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Daily InfoNews...

Articles and stories in this publication may be reproduced.

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.

APC Presidential Campaign Train Berths in Calabar for Grand Rally

By Nakanda Iyadim

The All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential campaign train is set to berth in Calabar, Cross River State capital, with a massive grand rally scheduled to hold at the UJ Esuene Sports Stadium.

The rally, which is expected to draw thousands of party faithful, supporters and stakeholders from across the South-South region and the 18 Local Government Areas of the State, will be coordinated by the Cross River State Governor, Prince Bassey Otu, who also serves as the South-South APC Presidential Campaign Coordinator.

Speaking ahead of the rally, the Cross River State APC Chairman, Hon. Chris Etta, said preparations have been concluded for a successful outing, stressing that the rally will go ahead whether President Bola Ahmed Tinubu attends physically or not.

According to Etta, the party remains on the ballot and fully committed to the campaign, noting that the President is currently on Umrah in Mecca.

In the build-up to the grand rally, campaign directors have intensified grassroots mobilization across the State capital.

The Deputy Director of Women Mobilization Directorate, Dr. Betta Edu, alongside members of the APC Presidential Campaign Council (PCC), engaged market women at the popular Watt Market where enterprise grants were disbursed, and also interfaced with students at the University of Calabar.

The campaign has continued to spotlight key federal infrastructure projects in the zone as part of its achievements and renewed commitment to the South-South.

During the inauguration of the State's campaign Council week, Governor Bassey Otu, highlighted some the project would impact the region and States significantly to include the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway, the planned Bakassi Deep Seaport, and various agricultural and economic interventions aimed at boosting livelihoods and driving economic growth in Cross River and the entire South-South zone.

Party stakeholders are optimistic that the Calabar rally will reaffirm the APC's strength in the State and the zone ahead of the 2027 general elections.

C'River Enforces Environmental Regulations at 8 Miles Market, Intensifies Drainage Desilting

By Sylvia Okoi



The Cross River State Ministry of Environment has intensified the enforcement of environmental regulations during the October statewide environmental sanitation exercise, with particular attention to restoring order and ensuring compliance at 8 Miles Market in Calabar.

Speaking to journalists shortly after monitoring the sanitation activities, the Commissioner for Environment, Barr. Bassey Offiong Mensah, condemned the activities of traders who obstruct drainage channels by erecting wooden structures and creating additional trading spaces along the streets.

While expressing concern for traders who depend on their businesses for their livelihoods, the Commissioner stressed that economic activities must be conducted in accordance with established environmental regulations.

He maintained that the government would not tolerate practices that obstruct public infrastructure and aggravate environmental problems.





On his part, the General Manager of the Cross River State Waste Management Agency, Hon. Bassey Otudor, commended residents of Calabar South for their cooperation and compliance during the sanitation exercise.

Mensah, who led the Calabar Municipal monitoring and supervision team, announced the immediate desilting of drainage channels throughout 8 Miles Market.

He also vowed to intensify enforcement of the ban on street trading in the area.Meanwhile, the 8 Miles Market leader and some traders expressed satisfaction with the operation carried out by the sanitation team, noting that the market had sufficient space to accommodate all traders without obstructing public roads and drainage channels.

The team also demolished illegal structures along the Calabar International Conference Centre (CCIC) axis, while commercial activities were prohibited around Army Junction in the Ikot Effanga area.










EASH
CrossRiver

C'River Marks Elderly Day, Reaffirms Commitment to Dignity and Inclusive Care

By Glory Effiom



The Cross River State Government has joined the rest of the world to mark the International Day for the Elderly, reaffirming its commitment to upholding the dignity, welfare and inclusive care of senior citizens.

The event, held at the Women Development Centre, Calabar on Friday, was themed "Respect, Care and Inclusion for a Dignified Ageing," with emphasis on building a society where every elderly person matters.

Speaking at the ceremony organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Community Development, the Commissioner, Archbishop Margaret Ene-Ita, said the administration of Governor Bassey Otu places a high premium on the elderly as custodians of wisdom and cultural heritage.

She noted that government is strengthening social protection programmes, community-based care and free healthcare initiatives to ensure that no elderly person is left behind, while calling on families and communities to show love and respect to older persons.

The Commissioner stressed the need to recognise, respect and support senior citizens, emphasizing the importance of ensuring





that older persons enjoy dignity, care and a sense of belonging in their communities.

The celebration also featured a health talk delivered by Dr. Nina O., who sensitized participants on health and wellness issues affecting older persons, with emphasis on healthy living and proper healthcare in old age.As part of the celebration, the elderly received special care and support, including cash assistance, wrappers and other essential relief materials distributed to ease their needs and improve their well-being.

The event underscored the Ministry's commitment to promoting the welfare of older persons and ensuring that their contributions to society are recognised, valued and appreciated.

It also served as a reminder that caring for the elderly is a shared responsibility and a true measure of a compassionate and inclusive society.


Cross River
RESPECT, CARE AND INCLUSION
FOR A DIGNIFIED AGEING


DJ KING
INCLUSION
AGEING


Destination
CrossRiver
The Nation's Pleasure
CROSS RIVER STATE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Celebrates
THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE ELDERLY 2026
Theme:
RESPECT, CARE AND INCLUSION FOR A DIGNIFIED AGEING
"building a society where every elder matters"
Date FRIDAY 30TH OCT., 2026 Time: 10AM
Venue: WOMEN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, CALABAR, CRS.
APOSTLE (SENATOR) PRINCE BASSEY EDET OJO
Executive Governor
Cross River State
RT. HON. PETER ODEY
Deputy Governor,
Cross River State
HER EXCELLENCY,
BISHOP (DR) EDEMMA NSEEET EDET OJU
Wife of Governor
Cross River State
Our Elders, Our Pride
DR. INYENE EXPONG
Honourable Commissioner
Ministry of Social Welfare &
Community Development

Gov Otu Pledges Wealth Creation, Prosperity as Farmers, Market Women, Transport Operators Endorse Him for Second Term





Cross River State Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, has pledged to intensify efforts towards wealth creation and economic prosperity as farmers, market women, tricycle operators and other transport workers endorsed him for a second term in office.

Addressing the gathering at the Governor's Office premises in Calabar, Otu described the groups as the backbone of the state's economy, noting that their contributions to food production, distribution and transportation were essential to economic growth. "These are the real sectors that are holding life



in this economy and in this state. When you take away the farmers, the drivers, the Keke operators and market women, there is no life," he said.

The governor said his administration had prioritised smallholder farmers through agricultural support and extension services, recognising their role in producing food and other agricultural commodities for consumption and commercial purposes.

He also acknowledged market women as a vital link between farmers and consumers, assuring them of continued government support to improve their trading conditions and strengthen their businesses.

On economic empowerment, Otu disclosed plans to introduce a savings-based support scheme modelled after the traditional osusu system to benefit market women, farmers, tricycle operators and other transport workers. He said the initiative would complement existing interventions aimed at supporting small businesses and improving livelihoods.

Addressing concerns over road infrastructure, the governor assured transport operators that his administration would sustain efforts to improve road conditions across the state. He acknowledged that persistent rainfall had affected some completed and ongoing projects but expressed optimism that more visible progress would follow the rainy season. "Immediately these rains recede, you are going to see some more fabulous work done on our roads," he said.

Reflecting on his three years in office, Otu said his administration had focused



on laying a solid foundation for sustainable development, adding that the next phase would centre on wealth creation and prosperity. “The next phase is wealth creation and prosperity. This three-year journey has not been easy. It has been a journey to set a proper foundation for progress and development, and that we have done,” he stated.

The governor reaffirmed his support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, describing the Federal Government’s economic reforms as necessary while acknowledging the hardship faced by Nigerians. He expressed hope that the benefits would increasingly reach citizens and urged eligible residents to obtain their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) to participate actively in the democratic process.

Earlier, the President of the Nigeria Bloggers Association, Prince Jay Imonikhe, said his decision to support Otu followed a personal assessment of the administration’s performance across the state. He explained that although he had previously been approached to use his social media platforms to criticise the government, he chose to investigate the allegations before forming an opinion.

Imonikhe said he visited several communities, including rural settlements, where he interacted with farmers, women, young people and other residents to obtain firsthand accounts of their experiences with the administration. He added that the feedback informed his decision to support Otu and organise a one-million-man march in appreciation of the government’s activities.

He said representatives of farmers, market women and transport operators



subsequently approached him to support their proposed endorsement, leading to his participation in the gathering. Imonikhe encouraged residents to acknowledge beneficial government interventions while continuing to hold public officials accountable.

The State Coordinator of the Cross River Market Women Forum, Mrs Veronica Effiom, said the women endorsed Otu in recognition of what she described as his administration's unprecedented efforts to organise and support women traders. She said the establishment of the forum had provided a platform for market women to engage with the government and access business support initiatives.

Effiom disclosed that beneficiaries of the programme receive monthly grants of ₦50,000 to support their businesses, expressing the women's desire for the initiative to continue. "We are in full support. We want this to continue. That is why the women are here to endorse our dear governor for a second term," she said.

The Chairman of the Great Achievers Union of Keke Riders at Marian Market Stadium, Mr Dominic Sunday, declared the union's support for Otu ahead of the 2027 governorship election. He said the reduction in the gate fee paid by tricycle operators from about ₦1,000 to ₦500 was among the reasons for their endorsement.

However, Sunday appealed to the government to address what he described as excessive enforcement against tricycle operators, urging the relevant authorities to apply regulations fairly without unnecessarily disrupting their businesses.



A farmer, Mrs Grace Effiong Okon, said she and other farmers attended the gathering to appreciate the state government for its agricultural interventions, which she said had improved their farms and encouraged continued participation in farming. “We are farmers. If you come to our farms, you will see how clean and beautiful they are because of the products the governor has given us,” she said.



Okon added that the farmers had gathered to share their experiences and express their desire for the continuation of the government’s agricultural support, which they considered beneficial to their farming activities.

The groups declared their support for Otu at the endorsement gathering, citing interventions by his administration in agriculture, commerce and transportation as reasons for backing his second-term bid.




GAVERNOR
BASSEY OTU
IS NEEDED


OFFENCE SUSPENSION:
DRIVERS NOW BREATH
WOMEN
WOMEN
WOMEN

Gov. Otu Lights Up Six Communities in Calabar, Akpabuyo

By Margaret Ita



Cross River State Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Otu, has approved the immediate deployment of electricity transformers to six communities in Calabar Municipality, Calabar South, and Akpabuyo Local Government Areas.

The intervention is part of the administration's drive to expand electricity access and boost socio-economic activities across the state.

Speaking on the development, the Director-General of the Cross River State Electrification Agency, Mr. Francis Ekpo, said the gesture underscores Governor Otu's commitment to extending power infrastructure to underserved and unserved communities, ensuring that Cross Riverians enjoy the dividends of democracy.

According to Ekpo, stable electricity is critical to economic growth, improved security, and better living standards.

He therefore urged residents of the benefiting communities to protect the transformers and substations against vandalism to ensure the facilities serve them for a long time.

The benefiting communities are Ekong Etta, Silicon Estate behind the Garment Factory, and Ikot Effiom Eyamba at Tinapa Junction in Calabar Municipality; Beckle Davis by Bassey Duke and Oron Street, Eyoma, and Esuquo Edem/Abasi Okure in Calabar South; and Atim Asam Junction by Ikot Oyom in Akpabuyo LGA.

Responding, residents expressed excitement over the development. Comrade Emeka and Dr. Joe, who



spoke on behalf of the Silicon Estate community, said the area had been in total blackout for a long time and commended the Governor for restoring their hope for electricity.

Similarly, Mr. Felix Obase and Mr. Muhammed, representatives of the Ekong Etta community, disclosed that the community had been without power for eleven months.

They said their appeal to the Governor has now been heard through the intervention of the Director-General of the State Electrification Agency.


PALFINGER
FK 13000


PALFINGER

Vena Ikem's Defection Extraordinary Endorsement of Gov. Otu - Dep. Gov. Odey

By Offiong Itang



The Deputy Governor of Cross River State, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, has described the defection of former Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) State Chairman, Hon. Barr. Venatius Ikem, and his supporters to the All Progressives Congress (APC) as an extraordinary endorsement of Governor Bassey Otu's People First mantra.

Odey, who represented Governor Otu, stated this on Saturday at a grand reception held in honour of Ikem and his supporters at the Obudu Council Secretariat Field, Obudu Local Government Area.

The Deputy Governor described the defection as a significant political development, reflecting changing political realities in Cross River and the growing appeal of the APC due to its people-centred governance.

Welcoming the defectors, Odey described the APC as the home of all progressives and the largest political family in Africa, where members enjoy equal opportunities regardless of when they joined.

"In this family, just like here in the state, there are no newcomers and no old-timers," he said.

To buttress his point, Odey recalled that he joined the



APC less than three months before emerging as its deputy governorship candidate.

"I joined the APC less than three months before I became deputy governorship candidate. After that, I became Deputy Governor. That is the party, and that is what the APC can do for you," he stated.

In his remarks, the State APC Chairman, Rt. Hon. Chris Etta, welcomed Ikem and his supporters as bona fide members of the progressive family and expressed confidence that they would contribute to the party's growth.

Earlier, the APC Chairman in Obudu, Comrade Joseph Odama, described the reception as historic and Ikem's defection as "one of the best signings for the APC," noting it would strengthen support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor Otu and other APC candidates in Obudu and the Northern Senatorial District.

In his response, Ikem commended Governor Otu for his achievements and called for continued support beyond 2027. He also commended President Tinubu for addressing macroeconomic challenges but urged policies that translate reforms into affordable food and essentials for ordinary Nigerians.

Explaining his defection, Ikem cited the PDP's lack of clear direction, questioning how the party could prepare for elections when its own leader belongs to the APC campaign organisation. He also faulted the lack of visibility of the PDP's presidential candidate, pledging to add value to the APC ahead of 2027.

In separate goodwill messages, the Deputy Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Hon. Sylvester Agabi; Chief of Staff to the Governor, Hon.







Emmanuel Ironbar; State APC Women Leader, Mrs. Monica Ugi; Hon. Kenneth Aklah; and High Chief Dr. Tony Undiandeye, among others, commended Ikem's decision, expressing confidence it would strengthen the party.

In his vote of thanks, Chairman of Obudu LGA, Hon. Dr. Peter Akonfe Undiandeye, thanked Governor Otu, party leaders and supporters for their presence and called for sustained unity.

2027: US Don Urges C'Riverians to Support Gov. Otu to Sustain Devt Strides

By Offiong Itang



Cross Riverians at home and in the diaspora have been charged to give unconditional support to the administration of Governor Bassey Edet Otu to enable him fully realize his laudable People First vision for the State.

The charge was given by Nigerian-born American Professor of Political Science and Economics, Professor Emeritus Nchor Okorn of Dillard University, Louisiana, United States, on his arrival at the Margaret Ekpo International Airport, Calabar.

Prof. Okorn, who was Head of Political Science and Speaker of the Parliament of the prestigious Dillard University, is globally renowned for his intellectual depth, scholarly resourcefulness and as a leading public commentator preoccupied with propagating the tenets of good governance across third-world countries in Africa and Asia.

Speaking to Journalists who turned out to welcome him, the erudite scholar said he has been following closely from the United States the tempo of development and the socio-economic imperatives of the Otu administration, and declared that Governor Otu is indeed a great leader of his time whose style of governance deserves the total support of all Cross Riverians.

According to him, Governor Otu has not only restored hope but has delivered visible and verifiable achievements across all critical sectors.

On human capital development and workers' welfare, he noted that the administration released over N10 billion to clear decades-old gratuity arrears owed retirees since 2009, lifted the 25-year embargo on employment with the recruitment of 2,500 young Cross Riverians, and implemented the new minimum wage,

thereby restoring dignity to the civil service.

In the education sector, he said the Governor introduced free tuition in all public primary and secondary schools and paid WAEC fees for over 43,000 students in three years, thus removing financial barriers to education for children of the poor.

In the health sector, he listed the recruitment of over 200 health personnel, upgrading of General Hospitals and Primary Healthcare Centres across the state, upgrading of Schools of Nursing to Colleges of Nursing Sciences, establishment of a Fistula Centre and oxygen plants, and provision of free healthcare for pregnant women, children under five and the elderly.

On agriculture and food security, Prof. Okorn said the administration has empowered farmers and riverine communities with 108 mini-tractors, 50 power tillers and rice threshers, 100 commercial fishing boats and 3.5 million improved oil palm seedlings, thereby returning Cross River to its rightful place as Nigeria's oil palm capital.

He further highlighted achievements in infrastructure and urban renewal, including several kilometres of roads constructed and rehabilitated, the remodeling of the moribund State Library into a world-class facility, restoration of Calabar with solar-powered streetlights, and reclamation of the Tinapa Resort from AMCON.

On the economy and housing, he cited the initiation of a N500 million MSME loan facility, N800 million seed grants to 400 entrepreneurs, delivery of 200 housing units and the flag-off of a 1,000-unit People First Housing Estate for civil servants, as well as the ambitious $2.27 billion Bakassi Deep Seaport project aimed at restoring Cross River as a littoral state.

Above all, he said Governor Otu has enthroned peace.

"Cross River today is stable, secure and socially harmonious, a prerequisite that has made tourism, including the globally celebrated Carnival Calabar, to bounce back," he said.

Prof. Okorn averred that only a leader with clear vision, compassion and strategic thinking could achieve such holistic development within three years amid national economic challenges.

He called on all Cross Riverians, regardless of political affiliation, senatorial district or ideological leaning, to close ranks and support the Governor to complete his transformation agenda.

"Governor Otu has earned our faith. He has shown that he means well for Cross River. What he needs now is not distraction, but the unconditional support of all well-meaning Cross Riverians at home and abroad to fully realize his agenda and to resist attempts by detractors to derail the progress being made," he stated.

Scorecard: Gov Otu Cites Debt Reduction, Asset Recovery as he Inaugurates APC Campaign Council



Cross River State governor, Senator Bassey Otu, Saturday, presented his administration's record of debt reduction, asset recovery, infrastructure renewal and public service reforms as evidence of progress under the People First Agenda, declaring that a second term would propel the state from economic recovery to wealth creation and shared prosperity.

Otu made the declaration in Calabar, while inaugurating the Cross River State All Progressives Congress (APC) Campaign Council for the 2027 general elections.

He charged party leaders and campaign officials to take the administration's achievements to the electorate, insisting that continuity was essential to consolidating the foundations already laid for sustainable development.

Reflecting on the circumstances surrounding his assumption of office in May 2023, the governor recalled that the state was grappling with insecurity, a demoralised public service and underutilised public assets.

"We did not promise all things in one year, but we







covenanted to stop the bleeding, clear the ground, recover the losses and restore abandonments," he said, describing the administration's first phase as one of recovery and restoration.

On fiscal management, Otu disclosed that his government had reduced the inherited domestic debt of more than ₦204 billion by over ₦70 billion without taking fresh loans, bringing the outstanding debt to approximately ₦132.3 billion as of March 2026.

He also disclosed that internally generated revenue increased from ₦21.1 billion in 2022 to ₦46.3 billion in 2024.

"Every debt retired is freedom for our children and house-cleaning for fresh fiscal air," he said, adding that improved revenue and financial discipline would strengthen



investment in public services.

The governor identified the recovery of strategic public assets as another major achievement, citing the reclamation of Tinapa from the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON), the recovery of nearly ₦1 billion from Etung Cocoa Estates and other public assets, and ongoing efforts to reclaim the state's oil wells and secure its interests in the Bakassi axis and proposed Deep Seaport.

He also highlighted improvements in security, the lifting of the employment embargo, the restoration of more than 3,000 local government workers to the payroll and the payment of the first tranche of gratuities after nearly two decades. "The government is not just concrete — it is the people," he said.

On infrastructure and economic revitalisation, Otu cited the reconstruction of the Obudu Cargo Airport runway, the revival of the Teachers Continuous Training Institute in Biase, the transformation of Akamkpa College into the University of Entrepreneurship and the concessioning of the Garment Factory and Obudu Ranch through public-private partnerships. He also pointed to road construction and rehabilitation, increased and expanded Cally Air fleet and operations, as well as the growing economic impact of Carnival Calabar.

"Continuity is an attitude of maturity," he said, arguing that completing inherited projects and sustaining viable investments were critical to the state's progress.

Otu also highlighted agriculture and digital transformation as key drivers of future growth,



noting investments in cocoa, rice, potatoes, palm fruits and cassava to strengthen food security and rural livelihoods. He said more than 200 kilometres of fibre infrastructure had been deployed across Calabar, over 600 residents had received ICT training, and digital platforms were improving revenue collection and public service delivery. He further cited Cross River's selection by the World Bank GovTech Team for its 2026 AI in Governance and Public Administration Bootcamp in Seoul, South Korea, as international recognition of the state's technological advancement.

Outlining his second-term priorities, the governor pledged to turn recovered assets into productive enterprises, complete major infrastructure projects, expand youth and agricultural enterprise programmes, establish industrial parks across the three senatorial districts and improve workers' welfare. Urging the campaign council to engage voters across the state's 18 local government areas and 196 wards with facts and decorum, he said: "You do not change a farmer who has cleared the farm just when it is time to plant. You do not abandon a builder who has laid the foundation when it is time to raise the roof." He formally inaugurated the council, declaring that the campaign must be fought not for an individual, but for the future of Cross River and its people.






BOLA AHMED
TINUBU



Plateau-born Athletes Cart Star Prizes At Calabar Marathon

By Nakanda Iyadim



It was a clean sweep for Plateau State as athletes from the state dominated the podium in both the elite male and female categories of the 2026 Calabar Marathon held in Calabar at the weekend.

In the 21.1km half marathon, the trio of Iliya Raymond, Badung Emmanuel Davou and Iliya Emmanuel Dong claimed first, second and third positions respectively in the male category, leaving spectators and officials in awe of their teamwork and endurance.

Announcing the results at the Awards and Networking Ceremony held at the Marina Resort, Calabar, Dr Paul Ibiala, National officer of Nigerian Association of Athletics Technical Officials (NAATO), revealed that Iliya Raymond clinched the top prize with an impressive time of 1 hour, 6 minutes, 31 seconds (1:06:31).

His kinsman, Badung Emmanuel Davou, followed closely in second place with 1:07:28, while Iliya Emmanuel Dong completed the Plateau sweep in third position with 1:09:01.

The NAATO representative could not hide his admiration for the athletes'



strategy:

“Look at their legs. And let me give you the trick, you know how they do it? They collaborate. As one is in front, he is urging the other, ‘come, come, come’ and they move like that. That is why you see them taking the first three positions. Plateau State has swept the podium in the male category.”

In the female elite category, Bulus Mary of Plateau State emerged champion, while Chigozirim Esther of Imo State and Charity Agofure of Delta State came second and third respectively.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Managing Director of the Cross River State Tourism Bureau, Mr. John Atsu, who extended a warm welcome to guests, athletes and sponsors, described the marathon as more than just a race.

“Today will not just be about prizes. Today is a celebration. Today is about running together, testing our endurance and refusing to give up,” he said.

He noted that this year’s theme, ‘Run for Conscience Against Poverty’, was a reminder that the fight against poverty requires consistent and collective effort.

He commended the Cross River State Government for its commitment and appreciated sponsors including MTN, NNPC/NPL, Zenith Bank, Hit FM and others for ensuring the success of the event.

Winners in both elite male



and female categories went home with N1.2 million, N700,000 and N400,000 for first, second and third positions respectively, in addition to 24 consolation prizes of N50,000 each for other top finishers.

For the indigenous category, it was also keenly contested. In the female race, Angel Nelson from Yakurr Local Government Area came first, while twins Favour and Faith Ani from Abi LGA came second and third respectively.

In the male indigenous category, Samuel Okon from Bakassi LGA clinched first position, Miracle Ashama from Obudu LGA came second, while Ekerikan John from Obanliku LGA took third position.

They went home with N500,000, N300,000 and N200,000 respectively, plus 24 consolation prizes of N50,000 each for runners who finished within the top 15 as a morale booster.

Dignitaries who graced the event included the Commissioner for Sports Development, Hon. Agnes Atsu, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Eme Afiah, and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information, Mr Anthony Okon, Prof Nyong among others.

099
CALABAR MARATHON
093
CALABAR MARATHON
082
CALABAR MARATHON
065
CALABAR MARATHON
TEAM UYO

Police Seek Stronger Synergy With Information Ministry

By Offiong Itang



The Cross River State Police Command has pledged to deepen its partnership with the Ministry of Information and Orientation to boost security and public awareness in the State.

The Commissioner of Police, CP Ajo Geoffrey Orudue, gave the assurance when he received the Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham, on a courtesy visit in Calabar.

He described information and security as inseparable, noting that security agencies need credible information to operate and effective communication to show the public what they are doing.

"It is a happy day to have willing partners. Information and security need each other. The police need information to operate, and information to communicate what they are doing so that people will know they are not sleeping," he said.

CP Orudue thanked Pastor Cobham for accepting to serve as a Patron of the Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC), describing the visit as timely. He said the PCRC remains a vital bridge between the police



and the community, made up of patriotic citizens who make sacrifices to support policing.

Speaking on the dignity of the profession, he quoted scripture: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." He urged officers to serve with integrity and the fear of God.

He cited the Governor of Kwara State and Pastor Cobham, both sons of policemen, as examples of the blessings that follow upright service.

Earlier, Pastor Cobham said that while the Police need timely information to function, the Ministry also needs security cover to discharge its duties.

"The police happen to be my traditional constituency. I grew up as a barracks boy. My father served in this Command. At different times, he was CSP Operations and AC Administration and Finance. He is now late; he retired as a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP).

"Sir, I come today as Commissioner for Information and Orientation to appreciate the Nigeria Police Force, if for nothing else, for providing the means that paid my school fees and made me the man I am today. But more importantly, I appreciate you for the service you render, the tireless, sleepless nights you give up so that communities can live in peace.

"It is a thankless job, but those who understand know that without the bulwark, there would be no society.

"I come to build synergy, so that whatever relationship exists between the Cross River State Government and the Nigeria Police Force can be made better. I came so we can build a bond of conviviality, watch each other's back, and contribute to the corporate image of Cross River State.







"At a time when many states have a constipated security architecture, Cross River is enjoying uncommon peace. That would not have been possible without your uncommon commitment to duty as Commissioner of Police.

"We are here to familiarise ourselves, and I want you to know that my office is open. We are ready to partner very closely, in whatever way you deem necessary, to advance our causes. We are ready to avail you of all the information architecture and infrastructure we have, to help you reach the public and pass your message.

"We will also not fail to lend our voice so that the public appreciates what the police are doing.

"Just a few days ago, though I was in Abuja, I was invested as a PCRC Patron. It is my little way of giving back to society and helping to project the image of the Police Force, the same institution that paid our school fees, trained us, and made us whatever we are today.

"It is this uniform that produced us.

"So once again, sir, I want to appreciate the police, appreciate the Command, and thank your distinguished officers for the gallant job they are doing.

"Whatever contributions we can make to make it better, including inputs on how you can also improve, we will not fail to reach out," the Information and Orientation Commissioner added.

Glory-Joe Adey Seeks Carnival Commission's Support to Showcase Calabar's Architectural Heritage

By Ibu Harrywills



A Calabar-based photographer and graphic designer, Mrs. Glory-Joe Adey, has called on the Carnival Commission for support to showcase the city's rich architectural heritage through her creative project, "Legacies in Bricks and Timber – Calabar."

The project documents colonial-era buildings across Calabar through photography and graphic design, with the aim of preserving their visual history and promoting awareness of the city's cultural identity.

Adey has developed a collection of heritage-themed works featuring historic buildings, including photographs, graphic designs, branded T-shirts, Ludo boards, and playing cards.

As part of efforts to expand the reach of the initiative, she is seeking the support of the Carnival Commission to showcase the collection



during the Calabar Carnival and explore its inclusion in carnival parades and processions.

She recently presented samples of the works to the Chairman of the Carnival Commission, outlining the objectives of the project and its potential contribution to the promotion of Calabar's cultural heritage.

Following the presentation, she was advised to submit a formal proposal for consideration.

The proposed participation is expected to provide a platform for promoting Calabar's architectural heritage through visual arts and creative expression during the annual carnival festivities.

The initiative also seeks to encourage public appreciation of historic buildings as vital components of Calabar's heritage and promote their preservation for future generations."Legacies in Bricks and Timber – Calabar" represents a creative effort to document the city's historic structures and present their significance through accessible works for residents, visitors, and cultural enthusiasts.

The submission of the formal proposal will enable the Commission to consider the project for possible inclusion in its programme of activities.

EBOLA PREVENTION: Veterinary Experts Partner NCDC in Cross River

By Arit Ubi



In a strategic move to strengthen national biosecurity and guard against the re-emergence of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), veterinary health experts have initiated a high-level partnership with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC).

The Director of Veterinary Services and Cross River State Coordinator of the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support (L-PRES) Project, Dr. Jude Undiandeye, was part of the delegation on a courtesy visit to the NCDC Director-General, Dr. Jide Idris, in Abuja.

The visit is part of the national operationalization of the One Health initiative - a collaborative framework linking human, animal and environmental health sectors to prevent and control emerging public health threats.

Dr. Undiandeye was selected alongside other Chief Veterinary Officers following a national consultative meeting on adopting a "last-mile delivery model" for vaccines and veterinary services.

Under the proposed model, Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) and Veterinary Para-Professionals (VPPs) will be deployed across rural and border communities to extend veterinary care, enhance disease surveillance and provide early warning signals at the animal-human interface.

Dr. Undiandeye noted that Cross River State's involvement in the national

dialogue aligns local veterinary defence systems with federal disease control infrastructure. Given the state's extensive forest belt and international borders, robust grassroots surveillance is vital to protecting public health and safeguarding livestock investments.

Stakeholders at the engagement emphasized that seamless information sharing and joint surveillance between animal health authorities and public health agencies remain critical to containing zoonotic outbreaks before they escalate into national epidemics.

The initiative marks a significant step toward embedding veterinary expertise into Nigeria's epidemic preparedness and response architecture.

CR-SUBEB Trains LGA Evaluators, Staff on New Data Collection App

By Offiong Itang



The Cross River State Universal Basic Education Board (CR-SUBEB) has organised a training session for Local Government Area (LGA) evaluators and Board staff on the use of the CR-SUBEB Collect App.

The Board's Chairman, Mrs Fidelia Okpo Ene, who was represented by Board Member III, Dr Roselyn Bisong, said the training was aimed at equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to use the new digital platform for improved data collection, monitoring and reporting in the basic education sector.

She said the exercise underscores the Board's commitment to embracing technology to enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability in its operations.

The Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) State Coordinator, Dr Omuta Obanovwe,



urged participants to take the training seriously and apply the knowledge gained in carrying out their duties.

He stressed the importance of accurate and timely data collection, noting that reliable data is essential for effective planning, informed decision-making and the overall development of basic education. He also encouraged participants to embrace the digital platform and ensure that information uploaded through the application is accurate and up to date.

The State Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Archibong Okon Archibong, highlighted the importance of the app, noting that it would aid comprehensive record-keeping, enhance quality assurance, and help detect and prevent errors in data collection and reporting.

He explained that the application would also help identify challenges and provide a basis for appropriate solutions, thereby strengthening monitoring and evaluation and improving the quality of basic education delivery in Cross River State.

Mr Archibong urged the trainers to guide participants on the effective use of the application to facilitate accurate data gathering and timely reporting.






UNIVERSAL BASIC
EDUCATION BOARD





CRISSAA to Remove Ad Materials From Unsafe Billboards in 72 Hours

By Kingsley Agim







The Cross River State Signage and Advertising Agency (CRISSAA) has given advertisers operating billboard and signage structures across Calabar metropolis 72 hours before commencing the removal of advertising materials from affected structures to enable them to undertake necessary repairs and address identified safety concerns.

The Director-General of CRISSAA, Mr. Ubong Sam, disclosed this recently during an inspection of advertising structures across the metropolis, where he identified billboards requiring structural reinforcement, repairs and revalidation to prevent accidents and protect lives and property. He explained that removing the advertising materials would give operators the opportunity to fix the affected structures in liaison with the agency.

Sam said CRISSAA had previously communicated its concerns to affected advertisers through its Commercial Department, with some operators and their representatives responding to the notices. However, he expressed concern that some had yet to take the necessary steps to address the identified defects, stressing that compliance with safety requirements would not be compromised.

“Whatever a client pays as remittance to government coffers is nothing compared to the lives and properties of the citizenry,” he said, emphasising that public safety remained more important than



revenue from outdoor advertising.

The CRISSAA boss identified ageing structures, corroded metal components, weakened joints and inadequate reinforcement as some of the defects requiring urgent attention. He explained that prolonged exposure to environmental conditions could weaken billboard structures and increase the risk of collapse, particularly during strong winds and thunderstorms. He added that some installations required rewelding, reinforcement of joints or replacement of damaged components to restore their stability.

On the need for regular maintenance, Sam said billboard structures generally required thorough structural revalidation after about 10 years, depending on their condition and the quality of the original construction. However, he noted that structures in areas with more aggressive environmental conditions, including locations exposed to salty water, might require revalidation every five years. He said proper assessments should include structural integrity tests, repairs, protective coatings and the replacement of weakened components.

He also expressed concern about poor construction techniques and inadequate structural support, explaining that some billboard frames lacked the necessary reinforcement to distribute weight properly. According to him, excessive structural loads, deteriorating joints and inadequate bracing could cause installations to collapse, endangering residents, traders, road users and adjoining properties.

Sam raised particular concerns about billboard structures in contact with or dangerously close to electricity lines and cables, describing makeshift



insulation and improvised materials used by some operators as unsafe. He warned that such practices could expose members of the public to serious hazards, especially during adverse weather conditions.

To address the risks associated with electricity installations, the Director-General disclosed that CRISSAA had written to the relevant power distribution company to provide technical personnel to assist in locations where billboard structures had contact with electricity lines and cables. He said their involvement would ensure that appropriate safety measures, including power disconnection where necessary, were taken to protect lives and property while the affected structures were being repaired.

The Director-General further disclosed that the agency was examining structures suspected of having been erected without the required Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). He cited a billboard whose foundation had reportedly developed serious defects, noting that the situation had raised concerns among residents in the vicinity.

He warned that structural failure could result in injuries, loss of life and damage to property.

Sam explained that the agency's intervention was part of its regulatory responsibility, clarifying that billboard and signage structures were owned by private advertisers, while the state government, through CRISSAA, regulated their operations. He said the exercise was not intended to victimise operators but to ensure compliance with safety standards and responsible outdoor advertising



practices.

He urged advertisers to cooperate with the agency and use the opportunity provided by the removal of advertising materials to undertake the necessary repairs, reinforcement and revalidation of their structures.

He stressed that affected installations must be made safe in liaison with CRISSAA before advertising materials are restored, reiterating that the protection of lives and property remained the agency's priority.

Sam warned that advertisers who failed to



rectify identified defects and bring their structures up to the required safety standards would risk having their billboards permanently removed from their existing locations.

He reiterated that the exercise was aimed at ensuring compliance with safety regulations.


Amatem
Amaten
AMATEM TAB


CHRIST FOR THE WORLD MISSION INC.
Dedication
WORLD
HEADQUARTERS
AUDITORIUM
NOV

Gov. Otu to Commission Obstetric, Newborn Equipment in Cross River Health Facilities

By Kingsley Agim





Cross River State Governor, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, will soon commission new obstetric and newborn equipment for selected general hospitals and primary healthcare facilities across the state to strengthen maternal and newborn healthcare services.

The Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, disclosed this on Tuesday during a visit to the Primary Health Centre, Bendeghe Ekiem, in Etung Local Government Area, where he assessed the facility's preparedness to receive the equipment.

Ayuk said the intervention was expected to improve the quality of healthcare available to pregnant women, nursing mothers and newborns, with benefits extending to both urban and rural communities across the state.

The Commissioner expressed satisfaction with the level of preparedness at the Bendeghe Ekiem facility, describing the visit as particularly significant because of his personal connection to the health centre.

"I am delighted with a visit to my home facility, the Primary Health Centre, Bendeghe Ekiem, in Etung LGA. Alongside other facilities, I am satisfied with the overall preparedness to receive the equipment," he said.





He explained that the provision of obstetric and newborn equipment would strengthen the capacity of selected health facilities to provide essential maternal and newborn care, including services needed to improve outcomes during pregnancy, childbirth and the early stages of a child's life.

The provision of the equipment, according to Ayuk, is expected to strengthen healthcare delivery across the beneficiary facilities by improving their capacity to provide essential obstetric and newborn care and respond more effectively to the health needs of mothers and infants.

The planned commissioning reflects the state government's attention to healthcare infrastructure and service delivery, with the new equipment expected to enhance the capacity of beneficiary facilities to respond to maternal and newborn health needs.

The Commissioner said his visit to the Primary Health Centre, Bendeghe Ekiem, formed part of his assessment of facilities expected to benefit from the intervention, adding that he was satisfied with their level of preparedness to receive the equipment ahead of the planned commissioning.

MOI NEWSROOM
CALABAR, NIGERIA

City Boy Movement Inaugurates LGA Chapters in Cross River North



The Cross River State Chapter of the City Boy Movement has inaugurated its Local Government Area (LGA) chapters in Obanliku, Obudu and Bekwarra, as part of efforts to strengthen its grassroots structures and mobilise support ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The separate inauguration ceremonies featured the unveiling of the movement's LGA, ward and polling unit structures, as well as the official opening of its LGA secretariat to facilitate coordination, mobilisation and sustained engagement with supporters at the grassroots.

Speaking at the events, the State Director of the movement, Hon. Eyo Ita, charged the newly inaugurated executives to take the message of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda to every ward and polling unit across the state.

He emphasised the importance of sustained grassroots engagement, effective mobilisation and commitment to the movement's objectives, urging the executives to





work towards expanding its presence and strengthening its structures across Cross River State.

Also speaking, the Cross River North Coordinator of the movement, Barr. Paul Ishabo, said the inauguration was aimed at consolidating support for President Tinubu and Cross River State Governor, Senator Bassey Otu, while mobilising voters for the All Progressives Congress (APC) ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Ishabo urged the newly inaugurated executives to demonstrate dedication and unity in carrying out their responsibilities, stressing the need to deepen the movement's grassroots presence and broaden the party's support base in their respective local government areas.

He further called on the executives to sustain contact with supporters and potential voters, noting that effective grassroots organisation and mobilisation would be vital







to the movement's preparations for the forthcoming elections.

The inauguration tour will continue on Wednesday with the inauguration of the movement's chapters in Ogoja and Yala Local Government Areas before proceeding to the Central Senatorial District on Thursday.

Cross River Targets Cowpea Exports, Expands Soybean Production





The Cross River State Government has intensified efforts to position cowpea as a major export crop while expanding soybean production to create jobs, boost farmers' incomes and strengthen food security across the state.

The development emerged during an oversight tour of selected agricultural intervention sites by the State Project Steering Committee, coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development and led by the Commissioner, Hon. Johnson A. Ebokpo Jr.

The team inspected cowpea breeding and production sites, soybean farms and agricultural input facilities in Odukpani and Biase Local Government Areas to assess implementation, engage beneficiaries and identify challenges affecting productivity.

Speaking through the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr. Odey J. Ikongha, at the cowpea





breeding site in Efedem Community, Odukpani, the Commissioner said the state government was laying the foundation for cowpea to become one of Cross River's major export crops.

He explained that cowpea had significant economic and nutritional value, noting that its availability in the market and rich amino acid content made it an important plant-based protein source. He added that its by-products could serve as valuable ingredients for animal feed production, creating additional business opportunities along the agricultural value chain.

At the Efedem aggregation centre, the committee inspected a storage facility established under Project Grow and assessed the agricultural inputs available to support farmers. The facility houses improved seeds, fertilisers, including NPK 20:10:10, selective herbicides and manual knapsack sprayers.

The Permanent Secretary commended the farmers and workers for their commitment to the



intervention and encouraged them to sustain their efforts to improve productivity and achieve the project's objectives.

The team also inspected a 91-hectare soybean farm, where the crop is expected to mature within approximately three months. With an estimated yield of two metric tonnes per hectare, the farm has the potential to produce about 182 metric tonnes of soybean at harvest.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, the youth leader, Mr. Joseph Edet Ndifreke, described the soybean project as the first of its kind in the area, noting that it was already creating employment opportunities and stimulating economic activities among participating farmers and surrounding communities.

He, however, identified inadequate water supply and the absence of a suitable camp house as challenges confronting farmers at the site, appealing for government support to address the constraints and improve production.

The project's aggregator, Dr. Anyim Ntui, explained that mechanised methods had been adopted for land preparation and crop establishment. He said his responsibility was to aggregate farmers' produce and facilitate its movement to the market, adding that the projected output offered considerable income-generating opportunities for participating farmers.

A highlight of the inspection was the post-emergence application of herbicides to control weeds and promote crop development.

At the cowpea development site in Efedem, the committee assessed breeding and production activities, where five hectares had already

been cultivated. With an estimated yield of 1.5 metric tonnes per hectare, the farm is projected to produce 7.5 metric tonnes of cowpea.

Based on an estimated market price of ₦650,000 per metric tonne, the expected harvest could generate approximately ₦4.875 million in gross revenue. The women leader in the community expressed appreciation to the state government for providing women with opportunities to participate in commercial agriculture and improve their livelihoods.

Earlier, the Director of Agricultural Services, Pst. Ubana Ubi, disclosed that the Ministry would purchase the cowpea produce at a guaranteed market price, providing farmers with an assured market for their harvest.

He said the intervention was being facilitated by the Nigeria Cowpea Association, Cross River State Branch, to strengthen production, improve farmers' incomes and develop a sustainable commodity value chain.

The committee subsequently visited Big Iwuru and Obot Unen in Biase Local Government Area to inspect a four-hectare cowpea breeding site and three hectares of soybean farmland. The team assessed the level of implementation and interacted with farmers and other stakeholders involved in the projects.

Following the inspections, the committee expressed satisfaction with the progress recorded at the intervention sites, while the engagement provided an opportunity to assess field activities, identify production constraints and obtain direct feedback from farmers, aggregators and other beneficiaries.

The interventions are expected to contribute to employment generation, food and animal feed security, increased household incomes and the development of commercially viable agricultural value chains in Cross River State. Beneficiaries in Odukpani and Biase also expressed appreciation for the support, describing the projects as opportunities to improve livelihoods, expand agricultural participation and create sustainable economic activities within their communities.

UN Women, MTN Foundation Partner to Empower 100 Rural Women in Cross River



A delegation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Nigeria, has sought collaboration with the Cross River State Government on a Rural Women's Economic Empowerment Programme aimed at improving the livelihoods of rural women.

The delegation, comprising Mrs. Temitope Wealth-Ekanem and Mr. Anthony Omonigho, paid a courtesy visit to the Commissioner for Women Affairs, Hon. Edema Irom, on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, to formally introduce the initiative being implemented in partnership with MTN Foundation Nigeria.

The six-month pilot programme, known as the Y'elloPreneur Rural Women's Economic Empowerment Programme (RWEEP), is designed to strengthen the productivity, income and resilience of 100 rural women in the state, with a focus on cassava and seafood processing in Obubra Local Government Area.

The programme will integrate climate-smart agriculture, improved processing technologies, digital and financial inclusion, market access and cooperative strengthening, while also addressing the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women.

The delegation also discussed opportunities for

sustained collaboration with relevant stakeholders, particularly the Ministry of Women Affairs, to ensure successful implementation.

Responding, the Commissioner for Women Affairs, Hon. Edema Irom, expressed gratitude to UN Women and MTN Foundation Nigeria for their commitment to improving the economic wellbeing of rural women in Cross River. She described the initiative as a welcome development that will create opportunities for women to improve productivity, increase income and contribute meaningfully to community development.

She assured the delegation of the Ministry's readiness to collaborate with relevant stakeholders towards successful implementation and encouraged sustained efforts to empower women across the state.

EVIDENCE GROUP

APC

BIASE CHAPTER

FLAGS OFF

BIASE BOLD

(BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH LEARNING AND DIGITAL SKILLS INITIATIVE

FREE YOUTH TECH TRAINING, MENTORSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM FOR 100 BENEFICIARIES



MR EDEM BASSEY
THE INITIATOR EVIDENCE GROUP
SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOR

GREAT OGBAN
CONVENER/COORDINATOR
EVIDENCE GROUP BIASE CHAPTER

30 OCT. 2026

10AM PROMPT

PROF EYO ITA HOUSE, CRS

PCRC Inaugurates New EXCO, Names Cobham, Others as State Patrons

By: Daniel Nsa



The Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC), Cross River State Chapter, has inaugurated its new State Executive Committee and invested Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham, the Muri of Efut Nation, Prof. Itam Hogan and four others as State Patrons, with a call on members to strengthen police-community relations, promote peaceful coexistence and enhance grassroots security across the State.

The inauguration, held at the Police Officers' Mess, Moore Road, Calabar, brought together key stakeholders committed to fostering mutual understanding and cooperation between the Nigeria Police Force and the public.

In his remarks, the Commissioner of Police, Cross River State Command, represented by the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations, DCP Godwin Etim, charged the newly inaugurated executives to see their positions as an opportunity to serve humanity and promote peace and understanding among the State's diverse ethnic and religious groups.

He said their responsibilities include discussing issues concerning the safety of lives and property, receiving and



















considering security reports from towns, cities, villages and communities within their respective areas, and making appropriate decisions and recommendations to protect and advance the interests of the PCRC for the good of the people of Cross River State.

In his goodwill message, the Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Pastor Ekpenyong Ene Cobham, who was invested alongside five other individuals, reaffirmed the Cross River State Government's commitment to strengthening police-community partnerships that would enhance effective and efficient community policing.

He described the PCRC as a vital link between the Police and the people, assuring the committee of the Ministry's support in promoting public awareness, grooming responsible citizenship and building confidence in the Police.

He also urged the new executives to be inclusive, transparent and proactive in carrying all three senatorial districts along.

The newly inaugurated State Executives include Prof. Otu Archibong as Chairman, Chief Iniekong Essien and Dr. Felix Okon as Vice Chairmen, and ASP Sunday Eitokpah as State Secretary, alongside other members.

Patrons invested include HRM Prof. Itam Hogan Itam, HRH Edidem Okon Ayito, Mr. Obua Lekwa Famous and others.

The new leadership is expected to deepen collaboration with traditional rulers, community leaders, youth organisations and other stakeholders to promote peace, improve intelligence sharing and contribute to a safer Cross River State.


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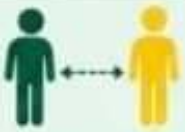




IPC measures for Ebola and Marburg disease

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

Idem Assures Former LG Officials of Govt's Commitment to Unpaid Entitlements

By Mary Okon



The Cross River State Commissioner for Local Government Affairs, Chief Victor Felix Idem, has assured former local government chairmen, vice chairmen, councillors and appointees who served between 2020 and 2023 that the state government is ready to look into their outstanding entitlements and seek a resolution.

Chief Idem gave the assurance on Monday in Calabar when he received a delegation of the Association of Former Local Government Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, Councillors and Appointees Forum, led by Barr. George Ajangson.

The delegation appealed to the Commissioner to present their concerns to the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, with a view to securing government intervention for the settlement of their unpaid entitlements.

Responding, Idem commended the former officials for their patience and understanding, assuring them that he would engage the Governor on the matter as soon as possible.

He, however, requested the association to compile and submit a comprehensive list of all affected persons to his office to facilitate proper





documentation and enable government to examine their claims.

The Commissioner said the submission would provide a basis for further discussions and appropriate action, while reaffirming his commitment to present the matter to the Governor for consideration.

The delegation expressed optimism that the Commissioner's intervention would bring lasting relief to members who have been awaiting settlement of their entitlements.

As part of the visit, the association presented Chief Idem with a crested cap and a branded T-shirt in appreciation of his willingness to identify with the forum.

He was also formally honoured as a Patron of the association in recognition of his support for its cause.

The visit ended with a renewed commitment by the association to pursue an amicable resolution of the outstanding entitlements through constructive engagement with the state government.



Social Welfare, SPC Strengthen Collaboration Ahead of M&E Policy Launch

By Glory Effiom



The Cross River State Ministry of Social Welfare and Community Development has reaffirmed its commitment to inter-agency collaboration and governance accountability ahead of the official launch of the State Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Policy, scheduled for tomorrow, October 21, 2026.

The reaffirmation came during a strategic visit by a delegation from the State Planning Commission (SPC), led by the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Eyibio.

The visit aimed to solicit institutional cooperation and robust support from the Ministry for the upcoming policy implementation.

Speaking during the engagement, Mr. Eyibio revealed that the policy is being rolled out with vital support from the United Nations Children's Fund





(UNICEF). He noted that the initiative forms a cornerstone of broader efforts to upgrade the tracking and evaluation of government programs and interventions statewide.

"The policy is meticulously designed to promote transparency, improve public service delivery, and establish a rigorous, structured framework for tracking government projects, programs, and public expenditure," Mr. Eyibio stated.

He explained that an effective M&E system will empower the government to accurately measure the real-world impact of its interventions on citizens, appraise program performance, and guarantee that public resources are optimized for sustainable development.

Highlighting the critical mandate of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Community Development, the Permanent Secretary emphasized that its portfolio directly impacts the protection, welfare, and well-being of the state's most vulnerable populations.

He urged both agencies to forge a tighter partnership to ensure that social welfare initiatives are seamlessly monitored and aligned with overarching state development goals.
In her response, the Commissioner for Social Welfare and Community Development, Prof. Margaret Ene-Ita,



commended the SPC for championing the policy, hailing it as a milestone achievement for state governance.

Prof. Ene-Ita remarked that the framework would foster greater public awareness of government milestones, create reliable assessment mechanisms, and guarantee that public interventions deliver tangible, life-changing benefits to Cross Riverians.

Inmates Honour Gov Otu at 67 With Novelty Football Match

By Nakanda Iyadim



In a rare show of affection from behind the walls, inmates of the Afokang Correctional Centre, Calabar, on Sunday honoured the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, with a novelty football match to mark his 67th birthday.

The match, played inside the custodial facility, was organized by the Council for Unemployed and Small Scale Business Owners of Nigeria (CUSSBON), Cross River State Chapter, in conjunction with inmates of the Medium Security Custodial Centre, Calabar, as part of activities to celebrate a Governor they described as humane, compassionate and reform-minded.

Speaking at the event, the Officer-in-Charge of the Medium Security Custodial Centre, Calabar, DCC V.U. Muokebe, said the inmates were inspired by Governor Otu's People First administration, particularly his interventions in prison decongestion, welfare and justice reforms in the state.

He said the event was significant for two reasons: "First, we celebrate the life, leadership and legacies of His Excellency who has continued to demonstrate commitment to the welfare



and development of the people of Cross River State. Second, we use sports as a veritable tool for reformation, teamwork and reintegration, a key pillar of the Nigerian Correctional Service mandate."

"I wish to specially recognize and appreciate the Council for Unemployed and Small Scale Business Owners of Nigeria, Cross River State Chapter, for this laudable initiative. Your decision to partner with this Custodial Centre and to mark this celebration with our inmates sends a strong message of inclusion, hope and human dignity. You have shown that no one is forgotten and that rehabilitation is a collective responsibility.

"To our gallant inmates who are participating today, I charge you to exhibit the spirit of sportsmanship, discipline and unity. Let this match remind us that beyond the walls, we are all one people celebrating one leader and one state."

Represented by his Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham, Governor Otu thanked the inmates for the gesture, reiterating his administration's commitment to justice sector reform and the welfare and reformation of inmates.

Otu, who made cash donations to both the organizers and the inmates, described the event as a thoughtful gesture aimed at bringing laughter, relief and social interaction to inmates currently facing challenging circumstances.

He assured that the Governor remains deeply committed to the welfare



of all citizens and is actively working to restore the glory and dignity of Cross River State.

Chairman of the organizing group and Chairman of the Governing Council of the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS), Ntufam Fidelis Ugbo, said the novelty football match was organized to honour Governor Bassey Otu who, within three years, has transformed the lives of inmates through support for the upgrade of facilities at the Centre.

Ugbo noted that the exercise goes beyond sports to convey a message of hope, reformation and



belonging, adding that the initiative was inspired by Governor Otu's compassionate leadership and People First philosophy, which has given inmates a sense of inclusion in the state.

He thanked the management of the Correctional Centre for embracing the initiative and commended the inmates for their discipline and enthusiasm, describing the celebration as proof that talent and the humanity thrive even behind bars, while praying for good health and renewed wisdom for Governor Otu to continue leading Cross River State to greater heights.

The highlight of the celebration was a keenly contested novelty match which ended with cheers of "Happy Birthday, Your Excellency" echoing from within the facility.

Gov Otu Launches Climate Transition Plan to Drive Cross River's Green Economy



Cross River State Governor, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, has flagged off the development of the state's maiden Climate Transition Plan, aimed at strengthening climate resilience, protecting biodiversity and promoting sustainable economic growth.

Governor Otu, who was represented by the Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayambem, performed the flag-off on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, during the inaugural workshop at the State Library, Calabar.

Describing climate change as an urgent economic, environmental and developmental challenge requiring coordinated action by government, the private sector and local communities, Otu said the initiative aligns with his administration's People First agenda and would provide a strategic framework for addressing changing weather patterns, unpredictable agricultural cycles and ecological displacement.

He noted that Cross River occupies a strategic position in Nigeria's conservation efforts, with more than half of the country's remaining tropical rainforests, alongside valuable mangrove ecosystems and rich biodiversity requiring deliberate protection.

According to him, the plan will begin with four baseline assessments across the state's 18 Local Government

Areas, covering greenhouse gas emissions, climate risks and vulnerabilities, climate finance, and mitigation strategies to establish reliable data for evidence-based action.

Otu expressed appreciation to Future Funds, the Under2 Coalition and the Climate Group for providing the seed grant to support the assessments. He also acknowledged the contributions of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to the state's environmental, agricultural and green development initiatives.

He urged heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Local Government Chairmen, civil society organisations, community representatives and private-sector stakeholders to participate actively, stressing that the plan's success depends on reliable data, collective ownership and practical implementation.

The Governor called on financial institutions and private-sector partners to explore green financing, green bonds and sustainable business models to support the state's transition to a greener economy.

He disclosed that the workshop would review and finalise the first-order drafts of the Cross River State Climate Change Policy and Action Plan and the Green Economy Policy and Action Plan, and urged participants to produce a practical, inclusive and evidence-based framework that would protect natural resources, strengthen livelihoods and create economic opportunities.

Earlier, the Director-General of the Cross River State Council on Climate Change, Dr. Edu Effiom, commended Governor Otu for establishing the Council and providing the political leadership needed to advance climate governance in the state.

She explained that the workshop would initiate the development of the Climate Transition Plan, facilitate a review of its zero draft and commence baseline studies across the 18 Local Government Areas. She stressed that the participation of MDAs and Council Chairmen is essential to providing sector-specific data and technical contributions that will shape the plan's targets, projections and policy priorities.

Effiom maintained that climate action must be integrated into government budgets and local development plans to ensure effective implementation, adding that the Council is committed to coordinating the technical and institutional support required to drive the process.

In a goodwill message, the Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the State Planning Commission, Dr. Bong Duke, described the initiative as a significant milestone in Cross River's pursuit of long-term socio-economic resilience.

Evidence Group, MEDA, ICT Hub Launch Digital Skills Initiative for 100 Biase Youths

By Kingsley Agim



The Evidence Group, Biase Chapter, in partnership with the Cross River State Microfinance and Enterprise Development Agency (MEDA) and the Cross River State ICT Hub, is set to launch a digital skills development initiative targeting 100 youths across all wards in Biase Local Government Area.

The initiative, known as BIASE BOLD, an acronym for Building Opportunities Through Learning and Digital Skills, is designed to equip selected beneficiaries with technology-driven skills, mentorship and enterprise development opportunities to enhance their employability and participation in the digital economy.

The official flag-off ceremony is scheduled for Friday, October 30, 2026, at the Conference Hall of Prof. Eyo Ita House, Marian, Calabar, bringing together stakeholders, programme partners and beneficiaries.

Under the theme, "Every Ward. Every Youth. One Digital Future," the 12-week programme will provide free training in high-demand fields, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital content creation, data analysis, digital marketing and agricultural technology



(agritech).

Beyond technical instruction, the initiative incorporates professional mentorship, freelance platform onboarding and pathways to employment, internships and enterprise development, with the aim of helping participants translate their newly acquired skills into sustainable sources of income.

Participants are also expected to receive practical training tailored to the demands of the digital and agricultural economies, alongside credentials from Biase Local Government Area and the Cross River State ICT Hub.

The programme will further connect beneficiaries with professional guidance and relevant enterprise support systems to strengthen their capacity to pursue freelance opportunities, establish businesses and access emerging employment opportunities.

The initiator of Evidence Group and Special Guest of Honour, Mr Edem Bassey, is expected to attend the ceremony alongside the Convener and Coordinator of Evidence Group Biase Chapter, Great Ogban, and other government functionaries from Biase.

Through the partnership, the organisers aim to bridge the digital skills gap among young people in Biase while expanding access to technology education and practical opportunities for economic advancement.

The BIASE BOLD Initiative reflects a growing emphasis on equipping young people with relevant digital competencies that can support innovation, entrepreneurship and participation in an increasingly technology-driven economy.

Cross River Agric Tour Spotlights Gains in Agribusiness, Inclusion, Crop Production

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development has highlighted growing opportunities in agribusiness, inclusive enterprise development and crop production following an assessment tour of agricultural interventions across Yakurr, Obubra and Ikom Local Government Areas.

The exercise, conducted on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, examined the functionality, economic potential and sustainability of selected agricultural projects designed to strengthen value chains, expand rural business opportunities and improve livelihoods.

The assessment team was led by the Permanent Secretary, Dr Odey J. Ikongha, representing the Commissioner for Agriculture and Irrigation Development, Mr Johnson A. Ebokpo Jr. The exercise was organised in collaboration with agricultural development partners and is expected to extend to other local government areas.

At the poultry production cluster at Ekori Beach, Yakurr, the State Knowledge Management and Communication Officer, Mr Christian F. Ekpor, disclosed that 51 persons were primary beneficiaries of the IFAD-assisted Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprise for the Niger Delta







(LIFE-ND) Project in the community.

Ekpor explained that the cluster served as a transition facility for graduated incubatees, enabling them to consolidate their technical knowledge, practical skills and business experience while working towards establishing permanent locations for their enterprises. He said the facility had an annual production capacity of 15,000 table birds through five production cycles of 3,000 birds each.

Responding, Ikongha emphasised that enterprise incubation was designed to transform beneficiaries from trainees into independent agribusiness entrepreneurs. He noted that the transition arrangement allowed graduated incubatees to sustain production, strengthen their businesses





and acquire the operational experience required to establish viable enterprises independently.

The team also assessed beneficiaries, including persons with disabilities, and interacted with Miss Becky Moses Ettah, a former incubatee who has become a poultry entrepreneur. Ettah recounted her journey from domestic work to business ownership, disclosing that she



now operates a poultry pen with a capacity of 2,500 birds and employs four persons. She attributed her progress to the knowledge, practical training, mentorship and enterprise support received through the LIFE-ND Project.

Another beneficiary, Ekpe John Mark, a person with disabilities, commended the project's deliberate inclusion of persons with disabilities in its empowerment, capacity-building and enterprise-support programmes. He noted that the intervention had created opportunities for participation in agricultural enterprise development for a group often overlooked in empowerment initiatives.

At Iyamoyong Community, the State Project Coordinator, Dr Innocent M. Ogbin, received the delegation and explained that the intervention included 10 lock-up stores established to provide traders with secure spaces for their commodities and business materials. He said the facilities addressed challenges associated with inadequate storage, exposure to harsh weather and theft, while the accompanying solar-powered borehole and toilet facilities were designed to improve water supply, hygiene and sanitation within the market.

Ekpor stressed that sustainability remained central to the LIFE-ND Project's implementation and exit strategy, noting that the facilities were intended to remain productive community assets beyond the project's implementation period. He identified Commodity Apex Development Associations (CADAs) and Operation and Maintenance Committees as key structures for promoting community ownership, accountability, effective management and regular maintenance.

At Ofumbongha 1, community representatives, including the Village Head, Chief Alphonsus Oyom Okpa, and the Chairman/Youth Leader, Mr

Sunday Ekong, expressed appreciation for the intervention and the opportunities it had created for the community.

The team inspected the community rice processing mill and witnessed the milling of parboiled rice. The facility comprises two milling machines with a capacity of 800kg per hour each, a 25HP destoner with a capacity of 500kg per hour, four giant boilers for parboiling, a concrete drying platform, a petrol-powered generator, a solar-powered borehole, offices, stores, fire extinguishers, a resting room and male and female conveniences.

Ekpor described the mill as a potential economic hub for Ofumbongha 1 and neighbouring rice-producing communities, explaining that local processing could reduce transportation costs and post-harvest losses while enabling farmers to earn more from value-added products. He added that the facility could generate employment in milling, parboiling, packaging, transportation, equipment operation and marketing, while stimulating ancillary businesses within the community.

In Obubra Local Government Area, the team assessed a yam minisett multiplication farm at Ogada 2, a one-hectare cowpea breeding centre at the NYSC Camp, Ogada 2, and a five-hectare cowpea breeding centre at the College of Agricultural Technology, Ovunom.

The cowpea breeding programme is expected to run for two years, after which the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development is expected to off-take the produce for further multiplication and distribution to women in agriculture. The delegation also inspected a soybean production centre facilitated by Project Grow and another yam minisett multiplication farm at Ochon, where beneficiaries highlighted the benefits of practical training in yam minisett technology, particularly for women and young people.

At Ikom, the team, received by the Director of Cocoa Development, Mr William Ifere, inspected a 91,000-seedling cocoa nursery facilitated by the Ministry in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The nursery is propagating the TC4 cocoa variety, which has an estimated gestation period of 18 months and is being promoted for its disease resistance, improved seed conformation and production of larger, more consistent seeds and pods.

The assessment covered a range of interventions in poultry production, enterprise incubation, rural market infrastructure, rice processing, yam multiplication, cowpea breeding, soybean production and cocoa development. The continuing exercise is expected to provide further insight into the utilisation, economic relevance and sustainability of the investments as the state seeks to strengthen agricultural value chains, expand agribusiness opportunities and improve rural livelihoods.

Ayuk Tasks National Fellows on Grassroots Impact, Accountability

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, has tasked members of the National Health Fellows (NHF), Cohort 2.0, with strengthening grassroots interventions, improving information flow within the health system and documenting their achievements to support planning and service delivery.

Ayuk gave the charge when the state coordinator of the National Health Fellows, Mr. Kingsley Inang Ekpenyong, visited him recently at the Ministry of Health headquarters in Calabar to brief him on the fellows' projects and interventions across the state. The Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp) Desk Officer, Mrs. Edith Silas, was also present at the meeting.

The Commissioner urged the fellows to apply their diverse professional expertise to practical challenges beyond conventional clinical and facility-based activities. He particularly encouraged those with backgrounds in mass communication to examine information dissemination within local government health systems, identify gaps and recommend ways to improve communication between leadership and frontline personnel.

Ayuk said such interventions would help the Ministry identify



communication delays, address operational challenges and improve coordination across the health system. "You do not have to be looking at immunisation data all the time to make an impact. Those of you with backgrounds in mass communication can help us understand how information flows through the system and where the gaps exist," he said.

He also emphasised that primary healthcare extends beyond physical facilities, encompassing environmental conditions, preventive health practices and collaboration with other stakeholders. "Primary healthcare is not just a facility-based concept. It involves the totality of the environment, preventive health practices and the relationship between the health sector and other stakeholders," he said.

Ayuk encouraged the fellows to identify practical opportunities in their communities to promote preventive healthcare, improve public awareness and strengthen essential services, particularly in underserved and hard-to-reach areas. He commended their contributions since the

commencement of Cohort 2.0 and urged them to sustain their efforts.

The Commissioner directed each fellow to submit an individual activity report, alongside consolidated reports from each of the state's three senatorial districts. He said comprehensive documentation would enable the Ministry to monitor progress, assess outcomes, identify areas requiring support and track measurable contributions to sector development.

Earlier, Ekpenyong, who represents Odukpani Local Government Area under the fellowship programme and coordinates its activities in Cross River State, briefed the Commissioner on the fellows' capstone projects and interventions in their respective communities.

He disclosed that his project, Project ASAM, meaning Addressing Severe Acute Malnutrition Among Children in Odukpani Local Government Area, had reached 400 of its 500 targeted beneficiaries, representing 80 per cent completion. The project uses the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) approach, reaching 350 beneficiaries directly and 50 indirectly.

Ekpenyong said other Cohort 2.0 fellows were implementing projects across their local government areas, particularly in hard-to-reach communities, to address public health challenges and improve access to essential health information and services. He cited the open defecation intervention led by Ms. Condoleezza Mbu in Etung Local Government Area as one project whose progress had attracted the Commissioner's attention.

The state coordinator commended Ayuk for integrating the fellows into the Ministry's activities and creating an enabling environment for their contributions to sector development. He also conveyed the fellows' condolences to the Commissioner over the death of his mother, Late Madam Maria Okongor Asu Ayuk, assuring him of their support during the mourning period.

The National Health Fellows Programme is designed to develop young health professionals as future leaders and change agents in Nigeria's health sector through practical experience, mentorship and participation in health programmes, data collection, monitoring and evaluation, community engagement and advocacy. It also seeks to strengthen leadership capacity, improve reporting systems, promote innovation and teamwork, and equip fellows to contribute to better health outcomes.

Ayambem Pledges Rigorous Scrutiny of Cross River's 2027 Budget



The Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayambem, has pledged a rigorous legislative examination of the state's 2027 Appropriation Bill to ensure prudent resource allocation, fiscal accountability and improved service delivery.

Ayambem gave the assurance while declaring open the 2027 Budget Retreat, themed "Consolidation and Renewed Hope," at Centurion Hotel, Obudu, where he charged lawmakers to critically examine the proposed estimates in line with the needs and aspirations of Cross Riverians.

He said the retreat provides an opportunity for members of the Assembly to assess the proposed budget, evaluate government spending priorities and ensure that allocations reflect the development needs of the



people.

The Speaker identified agriculture, healthcare, education, infrastructure and human capital development as critical sectors requiring adequate attention, stressing that budgetary provisions must support programmes that directly improve citizens' welfare.

He reaffirmed the 10th Assembly's commitment to a comprehensive and timely review of the appropriation bill, noting that effective legislative scrutiny remains essential to promoting fiscal discipline, accountability and the judicious use of public funds.

Ayambem emphasised that the Assembly would carefully examine the proposed allocations to ensure that public expenditure aligns with government policies and delivers tangible benefits to the people.

He commended Governor Bassey Edet Otu for maintaining a constructive relationship between the executive and legislative arms of government, noting that cooperation between both institutions was vital to effective governance and the achievement of the state's development objectives.

According to him, sustained engagement between the two arms of government would promote a shared understanding of policy



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