

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SISTER STATE PROGRAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF MARYLAND OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CROSS RIVER STATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

In order to further friendly diplomatic relations, enhance cultural and historic understanding and cooperation, and to promote international trade between the State of Maryland of the United States of America and Cross River State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the parties hereto have resolved to enter into an agreement of friendship and exchange under a Sister State relationship.

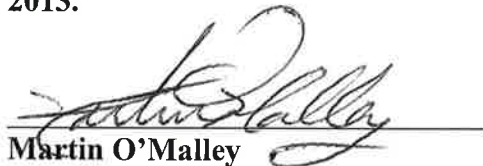
Recognizing the mutual interests of the State of Maryland and Cross River State and many opportunities for cooperation in business and industry, arts and culture, education and tourism, health and agriculture, it is our objective to build long-term relationships, promote commercial cooperation and develop joint programs of exchange in all of these areas and in others that may be identified in the future.

Within this agreement, both the State of Maryland and Cross River State agree that the Maryland-Cross River Sister State Executive Committee will be established in both regions to administer this relationship and each shall be chaired by a permanent member of the respective Committee.

It is also agreed that this agreement envisages and is designed to benefit the State of Maryland and Cross River State. The State of Maryland and Cross River State each recognize and acknowledge the instrumental and formative roles that they played in advancing and cementing this relationship.

In witness whereof, the Governor of the State of Maryland and the Governor of Cross River State have signed this agreement of mutual cooperation.

Agreed upon in Annapolis, Maryland, United States of America on the 20th day of August, 2013.



Martin O'Malley
Governor, State of Maryland
United States of America



Liyel Imoke
Executive Governor, Cross River State
Federal Republic of Nigeria