Daily InfoNews Bulletin

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

WEDNESDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER, 2026







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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Cobham Represents Governor Otu at World Public Relations Forum in Abuja

By Nakanda Iyadim



The Cross River State Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham, is representing Governor Bassey Otu at the 13th World Public Relations Forum (WPRF) holding in Abuja.

The global gathering, organised by the Global Alliance for Public Relations and Communication Management and hosted by the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), is holding from November 15 to 21, 2026, with the theme: “Responsible Communication:

The Voice of the World.”The Forum, with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as Chief Host, has drawn



delegates from over 126 countries, including communication professionals, policymakers, Government officials, academics and business leaders.

Pastor Cobham's participation underscores Cross River State's commitment to strategic, responsible communication and to projecting the State's image and developmental strides on the global stage.

Also participating is a strong delegation from the Cross River State Chapter of the NIPR, led by the State Chairman, Pastor Austin Mboso, with Mrs. Deborah-Grace Eme Awatt as Chairman of the Local Organising Committee to the Forum.

The Forum is expected to address critical issues of trust, ethical leadership, misinformation, and the impact of digital platforms and artificial intelligence on communication.


GLOBAL ALLIANCE
WORLD PUBLIC RELATIONS FORUM
WPRF Abuja, Nigeria 2026
WPRF ABUJA, NIGERIA 2026


WPRF ABUJA, NIGERIA 2026


WPRF ABUJA, NIGE
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...Healthy Workforce, Productive Service



End of Year MONTHLY AEROBICS & MEDICAL CHECKS

...Walk for Health, Live for Longer



All Cross River State Government Staff are invited to the **End of Year** edition of our **Monthly Aerobics and Medical Checks.**

- **Stay Fit & Healthy**
- **Get Free Health Checks**
- **Enjoy City Walk**
- **Build a Healthier Workforce**

Date: Friday, 27 November 2026

Venue: U J Esuene Stadium, Calabar

Time: 7:00am Prompt



Let's round off the year with good health, positive energy and a fitter you!

Courtesy:
OROK BASSEY OKON
Head of Service
Cross River State

MOI NEWSROOM
CALABAR, NIGERIA

Gov Otu Courts Igbo Community, Seeks Support to Consolidate C'River's Recovery

By Nakanda Iyadim



Cross River State Governor, Senator (Prince) Bassey Edet Otu, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to inclusive governance, security, economic integration and the protection of all residents, irrespective of ethnic background, urging the Igbo community to deepen its participation in the political and developmental affairs of their place of residence.

The governor made the appeal during an engagement with the leadership of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Cross River State chapter, at the Executive Chambers, Governor's Office, Calabar, where he commended the organisation for promoting unity, peaceful coexistence and constructive engagement among the Igbo community and other ethnic groups in the state.



Describing unity as an indispensable ingredient of development, Otu applauded the chapter's leadership for its patience, sacrifice and determination in bringing the Igbo people together. "Whenever you have one people and unity, there is progress. It takes a lot of patience, sacrifice and time to bring people together. You must also be humble because arrogance can never be part of the process if you want to succeed," he said.

The governor assured the delegation that his administration does not discriminate against residents on the basis of ethnicity, stressing that anyone who has chosen Cross River as a place of residence, business and family life deserves equal recognition, protection and opportunity. "Where you are actually living and staying is where you come from. We cannot afford to discriminate because we do not know what tomorrow holds. You are residents here, your children are growing here, and your interests are here. We are building a family together," he declared.

He acknowledged the significant contributions of non-indigenes, particularly the Igbo business community, to the state's commercial activities and economic development, adding that his administration was strengthening institutions and building sustainable systems to accommodate the interests of all residents.

On security, Otu said his administration had accorded the issue the highest priority since assuming office, recalling that insecurity had previously disrupted commercial activities, endangered residents



and forced some students and business operators to seek accommodation outside the state. He maintained that sustained interventions had repositioned Cross River as one of the safest states in the country.

The governor also disclosed that his administration was intensifying efforts to resolve lingering communal disagreements, particularly the Ochon-Abeugung conflict, expressing optimism that the disputes would soon be resolved. He said individuals allegedly fuelling the crisis had been identified and appropriate steps were being taken to ensure accountability, while appealing to affected communities to embrace peace.

Highlighting ongoing infrastructural and economic interventions, Otu described Ikom as an emerging commercial hub with considerable economic prospects. He disclosed that government was pursuing strategic road and infrastructure projects, alongside an independent power project through a public-private partnership initiative linked to the Agbokim Waterfalls, which is expected to provide reliable electricity and stimulate commercial activities in the area.

Reflecting on his administration's performance, the governor said the government had moved beyond the initial phase of recovery and restoration and was positioning the state for wealth creation and sustainable prosperity. He explained that the People First mantra was conceived to reverse years of economic setbacks, recover



abandoned and underutilised public assets, restore institutional confidence and rebuild the foundations of development.

“Our main theme was to ensure restoration and recovery. We lost a lot, and we needed to recapture the essence of our state and get back what belongs to us. We have recovered almost all our core assets that were frittered away, and we are working towards putting the state on a much stronger financial footing,” he said, adding that the next phase would concentrate on wealth creation, expanded economic opportunities and consolidation of the gains already recorded.

Earlier, President of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Cross River State chapter, Rt. Hon. Ambrose Egwuonwu, expressed profound appreciation to Governor Otu for his administration's support and recognition of the Igbo community, describing him as a leader whose commitment to peaceful coexistence transcended ethnic and political considerations.

Egwuonwu recalled the governor's personal gestures of goodwill and support during his inauguration as president of the organisation, noting that such actions had reinforced the community's confidence in the administration. He particularly commended Otu's support for the Igbo community and his willingness to accommodate its leadership within the governance structure of the state.

He also applauded the



administration's achievements in security, infrastructure and youth empowerment, observing that improved security had created a more conducive environment for residents and business operators. Drawing from personal experience, he disclosed that members of his family and business establishment had previously suffered kidnapping incidents, making the government's security interventions particularly significant to him.

Also speaking, Prince Agwu Nwadike, who represented the Igbo traditional leadership, conveyed the goodwill of the traditional ruler, who was unable to attend the engagement because of ill health, and commended Governor Otu for extending his administration's support beyond the Igbo community to the entire population of Cross River State.

Nwadike noted that peace and infrastructure development were indispensable to economic prosperity, expressing appreciation for the governor's efforts in creating an enabling environment for residents and businesses. He described the relationship between the governor and the Igbo community as mutually beneficial and reflective of a shared commitment to the state's progress.

He further assured Governor Otu of the community's continued interest in Cross River's development, expressing optimism about the state's future and the Igbo community's readiness to remain part of the administration's journey towards greater prosperity.





C'River Govt Moves to Resolve Army Land Challenges in Cross River

By Afiong Ndem



The Cross River State Government has initiated steps to address land-related challenges affecting the Nigerian Army in the state, with emphasis on proper land documentation, physical demarcation and the prevention of encroachment on government-allocated properties.

The Commissioner for Lands, Hon. Dr. Erasmus Ekpang, gave the indication during a familiarisation visit to the Commanding Officer of the 146 Battalion, Eburutu Barracks, Major H.Y. Mailabari, where he discussed the Battalion's land requirements and areas requiring government intervention.

Dr. Ekpang said the engagement was part of efforts to strengthen cooperation between the Ministry of Lands and the Nigerian Army while ensuring that land administration processes adequately address the needs of public institutions.


Cross River State



He identified the Battalion's existing and proposed shooting ranges as some of the key issues requiring attention, assuring that the Ministry would work towards identifying suitable parcels of land and resolving outstanding concerns.

The Commissioner disclosed that the Ministry was reviewing available land and survey records to determine appropriate locations for the Battalion's requirements, taking into consideration existing developments and possible encroachments.

He stressed the need for prompt physical identification and demarcation of land allocated by government, explaining that beneficiaries should have clear knowledge of their allocated properties without unnecessary delays.

According to him, proper surveying, documentation and coordination among relevant departments remain essential to preventing land disputes, protecting public assets and ensuring that government allocations serve their intended purposes.

Dr. Ekpang assured the military authorities of the Ministry's readiness to collaborate with the Battalion and other relevant stakeholders towards resolving outstanding land issues, noting that effective land administration requires transparency, cooperation and mutual understanding.



The Commissioner reiterated the Ministry's commitment to delivering practical solutions to land administration challenges in line with the People First agenda of Governor Bassey Edet Otu's administration.

In his response, Major Mailabari commended the Commissioner for the visit and his practical approach to addressing the Battalion's land concerns, particularly issues bordering on disputed areas and the prevention of encroachment.

He expressed optimism that the engagement would strengthen the relationship between the Nigerian Army and the Ministry of Lands, particularly in resolving land-related matters affecting military operations.


Cross River State

MOI NEWSROOM
CALABAR, NIGERIA

APC calls for unity ahead of polls

Daniel nsa



Political dynamics. In every political party, interest and ambition always count but the party choice remains the ultimate.

When a candidate is chosen by the party leader of the state as a consensus candidate of the party, that remains the direction and focus of all political party faithfuls and critical stakeholders working together to



deliver the candidate irrespective of personal interest nor ambition.

This was said at the calabar south legislative cup hosted at Atu field between ward 10 and ward 5 by senior part chieftains from the area.

The party remains the ultimate, and all interests must Unite for a common purpose, working in synergy and Obeying the leader of the party who is the executive leader of the state party and number one citizen of the state.

All aggrieved party faithfuls and aspirants who felt their interest were not captured as a result of the struggle (party primaries) should be at ease and Unite.

Your capacity to deliver your polling unit during elections can give you the voice you ever desire.All candidates in the party should be respected.

Leadership flows from top to bottom and the winning should also flow from top to bottom.

As we draw closer to electioneering Period, all interests should Unite, for a common course. No vacancy, No division but one energy, one APC.

ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS

2027 CROSS RIVER STATE APC CAMPAIGN COUNCIL

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Murtala Muhammed Highway, Calabar, Cross River State

CAMPAIGN ITINERARY

S/N	LGA	TIME	DATE	ZONE
1	Ogoja (Flag-Off)	12.00 noon	Thursday 26 Nov. 2026	Northern Senatorial District
2	Obanliku	10.00am	Friday 27 Nov. 2026	Northern Senatorial District
3	Obudu	3.00pm	Friday 27 Nov. 2026	Northern Senatorial District
4	Bekwarra	10.00am	Saturday 28 Nov. 2026	Northern Senatorial District
5	Yala	3.00pm	Saturday 28 Nov. 2026	Northern Senatorial District
6	Boki	10.00am	Monday 7 Dec. 2026	Central Senatorial District
7	Etung	9.00am	Tuesday 8 Dec. 2026	Central Senatorial District
8	Ikom	3.00pm	Tuesday 8 Dec. 2026	Central Senatorial District
9	Obubra	12.00pm	Wednesday 9 Dec. 2026	Central Senatorial District
10	Yakurr	10.00am	Thursday 10 Dec. 2026	Central Senatorial District
11	Abi	3.00pm	Thursday 10 Dec 2026	Central Senatorial District
12	Biase	10.00am	Friday 11 Dec. 2026	Southern Senatorial District
13	Akamkpa	10.00am	Saturday 12 Dec. 2026	Southern Senatorial District
14	Odukpani	12.00 noon	Monday 14 Dec. 2026	Governor's Country Home
15	Bakassi	10.00am	Tuesday 15 Dec. 2026	Southern Senatorial District
16	Akpabuyo	3.00pm	Tuesday 15 Dec. 2026	Southern Senatorial District
17	Calabar South	12.00 noon	Wednesday 16 Dec. 2026	Southern Senatorial District
18	Calabar Municipality	12.00 noon	Thursday 17 Dec. 2026	GRAND FINALE

SEN. PROFESSOR STEPHEN ADI ODEY

Director General, Cross River State APC Campaign Council

C'River First Lady Receives Zik Award for Excellence in Women's Leadership

By Uchino Amatey



The First Lady of Cross River State, Her Excellency, Bishop (Dr.) Eyoanwan Bassey Otu, has received the Zik Award for Excellence in Women's Leadership, Humanitarian Service and Social Transformation.

The award was presented at the 7th Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe Annual Award Lecture, held on Monday at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja.

The honour, which recognises Bishop Otu's contributions to nation-building and national unity, was received on her behalf by the Special Adviser on Liaison Office, Mrs. Sarah Archibong and the Special Adviser on Gender Mainstreaming, Dr. Inyang Asibong and.

Delivering his remarks as Chairman of the occasion, former Vice President, His Excellency, Arc. Mohammed Namadi Sambo, called on Nigerians to rise above ethnic and linguistic differences and embrace shared national aspirations.



He said the greatest tribute to the late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe would be to uphold the values of national unity, inclusion and patriotism for which he stood, stressing that every citizen must have a sense of belonging and feel that their rights and voices are protected.

Sambo also urged political leaders to prioritise national interest over personal ambition and embrace issue-based politics, noting that peace remains essential to national development and a collective responsibility of all Nigerians.

Other notable recipients of awards at the event included the Emir of Kano, His Highness, Khalifa Dr. Muhammadu Sanusi II; former First Lady of Ogun State, Her Excellency, Mrs. Olufunso Amosun; His Royal Highness, Oba Oladipo Olaitan; and the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Nonye Ayeni, among others.

The event was attended by political leaders, traditional rulers and other dignitaries, including the Senator representing Borno South Senatorial District, Senator Ali Ndume, and former Governor of Ogun State, Senator Ibikunle Amosun.


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C'River Govt Partners Engineers to Strengthen Technical Education

By Patricia Ogbeche





The Cross River State Government has expressed readiness to partner with the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Calabar Branch, to strengthen technical and vocational education, promote practical skills acquisition and expand opportunities for young people across the state.

The Commissioner for Education, Senator Professor Stephen Odey, Esq., gave the assurance on Monday when he received a delegation of the professional body, led by its Chairman, Engr. Prof. Godwin Akaka, on a courtesy visit.

Senator Odey described the Society's proposed interventions in schools as a valuable contribution to educational development, particularly in preparing students for technical careers and equipping them with practical skills for self-



reliance.

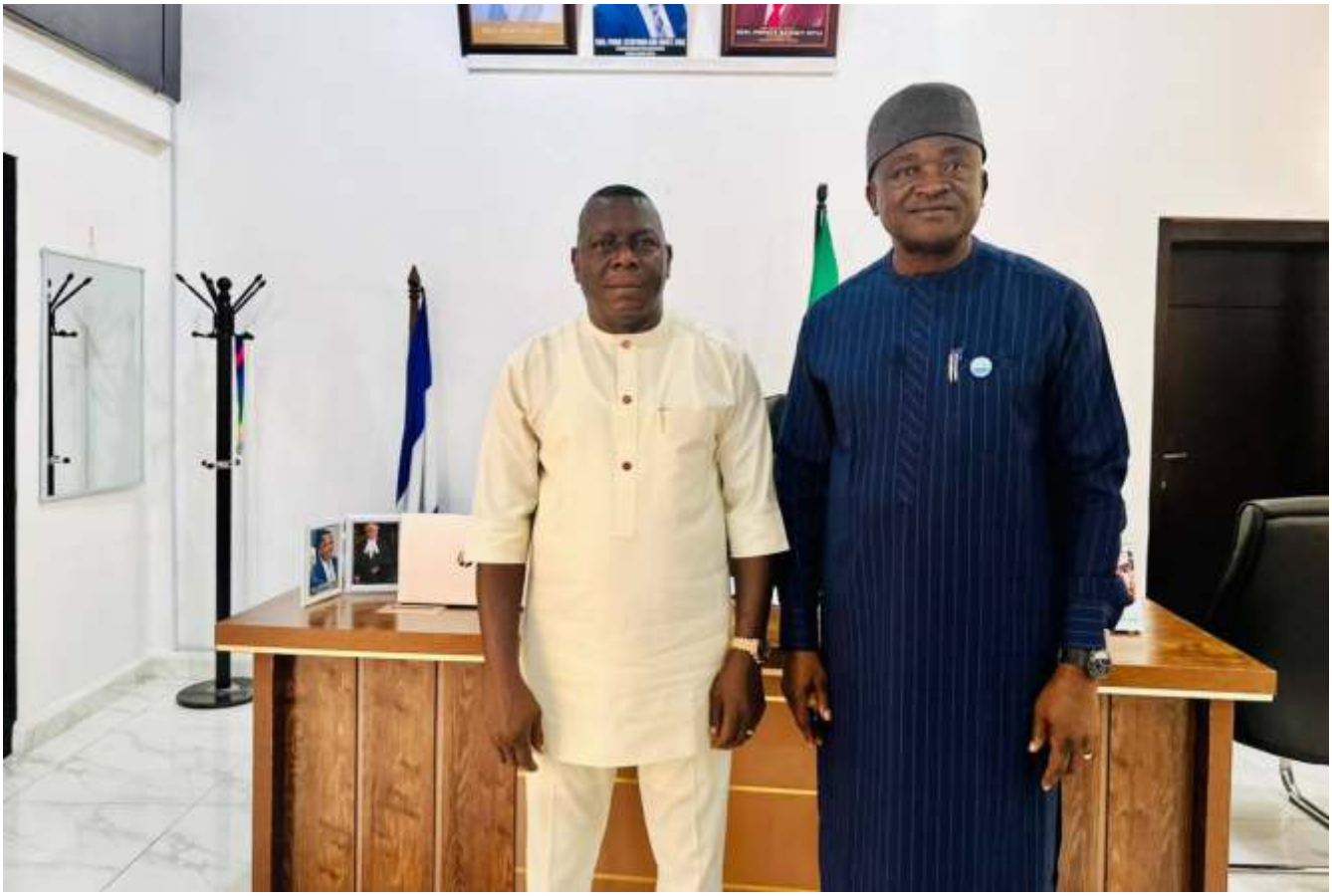
He commended the engineers for their commitment to mentoring younger generations and giving back to society through professional advocacy, career guidance and skills development.

The Commissioner assured the delegation of the Ministry's support and directed relevant directors to liaise with the Society to identify schools where its proposed programmes could be implemented.

He said, "We are ready to collaborate with the Nigerian Society of Engineers because the development of technical and vocational education is critical to preparing our children for the challenges and opportunities ahead. We want our students to acquire practical skills that will make them self-reliant and productive members of society."

Odey reaffirmed the state government's commitment to practical skills acquisition through technical education and the establishment of the University of Education and Entrepreneurship, stressing that education must equip children with competencies beyond conventional classroom learning.

"Every child should graduate with relevant skills that can enable them to create opportunities for



themselves, contribute to society and become economically independent. This is why we are placing emphasis on technical education, entrepreneurship and practical learning," he added.

In their response, the NSE delegation thanked the Commissioner for the warm reception and reaffirmed the Society's commitment to supporting the Ministry's educational objectives through professional expertise.

The Chairman, Engr. Prof. Godwin Akaka, said the Society was willing to contribute to the development of education in the state through teacher capacity development, ICT training, career mentorship and technical education programmes.

He expressed the Society's readiness to work with the Ministry to translate its proposed interventions into practical programmes that would benefit students and teachers across the state.

The proposed collaboration is expected to expose students to the practical knowledge and professional experience of engineers while strengthening technical and vocational education in Cross River State.

The engagement aligns with the People First agenda of Governor Bassey Edet Otu's administration, particularly its emphasis on human capital development, quality education and equipping young people with skills for productive engagement.

C'River Govt Woos Investors for Housing, Mega Logistics Hub in Ikom

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Government has reaffirmed its readiness to support genuine private-sector investments in housing and logistics infrastructure as part of efforts to stimulate economic growth, attract investors and expand employment opportunities across the state.

The Commissioner for Lands, Hon. Dr. Erasmus Ekpang, gave the assurance on Monday when he received a delegation of the Cross River Equity and Investments Company Limited, led by Barr. Ewa Henshaw, alongside the Managing Director of Intercontinental Mega Housing Limited, Mr. Henry I. Offor, on a familiarisation and investment engagement visit.

During the meeting, Mr. Offor disclosed that the company was exploring investment opportunities in the state, particularly the development of a mass housing estate and a mega logistics hub in Ikom to facilitate international trade along the corridor.

He explained that the proposed logistics facility would strengthen commercial activities, improve the movement of goods and create new opportunities for businesses operating within and beyond Cross River State.

Expressing appreciation for the Commissioner's reception and willingness to support the proposals, Offor said the engagement had encouraged the company to proceed with the necessary processes towards actualising its investment plans.

He said, "We are in Cross River State to explore opportunities for partnership in areas that can contribute meaningfully to development, particularly mass housing and the establishment of a mega logistics hub in Ikom to support international trade along this corridor."

The Managing Director added that the company was committed to working with relevant government institutions to deliver projects that would expand housing opportunities, attract further investments and stimulate economic activities.

Responding, Dr. Ekpang welcomed the proposals and assured the delegation of the Ministry's cooperation, particularly in facilitating land documentation and other administrative processes required to advance the projects.

He said, "The Cross River State Government is open to genuine investors who are willing to partner with us to develop the state. We will provide the necessary support within the established procedures to ensure that viable investments receive the attention they deserve."

The Commissioner stressed that effective land administration and timely processing of relevant documentation were important to creating investor confidence and translating proposed developments into tangible projects.

He reiterated the commitment of Governor Bassey Edet Otu's administration to creating an enabling environment for private-sector participation, noting that investment promotion remained important to infrastructure development, employment generation and economic expansion.

The proposed mass housing estate and mega logistics hub are expected to create opportunities for private-sector participation in critical infrastructure, with potential benefits for commercial activities, job creation and economic development, particularly in the Ikom axis.

The engagement aligns with the People First philosophy of the Otu administration, which places emphasis on investment promotion, infrastructure development and the creation of economic opportunities for Cross River residents.

C'River Govt Restores Industrial Harmony as UNICROSS ASUU Suspends Strike

By Kingsley Agim

The Cross River State Government's intervention in the industrial dispute involving the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), University of Cross River State (UNICROSS) Branch, has yielded positive results, with the union suspending its strike following progress in addressing the welfare concerns of academic staff.

The decision was reached on Monday, November 16, 2026, at an emergency congress held at the University's Calabar Campus, where members unanimously adopted a motion for the immediate suspension of the industrial action.

The development followed sustained engagements by the Visitor to the University and Governor of Cross River State, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, and the Vice Chancellor, Professor Francisca Bassey, to address the union's demands and restore industrial harmony in the institution.

A major step towards resolving the dispute was the Governor's approval and implementation of the new Consolidated Academic Tools Allowance (CATA), alongside the payment of October 2026 salaries. He also directed that October, November and December salaries be paid using the new CATA structure.

At the November 16 congress, the ASUU-UNICROSS Branch Chairperson, Dr. Patrick Ushie, and the Calabar Zonal Coordinator, Dr. Ikechukwu Igwenyi, briefed members on the progress of negotiations involving the union, University

Management and the state government.

After considering the progress made, members resolved that the developments were sufficient to warrant the suspension of the strike, particularly in view of Management's efforts to address outstanding salary obligations and other welfare-related concerns.

The latest development followed earlier engagements between Management and the union. At an emergency congress on November 2, Vice Chancellor Professor Francisca Bassey personally addressed ASUU members, explaining the progress made in implementing CATA and efforts to settle outstanding financial obligations, including inherited check-off dues through instalment payments. However, the union resolved to continue the strike pending further progress.

At its subsequent congress on November 9, the union acknowledged receipt of October salaries reflecting the new CATA structure but expressed concerns over payment discrepancies, outstanding September salaries and the non-financial provisions of the 2025 Federal Government-ASUU agreement.

In response, Management assured members that outstanding September salaries would be paid in the second week of December, while October salary balances arising from the CATA implementation would be settled alongside November salaries.

On the non-financial provisions of the agreement, particularly those concerning the appointment of Heads of Departments, Management explained that their implementation would require legislative intervention by the Cross River State House of Assembly.

However, in a further demonstration of its commitment to resolving the impasse, Management facilitated the payment of September 2026 salaries on Wednesday, November 11, significantly ahead of the earlier December timeline.

The payment, alongside the implementation of the new CATA structure and continued dialogue, represented further progress in addressing the concerns that led to the industrial action.

UNICROSS had commenced its first semester of the 2026/2027 academic session on October 19, with the arrival of new students, before the resumption of the strike on November 2 disrupted academic activities.

With the suspension of the industrial action, normal academic activities are expected to resume immediately, providing an opportunity for students and lecturers to return to the business of teaching and learning.

The University Management commended Governor Otu for his intervention and Professor Bassey for her sustained engagement with the union. It also appreciated ASUU for its understanding and willingness to suspend the strike.

Management called on all stakeholders to sustain the spirit of dialogue, patience and cooperation in resolving outstanding concerns, stressing the need for collective commitment to maintaining UNICROSS as a stable and productive institution focused on teaching, research and community service.

C'River Govt, NPHCDA Begin Four-Day Supervision of Primary Healthcare Centres

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Government, in collaboration with the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), has commenced a four-day Impact-Enhanced Integrated Supportive Supervision (ISISS) exercise across selected primary healthcare centres in the state.

The exercise, which began on Monday, November 16, 2026, is designed to assess the performance of impact-supported primary healthcare facilities, strengthen service delivery and improve the capacity of health workers through practical guidance and mentorship.

Welcoming the six-man national delegation during a strategic meeting at the Ministry of Health, Calabar, the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, expressed the state government's appreciation for the support received from the national agency and reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the sustainability of the impact project.

Ayuk said the state was particularly interested in



receiving a comprehensive assessment of the project's progress and ensuring that its activities met the expectations of the NPHCDA and other stakeholders.

"Thank you, national team, for finding time to come to Cross River, and to the state team led by the Project Manager, we are grateful for what has been put together so far in the impact project. We are happy to receive you, and we want to work with you to ensure that at the end of the day, we have a comprehensive document from you, evident enough to assess the level to which the impact project has gone," he said.

He added that the state was committed not only to taking ownership of the programme but also to ensuring that its achievements were maintained beyond the current phase of implementation.

Earlier, the Immunisation Plus and Malaria Progress by Accelerating Coverage and Transforming Services (IMPACT) Project, Cross River State Project Manager, Dr. Paul Odey, introduced the visiting delegation and provided an overview of the operational framework for the supervision exercise.

The National Team Lead and National Clinical Mentor Lead, Dr. Bola Caleb Akombi, explained that the four-day exercise would involve daily visits by national supervisors



and clinical mentors to designated impact-supported primary healthcare centres for hands-on mentorship, technical support and capacity development.

Akombi emphasised that the exercise was not intended to find fault with health workers but to identify gaps, provide guidance and strengthen their ability to deliver quality healthcare services.

“We are coming as a team of national supervisors and clinical mentors for the Impact-Enhanced Integrated Supportive Supervision for the impact-supported PHCs in the state. It won’t be a fault-finding mission; we are coming to support them, to teach them what they don’t know, and what we expect them to know using our checklists,” she said.

Members of the visiting delegation included Dr. Bola Caleb Akombi, Patrick Omagu Odey and John Odey, representing the NPHCDA, as well as the State Coordinator, Christian Ukechukwu.

Also participating were the Cross River IMPACT Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Bassey Edet, Ekaette Ekpeyong and other senior officials of the Ministry of Health.





C'River Govt Pledges Continuity of HIV Services as THRIVE Project Closes

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to sustaining donor-supported healthcare interventions beyond their project cycles, assuring that services for vulnerable children and adolescents living with HIV will remain integrated into the State's health system.

The assurance was given by the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, represented by the Ministry's Programme Manager for Climate Change and Health, Mr. Asuquo Henry Eyibio, at the close-out and dissemination forum of the Transforming Health and Resilience of Individuals through Vibrant Empowerment (THRIVE) Project in Calabar.

The forum, organised by the Centre for Clinical Care and Clinical Research (CCCRN), was held at Monty Suites on Thursday, November 12, 2026, to showcase the project's achievements, share lessons and discuss strategies for sustaining its interventions following its conclusion.

Ayuk commended Governor Bassey Edet Otu for prioritising the health and well-being of residents, while appreciating CCCRN, its implementing partners, frontline health workers and community structures for strengthening care for



children and adolescents living with HIV since the project commenced in December 2024. He stressed that the project's closure must not mean the end of its impact, noting that the knowledge, capacities, partnerships and community structures developed should be preserved and integrated into the state's health system.

"As we close the project, sustainability must remain at the centre of our discussion. The end of a project should not mean the end of its impact. The knowledge gained, capacities developed, systems strengthened, partnerships established and community structures supported must continue to contribute to the State's health system," he said.

The Commissioner urged stakeholders to use the transition commitment matrix to define responsibilities, document lessons learnt and ensure that experiences from THRIVE inform future public health programmes in the state.

Presenting the project's scorecard, CCCRN Chief of Party, Dr. Ann Adjoye, highlighted key achievements, including the enrolment of 627 children in Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) clubs for livelihood training and the nutritional assessment of 1,935 children. She also identified clinical challenges, particularly severe paediatric renal complications, and stressed the need to address underlying socioeconomic barriers such as poverty and food insecurity.

Adjoye cautioned that the close-out of the project should not disrupt essential services for vulnerable children, adding that community goodwill, local partnerships and collective



responsibility could help sustain interventions without necessarily requiring substantial financial resources.

As part of the transition arrangements, the forum formally unveiled the Building Resilient Integrated Government-led Epidemic Control (BRIDGE) Project, implemented by the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), as the successor programme.

In his remarks, ECEWS Cross River State Director, Dr. Joseph Umana, commended CCCRN for its collaboration with state institutions and the foundation laid through THRIVE. He explained that BRIDGE would promote government ownership of health interventions, eliminate parallel reporting systems and encourage efficient use of resources.

Umana disclosed that BRIDGE would extend beyond HIV programming to cover tuberculosis, malaria, maternal, newborn and child health, as well as broader health-system strengthening. He added that participating health facilities would be required to submit operational reports by the 10th of every month to support rigorous reviews, improve data integrity and correct reporting gaps.

The forum also featured goodwill messages from the Director-General of the Cross River State Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr. Vivien Mesembe Otu; the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of International Donor Coordination, Chief Egbola Henry; and the Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commission, represented by Dr. Inyang Asibong.

The Ministry of Women Affairs was represented by Dr. Helen Ejue, alongside other stakeholders who reaffirmed the importance of collaboration in sustaining essential healthcare interventions and protecting vulnerable beneficiaries.


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SE-OUT AND
AKEHOLDERS'
EMINATION MEETING.
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hening partnerships for sustainability.
DATE:
Thur. 12th
November
2026


THRIVE PROJECT
CLOSE-OUT AND
STAKEHOLDERS'

Gov. Otu Opens New Career Pathways for 1,000 C'River Youths

By Irene Bassey



For 1,000 young Cross Riverians, a new career opportunity is unfolding as the administration of Governor Bassey Edet Otu invests in specialised technical training designed to equip them with the skills needed to participate in the emerging electric vehicle industry.

The opportunity, provided through a partnership between the Cross River State Government and Shema Energy, involves a six-month intensive training programme in electric vehicle (EV) repairs and maintenance, aimed at preparing beneficiaries for employment, entrepreneurship and economic independence.

Domiciled in the State Ministry of Transportation, the programme commenced with the induction of pioneer trainees on October 1, 2026, at Metropolitan Hotel, Calabar, while actual training began last week.

To ensure that young people across the state benefit from the opportunity, the government has established two training centres at the Fabrication Academy in Calabar and Ogoja Local Government Area, providing access to beneficiaries from the three



senatorial districts.

Speaking on the programme, the Calabar Centre Manager, Mrs. Cynthia Bassey, described the intervention as a strategic investment in the future of young Cross Riverians, particularly as the global automotive industry increasingly embraces electric mobility.

“As the global automotive industry pivots away from fossil fuels towards sustainable energy, Cross River State is positioning its young workforce at the very forefront of the green revolution,” she said.

She explained that the training curriculum, designed to meet industry standards promoted by Shema Energy and the National Automotive Design and Development Council, would expose participants to Electric Vehicle Systems and Architecture, Battery Systems and Management, Charging Infrastructure, EV Diagnostics and Controllers, Power Electronics and EV Safety Procedures.

According to her, the programme adopts a Train, Certify and Employ model, with emphasis on hands-on practical sessions to equip beneficiaries with the competence required to secure employment or establish their own businesses in the growing electric vehicle market.

For Miss Geraldine Ogar, one of the trainees at the Calabar centre, the programme represents an opportunity to acquire a specialised skill with promising career prospects.

She expressed appreciation to Governor Otu for expanding the programme’s reach from an initially anticipated 100 beneficiaries to 1,000, noting that the decision had opened the door for more young people to acquire relevant technical skills.

“The world is evolving and so is science and technology. Looking at how petrol is on the high side, people are moving to other





APC Ticket Holders Urged to Close Ranks with Other Stakeholders

By Kingsley Agim



Candidates who emerged victorious in the All Progressives Congress (APC) primaries in Cross River State have been urged to close ranks with other party stakeholders, particularly defeated aspirants, and work together to strengthen the party ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Former Governor of Cross River State and Chairman of the Cross River Elders Advisory Council, Chief Clement Ebri, gave the advice on Sunday at a stakeholders' meeting organised by the Cross River State Consultative Forum in Calabar, ahead of a sensitisation and engagement meeting scheduled to hold in Ikom on November 22, 2026, for stakeholders from the Central Senatorial District.

Ebri cautioned that successful candidates must be mindful of the feelings of those who contested against them, warning that insensitive remarks and actions could deepen grievances and undermine party cohesion. While commending aspirants who had remained committed to the party despite losing the primaries, he assured them that their concerns would



be communicated to the state government.

“Those of you who have benefited from this kind of thing should also be very humble and choose your words carefully. When you are speaking, you must speak with regard for others,” Ebri cautioned, appealing to successful candidates not to allow their victories to become a source of division within the party.

The former governor identified poor communication and the exclusion of stakeholders from political consultations as factors capable of breeding disaffection. He called for greater inclusiveness, urging commissioners, members of the National and State Assemblies, local government chairmen and other political leaders to work together and ensure that everyone had a sense of belonging.

On the forthcoming sensitisation exercise, Ebri explained that the engagement was intended to harmonise positions, identify local challenges and develop a common strategy for reaching communities across the six local government areas of the Central Senatorial District. He urged stakeholders to consider the peculiar needs of their communities, openly identify gaps and work collectively towards practical solutions.

Addressing concerns about development, Ebri appealed to Cross Riverians to exercise patience with the administration of Governor Bassey Edet Otu, explaining that although several community needs



had been captured in government plans, implementation would take time. He cited gratuity payments, including plans for another tranche before the end of 2026, and efforts to restore the state's oil-producing status as measures expected to improve its financial capacity.

He urged APC members to remain steadfast and work collectively towards securing maximum electoral support for the party in 2027, stressing that victory would depend on the commitment and cooperation of stakeholders across the political structure.

Chairman of the Cross River State Consultative Forum, Barr. Eyo Nsa Ekpo, said the meeting was informed by lessons from the forum's earlier sensitisation exercise in the Northern Senatorial District, which highlighted the need for wider consultations and stronger stakeholder participation.

Ekpo cautioned against complacency ahead of the 2027 elections, noting that political competition should not be underestimated. He urged members to put aside personal grievances, internal disagreements and anti-party tendencies, warning that divisions could undermine the party's electoral prospects. "When brothers fight to the death, a stranger inherits their father's estate," he said.

He called on APC members to support the re-election bids of President Bola Tinubu and Governor Otu, urging them to work towards an impressive electoral performance that would strengthen Cross River's political influence



and bargaining position at the national level.

The Director General of the APC Campaign Council for the 2027 General Elections in Cross River State, Senator Stephen Odey, commended the forum for providing an opportunity for stakeholders to air their concerns, assuring that issues raised at the meeting would be brought to the attention of the governor.

Odey urged political leaders, particularly local government chairmen, to address communication gaps and improve public awareness of government projects and interventions in their communities. He said the governor was committed to development but noted that competing demands and available resources meant that government could not meet every request immediately. He called for better communication of projects, including ward development projects and the provision of solar-powered streetlights.

Stakeholders from the six local government areas of the Central Senatorial District also raised concerns about community development, party cohesion, communication gaps and grassroots mobilisation, while proposing solutions ahead of the November 22 sensitisation and engagement meeting in Ikom. Odey urged them to reach out to aggrieved party members and political associates, stressing that “everybody has a role to play” in mobilising support for a convincing APC victory in 2027.















BB












CARNIVAL CALABAR 2026
2ND
DRY
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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

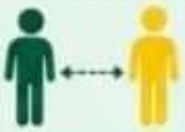
Treat as very urgent and important.

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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