of the disaster that has befallen the state?*

A: We are expecting a delegation from the Federal Secretariat responsible for the Ecological Fund next week for an on-the-spot assessment of the damage caused in Anansa and other affected areas, including the swampy areas.

The situation at WAPI Junction is similar to what happened at Anansa, and in some respects, it is even worse. If not for the timely intervention of people such as Faith Plant, the situation could have deteriorated further, potentially affecting the entire area. We have also captured these challenges in our memorandum to the Ecological Fund for consideration.

Q: *Calabar was once celebrated as the cleanest city in Nigeria, but today the story is different. What efforts are you making to restore Calabar's cleanliness and improve waste disposal?*

A: I resumed office on July 28 and honestly gave myself 100 days to make significant progress. However, I am not yet entirely satisfied with the situation because one of our major challenges is people's attitude towards

environmental cleanliness.

We have allowed people to behave carelessly for so long that changing those habits has become difficult. For instance, some people are accustomed to eating bananas and throwing the peels into gutters without considering the consequences.

That is why I always say that environmental work is not done only in the office. I go into the field regularly. Most times, I leave home by 8 a.m. to inspect different locations, including Mobil and Achimbo Roundabout.

Some people are attempting to turn these strategic locations into markets, and we will not allow that to continue. We have deployed enforcement teams to Mobil, Watt Market and other strategic locations to address these issues and ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

My goal is to restore environmental consciousness among residents. There was a time when people in Calabar were so conscious of cleanliness that they would not drink sachet water and throw the empty sachet onto the road. We must gradually return to that culture of environmental responsibility.

Q: In recent times, traders at Watt Market, which is at the heart of the city, have turned that stretch of Calabar Road into a trading point. What are you doing to restore order there?

A: We need to involve paramount rulers, traditional rulers and everyone in the effort to restore environmental order. If we allow things to continue as they are, traders may eventually take over the entire area around Watt Market, which is the heart of Calabar's commercial activities.

I have been visiting the area daily, and gradually, we have recorded about 60 per cent progress. We are working to restore order and ensure that traders operate within the designated market.

Some traders prefer selling along the roads because they believe their goods sell faster when customers can simply park their vehicles and buy from them. However, that practice is unacceptable.

Those who trade on the roads reportedly pay more to certain agents than traders operating inside the market. While traders inside pay about ₦100, those outside may pay as much as ₦1,000. This situation encourages street trading and undermines efforts to restore order.

During Governor Donald Duke's administration, the market was fenced to ensure that trading took place within the designated premises. However, some traders have deliberately abandoned the available spaces inside the market and chosen to sell outside.

Q: Most of the flooding in the city is largely caused by blocked drainages. What is being done about desilting drainage channels to prevent flooding?

A: There are drainage channels in Calabar that have not been desilted for 10 to 15 years. For instance, the drainage around St. Elias Primary School in the Shawfu area has reportedly not been desilted for more than 12 years.

We have commenced work there and have evacuated over 12 truckloads of silt and debris, yet we have covered only about 100 metres of the channel, with more than 300 metres still to be cleared. This gives you an idea of the scale of the problem we are dealing with.

Since we cleared part of the

channel, there has been an improvement in the flow of water.

Q: Every last Saturday of the month, the State Government through your ministry carries out statewide environmental sanitation, yet the situation has not changed especially in other urban centres. How do you intend to step up enforcement for better outcome?

A: We are determined to ensure that people comply with environmental regulations. We must ensure that people face the consequences of their actions. No one should expect special treatment simply because they know a commissioner or another government official.

If someone violates traffic regulations and is arrested, calling me should not be a reason for that person to escape the consequences. The law must take its course.

Q: Key stakeholders in environmental issues are host communities. How are you engaging communities in erosion-prone areas?

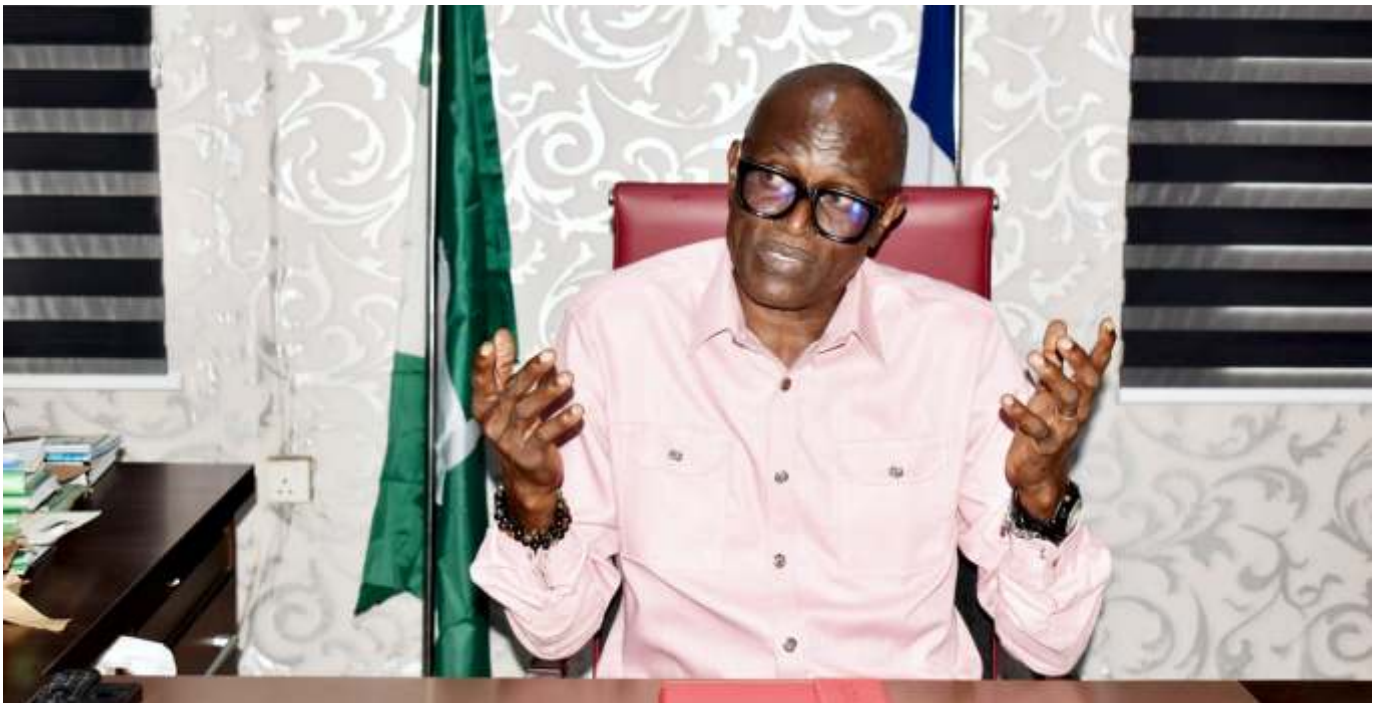
A: Some erosion problems are caused by human activities such as indiscriminate sand mining, the destruction of vegetation and improper waste disposal. To strengthen community engagement, I recently established a network of liaison officers within the Ministry of Environment.

Calabar Municipality has 12 wards, and I have appointed 12 officers to monitor environmental activities within their respective wards. Their responsibilities include identifying environmental problems, reporting violations and sensitising residents on proper environmental practices.

Q: Despite the Ministry's efforts in evacuation, some areas still have heaps of refuse immediately after monthly sanitation. What measures are you taking to improve waste evacuation?

A: Waste evacuation is one of the major challenges confronting us. It is an issue that continues to give me sleepless nights. It is like water supply: no matter what the government does, if the ordinary person turns on the tap and water does not flow, they will not appreciate the effort.

I have identified inadequate waste bins and insufficient contractors as major challenges. I have gone round the metropolis and submitted a proposal to His



Excellency on the need to expand our waste management operations. We must either engage more contractors or establish intervention teams.

We are exploring ways to increase the number of waste bins in each ward. Our plan is to divide Calabar into smaller operational zones and ensure that waste bins are strategically located close to residents.

This is one of the reasons I want the Ministry to have its own trucks for emergency interventions. With at least two trucks, we could respond promptly when contractors fail to evacuate waste, particularly along major highways. We also intend to relocate waste bins currently placed along the major highways at the entrances to Calabar to more suitable locations.

Q: Environmental sanitation appears to be more actively enforced in Calabar metropolis than in some local government areas. Can the Ministry replicate its efforts across the state?

A: Thank you for this information. At the next sanitation exercise, I will send some of my staff to supervise the exercise in the local government areas. That is how it should be.

The executive secretaries responsible for environmental sanitation in the local government areas were appointed by this government, and they are expected to perform their duties effectively. We must ensure that they carry out their responsibilities.

Q: Finally sir, while we sincerely commend your untiring efforts in repositioning the Ministry of Environment less than 100 days in office, what is your final message to residents of Cross River State?

A: My message to the people of Cross River State is that they should become more environmentally conscious and cooperate with the government. I have even made appeals in church, encouraging religious institutions to educate and sensitise their members about environmental cleanliness.

As I speak, we are working around the airport to restore the green areas by planting grass and improving the environment. We are working to reclaim the green spaces and prevent people from using them as unauthorised parking areas. We intend to acquire wheel clamps to enforce compliance.

However, the government cannot achieve these objectives without the cooperation of the people.

APC

CROSS RIVER ARISE 2027

16A AKAI EFFA, CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE - NIGERIA.

TEL: 0803 336 3623

10th September, 2026

SEN. PRINCE BASSEY OTU | RT. HON. PETER ODEY 2027

GOODWILL MESSAGE

To His Excellency, Senator Apostle (Prince) Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, on His 2026 Birthday Thanksgiving Celebration

The leadership and entire membership of Arise Cross River for Prince Otu and Peter Odey heartily celebrate His Excellency, Senator Apostle (Prince) Bassey Edet Otu, on the occasion of his birthday thanksgiving celebration. We join the Government and good people of Cross River State in returning all glory to Almighty God for preserving His Excellency's life and granting him the wisdom, strength and grace to serve our dear State. Today, we celebrate not merely another year, but a life of service, leadership and commitment to the advancement of Cross River State.

As a political support group firmly committed to the People's First Agenda, we recognise and commend His Excellency's efforts toward transforming the State and improving the wellbeing of Cross Riverians. From rural development and infrastructure to agriculture, tourism, empowerment and human capital development, we acknowledge the administration's determination to create a more prosperous and inclusive Cross River. We therefore consider this occasion an opportunity to reaffirm our appreciation, loyalty and continued support for the Governor's vision and leadership.

Your Excellency, as you mark this special milestone, we pray that Almighty God will renew your strength, enlarge your wisdom, preserve your health and continue to order your steps in the service of our people. May your administration record greater achievements and may the years ahead bring fulfilment, peace and an enduring legacy. Happy Birthday and Thanksgiving Celebration, Your Excellency. May God continue to bless you, your family, your administration and the great people of Cross River State.

Hon. Chief Victor Felix Idem
Director-General

Cross River... Arise!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

A FATHER, WORTHY LEADER & BOSS:

Senator, Prince,
Bassey Edet Otu, PNIPR

Your Excellency,

On behalf of my dear Wife and Children, Management and Staff of Ministry of Lands, Cross River State, I joyfully extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on the occasion of your 67th birthday anniversary. This milestone is not only a celebration of your life but also a testament to decades of selfless service, visionary leadership, and unwavering dedication to humanity.

Your love for the people of Cross River State is evident in every policy, project, and initiative you champion. Your commitment to the welfare of our citizens, your determination to rebuild and reshape our dear State, and your tireless pursuit of progress inspire us all to serve with renewed passion and integrity.

Personally, I remain deeply grateful for the love, favour, trust, and kindness you have consistently shown to me and my family. Your leadership has been both a guiding light and a source of inspiration and encouragement; I am proud to serve under your distinguished Chairmanship of the Cross River State Executive Council.

As you mark this special day, I restate my total loyalty to your leadership and vision. I stand resolute in supporting your mission to recovering and transforming Cross River State into a beacon of prosperity, unity, and hope for generations to come.

I pray God grants you continued wisdom, strength, and good health to lead us to greater heights. Happy Birthday, Your Excellency — may your years ahead be even more impactful and fulfilling. Congratulations Your Excellency!

Erasmus Ekpang, Ph.D, mnipr, ftifuh
Honourable Commissioner for Lands
Cross River State

HAPPY 67TH BIRTHDAY TO AN ARCHITECT OF PEACEFUL CROSS RIVER

On behalf of myself and family, the good people of Bakassi Local Government Area and the entire Southern Senatorial District, I convey my warmest felicitations to you on this auspicious occasion of your 67th Birthday Anniversary.

Your Excellency, one of the most profound attributes of your administration is the understanding that security is not merely the absence of violence, but the presence of peace, justice, public confidence and an enabling environment in which human potential can flourish. This philosophy gives practical meaning to your administration's People First Agenda.

In the critical area of security, your commitment to strengthening the State's security architecture, encouraging intelligence-driven operations, supporting security agencies and promoting cooperation between communities and security institutions demonstrates an appreciation of the complex relationship between public safety and sustainable development.

From the standpoint of the Southern Senatorial District, your leadership provides a valuable framework for advancing community peace, strengthening stakeholder collaboration and supporting the security conditions necessary for commerce, tourism, investment and everyday social life to thrive.

Your administration's attention to revitalising the State's economic potential, improving critical infrastructure and repositioning Cross River as an attractive destination for investment and tourism reflects a leadership vision that appreciates both present responsibilities and future possibilities.

Your Excellency, at 67, your life offers a compelling testimony that leadership is a sacred trust, public service is a privilege, and the most enduring legacy of any administration is the positive difference it makes in the lives of the people.

As you mark this special anniversary, my earnest prayer is that Almighty God will continue to grant you sound health, uncommon wisdom, renewed strength, divine protection and the grace to accomplish even greater things for Cross River State.

May your leadership continue to inspire unity, your decisions advance justice and development, and your years ahead be distinguished by enduring peace, remarkable accomplishments and a legacy that generations of Cross Riverians will remember with gratitude.

Happy 67th Birthday, Your Excellency!
Long live His Excellency, Apostle Dr. Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu!
Long live Cross River State!
Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Commander (Ambassador) Patrick Bassey Odiong (Rtd)
Obong Emem ke Efik Eburutu
State Security Adviser to the Governor,
Southern Senatorial District

CELEBRATING
A TRUE DEMOCRAT
@ 67

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and the peace-loving people of Bekwarra Local Government Area, I, Hon. Egbung Odama Egbung, heartily rejoice with you on the joyous occasion of your 67th birthday anniversary.

We celebrate a visionary leader, a statesman of immense grace, and a quintessential democrat whose leadership style continues to inspire hope across our dear state.

We remain deeply grateful for your administration's unwavering commitment to placing the welfare of Cross Riverians first. Your inclusive governance, developmental strides, and deliberate focus on repositioning our state have significantly impacted every sector and fostered peace across communities, including Bekwarra.

As you mark this milestone, we join your family, friends, and millions of well-wishers in praying that Almighty God grants you divine wisdom, robust health, and renewed strength to continue your good work.

We are confident that under your stellar guidance, Cross River State will attain its rightful place of prominence and prosperity in the comity of states.

Congratulations, Your Excellency! May your years ahead be filled with greater grace and monumental achievements.

Hon. Egbung Odama Egbung
Executive Chairman,
Bekwarra Local Government Council

GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA
Office of the Chairman
State Library Board P.M.B 1115, Calabar

67 Cheers! to a Visionary Leader and Champion of Knowledge!

The Cross River State Library Board heartily felicitates His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu (PNIPR), Executive Governor of Cross River State, on the auspicious occasion of his 67th birthday.

We celebrate a visionary leader whose commitment to the advancement of our dear State is reflected in his recognition of libraries as vital institutions for knowledge preservation, intellectual development, cultural heritage, and societal transformation.

Your Excellency, the transformation of the Cross River State Library Complex under your administration is more than an infrastructural achievement; it is a profound investment in the minds of our people, the aspirations of our children, and the intellectual future of generations yet unborn. Through this legacy, you affirm that a society that invests in knowledge secures its future.

As you attain this remarkable milestone, we pray that the Almighty God grants you renewed strength, sound health, divine wisdom, and greater accomplishments in service to our State and humanity.

Happy 67th Birthday, Your Excellency!
May your life continue to illuminate the path of progress, and may your legacy remain a lasting chapter in the story of a greater Cross River State.

With profound esteem and warm felicitations,

Amb. Eme Awatt (CLN mnipr, FCAi),
For: Management and Staff of
Cross River State Library Board, Calabar

www.crossriverstate.gov.ng

GOODWILL MESSAGE on the AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF THE 67th Birthday of

HIS EXCELLENCY, SENATOR PRINCE BASSEY EDET OTU

Governor of Cross River State

1. *On this auspicious occasion marking the 67th anniversary of your natal day, I profoundly offer my warmest felicitations and sincere felicitous wishes to the Executive Governor of Cross River State, His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, the government, and the good people of Cross River State. We reflect with immense gratitude on your inspiring life's journey and the abiding grace of God that continues to anchor your steadfast, pragmatic leadership in steering our state toward greater prosperity.*

2. *Your Excellency, my dear Governor, I am glad to convey my heartiest commendation to you for the remarkable strides recorded under your administration. Your transformative "People's First" agenda has revitalized the socio economic framework of Cross River State. Within three years in office, your visionary governance has yielded monumental triumphs, including the comprehensive rehabilitation of state road networks, urban renewal initiatives in Calabar and beyond, significant revitalization of agricultural and industrial infrastructure, robust digital revenue transformation, and targeted human capital development programs. Your capacity to foster harmonious synergy among key political organs and stakeholders has deepened the prospects of enduring prosperity across our local government areas.*

3. *I am pleased to identify and rejoice with my dear good people of Obudu Local Government Area, as well as stakeholders and leaders of all our communities, on this memorable milestone of your 67th birthday. I enjoin our citizens to remain resolute in supporting your administration's lofty developmental agenda. I can vouch for the transformational impact of your governance, which continues to prioritize the welfare of ordinary citizens and actualize our collective aspirations as a people. May God Almighty grant you sound health, divine wisdom, and sustained vigor as you continue to pilot Cross River State to grander heights.*

4. *Please accept always the assurances of the esteemed regards and best wishes of my family, the management, council members, and the entire good people of Obudu Local Government Area.*

Hon. Peter Akonfe Undiandeye, Ph.D, KSM
Executive Chairman

FELICITATING THE PEOPLE-FIRST GOVERNOR ON HIS BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

On behalf of the Management and entire Staff of the Office of the Auditor-General for Local Governments, Cross River State, we heartily rejoice and extend our warmest congratulations to our visionary, pragmatic and compassionate leader, His Excellency, Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Executive Governor of Cross River State, on the auspicious occasion of his 67th birthday anniversary.

Your Excellency, we celebrate a milestone that marks a lifetime dedicated to public service, exceptional leadership and structural transformation. Through your governance blueprint, the "People First" Agenda, you have injected renewed hope, fiscal responsibility, transparency and unprecedented grassroots development across the 18 Local Government Areas of our dear state.

As an Office tasked with ensuring accountability and transparency at the local government level, we directly witness how your administration's support for grassroots initiatives, rural empowerment and institutional strengthening has repositioned our local government administrative structures for greater productivity and optimal service delivery.

Your inclusive and humane approach to governance has truly returned Cross River State to its rightful place as "The People's Paradise".

On this special day, we pray that the Almighty God continues to bless you with divine health, abundant wisdom and renewed strength to steer Cross River State to even greater heights of economic prosperity, peace and sustainable growth.
Happy 67th Birthday, Your Excellency!

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

Auditor-General
for Local Governments
Cross River State

SALUTE TO AN **EXTRAORDINARY** LEADER @ **67**

On this momentous occasion, I, on behalf of my family, the Commissioners, Management and staff of the Cross River State Forestry Commission, celebrate an exceptional leader whose visionary People First Mantra continues to translate aspirations into tangible progress for the good people of Cross River State.

I proudly join the teeming population of Cross River State and well-wishers across the country in extending our warmest congratulations to our Executive Governor, His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, on the joyous occasion of his 67th birthday.

Your Excellency, your transparent, purposeful and visionary leadership has demonstrated a commendable commitment to environmental protection, forest conservation and sustainable development. Your administration's dedication to preserving the state's rich natural heritage reflects a clear understanding of the importance of environmental sustainability to the well-being of present and future generations.

Under your leadership, Cross River State continues to strengthen its position as Nigeria's foremost green haven through the preservation of its forest heritage, enhanced protection of its rainforest reserves and the conservation of its rich biodiversity. These efforts are vital to safeguarding our natural resources and sustaining the state's reputation as a leading destination for eco-tourism and environmental conservation.

Attaining the age of 67 is a remarkable testament to the grace, wisdom and faithfulness of Almighty God. As you celebrate this milestone, we pray that He will continue to bless you with sound health, renewed strength, greater wisdom and divine guidance as you discharge the noble responsibilities of leadership.

HAPPY 67TH BIRTHDAY, YOUR EXCELLENCY!

May your years ahead be filled with greater accomplishments, enduring peace and continued success in your service to Cross River State and humanity.

Ntufam, Rt. Hon. Dr.
George O'ben-Etchi, PhD, FCIA
Chairman
Cross River State Forestry Commission

Cross River State,
Nigerian Institute of Public Relations
Established in 1963 and chartered by Decree No. 16 of 1st June,1990 now cited as CAP N114.Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. LFN. 2004.
Member of:
GLOBAL ALLIANCE
for public relations and communication management

Professionalism & Excellence
C/O Ministry of Information Headquarters
Opposite Cultural Centre Complex/Spar Mall
Calabar, Cross River State
Tel: 08035530226, 08181436583
E-MAIL: crossrivernipr@gmail.com

67 HEARTY CHEERS TO A PURPOSEFUL LEADER

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Cross River State Chapter, I warmly felicitate with Your Excellency on the joyous occasion of your 67th birthday celebration.

This special day offers us an opportunity to celebrate your life of service, leadership, and commitment to the growth and development of Cross River State. As Governor, your administration has continued to pursue an agenda centred on economic revitalisation, infrastructure development, tourism promotion, agricultural advancement, and improved welfare for the people.

As Patron of the NIPR and the Chief Executive of the State Chapter, you have exhibited an admirable leadership on ethical and responsible communication. Attributes that are synonymous to what the Institute stands for.

Your efforts to reposition Cross River State as a destination for investment and tourism, strengthen rural development, improve public infrastructure, and create opportunities for economic growth reflect a determination to build a more prosperous and inclusive state. Your commitment to preserving the state's peaceful disposition and cultural heritage also remains important to its development aspirations.

On this auspicious occasion, we pray that Almighty God grants you renewed strength, sound health, wisdom and divine guidance as you continue to discharge the responsibilities of your exalted office. May the years ahead bring greater accomplishments to your administration and lasting progress to Cross River State.

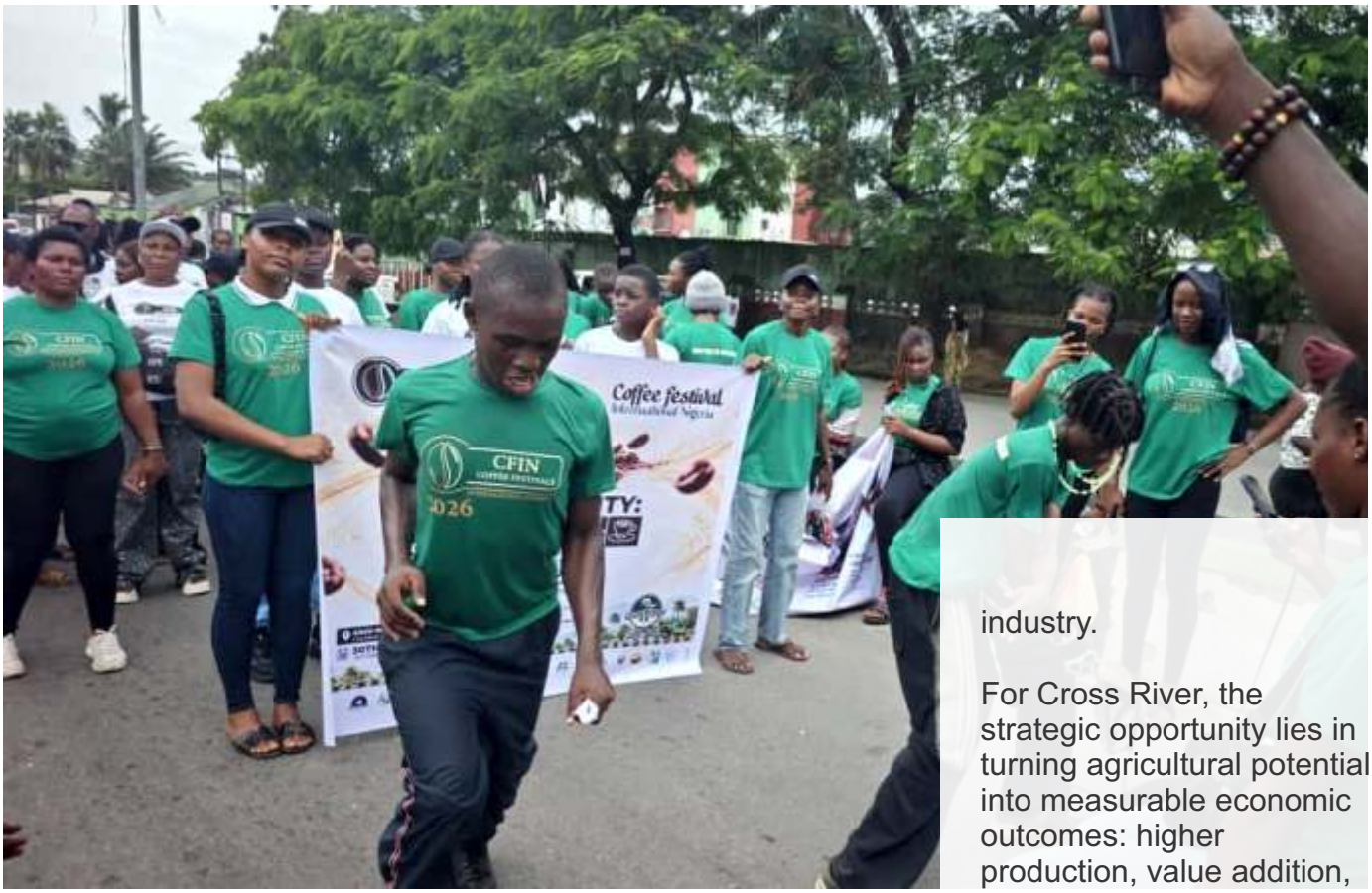
Happy Birthday, Your Excellency. May your new year be filled with peace, fulfilment, and greater opportunities to serve humanity.

Pastor Austin Mboso, Ph.D, mnipr
State Chairman
CRS-NIPR

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
State Chairman-Pst. Augustine Godwin Mboso, Ph.D, mnipr; State Vice Chairman-Mrs. Deborah-Grace Eme-Ekanem Awatt, anipr; State General Secretary - Ms. Esther Oden Okoi, mnipr;
State Assistant General Secretary 1/ICT Officer - Mr. Nakanda Amboni Iyadim, anipr; State Assistant General Secretary 2-Dr. Margaret Innocent Okoi, gnipr; State PRO 1 - Dr. Agnes Eden Bassey, mnipr;
State PRO 2- Mrs. Rachael Akpo Efoli, anipr; State Internal Auditor -Mr. Peter Obim Okim, anipr; State Financial Secretary -Dr. Eric Ugor Ogri, anipr; State Treasurer -SP Nelson Aneji Okpabi (Rtd.), mnipr;
State Welfare Officer 1 -Mrs. Ashiru, Nkoyo Orok-Ita State Welfare Officer 2 -Mr. Inyabri Godwin Ikorishor, anipr
Ex-Officio - Dr. Patrick Ene Okon, fnipr; Ex-Officio - edict Onah Okache, fnipr Ex-Officio -Mr. Kris B. Nku, mnipr

Coffee Community Set for Nigeria's 2nd Int'l Coffee Festival in Calabar, October 30

By Blessing Enagi



Cross River State has begun preparations for Nigeria's 2nd International Coffee Festival, scheduled to hold from October 30 to November 1, 2026, at the ASUU Hall, University of Calabar.

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Irrigation Development, Hon. Johnson Andiambey Ebokpo, flagged off an awareness rally as part of early mobilisation for the event.

The second edition will host coffee experts from about 30 countries under the theme *"Sustainability: Building the Future of Coffee in Nigeria."*

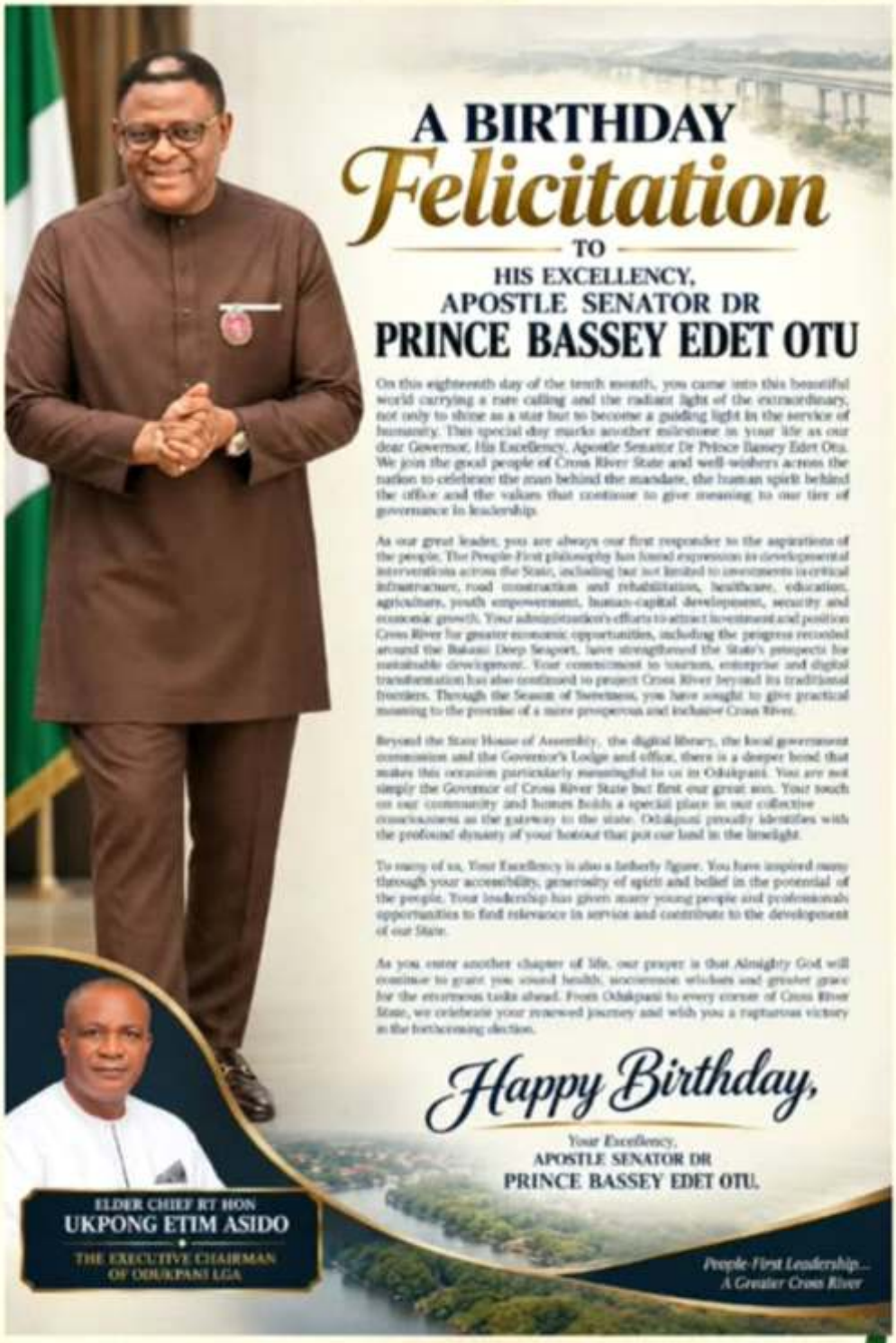
Following the successful maiden edition in Jos, Plateau State, in 2025, the festival brings the global coffee conversation to Cross River at a time when the state is working to develop coffee into a viable agricultural and commercial value chain.

Beyond lectures, trainings, panel discussions, exhibitions, barista competitions, pageantry and international networking, the festival offers farmers, entrepreneurs and investors a chance to connect with the knowledge, technology and market partnerships needed to strengthen Nigeria's coffee industry.

For Cross River, the strategic opportunity lies in turning agricultural potential into measurable economic outcomes: higher production, value addition, job creation, better farmer incomes and expanded agribusiness investment.

The policy imperative is clear: move beyond producing coffee to building a sustainable coffee economy that creates value from farm to market and positions Cross River as a significant contributor to Nigeria's coffee future.

From Jos to Calabar, the journey continues. This October, Cross River will welcome the global coffee community to advance a shared ambition: a sustainable, competitive and investment-ready Nigerian coffee industry.



+234 (0)9050033910, +234 (0)8034105445 | Email: etimasido@gmail.com

CALABAR SOUTH CELEBRATES

- A GOVERNOR OF IMPACT
- A LEADER OF THE PEOPLE
- & A CHAMPION OF PROGRESS

On behalf of the Government and good people of Calabar South Local Government Area, I, Pst. Hon. Patrick Archibong, Executive Chairman, heartily celebrate His Excellency, Apostle Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu, the pragmatic, visionary and people-centered Governor of Cross River State.

Your "People First" mantra has transcended a political slogan to become a purposeful philosophy of governance, placing the welfare, dignity and aspirations of Cross Riverians at the heart of government.

Through strategic investments in infrastructure, human capital development, education, healthcare, agriculture, security, youth and women development, your administration is steadily rewriting the narrative of Cross River State, restoring hope, creating opportunities and bringing government closer to the people.

As a grassroots administration, Calabar South proudly identifies with your vision, achievements and unwavering commitment to inclusive and people-oriented governance.
Your Excellency, we reaffirm our unalloyed solidarity and support for your administration and developmental agenda. May Almighty God continue to grant you wisdom, strength, sound health and divine direction as you lead Cross River State to greater heights.

When the people come first, development becomes a shared experience. We celebrate you, we honour you, and we stand with you.
Happy Birthday, Your Excellency!

Pst. Hon. Patrick Archibong
Executive Chairman,
Calabar South Local Government Council

HAPPY 67TH BIRTHDAY!

YOUR EXCELLENCY!

Your Excellency, Apostle (Senator) Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Executive Governor of Cross River State, On the occasion of your 67th birthday anniversary, the Honourable Commissioner, Management, and Staff of the Ministry of Commerce Cross River State, warmly offer our heartiest congratulations!

We thank Almighty God for the gift of your life and for the vision, humility, and purpose with which you steer the affairs of our dear State.

Your unwavering commitment to opening Cross River State for business, strengthening trade and investment, supporting enterprise, and building a thriving economy continues to inspire our dedicated service. We remain fully committed to translating your economic agenda into tangible opportunities for traders, entrepreneurs, industries, and investors across the State.

As you celebrate this memorable milestone, we pray that God Almighty grants you continuous good health, divine wisdom, renewed strength, and guidance to lead Cross River State to even greater heights.
Happy Birthday, Your Excellency!

Dr. (Mrs.) Abigail Duke
Honourable Commissioner

Gov. Otu Approves Rehabilitation Of Ogoja-katsina -ala Expressway, Abuochiche Roundabout

By Monica Ogar

Cross River State Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, has approved the immediate rehabilitation of dilapidated portions of the Ogoja-Katsina-Ala Expressway, including the Abuochiche Roundabout in Bekwarra Local Government Area.

The approval is in response to the deplorable condition of the federal highway, which has become a major concern for motorists, commuters and residents of the northern senatorial district. The intervention, which will commence immediately, is aimed at easing traffic flow, preventing accidents and boosting economic activities along the corridor.

Following the Governor's approval, the Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Hon. Dr. Ankpo Pius Edet, has commenced an on-the-spot inspection of the affected road corridor.

The Commissioner, who visited Abuochiche alongside his team, said the inspection was to fast-track the implementation of the Governor's directive. He noted that it also forms part of the ongoing statewide inspection tour to assess road projects awarded by the Cross River State Government across the Northern and Central Senatorial Districts, with a view to attending to those in bad condition.

He added that the inspection would afford the Ministry the opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the actual state of the roads, identify critical areas that require urgent attention, and review contract agreements with contractors to ensure compliance.

Hon. Dr. Edet emphasized that the Ministry will ensure that the rehabilitation works and the drainage system along the axis meet the required engineering standards of the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure.

He reiterated the commitment of the Governor Otu-led administration to delivering quality, durable and people-oriented infrastructure across all parts of the state.

GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL OF THE STATE
CALABAR

On behalf of my family and the entire staff of the Office of the State Auditor-General, Cross River State, I heartily felicitate with our beloved Governor, His Excellency, Apostle Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu, on the auspicious occasion of his 67th birthday anniversary.

Your Excellency, your leadership has brought renewed hope to citizens and remarkable strides in transparency, development and restoration to our dear state. Your "People First" mantra is not just a slogan, but a reality that Cross Riverians are experiencing.

As you celebrate today, we pray that Almighty God grants you more wisdom, good health, strength and divine grace to continue in your excellent service to the people.

We in the Audit family remain steadfast in supporting your vision and will continue to render our statutory services anchored on accountability, transparency and integrity.

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency.

State Auditor-General
Cross River State

Mensah Gives Roadside Mechanics, Street Traders October 31 Deadline to Vacate Roads

...Inspects Business Areas, Erosion Sites, Orders Environmental Compliance

By Sylvia Okoi

The Cross River State Commissioner for Environment, Barr. Bassey Offiong Mensah, has given roadside mechanics and street traders operating in parts of Calabar until October 31, 2026, to vacate unauthorised locations or face sanctions.

The Commissioner issued the ultimatum during an on-the-spot inspection of Kings Street, White House, Bedwell, Punch, Victor Akan and other adjoining streets, where he expressed concern over obstruction of human and vehicular movement and environmental defacement caused by the activities of roadside mechanics.

He noted that residents in the affected areas had complained about possible exposure to harmful chemicals from their operations, stressing the need to protect public health and restore environmental order. He directed the mechanics to restrict their activities to designated workshops.

Mensah, who was accompanied by the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Automobile

Technician Regulatory Department, Chief Ndem Effiong, said government would no longer tolerate activities that undermine environmental standards and public safety.

At Bogobiri, Barr. Mensah expressed dissatisfaction with the unhygienic conditions, particularly as food meant for public consumption was being sold there. He also visited Target, where he cautioned street vendors against trading on the road and sensitised them on the importance of maintaining clean business premises.

The Commissioner further inspected commercial areas, emphasising the need for improved sanitation, a healthy business environment and measures to protect customers from potential health hazards.

At a gully erosion site off Charmley Street, he assured residents of government's commitment to addressing the challenge, noting that efforts would be expedited through collaboration with the Nigeria Climate Adaptation-Erosion and Watershed Project (NEWMAP-EIB).

The inspection also extended to the Harbour axis off the Murtala Mohammed Highway, near the NNPC depot, where Mensah frowned at the indiscriminate parking of trucks along the road, warning against practices that obstruct traffic and compromise environmental order.

The Commissioner declared that the state must reclaim its environmental integrity, stressing that government would no longer tolerate practices that undermine the state's reputation and the welfare of its residents.

He also visited the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) office, where he assured that measures would be taken to trim overgrown trees and replace old ones where necessary.

Mensah said the inspection forms part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to restore Cross River State's clean and healthy environment through improved sanitation, enforcement of environmental regulations and sustained public sensitisation.

Speaking, the SSA to the Governor on Automobile Technician Regulatory Department, Chief Ndem Effiong, disclosed that he had engaged automobile dealers on the need to separate vehicle sales from mechanic operations. He expressed dismay over the increasing environmental degradation resulting from the activities of mechanics operating along the streets.

During the inspection, leaders of the automobile dealers and other business operators commended the Commissioner for his commitment to ensuring environmental sanity in the state. While expressing concerns about proximity to their customers, they assured him of their support and readiness to comply with environmental laws and desist from activities that pose hazards to the environment.

Hon. Martins Achadu (Ph.D)

CHAIRMAN, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
CROSS RIVER STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

CELEBRATION OF GRACE AND PURPOSEFUL LEADERSHIP

On behalf of myself and the entire people of Yala II State Constituency (Ukelle Nation), I heartily celebrate His Excellency, Apostle, Distinguished Senator, Dr. Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, on his 67th birthday anniversary celebration.

Your faith in God, commitment to good governance, and unwavering People First philosophy reflect a leadership vision centred on the welfare, dignity and progress of Cross Riverians. Your dedication to building a peaceful, prosperous and thriving Cross River State is worthy of recognition and celebration.

May God grant Your Excellency renewed strength and divine wisdom for greater accomplishments in this great service to our dear state.

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency!

HON. MARTINS ACHADU (Ph.D)
Member Representing Yala II State Constituency.

MEMBER REPRESENTING YALA II STATE CONSTITUENCY

BIRTHDAY
FELICITATION

TO A VISIONARY LEADER AND THE SWEET PRINCE OF CROSS RIVER STATE

Your Excellency,

On behalf of my family, the management and entire staff of the Cross River State Ministry of Aviation, I present our warmest and most heartfelt congratulations to you, Senator (Prince) Bassey Edet Otu, on the auspicious occasion of your 67th birthday.

Today, we proudly celebrate a distinguished leader, an astute statesman and a beacon of hope whose impactful governance continues to steer our beloved state toward an era of unprecedented growth.

Your unwavering commitment to the transformative "People First" agenda has brought inclusive development, renewed optimism and great joy to the good people of Cross River State.

As the captain steering our state's aviation sector, I am immensely grateful for your visionary support and steadfast dedication to our landmark projects. Under your purposeful leadership, our efforts to establish a state-owned airline, upgrade aviation infrastructure and build specialized maintenance facilities are quickly taking flight, ensuring that Cross River State becomes a premier hub for tourism, commerce and aerospace excellence in the region.

On this special milestone, I pray that Almighty God continues to bless you with robust health, divine wisdom and inner strength to guide Cross River State to even greater heights of peace, unity and prosperity.

Happy 67th Birthday, Your Excellency!

Captain Inah Eno Utum (Rtd)
Commissioner for Aviation

CROSS RIVER STATE OF NIGERIA

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR STATE SECURITY ADVISER

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE COMPLEX, CALABAR

67TH BIRTHDAY

FELICITATIONS TO

HIS EXCELLENCY,
SENATOR, PRINCE,
BASSEY EDET OTU,PNIPR
GOVERNOR OF CROSS RIVER STATE,

Your Excellency,

On behalf of my Staff and the Security Community in the entire Cross River State, I warmly felicitate with you on the joyous occasion of your 67th birthday Anniversary.

May Almighty God grant you sound health, divine wisdom and renewed strength to lead with vision and dedication towards a peaceful and prosperous Cross River State.

I wish you many more fruitful years of impactful and accomplished leadership.

Congratulations, Your Excellency!

Signed:
Maj Gen O U Obono(Rtd)
Senior State Security Adviser

CALABAR MUNICIPAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
CALABAR

The Chairman of Calabar Municipal Council, Bishop Rt. Hon. James Anam, on behalf of the Vice Chairman, Honourable Councillors, Executive Council, Political Appointees, Management and Staff of the Council, as well as the good people of Calabar Municipality, warmly felicitates His Excellency, Apostle Senator Bassey Edet Otu,PNIPR, Governor of Cross River State, on the occasion of his 67th Birthday Anniversary.

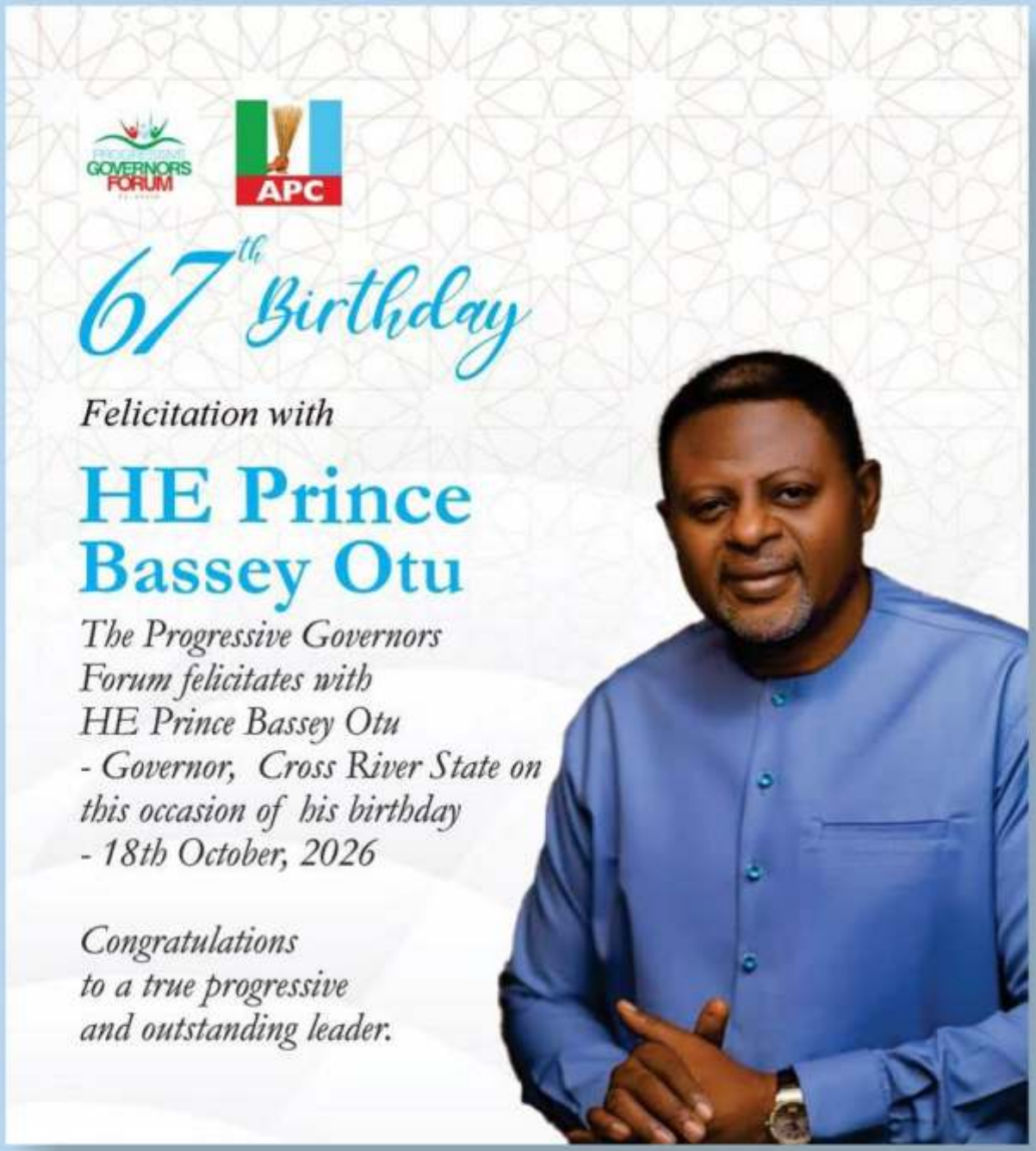
This special occasion offers an opportunity to celebrate your life and acknowledge your years of dedicated service to humanity and the development of Cross River State. Your contributions to the advancement of the State continue to be recognised and appreciated.

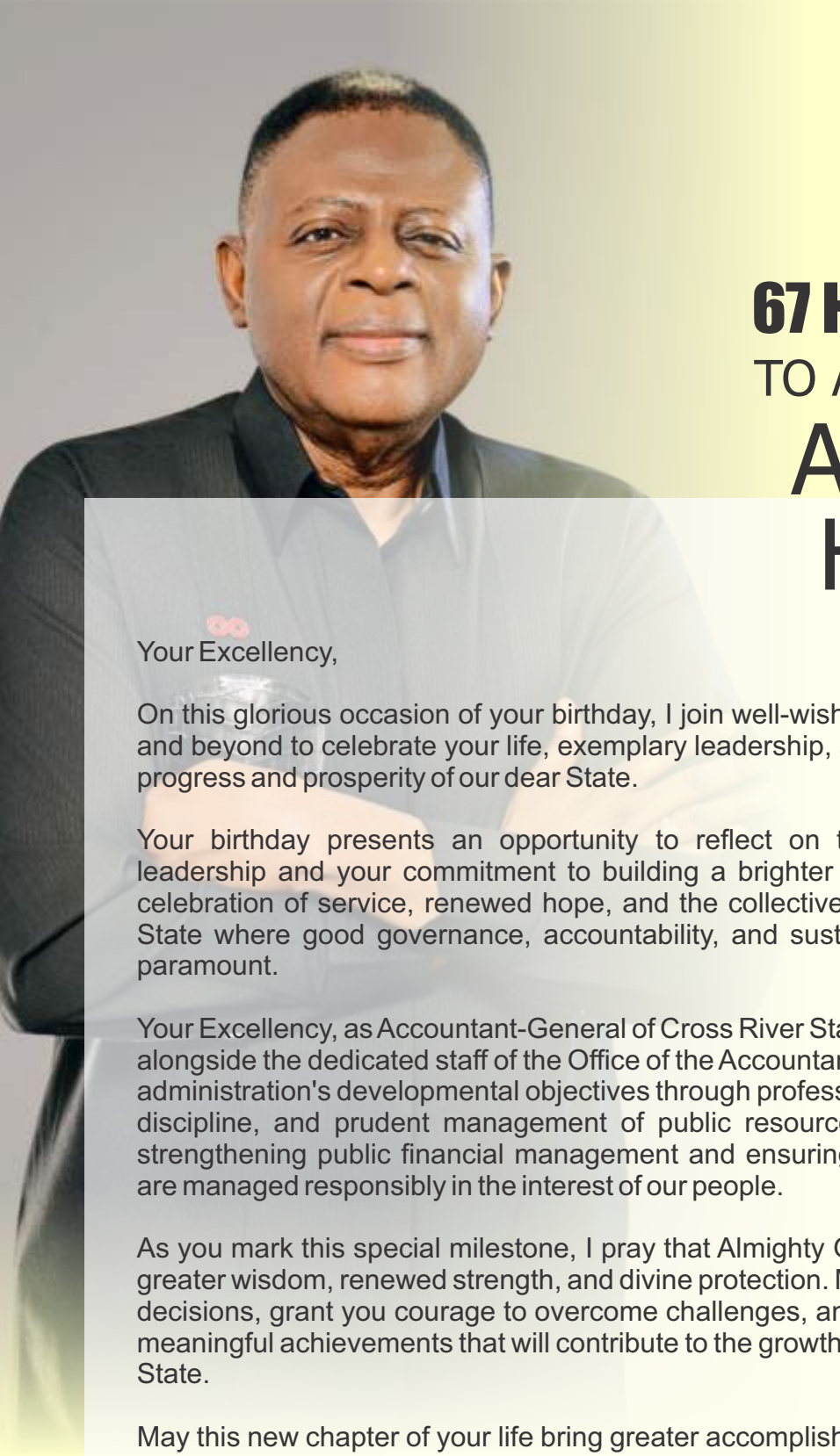
As you celebrate this significant event, we pray that the Almighty God continues to uphold and strengthen you, grant you wisdom, sound health and guide you in the service of our dear State and the entire citizenry.

May the years ahead be filled with greater accomplishments, peace, fulfilment and lasting impact.
Wishing you, your family and the people of Cross River State God's continuous protection and blessing.

Congratulations, Your Excellency and many more fruitful years ahead.

Signed:
Rt. Hon. Bishop James Anam
Executive Chairman
Calabar Municipality


GOVERNORS FORUM
APC
67th Birthday
Felicitation with
HE Prince Bassey Otu
The Progressive Governors Forum felicitates with HE Prince Bassey Otu - Governor, Cross River State on this occasion of his birthday - 18th October, 2026
Congratulations to a true progressive and outstanding leader.



67 HAPPY CHEERS TO A FATHER WITH A GOOD HEART

Your Excellency,

On this glorious occasion of your birthday, I join well-wishers across Cross River State and beyond to celebrate your life, exemplary leadership, and unwavering vision for the progress and prosperity of our dear State.

Your birthday presents an opportunity to reflect on the noble responsibilities of leadership and your commitment to building a brighter future for our people. It is a celebration of service, renewed hope, and the collective aspiration for a Cross River State where good governance, accountability, and sustainable development remain paramount.

Your Excellency, as Accountant-General of Cross River State, I reaffirm my commitment, alongside the dedicated staff of the Office of the Accountant-General, to supporting your administration's developmental objectives through professionalism, transparency, fiscal discipline, and prudent management of public resources. We remain dedicated to strengthening public financial management and ensuring that government resources are managed responsibly in the interest of our people.

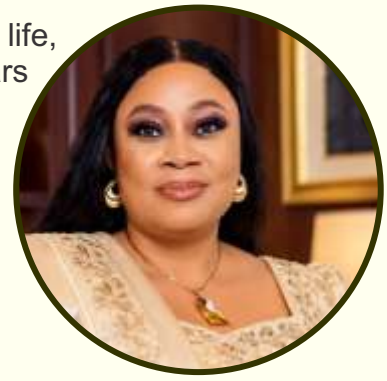
As you mark this special milestone, I pray that Almighty God grants you sound health, greater wisdom, renewed strength, and divine protection. May He continue to guide your decisions, grant you courage to overcome challenges, and crown your leadership with meaningful achievements that will contribute to the growth and prosperity of Cross River State.

May this new chapter of your life bring greater accomplishments, peace, and fulfilment. May your vision continue to inspire hope, and may your service to our dear State leave a positive and enduring legacy for generations to come.

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency! May God preserve your life, bless your years ahead, and grant you many more fruitful years of purposeful service to Cross River State and Nigeria.

With highest regards and warmest birthday wishes,

Mrs. Glory T. Effiong, PhD, FCA, FCTI, FCNA
Accountant-General
Cross River State



BIRTHDAY FELICITATION TO A

PURPOSEFUL AND PEOPLE-FOCUSED

- G O V E R N O R -

On behalf of the Management and Staff of the entire Ministry of Finance, we heartily felicitate with His Excellency, Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu, the Executive Governor of Cross River State on his 67th Birthday Anniversary.

Your Excellency, your "People-First" humane, visionary and bridge-building leadership has continued to restore hope to Cross Riverians.

We in the Ministry of Finance are glad to partner with you in delivering your administration's socio-economic agenda.

Thank you for your exemplary leadership and commitment to a Prosperous Cross River State.

We pray the Almighty God grants you long life, good health, wisdom, courage and grace to lead the State to greater heights.

Happy Birthday, your Excellency.

Dr. Michael Odere, ACA, FCIB, ACTI, FIMC
Hon. Commissioner.

ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHAIRMEN OF NIGERIA
(ALGON)
CROSS RIVER STATE CHAPTER

We the 18 Members of
CROSS RIVER ALGON
CELEBRATE

His Excellency,
Senator, Prince,
BASSEY EDET OTU,PNIPR

@ 67

We Are United Under Your Leadership!

Signed:

1. HON. YIBALA IGIRI
CHAIRMAN, YAKURR LGA

2. HON. EGBUNG ODAMA EGBUNG,
CHAIRMAN, BEKWARRA LGA

3. HON. ETI-EKA BEATRICE ETTA NYIAM,
CHAIRMAN, BOKI LGA

4. HON. KINGSLEY IBON ARIKPO
CHAIRMA, OBUBRA LGA

5. HON. EDODI EDODI EYONG
CHAIRMAN, BIASE LGA

6. HON. SUNDAY AYANG
CHAIRMAN OBANLIKU LGA

7. HON. FRED OKEM
CHAIRMAN, YALA LGA

8. HON. CHRISTOPHER AGBE
CHAIRMAN, OGOJA LGA

9. HON. MRS. MERCY NSOR
CHAIRMAN, IKOM LGA

10. HON. EFFIONG ETIM OKON,
BAKASSI, CHAIRMAN LGA

11. HON. PATRICK ARCHIBONG
CHAIRMAN, CALABAR SOUTH LGA

12. HON. JAMES ANAM
CHAIRMAN, CALABAR
MUNICIPALITY

13. HON. PATRICK ASIDO
CHAIRMAN, ODUKPANI LGA

14. HON. PETER UNDIANDEYE,
CHAIRMAN, OBUDU LGA

15. HON. EGBALA BASSEY
CHAIRMAN, ABI LGA

16. HON. HENRY NJAR ANOM
CHAIRMAN, ETUNG LGA

17.HON. EFFIOM BASSEY EFFIONG
CHAIRMAN, AKPABUYO LGA

18. HON. FELIX AKPOSI
CHAIRMAN, AKAMKPA LGA

Birthday FELICITATIONS

Apostle Sen. Prince
Bassey Edet Otu
Governor of Cross River State

On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Cross River State Ministry of Women Affairs, I heartily congratulate His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Cross River State, Apostle Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu, on the auspicious occasion of his 67th Birthday Anniversary.

Your Excellency, we are not just celebrating a leader, but a visionary and purposeful one whose pragmatic and sterling leadership has redefined governance through infrastructural development, economic rejuvenation, educational reforms, agricultural expansion, health sector revitalization, renewed drive for security and social protection.

Your all-inclusive leadership style, with particular attention to women inclusion in governance as well as the welfare and development of women, children and vulnerable groups, speaks volumes about the "People First" mantra.

Today, Cross Riverians are basking in the sweetness of purposeful leadership where the lost glory of the state is being restored and hope is renewed, and we at the Ministry of Women Affairs are proud to be part of this journey.

As a Ministry, it is our earnest prayer that your days will continue to be marked by requisite wisdom, strength, good health and grace for greater milestones as you continue to navigate the ship of Cross River State to the Promised Land.

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency.

Hon. Edema Irom
Commissioner for Women Affairs

GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE OF NIGERIA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, HEADQUARTERS..

CRS WATER BOARD COMPLEX,CALABAR

Congratulatory Message To His Excellency, Apostle Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, PNIPR, Executive Governor Of Cross River State, On The Occasion Of His 67th Birthday, on Sunday,18th October, 2026

It is with profound joy, gratitude to God Almighty, and immense honour that I, on behalf of my family, the Management and Staff of the Cross River State Ministry of Water Resources, and indeed the good people of Cross River State, heartily celebrate His Excellency, Apostle Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu,PNIPR, the Executive Governor of Cross River State, on the auspicious occasion of your 67th birthday anniversary. Your Excellency, attaining the age of 67 is not merely a celebration of years; it is a celebration of a life of service, sacrifice, leadership, compassion, and commitment to humanity. Your journey from a distinguished public servant and legislator to the Governor of our dear State has been marked by a deep passion for the welfare of the people and an unwavering determination to build a more prosperous, peaceful and progressive Cross River State.

Since assuming office, Your Excellency has continued to demonstrate purposeful leadership through your administration's People First philosophy. Your vision of putting the people at the centre of governance has inspired policies and programmes aimed at improving the lives of Cross Riverians, strengthening infrastructure, empowering our youths and women, supporting agriculture and enterprise, improving healthcare and education, and creating an enabling environment for sustainable economic development.
As the Honourable Commissioner for Water Resources, I am particularly grateful for Your Excellency's recognition of the strategic importance of water resources to the development and wellbeing of our people. Access to safe and sustainable water is fundamental to public health, agriculture, sanitation, industrial growth and the overall quality of life of our citizens.

Your administration's commitment to strengthening the water sector reflects your understanding that sustainable development cannot be achieved without reliable water infrastructure and effective management of our water resources. Your Excellency, your leadership has also continued to inspire confidence in the capacity of Cross River State to reclaim its rightful place as one of Nigeria's foremost destinations for investment, tourism, agriculture and human capital development. Your commitment to peace, unity and inclusive governance has helped to reinforce the spirit of togetherness among our people. On this special occasion of your birthday, I join the Government and good people of Cross River State in thanking Almighty God for preserving your life and granting you wisdom, strength and good health to serve our dear State. We are grateful for the sacrifices you have made in the service of our people and for the opportunities your administration continues to create for present and future generations.

As you celebrate your 66th birthday, may God Almighty continue to bless you with wisdom, sound health, divine protection, renewed strength and greater capacity to lead. May He continue to guide your decisions, enlarge your influence for good, and grant you the courage and grace to accomplish the noble vision you have for Cross River State.
May the years ahead bring even greater fulfilment, peace and prosperity to you and your family. May your administration continue to enjoy divine direction and the support of Cross Riverians as you pursue programmes and policies that will leave lasting legacies across the State.

Your Excellency, please accept my profound respect, warmest felicitations and best wishes.
Happy 66th Birthday, Your Excellency!
May your new year be filled with divine favour, excellent health, uncommon wisdom, abundant grace and remarkable accomplishments.

God bless His Excellency, Apostle Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu,PNIPR! God bless the Ministry of Water Resources!! God bless the Government and the good people of Cross River State!!!

Congratulations! Happy Birthday Your Excellency.

Signed:
Obol. Hon. Moses Osogi, Ph.D
Honourable Commissioner for Water Resources

GOVERNMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND SKILLS ACQUISITION
BLOCK 3, OLD SECRETARIAT COMPLEX, CALABAR-CRS

CR/ MOYD/ADM/189/Vol.1 9th October, 2026

MESSAGE OF FELICITATION TO HIS EXCELLENCY, SENATOR PRINCE BASSEY EDET OTU, GOVERNOR OF CROSS RIVER STATE, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 2026 BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY — 18TH OCTOBER, 2026

On this auspicious occasion of your birthday anniversary, I most respectfully join your family, associates, and the good people of Cross River State in celebrating your life and thanking Almighty God for the gift of your leadership, the grace of service, and the privilege of another year.

Your Excellency, your commitment to the People First philosophy continues to provide a guiding framework for governance in Cross River State. In the youth development sector, your emphasis on skills acquisition, entrepreneurship, employability, and the creation of opportunities for young people reflects the importance of investing in the human capital that will shape our state's future.

As Commissioner for Youth Development and Skills Acquisition, I am particularly grateful for your support and confidence in our collective efforts to empower our young people, strengthen their productive capacities, and position them as active contributors to the socioeconomic development of our dear State.

On this special day, I pray that Almighty God will renew your strength, enlarge your wisdom, preserve your health, and grant you greater grace to fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to you. May He continue to guide your decisions, bless your family, and grant you peace, courage, and divine direction in the service of Cross River State and our nation.

May this new chapter of your life usher in greater accomplishments, enduring legacies, and renewed opportunities to advance the aspirations of our people.

May God continue to bless you abundantly as you lead Cross River State through this Season of Sweetness, guided by the enduring ideals of the People First Agenda.

Long live Your Excellency!
Long live Cross River State!!
God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!!

With profound respect and warm felicitations,

Odum-Ijom Ukam, Esq.
Honourable Commissioner

Office of the Hon. Commissioner
moyd.crossriverstate.gov.ng +234 803 7242 207 info@moyd.crossriverstate.gov.ng

Empowering Youth, Building Skills, Transforming Lives.

67 BIRTHDAY GARLANDS

TO A GREAT LEADER OF OUR TIME:

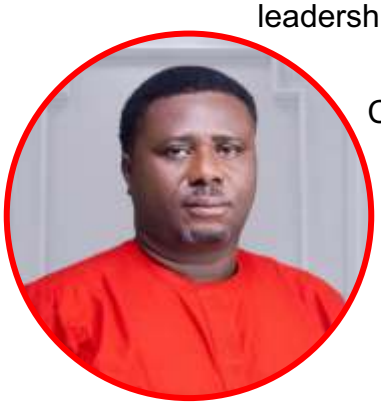
HIS EXCELLENCY,

Senator Prince
BASSEY EDET OTU, PNIPR

On behalf of my dear Family,the Vice Chairman,The Leader and members of the Legislature,members of the Executive,the Paramount Ruler and members of Obubra Traditional Rulers Council,Leaders of Thought,Women ,Youth and indeed the entire good People of Obubra Local Government Area, heartily rejoice with His Excellency',Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, PNIPR on the auspicious occasion of his 67th Birthday Anniversary on Sunday,18th October 2026.

Your Excellency,your life is a wonderful testimonial for generations unborn to emulate and learn abundantly from all ramifications. We are very grateful for the impactful leadership you have provided across the State and believe strongly that your new year shall do more wonderful things in the years ahead.

For us in Obubra Local Government Area,we congratulate you on this special day in your life while also restating our unflinching support, solidarity and loyalty to your leadership in the years ahead.



Congratulations Your Excellency

Hon Kingsley Arikpo,(Apollo)
Executive Chairman
OBUBRA LGA

Gov Otu Assures Bakassi of Democratic Dividends as Largest Support Group Endorses Him, Tinubu for Second Term

By Nakanda Iyadim

Governor of Cross River State, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, has assured the people of Bakassi Local Government Area of sustained delivery of the dividends of democracy, reaffirming his administration's commitment to security, continuity and people-oriented development.

The Governor gave the assurance at the weekend during a town hall meeting organised by the Ideal Progressive Movement, the largest political support group in the area, held in Ikot Effiom, Bakassi. He was represented by the Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham.

Held under the theme "For Consolidation and Continuity", the meeting drew a large turnout of stakeholders, traditional rulers, youth and women's groups, who unanimously endorsed Governor Otu and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for a second term in office.

Speaking at the event, the Information Commissioner said the administration had deliberately prioritised peace and security as the foundation for development, noting that Bakassi, which suffered years of insecurity, kidnapping, sea piracy and communal challenges, is now experiencing relative stability.

"Without peace, there is no progress. This administration met legacies of insecurity but confronted them head-on. Today, our farmers go to farm, our fishermen go to sea, our traders do business and our children go to school in peace," he said.

He added that Governor Otu had broken the cycle of abandoned projects that plagued previous administrations by choosing continuity over politics.

"The Governor has shown that governance is not a sprint. The first term lays the foundation; the second term completes the building. That is why continuity matters," he stressed.

In his welcome address, the Chairman of the movement's Board of Trustees, AIG Ene Okon (Rtd), said Cross River State must stay the course and allow Governor Otu to complete eight years in office, in line with the

precedent set since 1999.

He said the movement, the first of its kind among support groups in Bakassi, had joined forces with the All Progressives Congress (APC) to promote the achievements of the Governor.

"Since 1999, our state has had four democratically elected governors. Senator Otu is the fourth. Each of those before him was given the full eight years to plan, build and deliver dividends of democracy to the people. That is the standard our state has set," he said.

"So we ask a simple question: why should Senator Prince Bassey Otu's tenure be different? It cannot. He has to complete his tenure," he added.

The movement identified security as the administration's most significant achievement, arguing that there can be no meaningful progress without peace.

"This administration confronted the legacies of insecurity that once troubled our people: kidnapping, militancy, sea piracy, armed robbery and cultism in Bakassi and beyond. Today, our farmers go to farm in peace, our fishermen go to the waters and return with sustainable catches, our traders go about their businesses without fear, and our children go to school with greater confidence, because the safety of lives and property was made the first priority. We thank our dear Governor," the group stated.

The movement also commended the Governor for breaking the cycle of abandoned projects.

"For too long, Cross River State was plagued by a lack of continuity. Each administration abandoned the work of the last. Governor Otu chose a different path. He decided to complete what others left behind," it said.

Projects it listed as completed or revived by the administration include the state-of-the-art State Library Complex, which two previous administrations failed to address; the renovated Governor's Office; the completed Local Government Service Commission Complex; the renovated Cross River State Newspaper Corporation; and the ongoing rehabilitation of the Cultural Centre Complex, among numerous other projects across sectors.

"This is leadership with humility and focus, the kind that values the concerns of the people. To stop this process now would frustrate his determination to leave the state better than he met it," the group said.

Chairman of the occasion, Engr Eyo Ita, who described Governor Otu as the best man for the job, said: "Here in Cross River State, we proudly support

His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, whose People First philosophy reflects the kind of people-centred governance our Forum seeks to promote. His administration's attention to infrastructure, economic development, security, social welfare and the general renewal of Cross River State gives us reason to continue mobilising grassroots support for his leadership.

"Let me state clearly that in the Ideal Progressive Movement, we are not in competition or contest with any other APC support group. Rather, we see every genuine support group as a partner working toward the same objective: the success, unity and electoral victory of the APC."

Engr Ita added: "We equally stand firmly behind Senator Asuquo Ekpenyong, whose representation of Cross River Southern Senatorial District and interventions in communities demonstrate the importance of responsive representation. His efforts in infrastructure, connectivity, empowerment and community development deserve continued grassroots engagement and support."

The group disclosed that it has rolled out a comprehensive action plan for grassroots sensitisation, mobilisation and stakeholder engagement to sustain support for the administration and ensure continuity beyond 2027.

The town hall ended with the unanimous adoption of a motion endorsing Governor Otu and President Tinubu for a second term, amid chants of solidarity from supporters who described the administration as a Government that does not abandon projects or people."

The Governor was later invested as Patron of the movement by the vice Chairman of Bakassis Christ

Destination Cross River

Felicitating

A GRASSROOTER

@67

Apostle Sen. Prince

Bassey Edet Otu

Governor of Cross River State

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Cross River State Ministry of Local Government Affairs, I heartily felicitate with Your Excellency on the occasion of your 67th birthday.

This special milestone offers an opportunity to celebrate your life of service, your commitment to the development of Cross River State and your dedication to the welfare of our people. Your administration's focus on strengthening local governance and promoting development at the grassroots continues to underscore the importance of responsive and people-oriented leadership.

As you mark this remarkable occasion, we pray that Almighty God will continue to grant you wisdom, good health, strength and renewed grace to lead with courage and purpose. May He bless your new age with greater accomplishments, peace and fulfilment, and continue to guide you in the service of our dear State.

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency. May your years ahead be filled with abundant grace, wisdom and enduring blessings.

Chief Victor-Felix Idem
Hon. Commissioner
Ministry of Local Government Affairs

Warm FELICITATION

TO A LABOUR-FRIENDLY GOVERNOR

Apostle Sen. Prince
Bassey Edet Otu
Governor of Cross River State

On behalf of the Management and entire workforce of the Cross River State Public Service, I warmly felicitate His Excellency, Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, on the joyous occasion of his 67th birthday.

Your Excellency, this milestone offers yet another opportunity to celebrate your life of service, exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to the development of our dear state. Your People-First vision continues to inspire renewed dedication to excellence, professionalism and improved service delivery across the public service.

As Head of Service, I deeply appreciate your support for public service reforms and your commitment to creating an enabling environment for civil servants to contribute meaningfully to the growth and development of Cross River State.

On this special occasion, I pray that Almighty God grants you renewed strength, sound health, divine wisdom and many more fruitful years as you continue to serve our dear state and humanity.

Happy 67th Birthday, Your Excellency!

Orok Bassey Okon, *Esq.*
Head of Service
Cross River State

BIRTHDAY FELICITATION

To His Excellency,

Apostle Senator Prince

Bassey Edet Otu,PNIPR

On behalf of the management and staff of the Ministry of Establishment, Training and Pensions, I heartily felicitate His Excellency, Apostle Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, on the auspicious occasion of his 67th birthday anniversary.

Your Excellency, your 67th birthday is a celebration of a life dedicated to selfless service, visionary leadership, and unwavering commitment to humanity. Since assumption of office, your People First mantra has redefined governance in Cross River State, restoring hope, confidence, and pride to our civil service and to the entire state.

As a Ministry saddled with the welfare, capacity building and post-service well-being of our workforce, we are direct witnesses to your administration's remarkable reforms. From the prompt payment of salaries and pensions, clearance of backlog of gratuities, training and retraining of civil servants, promotion of deserving workers, to the creation of a more conducive and motivated work environment, you have demonstrated that the worker is indeed central to development.

Your leadership has brought stability to our pension system, dignity to our retirees, and renewed motivation to serving officers. This is leadership with empathy, a clear testimony of your understanding that a happy and well-trained workforce is the engine of good governance.

As you celebrate 67 years of God's faithfulness, we pray that Almighty God will continue to strengthen you with good health, uncommon wisdom, and greater grace to lead Cross River State to even greater heights.

Happy 67th Birthday, Your Excellency. Your best years are ahead.

Congratulations!

BIRTHDAY FELICITATION TO HIS EXCELLENCY

On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, Cross River State, I heartily felicitate His Excellency, Apostle Dr. Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu, Governor of Cross River State, on the auspicious occasion of his 67th Birthday Anniversary on 18th October, 2026.

Your visionary leadership and development-focused administration, anchored on the People First mantra, has continued to reposition Cross River State on the path of sustainable growth, economic prosperity and inclusive development. Under your stewardship, the State has witnessed renewed hope in job creation, entrepreneurship, industrialization and human capital development, which are the core mandates of our Ministry.

As you celebrate this milestone, we celebrate a leader whose passion for service, humility, and unwavering commitment to the welfare of Cross Riverians remain exemplary. Your dedication to building a vibrant, enterprising and opportunity-driven State has inspired a new generation of wealth creators and deepened confidence in the future of our dear State.

We pray that Almighty God grants Your Excellency sound health, wisdom and greater strength to continue to steer the affairs of Cross River State to enviable heights.

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency!

Hon. Patrick Egbede
Commissioner,
Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment.

Gov. Otu Orders Immediate Renovation of Obubra NYSC Camp, Assigns Akamkpa as Temporary Camp

By Kingsley Agim

Cross River State Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Otu, has directed the immediate commencement of comprehensive renovation, remodelling and upgrading works at the permanent National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) orientation camp in Obubra to improve facilities and enhance the welfare of corps members and camp officials.

Governor Otu, represented by his deputy, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, gave the assurance on Thursday during an inspection tour of the temporary NYSC orientation camp at the University of Education and Entrepreneurship (UEE), Akamkpa.

The Governor explained that the temporary relocation of the orientation camp from Obubra to Akamkpa was necessary to allow for the comprehensive rehabilitation of the permanent facility, which is due for its first major upgrade since its establishment.

He said the planned intervention would improve infrastructure and provide a more conducive environment for corps members and NYSC officials during orientation exercises.

“The temporary relocation of the orientation camp to Akamkpa is necessary to enable us to undertake comprehensive renovation and remodelling of the permanent facility in Obubra. Work will commence immediately to improve the camp and

enhance the comfort of corps members and officials," Otu said.

The Governor reaffirmed his administration's commitment to youth development and institutional improvement, noting that providing suitable facilities for young Nigerians undertaking their national service remained an important responsibility of the state government.

In her remarks, the NYSC State Coordinator, Mrs Joke Oyenuga, commended Governor Otu for approving the temporary relocation and supporting the planned renovation of the permanent camp.

"We appreciate Governor Otu for approving the relocation of the orientation camp to UEE, Akamkpa, and for his commitment to the comprehensive renovation and remodelling of the permanent facility in Obubra. The improvements will help provide a more conducive environment for corps members and NYSC officials," Oyenuga said.

Also speaking, the Assistant Director, Corps Inspection and Monitoring, NYSC, Cross River State, disclosed that an average of 2,000 corps members are deployed to the state. He expressed satisfaction with the facilities at UEE, Akamkpa, which will host the 2026 Batch 'C' Stream II orientation exercise scheduled to commence on November 4.

He, however, appealed to the state government to improve the temporary camp's facilities to meet NYSC standards and ensure the comfort of corps members. He also called for the timely completion of the renovation works at Obubra.

The inspection tour was attended by the Secretary to the State Government, Prof. Anthony Owan-Enoh; Commissioner for Youth Development, Ijom-Odum Ukam; Calabar Zonal Inspector, Mr Tony Odey; and the Vice-Chancellor of UEE, Prof. Patrick Asuquo, who conducted the delegation around the facilities.

The planned rehabilitation of the Obubra camp is expected to improve facilities for future orientation exercises, while the temporary arrangement at Akamkpa will enable the state to continue hosting corps members during the renovation period.

Also in company of the Governo's delegation were the Secretary to the State Government, Prof. Anthony Owan Enoh, Commissioner for Youths and Skills Acquisition, Barr. Ijom Ukam, among others.

C'River Begins Electric Vehicle Repairs, Maintenance Training for 1,000 Youths

By Kingsley Agim

The Cross River State Government has commenced a six-month electric vehicle (EV) repairs, maintenance and assembly training programme for 1,000 youths, equipping them with specialised skills to tap into emerging employment opportunities

in the electric mobility and green energy sectors.

The programme, organised through the Cross River State Youth Empowerment Scheme (CR-YES) in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Education and Shema Energy Limited, is designed to develop a skilled workforce to support the state's growing investment in cleaner transportation.

Speaking at the flag-off ceremony, held on Wednesday in Calabar, CR-YES Chairman, Dr. Kalita Joseph Aruku, described the training as a strategic investment in youth empowerment and technological advancement, reflecting Governor Bassey Edet Otu's commitment to preparing young people for emerging industries.

Aruku disclosed that the state had procured an environmentally friendly fleet comprising 10 electric buses with 50-seat capacity, 20 electric buses with 14-seat capacity, 100 electric sedan cars, 500 electric tricycles and 200 electric motorcycles. He said the growing fleet would require skilled technicians to maintain and repair the vehicles, creating opportunities for trained youths to participate in the expanding electric mobility industry.

"The introduction of electric vehicles creates new opportunities for our youths. We want them to acquire the technical skills required to maintain these vehicles and become part of the workforce supporting the growth of electric mobility in Cross River State," Aruku said. He thanked the Federal Government under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Federal Ministry of Education and Shema Energy Limited for supporting the programme, urging participants to demonstrate discipline and commitment.

Also speaking, the Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment, Mr. Patrick Egbede, said the State's investment in skills development was intended to translate empowerment programmes into sustainable livelihoods. He cited the agricultural training of 400 beneficiaries in Nasarawa State, who subsequently received ₦2 million each to invest in their ventures, as well as information and communication technology programmes covering cybersecurity, frontend development, product design, business development and artificial intelligence.

Egbede explained that the ICT training was extended from three to five months following requests from prospective employers seeking participants with deeper practical knowledge. He added that many beneficiaries had subsequently secured employment with the Federal Government. He also disclosed that a new artificial intelligence training programme had commenced, with 250 participants expected to be trained in each of the state's three senatorial districts.

"These programmes are designed to build a pool of skilled young people who can meet employers' needs and compete for opportunities in different sectors of the economy," Egbede said, describing the EV training as a timely investment in a specialised technical field. He urged Shema Energy Limited to prioritise practical assessments, noting that some trainees might demonstrate their competence more effectively through hands-on tasks than written examinations.

The commissioner encouraged participants to take the six-month training seriously, adding that certificates awarded upon successful completion could strengthen their employment prospects locally and internationally. He noted that the transition from fossil-fuel-powered

mobility was creating demand for specialised technical skills while supporting environmental sustainability.

In his remarks, the Head of Skills and Strategy at Shema Energy Limited, Prince Dominic Usi, described the programme as an opportunity for Cross River youths to gain practical experience in a rapidly evolving industry.

Usi, a former student of the University of Calabar, explained that the training would comprise three months of intensive instruction and practical learning, followed by another three months of specialised training. Participants would also receive stipends, subject to applicable attendance requirements.

Usi said biometric monitoring would be used to track attendance, while instructional materials would be provided through an online portal containing different training modules. Participants would be required to complete practical exercises on electric vehicles and upload live video evidence of their work for assessment before progressing to subsequent modules.

He identified diagnostics and mechatronics as key components of the training, explaining that participants would learn to identify faults in electric vehicles and tricycles, understand troubleshooting procedures and acquire relevant assembly skills. He urged trainees to comply with attendance rules, including completing the required clock-in procedures before 9 a.m., and introduced the designated training centre managers responsible for supporting participants in Calabar Municipality and Ogoja.

The programme is expected to strengthen the state's technical workforce, expand employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for young people, and build local capacity for electric vehicle repairs, maintenance and assembly. It also aligns with the Cross River State Government's stated commitment to youth empowerment, technical skills development and cleaner transportation under Governor Otu's People First agenda.

NEWS IN PICTURES

Governor Bassey Edet Otu receiving the Cross River State Kabaddi contingent representing Nigeria at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in India, at the Government House, Calabar, at the weekend.

Birthday
FELICITATION

TO A DOGGED AND COMPASSIONATE LEADER

Apostle Sen. Prince
Bassey Edet Otu
Governor of Cross River State

I, on behalf of my family, management, and staff of the Cross River State Ministry of Environment, heartily felicitate with His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Cross River State, Apostle, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, on the occasion of his 67th birthday.

Your Excellency, I am proud to serve under your pragmatic leadership as Commissioner for Environment. Your dynamic leadership, thoughtfulness, and compassion for humanity are truly commendable.

Indeed, you have demonstrated the People First mantra in all its dimensions.
Under your purposeful leadership, the Ministry of Environment has witnessed tremendous progress in its efforts to promote environmental sustainability and enhance the overall well-being of our citizens.

On this auspicious occasion of your birthday, I sincerely pray that God Almighty will grant you divine health, wisdom, and supernatural ability to accomplish the tasks ahead.

May He bless you with many more fruitful years of service to our dear state and nation.

Happy Birthday to a great achiever and the People's Governor!

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

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