Daily InfoNews Bulletin

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

MONDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, 2026



Tinubu Flags Off Bakassi Deep Seaport, Says Project Will Redefine Nigeria's Maritime Economy



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.

Daily InfoNews Bulletin

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

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Tinubu Flags Off Bakassi Deep Seaport, Says Project Will Redefine Nigeria's Maritime Economy

...Otu hails historic milestone; Oyetola projects massive investment



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has described the groundbreaking of the Bakassi Deep Seaport as a defining milestone in Nigeria's economic diversification and said it was a strategic national investment.

Represented by his Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima (GCON), at the ceremony in Bakassi on Friday, November 13, 2026, the President said the port would open new commercial corridors, stimulate industrialisation and create jobs. He commended Governor Bassey Edet Otu and the people of Cross River for sustaining the vision and advancing it towards actualisation.

Tinubu recalled that the project was conceived



in 2014, with an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment developed in March 2015, before receiving renewed impetus under Otu. Designed as a 20-metre-draft facility, the port is expected to accommodate large vessels that currently bypass Nigerian ports. It is also linked to a 260-kilometre superhighway to move cargo to markets across the country. He credited Otu's determination with helping to overcome institutional and financial obstacles, including efforts to secure a $3.5 billion Afreximbank financing arrangement and formalise the PPP framework in February 2025.

"This is beyond a Cross River dream. It is a Nigerian project. It is a poverty breaker," he declared.

He stressed that the port would complement, not undermine, Lagos. "Lagos is not our enemy. Lagos is our elder brother in trade. No country eats with one hand. No country carries all its loads on one shoulder. That shoulder will break," he said.

More than 80 per cent of Nigeria's foreign trade, he noted, passes through Lagos, contributing to congestion and rising costs. A second major maritime gateway, he argued, would strengthen the national economy: "When Calabar works, Nigeria works on two legs."

The President said Nigeria had not fully exploited its Gulf of Guinea coastline, while neighbouring countries benefited from trade Nigerian ports could attract. The Bakassi project, he maintained, would help retain regional cargo, expand international market

access and strengthen the country's maritime competitiveness. Tinubu further observed that roughly 90 per cent of cargo moves by sea, yet Nigeria handles only a fraction of regional cargo trade despite its economic weight in West Africa. The port, he said, would help close that gap, reduce dependence on a single gateway and position the country to capture a greater share of maritime commerce.

He acknowledged the territorial and economic losses Cross River suffered following the Bakassi peninsula ruling and the loss of oil revenue, but said these setbacks had not diminished the people's courage, hospitality or resilience. "The peninsula was not the end of your story, but the beginning of your next chapter," he declared, urging residents to protect the project from political interference and regard it as an inheritance for future generations.

The state governor, Senator Bassey Otu, in his speech, hailed the groundbreaking and credited President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda with providing the decisive federal support that revived the project. He said political, administrative, legal and environmental challenges had stalled implementation until Tinubu's plan to expand and upgrade maritime corridors created a fresh opportunity for Cross River.

Lauding Tinubu for guiding the state through the processes leading to the Certificate of Compliance and final federal approval, Otu described him as "a bastion of economic diversification and social equity." He recalled Calabar's long maritime heritage, saying the new facility would reinforce Cross River's established littoral status. He said the project's approval and delivery demonstrated the value of cooperation between the federal and state governments.

The governor said the state had completed preparatory work, including an Environmental Impact Assessment and hydrographic, geotechnical and geophysical surveys, and secured federal approvals. The project is to be delivered through a Public-Private Partnership arrangement, with an initial funding approval of $2.27 billion. He said logistics, trade, fishing, shipping, tourism and shipbuilding would benefit, positioning Cross River as a Gulf of Guinea maritime hub. The surveys, he added, exposed flaws in the 1903 navigational charts, which the Federal Government replaced on October 1, 2026, affirming the state's littoral status.

Otu disclosed that selected Cross Riverians were undergoing specialised training for construction and operational roles,

with knowledge transfer planned. He pointed to the state's three-way economic corridor—the airport, seaport and Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway—to facilitate cargo movement and attract investors. He invited investors in maritime and related industries to take advantage of the project's prospects and the state's investment-friendly environment, including a one-stop investment hub and tax incentives. He described the economic possibilities as boundless and called on development partners to help build a resilient economy.

In his goodwill remarks, the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Dr Gboyega Oyetola, praised Tinubu's efforts to unlock Nigeria's maritime potential, citing the creation of the Ministry in 2023 and approval of the country's first National Policy on Marine and Blue Economy. Oyetola disclosed that revenue generated by agencies under the Ministry rose from ₦700.79 billion in 2023 to ₦1.83 trillion in 2025, attributing the increase to improved revenue assurance and the closure of leakages.

He also cited the elimination of piracy in Nigerian waters, approval for modernisation of the six legacy seaports, stronger port governance through the Nigerian Ports Economic Regulatory Act, and Nigeria's election to the decision-making Council of the International Maritime Organization after almost two decades. He also cited the lifting of United States Coast Guard restrictions on Nigerian-bound vessels in August 2026, release of the Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund to shipowners and growth in fish production from 1.1 million to 1.4 million tonnes. He said Bakassi would improve market access and create industrial, investment and employment opportunities. Its integration with the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway, he stressed, would enhance commercial viability and extend benefits across Cross River, the South-South and the wider Nigerian economy. Oyetola pledged the Ministry's support for a modern, efficient and environmentally sustainable port. He described the seaport as an important instrument for translating Nigeria's maritime advantages into sustainable growth.

The Minister said the groundbreaking marks a shift in Nigeria's maritime geography, offering Cross River the prospect of converting its coastal location and heritage into investment, jobs and sustained economic activity, while helping Nigeria diversify its economy, ease pressure on existing ports and strengthen its role in regional trade.

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Venue: U J Esuene Stadium, Calabar

Time: 7:00am Prompt



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OROK BASSEY OKON
Head of Service
Cross River State

$3.5bn Bakassi Deep Seaport a Fiscal Game-Changer – VP Shettima

By Nakanda Iyadim



Nigeria's Vice President Kashim Shettima says the $3.5 billion Bakassi Deep Seaport is a fiscal game-changer set to catapult Cross River State and Nigeria into a leading hub for the blue economy.

The Vice President disclosed this in a statement posted on his official Facebook handle, Senator Kashim Shettima, on Saturday, following the groundbreaking ceremony of the port in Calabar.

Writing on behalf of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Shettima said he performed the groundbreaking for the multi-billion-dollar project, noting that it has broken a decades-long jinx and revived hopes for a deep seaport in the State.

According to the post, the flag-off marks a major milestone in efforts to transform the country's economy.

"We mean business this time around. I was not in Calabar to cut a ribbon and dance Ekpe masquerade but to break ground and break a centuries-old jinx," the Vice President wrote.

He further stated: "Many people believed this port would never happen. They said it would be a pipe dream. They said Bakassi would only be remembered for what we lost. Today, we answer them with a shovel, with concrete, with steel, and with hope, a renewed hope that a dream deferred can become a dream actualised."

Gov. Otu Wins Ogoja Stakeholders' Praise Over Five Road Projects

By Kingsley Agim



Cross River State Governor, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, has received commendation from monarchs, elders, youths and residents of Ishibori Clan in Ogoja Local Government Area following the completion of five major road projects in the community.

The stakeholders expressed appreciation to the Governor and his wife, Her Excellency, Mrs Eyoanwan Otu, for the construction and rehabilitation of Ishadi-Iton Street, Ikaptan Street, Macgetrict Street, Ekajor Street and Ukamusha Street.

In a letter addressed to the Governor, dated November 5, 2026, and jointly signed by Ntol Mgbeje Ama III, the King of Nkim Land, Ishibori, Ogoja; Peter Ibu, General Youth President, Ishibori Urban Ward I; and Joseph Agida, Chairman of the Ishibori Development Council, the community described the projects as a remarkable

intervention that has transformed neighbourhoods, improved accessibility and restored economic activities in the affected areas.

The roads, executed by Havens Special Limited through the Cross River State Road Maintenance Agency (CRROMA), were said to have improved the living conditions of residents and demonstrated the administration's attention to infrastructure development in Northern Cross River.

According to the stakeholders, the projects have "completely transformed our neighbourhood, restored economic activities and demonstrated your administration's commitment to quality infrastructure in Northern Cross River State."

They noted that the completion of the five roads represented an important development for Ishibori Clan, particularly in addressing transportation challenges and creating a more conducive environment for residents and businesses.

While commending the Governor for the completed projects, the stakeholders appealed for the extension of the road intervention to other streets in Igoli, Ogoja, which they said had remained neglected by successive administrations.

The streets identified for rehabilitation include Afrike Street, Kaduna Street, Ekajuk Street, Ikaptang Street, Old Bank Road, Ukelle Lane and Bansara Street.

Describing the condition of the roads, the stakeholders observed that they were "central to the socioeconomic life of Igoli, Ogoja," but their deplorable state continued to impose hardship on residents and commuters.

They appealed to Governor Otu to consider the streets in the next phase of the state's road intervention projects, expressing confidence that extending the infrastructure development to the areas would "bring immense relief to the entire Ogoja community and permanently rewrite decades of infrastructural neglect."

The stakeholders also expressed appreciation for the Governor's attention to the development needs of Ishibori Clan and Ogoja, while wishing him continued success, good health and divine guidance.

Afreximbank opens windows for $2 billion trade facility for Cross River

By Kingsley Agim



The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) says it has opened a $2 billion financing facility for Cross River State and other African sub-sovereign governments to fund bankable projects capable of transforming their economies.

The Director, Trade Facilitation and Investment Promotion, Afreximbank, Dr Gainmore Zanamwe, disclosed this during a media briefing ahead of the 6th African Sub-Sovereign Governments Network Investment Conference (AfSNET 2026), scheduled to be held in Calabar from November 12 to 14.

Zanamwe said the facility was readily available to African governments, dismissing concerns that lack of funding was a major obstacle to development projects on the continent.

“We have this facility ready to finance projects. Some people say funding is a problem. From Africa we say no. The $2 billion is there. Go and tell your people. You people in the media, go and tell people that money is there,” he



said.

He said the bank would use the three-day conference to educate participating states on the requirements and procedures for accessing the facility.

According to him, the conference will also feature practical sessions on identifying, developing and packaging projects to meet the requirements of financial institutions and potential investors.

“How do you then access the funding? That’s what we’ll be telling everybody in the course of the next three days. We’ll be showing you how you can tap into the $2 billion to do your projects. We’ll make it very simple,” he said.

He emphasised that access to the facility would depend on the quality and bankability of projects presented by the states, urging governments to develop clear economic visions and identify priority sectors before approaching investors.

Gov. Otu Implements New Allowance for UNICROSS Lecturers as VC Urges ASUU to Suspend Strike

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Government has taken further steps to address the welfare concerns of academic staff of the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS), with Governor Bassey Otu approving the implementation of the new Consolidated Academic Tools Allowance (CATA) and facilitating the payment of September 2026 salaries.

The development has prompted the Vice Chancellor, Professor Francisca Bassey, to appeal to the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), UNICROSS Branch, to honour its earlier commitment to suspend the ongoing strike and restore academic activities, following the progress made by the State Government and University Management.

The payment of September salaries on Wednesday, November 11, followed the commencement of CATA implementation after Governor Otu approved the new allowance in his capacity as Visitor to the University. At an emergency ASUU congress on November 2, which she personally attended, Professor Bassey informed members that the Governor had approved the allowance and that the Office of the Accountant-General had commenced implementation through October salary payments.

Although members indicated that they were yet to receive payment alerts at the time, the congress resolved to reconvene and consider suspending the strike upon confirmation of implementation. At its November 9 meeting, members acknowledged receipt of October salaries but raised concerns over payment discrepancies, delays and outstanding

balances arising from the new allowance structure.

Other concerns raised by the union included outstanding September salaries and the non-financial provisions of the 2025 Federal Government-ASUU agreement, particularly those relating to the election of Heads of Departments. Management subsequently assured members that outstanding October salary balances would be settled alongside November salaries, while September salaries were scheduled for payment in the second week of December. The payment on November 11 represents an earlier fulfilment of that commitment.

Governor Otu has further directed that October, November and December 2026 salaries be paid under the new CATA structure, demonstrating his administration's commitment to improving the welfare of academic staff and strengthening the University's operations.

On the non-financial provisions of the agreement, Management explained that implementation would require a review of relevant sections of the University's laws, involving the Cross River State House of Assembly. It also disclosed that efforts had commenced to clear outstanding ASUU check-off dues inherited from previous administrations, some of which accumulated more than ten years before Professor Bassey assumed office. The inherited obligations are being addressed through instalment payments.

While acknowledging the administrative challenges associated with introducing a new salary structure and payroll arrangement, Management assured staff that payment discrepancies and delays would be addressed and the process streamlined. It noted that similar difficulties had accompanied the introduction of the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIS) in federal universities.

Professor Bassey has also drawn attention to the forthcoming National Universities Commission (NUC) accreditation exercise expected later this month, warning that the continued disruption of academic activities could prevent affected departments from presenting their programmes for assessment, with possible consequences for future student admissions.

She stressed that the University must be in a position to meet its accreditation obligations, protect academic standards and sustain the progress recorded in its academic programmes. The continued strike, she noted, could place these institutional responsibilities and the interests of students at risk.

The Vice Chancellor therefore appealed to ASUU to consider the progress made in addressing its demands, particularly the Governor's approval and implementation of CATA, the payment of September salaries and Management's efforts to settle inherited obligations and resolve outstanding concerns.

She urged the union to honour the resolution reached at its November 2 congress by taking the necessary steps to suspend the strike and restore academic activities, stressing that a stable academic environment remains essential to the University's development and the collective interests of its staff, students and other stakeholders.

Chief Sultana Ene Named Ambassador of Carnival Calabar 2026

By Ibu Harrywills



The Cross River State Carnival Commission has received a delegation led by Chief Sultana Ene Auduson following her endorsement as an Ambassador of Carnival Calabar 2026.

Receiving the delegation, the Chairman of the Commission, Sir Gabe Onah, reaffirmed confidence in Chief Sultana Ene, praising her creativity, outstanding contributions and capacity to further promote the cultural identity and global appeal of Carnival Calabar.

Speaking during the visit, Chief Sultana expressed profound gratitude to the Cross River State Government and the people of the state for the recognition and the ambassadorial responsibility bestowed on her.

Describing the appointment as a tremendous honour, she pledged to uphold the position with pride, dignity and commitment, stressing her readiness to serve and contribute meaningfully to the success of the carnival.

"Honestly, it is such a



tremendous honour to be remembered by my state, my people, and to be given this great opportunity to become an Ambassador of Carnival Calabar. I will uphold it with pride and honour because my people have called on me, and I have no other choice than to answer and be here to serve my people," she said.

She also commended the State Government for the honour and expressed hope for continued collaboration and divine guidance in advancing the State's



cultural heritage.

The visit further underscored the Commission's commitment to engaging influential personalities and creative ambassadors to strengthen the visibility and international reputation of Carnival Calabar.

High point of the occasion was a group photograph featuring Chief Sultana Ene and members of her delegation alongside officials of the Commission.

CRSMEDA Strengthens MSME Growth Agenda at National Conference

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Microfinance and Enterprise Development Agency (CRSMEDA) has stepped up efforts to expand market access, promote policy alignment and drive innovation among Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state through its participation in the 2026 GROW Nigerian: The National MSME Conference.

The three-day conference, held from November 8 to 10, 2026, at the Ecobank Pan African Centre (EPAC), Victoria Island, Lagos, provided a national platform for policymakers, development partners, investors and business leaders to explore strategies for strengthening Nigeria's MSME ecosystem.



The conference was organised by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), in partnership with the German development agency, GIZ, hosted by the Lagos State Government and co-hosted by Ecobank.

Leading the Cross River State delegation was the Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of CRSMEDA, Great Ogban, who engaged federal policymakers, development partners and private-sector stakeholders on practical approaches to improving the competitiveness of businesses at the subnational level.

With the theme, “The Next Frontier for Innovation, Policy and Market Access,” the conference brought together thousands of entrepreneurs, investors and government officials to deliberate on five critical areas: Finance and Capital Access, Markets and Export Readiness, Policy and Business Environment, Digital Adoption and Technology, and Workforce Solutions.

Among the prominent personalities at the event were the Minister of State for Industry, Senator John Owan Enoh; Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of SMEDAN, Charles Odii; Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council, Mrs. Nonye Ayeni; and Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund, Oluwaseun Faleye.

Others included the Lagos State Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment, Folashade Bada



Ambrose-Medebem, and Executive Chairman of Agege Local Government, Hon. Abdulganiyu Vinod Obasa.

Speaking on the sidelines of the conference, Ogban said Cross River State's participation reflected the state government's commitment to positioning local enterprises for greater access to national markets, export opportunities and institutional financing.

He noted that the conference provided an important opportunity for state enterprise development agencies to engage directly with national policymakers and stakeholders shaping the country's regulatory, financial and trade policies.

"Platforms like GROW Nigerian are vital because they bring subnational enterprise agencies directly into the room where national regulatory, financing and trade policies are shaped," Ogban stated.

"For Cross River State, our priority is ensuring that the regulatory reliefs, digital tools and market linkages discussed here translate into tangible growth for our local entrepreneurs, agro-processors and creative businesses."

He explained that the knowledge and opportunities generated at the conference would help strengthen CRSMEDA's efforts to support local businesses, improve their competitiveness and connect them with relevant institutions and markets.

UNICROSS Strengthens Engineering, Visual Arts Training with Laser Technology

By Kingsley Agim



The Vice Chancellor of the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS), Professor Francisca Bassey, has strengthened the University's commitment to practical education and technological advancement with the procurement of two modern laser cutting machines for its Departments of Wood Products Engineering and Visual Arts.

The equipment, delivered to the University's Calabar Campus, comprises one laser cutting machine designed for metal materials and another for non-metal materials, providing both departments with access to modern production technology.

The procurement followed Professor Bassey's visit to Cyprus, where she observed the application of similar technologies and identified their potential to improve practical training, enhance creativity and expand production capabilities within the University.

The acquisition is expected to improve students' exposure to modern industrial processes by providing opportunities for hands-on training and the practical application of knowledge acquired in the classroom.

For students of Wood Products Engineering and Visual Arts, the machines will create opportunities to explore advanced production techniques, develop innovative designs and undertake practical projects that meet contemporary industry standards.

The equipment will also support academic staff in research, practical



demonstrations and production activities, while encouraging collaboration between the two departments in applying technology to design and manufacturing.

By introducing the technology into the University's learning environment, UNICROSS is seeking to bridge the gap between theoretical instruction and practical experience, ensuring that students graduate with relevant technical competencies and creative skills.

The machines are expected to be installed in their respective departments shortly, after which they will be available for academic, research and production purposes.

The development reflects Professor Bassey's emphasis on providing modern teaching and learning facilities that improve educational standards and expose students to emerging technologies.

It also represents an investment in preparing UNICROSS graduates for opportunities in the evolving industrial, manufacturing and creative sectors, where technological proficiency, innovation and practical skills are increasingly important.

With the acquisition, the University continues to expand its capacity to deliver technology-driven education and equip students with practical competencies that can translate into employment, entrepreneurship and meaningful contributions to society.



C'River Government Assures Calabar Fire Victims of Support, Assesses Losses

By David Asu



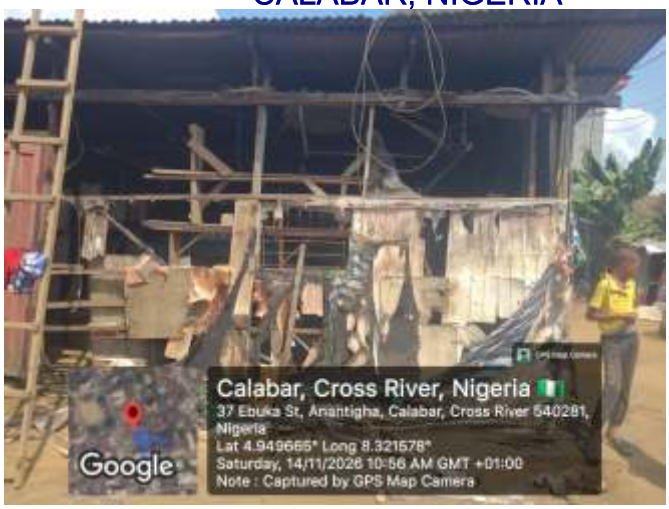
The Cross River State Government has assured victims of a fire outbreak that destroyed three shops and a two-bedroom apartment at 37 Ebuka Street, White House, Calabar South Local Government Area, of its readiness to assess their losses and provide appropriate intervention.

The fire, which occurred in the early hours of Saturday, November 14, 2026, reportedly started following a suspected electrical fault, leaving the affected occupants with varying degrees of losses. No life was lost in the incident.

The Director-General of the Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (CR-SEMA), Mr Efa Nyong, gave the assurance during an assessment visit to the scene, where he sympathised with the victims over the destruction of their properties and sources of livelihood.

Nyong said the agency would undertake a comprehensive









assessment to determine the extent of damage and the level of assistance required, assuring the affected persons that their situation would be brought to the attention of the state government for necessary consideration.

One of the affected property owners, Mrs Arit Effiong Effiom, who said an electrical spark triggered the fire, described the incident as devastating, explaining that the rental income from the property constituted an important part of her livelihood.

Although the section of the building she occupied was not directly affected by the flames, Effiom said she lost personal belongings accumulated over several decades. The elderly landlady appealed to the government and well-meaning individuals to come to her assistance.

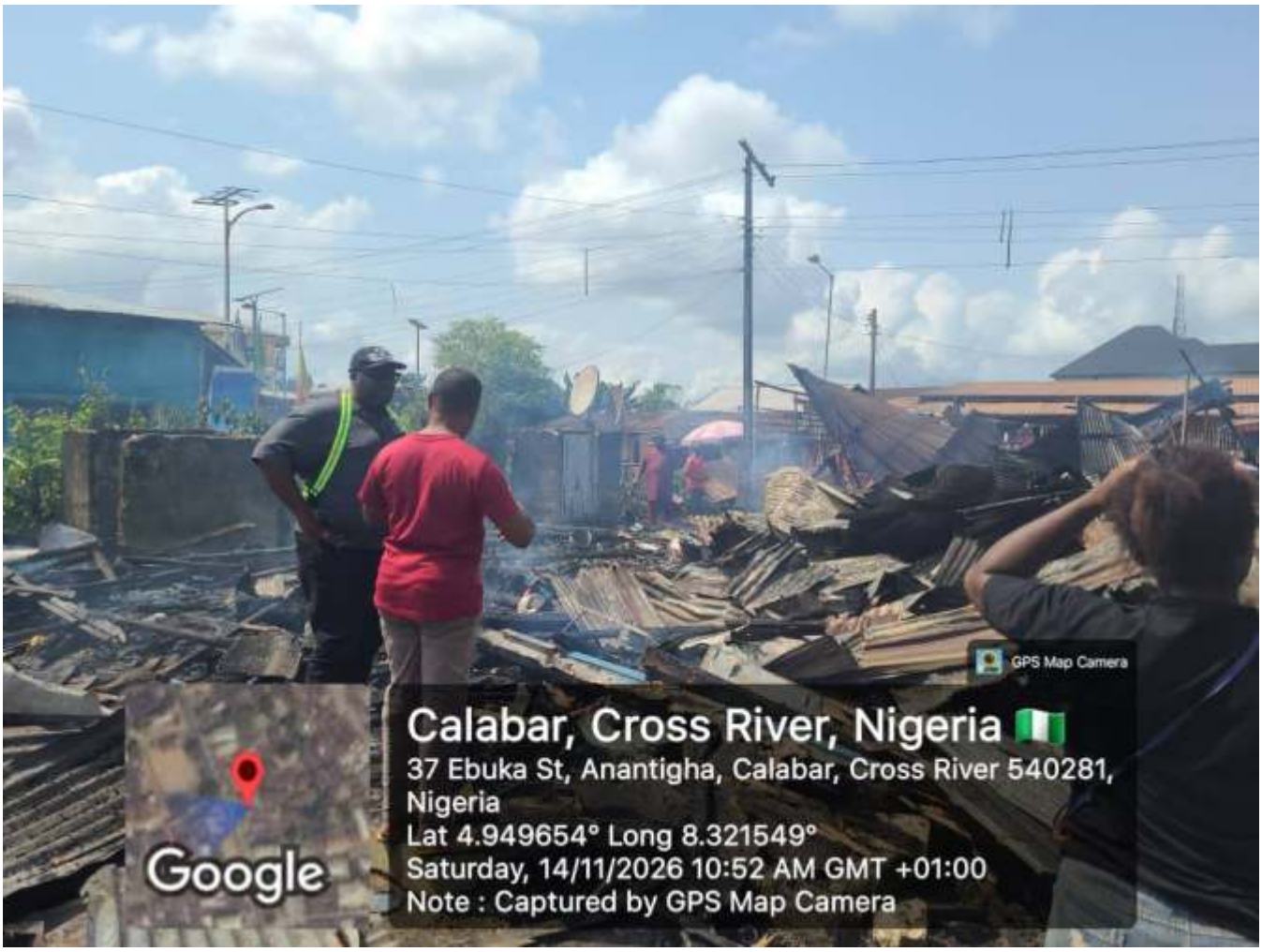
Also affected was a bar operator, Mr Aniedi Anderson, who said the fire destroyed his business equipment and stock, including chillers, refrigerators, generators, chairs and other goods.

Anderson lamented that the loss had effectively wiped out his investment, leaving him with the challenge of rebuilding his business from scratch. He appealed for support to enable him recover from the setback.

Other occupants and shop owners also recounted their losses, which included clothing, household items and personal effects destroyed by the fire.

The incident has left the affected residents and business operators facing the difficult task of recovering from the disaster, with the agency's assessment expected to provide a clearer picture of the losses and guide any subsequent government intervention.


GPS Map Camera
Google
Calabar, Cross River, Nigeria
37 Ebuka St, Anantigha, Calabar, Cross River 540281, Nigeria
Lat 4.949706° Long 8.321515°
Saturday, 14/11/2026 10:50 AM GMT +01:00
Note : Captured by GPS Map Camera


GPS Map Camera
Google
Calabar, Cross River, Nigeria
37 Ebuka St, Anantigha, Calabar, Cross River 540281, Nigeria
Lat 4.949654° Long 8.321549°
Saturday, 14/11/2026 10:52 AM GMT +01:00
Note : Captured by GPS Map Camera

Undiandeye Advocates One Health Collaboration to Strengthen Public Health

By Arit Ubi



The Director of Veterinary Services, Cross River State, Dr. Jude Undiandeye, has stressed the need for stronger collaboration between veterinary and human healthcare professionals, describing the protection of animal health as critical to safeguarding human lives and preventing public health threats.

Dr. Undiandeye stated this while receiving a delegation of the National Association of Perioperative Nurses of Nigeria (NAPON), which paid him a courtesy visit to seek support for members' participation in professional

conferences and specialised training programmes.

He explained that the interdependence of human, animal and environmental health informed the adoption of the One Health approach, which promotes collaboration among professionals across the three sectors to effectively address emerging disease threats.

Citing HIV and Ebola as examples of diseases associated with cross-species transmission, the Director emphasised the importance of disease surveillance, prevention and coordinated responses in containing infections that could develop into serious public health concerns.

He noted that veterinary practice extended beyond the treatment of animals, as the health of animal populations had direct implications for human wellbeing, making professional cooperation essential to protecting communities.

Dr. Undiandeye, who is also the State Project Coordinator of the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support (L-PRES) Project, reaffirmed his willingness to support initiatives that promote professional development, particularly knowledge-based engagements that equip practitioners with relevant skills and expertise.

He acknowledged the financial demands associated with professional conferences and specialised training, assuring the visiting delegation of his readiness to assist within his capacity.

The Director reiterated that professional collaboration and continuous knowledge sharing remained important to strengthening healthcare delivery, addressing emerging health challenges and improving public wellbeing.

Earlier, the NAPON delegation had appealed for his support to facilitate members' participation in upcoming scientific engagements scheduled for Abuja in April and Lagos in July.

The association explained that the programmes would focus on emerging developments in robotic surgery and minimal access surgical procedures, providing opportunities for practitioners to acquire updated knowledge and practical skills.

It noted that members who participated in the engagements would share the knowledge gained with other practitioners in Cross River State, thereby extending the benefits of the training beyond individual participants.

The delegation also acknowledged Dr. Undiandeye's previous support for its professional activities, describing him as a dependable ally who recognises the importance of an effective healthcare system.

Arikpo Pledges Support for Ikom Carnival, Commends Organisers

By Gift Otudor



The Cross River State Commissioner for Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, Hon. Dodeye Ikpi Arikpo, has pledged his support for the successful hosting of the forthcoming Ikom Carnival, describing it as an important platform for promoting cultural identity, unity and community development.

Arikpo gave the assurance when members of the Ikom Carnival Committee, led by its Chairman, Mr Gommexx Bassey, paid him a courtesy visit to seek his acceptance to serve as patron of the carnival.

The Commissioner expressed delight at the visit and commended the committee for its commitment to sustaining and improving the carnival since its inception, noting the growing enthusiasm and participation of the people of Ikom.

“I am delighted by this visit and commend the committee for the good work it has continued to do over the years. The steady improvement of the Ikom Carnival and the enthusiasm shown by the people demonstrate their commitment to an event that promotes our culture and brings our people together,” Arikpo said.



He also applauded the wife of the Governor, Her Excellency, Bishop Dr Eyoanwan Otu, for the initiative, describing the Ikom Carnival as a welcome development capable of strengthening cultural bonds and projecting the rich heritage of the area.

Arikpo assured the committee of his support, expressing optimism that the forthcoming edition would record greater participation and achieve its objectives.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Ikom Carnival Committee, Mr Gommexx Bassey, thanked the Governor's wife for the initiative that gave rise to the carnival, describing it as a rewarding platform for cultural promotion and economic development.

Bassey said the central carnival had contributed to Cross River State's economic growth through increased cultural visibility, tourism promotion and the showcasing of the state's rich cultural heritage.

He further briefed the Commissioner on the programme of activities for the forthcoming celebration, which is themed "Rethinking Our Collective Destiny."

According to him, the 31-day celebration will run from December 1 to 31, featuring various events and side attractions designed to bring together residents, visitors and cultural enthusiasts.

He said the carnival was conceived to promote unity, celebrate the cultural identity of the people and inspire renewed commitment to the collective aspirations and development of Ikom.


Ikom
CARNIVAL

MOI NEWSROOM
CALABAR, NIGERIA

Ekpang Sets Agenda for Transparent, Investor-Friendly Land Administration in C'River

By Afiong Ndem



The Cross River State Commissioner for Lands, Dr. Erasmus Ekpang, has outlined plans to strengthen transparency, improve institutional coordination and streamline land administration processes to boost investor confidence, protect legitimate interests and support the state's development agenda.

Ekpang disclosed this while reflecting on his first two months in office as Commissioner for Lands and Head of the Lands Cluster, following his appearance before the Cross River State House of Assembly to defend the Ministry's 2027 budget estimates.

The Commissioner identified institutional unity, stakeholder collaboration, transparent procedures and proper documentation as major priorities, stressing that effective land administration requires all agencies and stakeholders to work towards common objectives rather than operate independently.

"For me, unity is the first priority," Ekpang stated, emphasising the need for stronger collaboration, openness and shared responsibility among the



various agencies and stakeholders within the Lands Cluster.

He explained that the Ministry had commenced efforts to strengthen engagements among the different components of the sector to identify challenges, clarify institutional responsibilities and develop collective solutions to issues affecting land administration.

On transparency and investor confidence, Ekpang stressed the need for clearly defined procedures for land transactions, clearances, documentation and other official processes, noting that members of the public and investors should understand the requirements and timelines involved in accessing land-related services.

He maintained that Cross River State, which is attracting investment interests, could not afford ambiguity in its land administration processes, adding that proper documentation and transparent transactions were essential to building confidence in the system.

The Commissioner also highlighted the need for careful handling of land-related claims, particularly compensation matters and areas affected by existing court pronouncements. He said such cases, some involving extensive portions of dry and swampy land, required thorough examination of relevant records, documents and judicial decisions before government could determine appropriate actions.



Ekpang assured that the Ministry would handle such matters in accordance with the law, ensuring proper documentation and fairness to all parties while protecting the legitimate interests of government, communities and other affected persons.

He further expressed his determination to strengthen the Lands Cluster as a coordinated platform for addressing sectoral challenges, calling for greater professionalism, cooperation and information sharing among the agencies.

Speaking on the 2027 budget, the Commissioner described it as an opportunity to direct resources towards strategic priorities, including improved land administration, stronger records management, better documentation and more efficient service delivery.

He also assured communities, investors and other stakeholders of the Ministry's readiness to sustain engagements aimed at addressing land-related concerns and promoting responsible land use.

"There is a lot of work to be done, but I believe that with unity, collaboration and the right approach, we can move the land sector forward and contribute meaningfully to the development agenda of His Excellency, the Governor, and the people of Cross River State," he said.

The Commissioner said his vision was to build a united, transparent and responsive Lands Cluster that would provide greater certainty for investors while safeguarding the legitimate land rights and interests of citizens and communities.







C'River SUBEB, UBEC Train Teachers in ICT Skills

By Offiong Itang



The Cross River State Universal Basic Education Board (CR-SUBEB), in collaboration with the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), has organised a two-day Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capacity-building workshop for teachers across the state's three senatorial districts.

The workshop is aimed at equipping teachers in public basic schools with relevant digital skills to improve instructional delivery and promote the effective integration of technology into classroom activities.

Speaking at the training, the Chairman of CR-SUBEB, Fidelia Okpo Ene (Esq.), expressed appreciation to Governor Bassey Edet Otu for his commitment to the timely payment of intervention funds. She noted that the support had continued to facilitate the Board's programmes and interventions aimed at improving basic education in the state.

Ene observed that the increasing digital exposure of pupils made it necessary for teachers to acquire relevant ICT skills to remain effective in the changing educational environment.

She noted that, with computers now available in most schools across the state, teachers must develop the capacity to use the facilities effectively to enhance teaching and



learning.

The SUBEB Chairman urged participants to take the training seriously and apply the knowledge and practical skills acquired to improve their teaching methods and classroom delivery.

Earlier, the Head of ICT at CR-SUBEB, Adama Joseph Akah, explained that the workshop was designed to strengthen teachers' digital competence and prepare them for the demands of an increasingly technology-driven educational system.

He said the training would also promote the effective use of ICT tools in classroom activities, improve instructional delivery and create better learning experiences for pupils in public basic schools.

Also speaking, the Board's IT Manager, Liyel Austine Eyo, encouraged participants to approach the exercise with commitment and enthusiasm, describing it as an opportunity to acquire practical digital skills that would enhance their professional competence.

Eyo urged the teachers to pay attention to the facilitators, ask questions where necessary and ensure that the knowledge gained translated into the effective use of ICT facilities in their respective schools.

The two-day workshop reflects the ongoing efforts of CR-SUBEB and UBEC to strengthen teachers' capacity and improve the quality of basic education through the application of technology.









Odey Celebrates Former Governor Ebri's Mother at 90

By Ukongikwen Adie



The Deputy Governor of Cross River State, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, has celebrated the 90th birthday of Lady Bernadette E. Ebri, mother of former Governor of the state, Chief Clement Ebri, describing her as an exemplary woman whose life reflects selfless service, compassion and commitment to humanity.

Odey joined the former governor, family members and well-wishers at the State Housing Estate, Calabar, on Wednesday, November 11, to celebrate the milestone birthday of the nonagenarian, fondly known as Mama Mkpani.

In his goodwill message, the Deputy Governor described Lady Ebri's nine decades of life as an embodiment of "strength of character, compassion, sacrifice and the quiet dignity that define true womanhood."

Born on November 11, 1936, Lady Ebri had a distinguished career in education, dedicating several years to teaching and nurturing young minds. She rose to the position of Headmistress in Akwa Ibom State before retiring in 1989 as an Assistant Superintendent of Schools.





Odey acknowledged that her contributions to society extended beyond the classroom, particularly through her advocacy for women's advancement, promotion of family values and commitment to community development.

He highlighted her service as Acting State President of the National Council of Women's Societies, noting that her leadership promoted women's participation, encouraged a love for learning and demonstrated the importance of compassion and selfless service in community development.

The Deputy Governor described her traditional title, Mma Oneng Okole, meaning Woman of Goodness, as a fitting recognition of a life characterised by "generosity, wise counsel and motherly warmth."

He further acknowledged her dedication to motherhood and the values of faith, discipline and service she instilled in her children, noting that her legacy extended beyond her personal accomplishments to the positive values reflected in her family.

Describing the celebrant as an "exemplary mother, champion of women, community builder and woman of faith," Odey commended her devotion to God and the enduring principles that have guided her relationships, service and personal conduct.

He prayed that her remaining years would be filled with "divine favour, sound health, honour" and the fulfilment of seeing the seeds of goodness she had sown continue to flourish.

The Deputy Governor wished Lady Bernadette Ebri a happy 90th birthday, celebrating her enduring contributions to education, family life and community development.



C'River Science, Lands Ministries Assess Digital Infrastructure for Improved Service Delivery

By Afiong Ndem



The Cross River State Government has intensified efforts to strengthen technology-driven governance, as the Commissioner for Science and Technology, Mr. Justin Beshel, has led a team of ICT consultants to inspect digital assets and technological infrastructure deployed at the Ministry of Lands.

The inspection, conducted alongside representatives of NUGI TECH, consultants to the state government, was aimed at assessing the functionality, utilisation and effectiveness of ICT installations and other digital solutions supporting operations at the Ministry.



The visit was also in line with the mandate of the Ministry of Science and Technology to coordinate information and communication technology (ICT) matters across government institutions and ensure effective deployment of technology in public service delivery.

Receiving the delegation, the Commissioner for Lands, Dr. Erasmus Ekpang, reaffirmed his Ministry's commitment to embracing digital solutions to improve administrative efficiency, transparency and responsiveness in land administration.

Ekpang noted that technology remained essential to modernising government operations and strengthening institutional processes in line with the People First agenda of Governor Bassey Otu.

The inspection provided an opportunity for the team to examine existing ICT facilities, evaluate their application in the Ministry's operations and identify areas requiring attention to optimise their performance.


ERASMUS EKPAIG
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
CROSS RIVER STATE


CARNIVAL CALABAR 2026
2ND
DRY
RUN
SUNDAY
22ND
NOV.
FLAG OFF
1:30PM
MILLENNIUM PARK
THEME:
RETHINKING OUR COLLECTIVE DESTINY

Audit Service Commission Seeks Control of LG Internal Auditors for Effective Accountability

By Nakanda Iyadim



The Chairman of the Cross River State Audit Service Commission, Mr Christopher Etim Nyong, has called for a common understanding of the respective responsibilities of the Audit Service Commission and the Local Government Service Commission, as part of efforts to promote transparency, accountability and efficiency in local government administration.

Mr Nyong made the call during a courtesy visit to the Chairman of the Local Government Service Commission, Barr. Eyo Nsa Ekpo, stressing that closer institutional collaboration is essential to advancing good governance and effective public service delivery.

He specifically proposed that internal auditors in the local government system be brought under the administrative authority and professional supervision of the Audit Service Commission and the Office of the Auditor-General for Local Governments, in line with the relevant legal and institutional framework.



According to him, the arrangement would enhance the independence of the audit function, raise professional standards and strengthen accountability in local government administration.

He added that it would also create better opportunities for career growth, professional development and advancement for internal auditors within the system.

Responding, Chairman, Local Government Service Commission, Barr. Eyo Nsa Ekpo called for the active participation of all relevant stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of initiatives aimed at strengthening the local government system.

He underscored the importance of a strong working relationship between both institutions, particularly on matters affecting the welfare, administration and professional development of civil servants. Collective effort and stakeholder engagement, he noted, remain essential to achieving sustainable institutional reforms.

Mr Ekpo further disclosed that since assuming office in March 2026, his administration has introduced significant measures aimed at improving the efficiency and welfare of local government workers across the State.

The meeting afforded both institutions the opportunity to identify areas of mutual interest, strengthen existing relationships and explore practical approaches to improving institutional performance.

Also present at the visit were the Deputy Chairman of the Local Government Service Commission, Sir Charles Arako; Commissioners of the Audit Service Commission, Mr Emmanuel B. Effiom, Mr Emmanuel A. Iyango, Mr Bartholomew Amake, Mr Bassey Ekanem and Elder Ikoi Ikona; the State Auditor-General, Mr Effiong Ita; the Secretary of the Commission, Mr Essien Nyong; and other dignitaries.

HoS, Audit Institutions Join Forces to Clean Up Payroll, Pension Systems

..as 600 Pensioners found Sharing Bank Account

Ann Duke



The Cross River State Audit Service Commission and the heads of the State's audit institutions have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening accountability, transparency and administrative efficiency in the public service.

The commitment followed a courtesy visit to the Head of Service, Mr Orok Okon, by the Chairman of the Audit Service Commission, Dr Christopher Etim Nyong, who was



accompanied by the Auditors-General for the State and Local Governments, Commissioners and the Secretary of the Commission.

Dr Nyong said the visit was aimed at fostering stronger institutional collaboration to address irregularities in payroll and pension administration, close systemic loopholes and strengthen financial management across the civil and public service. He added that it was also meant to reaffirm the partnership and synergy among statutory bodies entrusted with critical governance responsibilities.

He noted that while audit institutions promote public accountability and financial oversight, the Office of the Head of Service drives administrative productivity and workforce management, making sustained collaboration essential for an efficient and result-oriented service.

Responding, Mr Okon described the engagement as timely and commended the delegation for its commitment to checking financial

misconduct.

He disclosed that the recently concluded digital payroll and pension verification exercise uncovered significant discrepancies, including more than 600 pensioners who used the same bank accounts to receive multiple payments from both the State and Local Government payrolls.

He also revealed cases in which pension payments were processed but did not reach the rightful beneficiaries owing to lapses at the Local Government level, as well as civil servants earning far above their approved grade levels.

Mr Okon confirmed, however, that more than 53,000 civil servants and pensioners have been successfully captured on the new digital platform. He added that the full report would be made available to the Audit Service Commission and the Offices of the Auditors-General for further action once data cleaning is completed.

In his remarks, the Auditor-General for the State, Mr Effiong Ita, commended the Head of Service for what he called remarkable reforms in the public service. He warned that civil servants who exploit systemic loopholes would face sanctions in accordance with the law.

Similarly, the Auditor-General for Local Governments, Mr Bassey Eko, assured of his office's commitment to supporting the administration of Governor Bassey Edet Otu, stressing that the audit institutions would not disappoint in the discharge of their mandates.

Mr Eko also disclosed that a similar verification exercise across the Local Government system uncovered more than 600 officers receiving salaries above their grade levels. He said immediate reviews and downward adjustments have taken effect from October 2026.

Both Auditors-General reaffirmed their resolve to work with the Head of Service to entrench financial controls, transparent payroll processes and proper pension administration across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the Local Government system.

The meeting, which was also attended by senior directors from the Office of the Head of Service, underscored the shared commitment to eliminating financial leakages, protecting public resources and promoting an efficient and transparent public service.

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REMINDER: REMITTANCE OF FEES FOR GIANT STRIDES AND BIRTHDAY BULLETIN EDITIONS

Sequel to our earlier correspondence on the above subject, and as directed by the Honourable Commissioner, Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham, all officers who stood as surety for the placement of goodwill messages in the October 2026 edition of Giant Strides Magazine and the Special Birthday Anniversary Edition of the Daily Bulletin are hereby reminded to ensure prompt remittance of fees.

The approved rates, after deduction of commission, are as follows:

1. Giant Strides Magazine: N90,000.00
2. Special Birthday Bulletin: N63,000.00
3. Online Promotional Messages: N27,000.00

All concerned officers are required to liaise with their respective Chief Executive Officers and ensure that payments are made without further delay.

All payments should be made into the Ministry's account as detailed below:

Bank: Keystone Bank
Account No: **1006798265**
Account Name: Ministry of Information and Orientation

Please note that failure to remit the funds promptly will result in deduction of the outstanding amount from your salary at source.

For the avoidance of doubt, the list of affected MDAs/Groups and outstanding amounts is as follows:

- Ministry of Water Resources - N153,000
- MIDC - N90,000
- Ministry of Social Welfare and Community Development - N90,000
- Bekwarra LGA - N63,000
- Calabar South LGA - N63,000
- Nigeria Immigration Service - N90,000
- Office of the Speaker - N90,000
- Ministry of Health - N90,000
- Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment - N63,000
- Office of the Chief of Staff - N63,000
- Cross River State Health Insurance Agency (Online) - N27,000

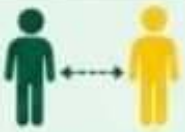
Treat as very urgent and important.

Signed:
Nakanda Iyadim
Production Manager & Secretary, Audit Committee
For: Honourable Commissioner

IPC measures for Ebola and Marburg disease

Key recommendations

NCDC
NIGERIA CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

	Best practice
 **IPC ring approach**	Use the IPC ring approach in health-care facilities and communities when a case is identified.
 **Hand hygiene**	Use alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and running water (if currently using chlorine, then implement a strategy to change to ABHR).
 **Screening**	Everyone should be screened using a no-touch technique at the first point of contact.
 **Patient placement**	Patients should be isolated in a single room and their well-being and visitors made a priority as safely as possible.
 **Personal protective equipment**	PPE should be selected based on risk of activity being performed.
 **Spraying health and care workers**	**Do not** spray health and care workers during PPE removal.
 **Health and care worker exposures**	Exposed health and care workers should be assessed and managed according to risk of exposure.
 **Waste management**	All waste generated should be treated as infectious waste, including heavily soiled linen.
 **Environmental cleaning and disinfection**	Clean and disinfect surfaces/environment by wiping in patient care areas.
 **Safe management of dead bodies**	**Do not** disinfect dead bodies.

Adapted from: World Health Organization. *IPC measures for Ebola and Marburg disease: past and present.*

Take note



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