



NIDCOM

NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

DIASPORA NEWSLETTER



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DIASPORA NEWSLETTER

Monthly newsletter



L-R: Sen. Abba Moro, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa Chairman/CEO NIDCOM, Sen. Ibrahim Oloriegbe and Dr. Sule Ykubu Bassi Secretary to the Commission.

SENATE VISITS NIDCOM

By Rosemary Moribirin

NIDCOM has been able to harness the potentials of Nigerians Abroad-Sen.Oloriegbe .

During a courtesy visit on the 20th August, 2020 by the Senate Committee on Diaspora and NGO's ,the Vice Chairman of the Committee, Senator Ibrahim Oloriegbe gave an accolade to the Nigerians in Daispora Commission (NIDCOM) ably chaired by the Chairman/CEO of NIDCOM, Honourable Abike Dabiri-Erewa, describing the Commission as a home that has been able to harness the potentials of Nigerians abroad. The Senate Committee was received by Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa,Chairman/CEO of NIDCOM and her Management team.Sen. Oloriegbe, who led other committee members on inaugural oversight functions to the headquarters of NIDCOM, Abuja said Nigerians abroad are diverse in their respective contributions to country's development. Sen. Oloriegbe said that despite the paucity of funds allocated to NIDCOM, the Commission had been able to harness the potentials of the exceptional Nigerians abroad and also lived to expectations.



R-L: Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa , Chairman/CEO Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) and Sen. Oloriegbe Ibrahim.

He said the committee visit was basically to conduct oversight functions on the Commission as required by law and see further areas of interventions. He assured Hon. Dabiri-Erewa that the Committee would do everything possible to make the job of the Commission easy for them through necessary legal framework and required amendment to the NIDCOM Act. NIDCOM Chairman, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa thanked the Committee for being there for the Commission during its trying period, saying its top priority is working on the Database of Nigerians in the Diaspora and encouraging diaspora investments. She listed activities of the commission in the last one year of its creation as holding National Diaspora Day, Nigerians Diaspora Investment Summit, the Badagry Door of Return and inauguration of the State Focal point officers, evacuation of stranded Nigeria Abroad amongst others. Dabiri-Erewa solicited for the support of the Senate Committee on legislation to make the travelling of Nigerians abroad seeking for jobs to be legalised in line with international labour laws, thus eradicating the human trafficking of Nigerians. Sen. Abba Moro, who was also on the entourage, commended Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa and her team for being dynamic despite paucity of funds.

NIDCOM BOSS WELCOMES FCT DIASPORA FOCAL POINT OFFICER



L-R: Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) and Mrs. Sarah David Areo (newly appointed FCT DFPO)

By Doosughun Abughidyer

One's diaspora has the role to build a nation; hence we can boldly say the Diasporas are the pride of every nation. If we could recall the Inaugural Summit of the State Focal Point Officers with the theme "Leveraging Diaspora Resources for National Development" which held in Abuja on February, with 24 Diaspora Focal Point Officers (DFPOs) across the 36 states and Federal Capital Territory in attendance, filled with brainstorming sessions on how to maximize the full potentials of our diasporas starting with engaging them at the grassroots level. It is on this premise that the Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa was elated to meet the newly appointed FCTDiaspora Focal Point Officer (DFPO), Mrs. Sarah David Areo by the FCT Administration. The NiDCOM Boss urged her to liaise with other states for

National development. Hon. Abike expressed her confidence that more projects will be implemented and executed, especially for FCT by its indigenes residing in the diaspora. The Secretary to the Commission Dr. Sule Yakubu Bassi congratulated the just appointed DFPO for the FCT, He charged her to make good use of the opportunity and familiarize with Abuja indigenes in the diaspora to be good ambassadors. Mrs. Areo was pleased with the warm welcome by the Chairman of NiDCOM and pledged to do her best in her capacity as the new Diaspora Focal Point Officer for Abuja. With her appointment, NiDCOM now has 28 states Diaspora Focal Point Officers in the country and is calling on other states to follow suit to bring their Diasporas closer.

NiDCOM, NDSI SIGN MOU: MORE DIASPORA INVESTMENTS TO FORESEE



L-R: Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) and Dr. Badewa Adejugbe-Williams, Chairperson, Nigeria Diaspora Summit Initiative (NDSI) after the signing of the MOU in Abuja

By Deborah Anaelechi

History is being made known as the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) reached a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Nigeria Diaspora Summit Initiative (NDSI).

A private sector-led entity passionate in leading investors to improve the Nation's economy from the Diaspora. Following the MOU, NiDCOM will partner with the NDSI to organise future Annual Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summits. In an elated mood, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman of the Commission, described the signing of the MOU historic while revealing that the initiative which began in 2017 had finally come into fruition. We ought to be proud of ourselves when we talk about diaspora. We must talk about investment and human capital development", she said.

The NiDCOM boss appreciated President Muhammadu Buhari and Vice President Yemi Osinbajo for their support in the growth of the summit, as well as, thanked the Committee that has been piloting the initiative, who are mostly returnees from the diaspora. The Chairman encouraged them not to relent in their efforts in the growth and development of the initiative. The Secretary of the Commission, Engr. Dr. Sule Yakubu Bassi explained that the Initiative is to institutionalize the Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit as an annual event; with the Nigeria Diaspora Summit Initiative Group registered under the CAC,

Dr. Badewa Adejugbe Williams, Chairperson of Nigeria Diaspora Summit Initiative (NDSI) appreciated the contribution towards the success of the event, especially for their encouragement, patience and the opportunity given to them. She promised to work hard to encourage Nigerians abroad to invest in different sectors of the economy back home. High notes of the MOU for both parties are to jointly convene mobilisation of events in support of Nigeria's economic development; conduct joint advocacy campaigns aimed at raising awareness on the importance of the Nigerian Diaspora and its capacity for stimulating development in Nigeria's economic process via inward investment; collaborate in mobilising resources for funding investment promotion programmes and, identify reputable individuals and corporate entities within the Nigerian Diaspora community, who can advocate Nigeria's economic development and serve as Goodwill Ambassadors for NiDCOM, in its drive to engage the Diaspora in Nigeria's development process. The allegiance of the two bodies will propel the Nigerian diaspora in reaching the goal of maximising the full potentials of its human and capital resources for the development of the nation's economy.



NIDCOM Chairman/CEO Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa (middle) posed with NDSI members and NiDCOM staff at the signing of MoU in Abuja on Tuesday.

MIN. OF STATE, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INAUGURATES ADHOC COMMITTEE ON NDITF



R-L.Hon.Terab Abdulrahman,Nidcom,Mansur Nuhu Bamalli,Trade, investment & Economic Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,Hon.Abike Dabiri-Erewa,Chairman/CEO,NIDCOM ,Amb.Zubairu Dada,Hon.Minister of State,Ministry of foreign Affairs,Kachi Okezie,Principal Consultant CTP international,Mariam Madaki Nidcom.

By Maryam Kehinde Abdulazeez

"Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success."- Pablo Picasso.

Following the objectives of the maiden Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit (NDIS) in 2018, to harness the substantial but unexplored skills, capital and technical know-how of Nigerians abroad, matching investors with viable projects, and bringing together significant stakeholders in Nigerian economy, including the organized private sector, Government Agencies and Foreign Development Partners, the minister of State Foreign Affairs Ambassador Zubairu Dada inaugurated a 14 Ad-hoc Committee members on the establishment of Nigerian Diaspora Investment Trust Fund in Abuja. The motivation for establishing a trust fund is for an individual or entity to create a vehicle that sets terms for the way assets are to be held gathered or distributed in the future.

The quote above depicts the delectation of the Chairman/CEO Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa during the inauguration. In her words, she said "the Adhoc Committee is being established, the first ever in the history of Nigeria, an outcome of the first Nigerian Diaspora Investment Summit held in 2018..." NiDCOM having two of her staff inaugurated among the ad-hoc member on Nigerian Diaspora investment Trust Fund committee has taken a bold step to actualizing one of her objectives- provide for the engagement of Nigerians in Diaspora in the policies, projects and participation in the development of Nigeria and for the purpose of utilising the human capital and material resources of Nigerians in Diaspora towards the overall socio-economic, cultural and political development of Nigeria and for related matters.

NIDCOM MANAGEMENT MEETING

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli

Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa chairman/CEO NIDCOM on Wednesday, 26 of August, 2020 presided over the second Management meeting of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM).



Photo Story: Chairman/CEO and Heads of Departments during the second management meeting.

JUSTICE FOR KHALEEL BELLO

By Juliannah Erin

How will you feel when you send your ward outside the shores of the country for further studies, waiting on arrival and you wake up one day and all your hopes are dashed by the terrifying news of the sudden and mysterious demise of your ward, divested I guess. This was the plight of Hon, Justice Amina Ahmad Bello, a Kaduna state high Court judge, she lead a delegation to present a petition to the Chairman/CEO Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa in Abuja, after the death of the son Mr Ibrahim Khaleed Bello, a third year Civil Engineering Degree student of Girne American University in Girne (Kyrenia), Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). This was a visit on behalf of other suspicious death of Nigerian students in Cyprus that have not been accounted for.

A heartbroken mother Justice Bello said she received a whatsapp message from her deceased son saying he wants to come back home he doesn't feel safe in Cyprus, Justice Bello suspects a foul



• **LATE
IBRAHIM
KHALEEL
BELLO**

play because the son's stomach was opened when the authorities allowed them see the corpses. The NiDCOM Boss was saddened by this story because Mr. Ibrahim is one among the 100 students killed in Cyprus in the last four years. In her reaction, Hon Abike urged parents to stop sending their wards to Northern Cyprus as the country is not recognized by United Nations, but by the Republic of Turkey. She added Nigeria doesn't have diplomatic ties with the country.

She said it's time to blacklist all the universities in Northern Cyprus and advice students from seeking admission there as it portends danger to their life, she ended by saying the office of the Attorney General of the Federation has already reported the matter to Interpol for further investigations.

OUR DIASPORANS; OUR PRIDE

By **Omolabake Omoniyi**

East and west they say, home is best. This we want to ring aloud to Nigerian Diasporans. It's no news that Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with over 15 million Nigerians living outside the country. No doubt, the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission Establishment act came in timely, many Nigerians in the Diaspora for a very long time looked forward to having a place they could run to, a safe body to hid in and be free from all the fraudulent act one or two persons must have caused them while trying to invest and give back to their homeland. Many Nigerians live abroad now, more than ever before, as most people change locations to school, work and earn a living, in any part of the world where they are better prospects, this has opened the doors for better skills acquisition which has also brought about better opportunities and livelihoods, however many will confess that working and living abroad has its own challenges. Amidst the challenges our Diasporans are assets and grand Ambassadors, over 15million Diaspora Nigerians around the world. They are respected for their work, culture, discipline and ethics globally. They dominate in ICT, Medicine, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Education and many more. Some Nigerian Diaspora has maintained the physical linkages and emotional attachment with their homeland. We encourage you to do more. Events such as the National Diaspora Day celebration, which comes up every July 25th, Door of return in October, the Nigerian Diaspora Investment Summit in November, has been put in place just for you. The Diaspora is not just a group of people somewhere, but a better half to those at home, and to this the development of Nigeria is not a choice but a duty. Knowing fully well the average Diasporan has a higher level of education and skills unlike an average Nigerian in Nigeria How about we brag about your remittances, we can not over emphasize that the Nigerian Diaspora is a force to be recon with, the Nigerian Diaspora remits over 21 billion dollars yearly which is about 80% of the Nigerian budget. Which ranks us one of the biggest country when it comes to remittances My dear brothers and sisters in Diaspora dont be fooled, their are so many business opportunities in Nigeria, we are opened for business, together we can hence the potentials of our dear nation and make things work, your reflection shines bright around the world, how about you rub it off on our dear nation. Let us put an end to the brain drain game and kick up with the brain gain, knowing fully well that their is a lot of things the Nigerian Diasporan can contribute to the economy ranging from Health care, Entrepreneurship, Agriculture and lost more.

DIASPORA ICONS

By Omolabake Omoniyi

It is without doubt that Nigerians in Diaspora are people of merit, a force to reckon with, people of high morals and innovative minds. Welcome to the DIASPORA ICON CORNER. Here we celebrate outstanding and highly successful Nigerians who have made outstanding contributions to the growth and development of the world making her homeland NIGERIA proud. The average Nigerian Diaspora professional holds at least a Bachelor's degree and the annual median income is about \$65,000. Nigerians can be found everywhere in the world, this is not surprising, as we are the best immigrants any country could ever have. Now let's celebrate some of our very own topping the rounds across the globe.



NiDCOM
NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

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of the month
PROUDLY NIGERIAN

PROFILE: KACYEE MADU
Kacyee Madu is the current Justice Minister and Solicitor General in Alberta of Canada.

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of the month
PROUDLY NIGERIAN

PROFILE: NNEKA EDE DOROTHY
Nneka Ede Dorothy is from the eastern part of Nigeria. She is a Nigerian business woman who made the news for buying a Portuguese football club Lusitano Ginásio Club.

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DIASPORA ICONS



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PROUDLY NIGERIAN



PROFILE: OBINNA UKWUANI
Obinna Ukwuani is the current Chief Digital Officer of Bank of Kigali Rwanda. Obinna is set to lead the Bank's Digital Factory Division for product innovation and development.

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of the month
PROUDLY NIGERIAN



DR AKINWUNMI ADESINA:
Dr. Akinwunmi hails from Ibadan Oyo state, born 6th February 1960 he is the President of the African Development Bank. He previously served as Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. He was elected as the President of the African Development Bank in 2015 and re-elected for a second term in 2020. He is the first Nigerian to hold the post.

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PROUDLY NIGERIAN



DR. MUSTAPHA GIDADO(PhD, MSc, MPH, & MBBS)
Dr. Mustapha Gidado is the first non-Dutch professional to function in the capacity as the Executive Director at KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, situated at The Hague in Netherlands. Hitherto.

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