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SOUTH-SOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (SSDC) Enrolment of 1,666 Vulnerable Cross Riverians Excites C'River Government





Daily InfoNews...

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DailyNews Bulletin is a daily publication of the Cross River State Ministry of Information and Orientation for the Entertainment and Education of Cross Riverians and the General Public about the daily events, activities and programmes of government and the private sector operating in all parts of the State.

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

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Health Insurance: SSDC Enrolment of 1,666 Vulnerable Cross Riverians Excites C'River Government

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Government has expressed appreciation to the South-South Development Commission (SSDC) for enrolling 1,666 vulnerable persons into the state's health insurance scheme, describing the intervention as a significant boost to efforts to expand access to affordable healthcare, particularly for underserved communities.

The Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, who spoke on Wednesday during the flag-off ceremony at the premises of the Cross River State Health Insurance Agency in Calabar, assured that the state government would ensure effective monitoring and accountability to guarantee that beneficiaries derive the intended benefits from the programme. He also pledged that resources committed to the scheme would be judiciously utilised.

"We see this not as a donation, but as resources to be realised, sustained, monitored and validated," Ayuk stated, emphasising the need to ensure that the intervention translates into improved healthcare access for the beneficiaries.

The Head of Service of Cross River State also commended the SSDC for extending its social intervention to vulnerable residents, particularly those



in hard-to-reach and riverine communities, noting the importance of strategic partnerships in addressing the healthcare needs of disadvantaged populations.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of SSDC, Ms. Usoro Offiong Akpabio, represented by the Executive Director, Human Capital Development and Social Services, Engr. Preye Aganaba, said the programme was designed to remove financial barriers preventing vulnerable persons from accessing essential healthcare services.

She explained that the intervention aligned with the mandate given to the Commission by President Bola Tinubu to advance human capital development across the South-South region.

“We thank President Tinubu for entrusting us with a mandate to advance human capital development. Today, we are putting that mandate into practice by helping people who face financial barriers get the healthcare they need,” she said.

Akpabio noted that the cost of healthcare and geographical barriers often compel families in riverine communities to delay seeking medical attention, stressing that access to quality healthcare remained fundamental to human and economic development. She commended Governor Bassey Otu for strengthening primary healthcare and expanding







health insurance coverage in the state, while also acknowledging the Director-General of the Cross River State Health Insurance Agency, Dr. Godwin Iyala, for facilitating the partnership.

She charged the implementation teams to ensure transparency, proper verification and equitable distribution of the 1,666 enrolment slots, warning against duplicate registrations and diversion of benefits from genuinely eligible persons.

Also speaking, the SSDC Executive Director, Finance, Amb. Soni Abang, disclosed that the Commission's intervention in the health sector would extend beyond health insurance to include the provision of drugs and medical equipment, as well as the renovation and construction of healthcare facilities.

He explained that the Commission recognised







the connection between a healthy population, productivity, economic growth and security, adding that its interventions would also cover agriculture, professional training and scholarship opportunities.

The Vice Chairman of the Cross River State Planning Commission, Dr. Bong Duke, described the enrolment as an important milestone that aligns with the state's people-first development agenda, noting that the 1,666 beneficiaries represented individuals who had previously faced economic, physical and social barriers to healthcare.

Duke urged the beneficiaries and community leaders to



ensure that the insurance cards translated into actual utilisation of healthcare services, rather than merely serving as proof of enrolment. “The cards must translate into hospital visits and healthier families.

Beneficiaries must use the scheme, ask questions and hold the system accountable,” he advised.

Earlier, the Director-General of the Cross River State Health Insurance Agency, Dr. Godwin Iyala, described the partnership as a demonstration of collective responsibility towards protecting vulnerable members of society, noting that the scheme was built on the principle of supporting those who could not independently afford healthcare.

Iyala disclosed that beneficiaries would enjoy access to healthcare services at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. He commended the SSDC for the intervention and acknowledged Dr. Ekpo Bassey, sponsor of the law establishing the agency, for his contribution to the development of health insurance in the state.

The beneficiaries, comprising women, children and elderly persons, were selected from vulnerable populations across Cross River State, with particular attention to residents of underserved and riverine communities who often face financial and geographical barriers to healthcare.

Highlights of the ceremony included the live enrolment of beneficiaries, presentation of health insurance cards and unveiling of the partnership banner between the SSDC and the Cross River State Health Insurance Agency.


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CALABAR, NIGERIA

C'River Beats 36 States To Emerge Nigeria's Best In GBV Data MGT

By Rekpene Uket



Cross River State has emerged first position at the just concluded National Technical Working Group Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop organized by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Lagos.

The workshop was aimed at assessing the performance of states on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response and interventions, as well as testing the capacity of Directors and Heads of Planning, Research and Statistics (PRS) in Ministries of Women Affairs across the federation on GBV data collection, analysis and reporting for programming.

At the end of the rigorous assessment, Mr. Moses Abam, Head of Planning, Research and Statistics, Cross River State Ministry of Women Affairs, clinched the first position nationwide.

The feat reaffirms Cross River State as a pacesetter in data collation, analysis, and effective GBV response and interventions.

Reacting to the development, the Honourable Commissioner for Women Affairs, Hon. Edema Irom, dedicated the achievement to the People First administration of His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, for providing an enabling environment for GBV response and interventions in the state.

The national workshop brought together Directors and Heads of PRS from Ministries of Women Affairs across the 36 states and the FCT, development partners, civil society organizations and other GBV actors.

ALGON Canvases Support For Tinubu, Otu in Massive Solidarity Walk

By Daniel Nsa



In a show of strength and solidarity, the Cross River State chapter of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) on Thursday staged a massive solidarity walk in Calabar in support of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor Bassey Edet Otu and all candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

The rally, which kicked off at exactly 11:11 AM from the Governor's Office, saw council chairmen, councillors and supporters walk through the Murtala Mohammed Highway to the Mobil axis, chanting solidarity songs and displaying banners in support of the APC leadership.

Speaking at the Governor's Office, the Chairman of Odukpani Local Government Area, Hon. Asido, said the walk was to appreciate Governor Otu for restoring peace and bringing governance back to life at the grassroots.

According to him, Cross River has not enjoyed this level of peace in many years, recalling that local government councils suffered years of inactivity before the present administration came on board.

He noted that Governor







Otu has restored hope through youth employment, improved job security for council workers, enhanced security across the 18 LGAs and the recovery and rehabilitation of abandoned government assets.

"Many government facilities that were abandoned and left to rot have been recovered, renovated and put back to productive use. That is why we are saying Otu deserves our support," Asido said.

He declared that ALGON's achievements under Otu's People First administration have changed the development narrative of the state and called on Cross Riverians to sustain their support for President Tinubu, Governor Otu and all APC candidates ahead of future elections.

The solidarity walk attracted a large turnout of ALGON members and party supporters, who described the outing as a vote of confidence in the APC-led governments at the federal and state levels.

21-Day Strike Threat: C'River Govt Engages Nurses' Leadership

By Anastasia Ekuma



The Cross River State Government has opened emergency negotiations with the leadership of the National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) following a 21-day ultimatum issued by the union over poor welfare and acute manpower shortage.

The crucial meeting was held on Thursday, at the Conference Room of the Office of the Head of Service in Calabar.

The Permanent Secretary, Office of the Head of Service, Barr. Lucy Bassey, who stood in for the Head of Service, received the delegation of nurses and midwives led by the State Chairman of NANNM, Comrade Josephine Ikpeme



Bassey.

Presenting the union's grievances, Comrade Bassey lamented the deplorable welfare conditions of nurses across the state, citing severe shortage of personnel, poor remuneration, and excessive workload leading to stress and burnout.

According to her, the shortage is most critical in the Ministry of Health and in the four Colleges of Nursing where nursing tutors are grossly inadequate.

The union also decried the poor implementation of the new minimum wage, non-payment of uniform and hazard allowances, unexplained deductions from salaries, and the arbitrary stoppage of salaries of some nurses over alleged absenteeism without proper investigation or prior notice.

NANNM is demanding the immediate recruitment of at least 500 nurses into the Ministry of Health and 100 nurses into Primary Healthcare facilities, upward review of remuneration to reflect professional responsibilities, and



immediate payment of all outstanding allowances.

Responding, Barr. Lucy Bassey assured the union that all issues raised would be escalated to the Head of Service for urgent consideration and resolution.

Also speaking, the Director-General of the Cross River State Health Insurance Agency (CRSHIA), Mr. Godwin Iyala, addressed concerns relating to healthcare access and explained ongoing reforms in the state health insurance scheme. He urged nurses to enrol to access health services and assured that accountability issues and renovation of health facilities were receiving attention.

The meeting, observers noted, is part of government's strategy to avert an imminent strike through constructive engagement, with focus on defining interventions, assigning responsibilities and setting timelines for implementation.

C'River Targets Improved Health Outcomes with 2027 Operational Plan

By Kingsley Agim



The Cross River State Ministry of Health has commenced a six-day development, orientation and training workshop for its 2027 Annual Operational Plan (AOP), bringing together health sector stakeholders, government agencies and international development partners to strengthen planning and implementation of healthcare programmes across the state.

The workshop, which began on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at Danic Hotel, Calabar, is themed "Strengthening Health Planning and Implementation for Improved Health Outcomes in Cross River State" and is designed to produce a unified, costed and results-oriented roadmap for the state's health sector in 2027.

The six-day exercise is structured into two phases, with November 3–5 dedicated to state-level Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), while activities from







November 6–8 will focus on Local Government Area (LGA) Health Managers and Monitoring and Evaluation Officers (M&EOs).

Declaring the workshop open, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Jonah Bassey Offor, who represented the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, emphasised that the annual planning exercise must serve as a practical management instrument for translating government health policies into measurable results.

Dr. Offor maintained that the AOP should go beyond routine administrative documentation to become a credible framework for setting priorities, guiding implementation and ensuring accountability across the state's health sector.

"The Annual Operational Plan must represent our collective determination to build a stronger, more responsive and sustainable health system for Cross River State. It must be a credible statement of our priorities, a disciplined guide for implementation and a clear basis for accountability," he stated.



He further reminded participants that the effectiveness of the planning process would ultimately be measured by its impact on residents, noting that every health indicator, budgetary allocation and programme should translate into improved healthcare outcomes.

“Behind every indicator in our operational plan is a human life, behind every budgetary allocation is an opportunity to save a life; and behind every programme we implement is a family whose health and well-being depend on the effectiveness of our health system. We must therefore plan with purpose, implement with commitment and evaluate with accountability,” he added.

Providing technical direction for the exercise,



the Director of Health Planning, Research and Statistics, Mr. Chris Ushuasung, explained that the planning process had been decentralised into state-level and local government administrative streams under the Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp) framework to improve efficiency and prevent duplication of resources.

According to him, the exercise brings together ministry directorates, disease programme officers, local government health managers, primary healthcare directors and facility heads to jointly develop intervention plans and costed budgets for the coming year.

"We have two different tools that we are using to populate our AOP. We are bringing together key health sector stakeholders to jointly design intervention plans and costed budgets for the upcoming year," Dr. Ushuasung explained.

He added that the approach would save time, prevent overlapping interventions and ensure that contributions from development partners, joint funding mechanisms and government budgetary allocations were captured within a common framework.

Dr. Ushuasung noted that the ultimate objective was to ensure that all stakeholders operated with one unified plan, one budget and one reporting system, thereby strengthening coordination, resource utilisation and accountability in the implementation of health programmes.

The workshop is being organised within the framework of the Sector-Wide Approach in Health, with technical participation from the World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), alongside key directors, agency heads, unit heads and other health sector stakeholders.




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100 Days: Mensah Declares Zero Tolerance For Indiscipline, Promises Reward For Outstanding Staff

By Sylvia Okoi



The Cross River State Commissioner for Environment, Barr. Bassey Offiong Mensah, has marked his first 100 days in office, declaring zero tolerance for indiscipline among staff while promising to reward outstanding performance at the end of the year.

Barr. Mensah, who was redeployed from the Ministry of Water Resources in the July 2026 cabinet reshuffle by Governor Bassey Edet Otu, spoke during the Ministry's November Solemn Assembly.

He expressed gratitude to God for the successes recorded since he assumed leadership of the Ministry.

Highlighting one of those achievements, the Commissioner disclosed that the Ministry has procured a truck and other equipment to strengthen its operational capacity and improve logistics for field operations.

On discipline, he cautioned staff against misconduct and truancy, urging them to demonstrate commitment and take their responsibilities seriously.



At the same time, he commended the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Rosemary Onah, directors and heads of departments for their diligence and dedication to duty.

Barr. Mensah also revealed that a reward system is being put in place to recognise outstanding staff performance at the end of the year. He added that staff welfare and the provision of a conducive working environment remain top priorities of his administration.

In a sermon titled "The Faithful Servant in Faithful Service," the guest minister, Rev. Engr. KinGeorge, likened a faithful servant to a worker who performs assigned duties diligently, conscious of God's watchful presence.

Referencing Matthew 25:21, the cleric admonished civil servants not to compromise the quality of service they render, stressing that faithfulness in service does not go unrewarded. He noted that dedication and commitment to duty attract their own rewards.

The Solemn Assembly featured praise and worship, as well as prayers for the Governor, his family and the State Executive Council, Nigeria, Cross River State, and the Ministry's leadership and staff.











FG Boosts Cross River Emergency Response with New Fire Truck

By David Asu



The Federal Government has strengthened emergency response capacity in Cross River State with the donation of a brand-new fire truck to the Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (CR-SEMA) through the South South Development Commission (SSDC).

The Director-General of CR-SEMA, Mr. Efa Nyong, received the vehicle in Calabar on Sunday, November 1, 2026, describing the intervention as a significant boost to the agency's operational capacity and ability to respond to fire outbreaks and other emergencies.

Nyong expressed appreciation to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SSDC, Miss Usoro Akpabio, for the donation, noting that access to essential emergency equipment was critical to effective disaster management and the protection of lives and property.

He said the intervention reflected the Federal Government's commitment to strengthening emergency management institutions and supporting states in addressing disaster risks, particularly across the South-South region.



According to him, the new fire truck would enhance the agency's operational readiness and improve its capacity to respond to emergencies across the state.

The CR-SEMA chief also commended Governor Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu for his commitment to the safety and welfare of Cross River residents, noting that the equipment would complement the state government's efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness and emergency response.

He assured that the fire truck would be deployed effectively to support emergency operations and urged sustained collaboration among government agencies and relevant stakeholders to minimise disaster risks and improve public safety.

Nyong expressed optimism that the donation would significantly strengthen the state's emergency response infrastructure, particularly in tackling fire outbreaks and protecting lives, businesses and public assets, while assuring that the equipment would be deployed judiciously to serve the people of Cross River State.


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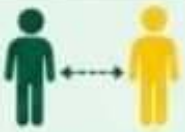

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IPC measures for Ebola and Marburg disease

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.*

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