



# NiDCOM

NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

# DIASPORA NEWSLETTER



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# DIASPORA NEWSLETTER

Monthly newsletter



*L-R Dr Momoud kamara Regional Head ISB Nigeria, Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa Chairman/CEO NiDCOM*

## **IDB, IOM PARTNER NiDCOM ON DIASPORA HUMANITARIAN SUKUK**

**By Doosughun Abughidyer**

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in conjunction with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is ready to partner with Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) on Diaspora Humanitarian SUKUK, Diaspora Remittances, as well as Capacity Development Programmes, Training and Research. In a press statement issued by Mr Gabriel Odu of Media, Public Relations and Protocol for Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, he said Dr Mamoud Kamara, the Regional Head of IDB Nigeria led the delegation to the office of the Chairman/CEO, NiDCOM, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa. He quoted Dr Kamara as saying that the Diaspora Humanitarian SUKUK will help alleviate the sufferings of Nigerians especially those who have lost their means of livelihood and are struggling for survival. He went further to say the initiative will involve the World Bank, African Development Bank (ADB) among others. In her response, the NiDCOM Boss said a Committee should be constituted within a week in order to iron out modalities and kick-start the implementation of laudable initiatives put forward by the IDB and IOM respectively. She stressed on the fact that Diaspora Data Mapping will help in mainstreaming migration in such a way that irregular migration can be regular. Dabiri-Erewa was excited to inform the delegation that Nigerians in Diaspora Commission has inaugurated an Ad-hoc Committee for the establishment of National Diaspora Investment Trust Fund (NDITF), first in the history of Nigeria. It was indeed a strategic and successful meeting in which the newly appointed FCT Diaspora Focal Point Officer, Ms Sarah Areo-David facilitated.

# HONESTY IS VIRTUE

By Maryam Kehinde Abdulazeez



*L-R: Sheriff Leon Lott of Richland County, Ms. Chioma Odidika and President Tonna Okei of Organization of African Unity SC.*

A good name is better than gold and silver. No religion has ever approved Dishonesty as a way of life as could be found in the two Holy books including the African traditional religion. Just as the saying in our local parlance “always tell the truth because that way we don’t have to remember what we said”. When lies travels a thousand years, truth and honesty catches up with the lies and even over takes the lies in a day. Honesty is a virtue and indeed the best policy. It is important to know that dishonesty may succeed, but only for a short period of time, while on the other hand honesty is sure to last a lifetime. This may be seen considering the attitudinal behaviour of Ms Chioma Odidika which earned her an award of integrity from the Sheriff of Richland County and a job offer. Indeed it is good to be honest. Ms. Chioma Odidika, a Nigerian resident in Columbia, South Carolina, USA, returned \$4,000 USD from possible scammers. On the strength of that, the Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa has described the behaviour of Ms Chioma in a press statement released on 10th September, 2020 as “indeed a well deserved award and a great opportunity to celebrate you (her)”. Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa explained that: “This is another victory for Nigeria, as another proud Nigerian is portraying what Nigeria is about and that is honesty. Thanks for being a good ambassador of your country Nigeria, you have portrayed the image of Nigerians in the diaspora as unique, honest and trustworthy immigrants”. No legacy is as rich as honesty; it remains the best policy. We must continue to exhibit such behaviour wherever we find ourselves. We must continue to be good Ambassadors to our country,” she stressed.

## NiDCOM REJECTS MASSOB'S ALLEGATION OF THE COMMISSION'S PLAN TO DEPORT, KILL IGBOS

By Deborah Anaelechi

The Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa has cleared the air that the Commission is not in anyway, a ploy of the Federal Government to exterminate Pro-Biafara Groups and its leaders, especially those in the Diaspora. This came following a spiteful, mischievous and baseless story by Uchenna Madu, leader of the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), who alleges that NiDCOM is the channel being used by the Federal Government to forcefully deport and persecute some people described as "Biafrans". A press statement by the Head, Media, Public Relations and Protocols Unit, Mr. Abdur-Rahman Balogun, for the Commission, expressed his disappointment on the message written by the MASSOB leader entitled "Security Agents Killing Our



*Chairman/CEO NiDCOM*

"Members Secretly", containing the sect's allegation that NiDCOM is employed to crackdown its pro-Biafra groups leaders in the Diaspora. According to Mr. Abdur-Rahman Balogun: "these and other fabricated stories by this group is mischievous and is nothing but another deadly attention seeking elements. If however the writer of the story has any information on any Nigerian being unjustly treated and makes an official report, NiDCOM will swiftly swing into action address it. In International Relations, the process of deportation is a country's decision based on their foreign policy", he said. The Commission's Head of Media, pointed out that NiDCOM has consistently appealed to Nigerians to be law-abiding citizens in their countries of residence, and be good Ambassadors of Nigeria, as most countries are restraining irregular immigrants. He puts it that the Diaspora Commission is a Pan-Nigerian Commission, which embraces all Nigerians irrespective of ethnicity or religion as detailed in the Act of Parliament setting up the Commission. Mr. Balogun declared that NiDCOM will continue to demand justice for Nigerians worldwide, while stressing that defaulting citizens will have to face the laws of the country, as the Commission reminds Nigerians to obey the laws of the host country.

# FOOD CORNER



*Soup: Ofe Ukazi photo credit: the pretend chef*

## By Doosughun Abughidyer

Nigeria is a country with a rich flora and fauna. A note for Nigerians in the Diaspora; when you are in Nigeria and desire a traditional cuisine, take a walk to a grocery store and get the following ingredients to prepare this lovely traditional dish of the wonderful people of Umuahia Abia State, of the South-Eastern Region of Nigeria, called 'Ofe Ukazi'. Below are the recipe and method of preparations.

### INGREDIENTS (for a two portion serving)

1. Pieces of Goat meat or Beef
2. Pieces of stock fish
3. Pieces of smoked fish
4. Pomo (Cow hide, optional)
5. Sliced Ukazi leaves
6. Sliced Uziza leaves (optional)
7. Crayfish
8. Egusi (melon seed)
9. Osu
10. Achi
11. Onions
12. Yellow pepper
13. Water
14. Seasoning and salt to taste.
15. Achara

### METHOD ON HOW TO PREPARE IT

1. Wash your meat and stock fish very well, add spices and cook until tender enough.
2. While your meat is boiling, mix some portion of the Egusi and Osu together in a bowl, add spices like seasoning cube, salt and pepper to test, add little water and continue mixing until it forms dough then separate them into small pieces and then cook. Two things to do, either you add it to the boiling meat so they cook together or you cook it separately in a clean water until it's cooked.
3. Add your palm oil into the stock; allow it to simmer for a while. Then add the Achara, pepper, crayfish, your well washed dried fish/smoked fish (as the case may be) and other condiments as you wish and allow it to cook.
4. Add your grounded Achi, (please note; mix the Achi with small palm oil to form a lump-less paste). Let it cook for a while then you top in a small amount of Egusi and cook.
5. Add the already washed and sliced Ukazi and Uziza leaves. Cook for few minutes and it's ready.
6. Serve with any "swallow" of your choice. Bon appetite!

## NIDCOM / SMEDAN PARTNERSHIP : RETURNEES GET FREE TRAINING AND EQUIPMENTS TO START THIER OWN BUSINESSES

**By Rosemary Moribirin**

The Partnership between Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) and Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) has yielded results as the duo put smiles on the returnees from South Africa occasioned by the xenophobic uprising last year. They were given free training and equipments to start their own businesses. This synergy was borne out of the Chairman/CEO NIDCOM, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa's initiative for returnees of South African Xenophobic attack victims in 2019. Other returnees from Lebanon and Libya also benefited from the goodwill. The 4 days empowerment programme cut across eleven states of the federation, namely: Lagos, Ekiti, Adamawa, Katsina, Ebonyi, Delta, Rivers, Kwara, Niger, Zamfara and Bauchi States. Mrs Dabiri Erewa decided to partner with SMEDAN to help build

the capacity of the returnees by empowering them on vocational and entrepreneurship skills, considering the fact that most of them came back home empty-handed after losing their businesses and properties to the attack. The NIDCOM boss keynote speech delivered by Mr Akanbi



Abiodun, advised the participants not to despise the period of little beginnings, stating that the modern-day equipment SMEDAN gave them at the training must be treated as a poverty defying tool. In the same vein, DG of SMEDAN and Chairman of SMEDAN Board, Dr. Dikko Umaru Radda, Former Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Otunba Femi Pedro thanked Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa for her enormous contributions towards the actualization of the training/ skills acquisition programme. Both public officials said that

NIDCOM under the leadership of Mrs Dabiri-Erewa is doing a great deal in de-populating Nigeria's unemployment market and simultaneously bringing into Nigeria Diaspora market in areas of critical sector investments, skills/knowledge transfer, Diaspora settlement assistance and most recently, the Diaspora fund initiative. Abisola Ogunlenu, a trainee/participant, who was appointed training Rep. for one of the subset

classes, poured praises on the NIDCOM Chairman's effort in taking all of them away from the streets to be self-employed and employer of labour afterwards. Other beneficiaries showered encomiums on NiDCOM Boss for finding them worthy and for always looking out for them since they returned to Nigeria. Mrs Dabiri-Erewa contribution was also highlighted in glowing terms and that NIDCOM's Logo will continue to be an emblem for positive Human development collaborations in Nigeria and globally.

## OYO STATE GOVERNMENT DISTRIBUTES PALLIATIVES TO LEBANON RETURNEES



*photo source: radionigeriabadan.gov.ng text*

**By Khadija Shehu Bamalli**

The Senior Special Adviser to the Governor of Oyo State on Diaspora matters, Mrs Sarumi Aliyu disclosed that the government had put mechanisms in place to empower returnees. These returnees are female indigenes who are in their middle ages, and were stranded in Lebanon in their quest to seek for greener pastures. She also reiterated the effort of the Oyo State Government in ensuring the welfare of all its citizens, including those in the Diaspora. Mrs Sarumi Aliyu noted that about forty-eight stranded Oyo indigenes have been repatriated in the last few months while the government plan to evacuate another set of fifty stranded indigenes from Lebanon. According to her, these are the first set of Lebanon returnees in the state. She said the palliative is to make life easier for the ladies pending when a concrete empowerment programme would take effect. She also gave assurances that the state government is ready to take on human traffickers head long.

# LETS TALK FASHION

## Nigeria to the World

**By Omolabake Omoniyi**

Looking good they say "is good business". Welcome to Nigeria where fashion is a way of life too. Nigerians put a lot of effort into how they dress, ranging from their everyday life, to ceremonies and even religious events, they literally bring out their very best as the case may be. Nigeria is speedily gaining her grounds in the world of fashion, taking the African fabrics and the famous Ankara to the global market, selling our culture, and I am super glad a lot of people especially the western world are beginning to embrace it. Nigerian fashion has grown and there's no doubt that the Ankara fabric is here to stay as it represents Africa's bold and diverse culture. Over time Nigeria has groomed so many trendsetters, making her a fashion powerhouse, not only on the African continent, but globally. Numerous Nigerian fashion designers have won accolades for their exemplary work and roles in showcasing the Nigerian spirit, culture, and diversity. Let's check out these fashion designers, who are no doubt amongst the trendsetters putting Nigerian fashion on the international map.

### **DEOLA ADE-OJO**

Deola Ade-Ojo is a Nigerian born haute couture fashion designer. She is the founder and CEO of House of Deola, She became an icon in her field, as she is known for her unique African hand-woven materials which has brought to life a range of distinct cultures. In 2004, she became the first black woman to present a collection during AltaRoma, Rome's celebrated fashion week and the first Nigerian to have her own show at New York Fashion Week in 2014. She continues to lead the way in trailblazing Nigeria on the global fashion map.



Bellanaijastyle

### **ADE BAKARE**

Ade Bakare a top Nigerian fashion designer, born and schooled in the UK. Mr Bakare is an established Nigerian fashion designer whose exquisite African designs have gained grounds across the globe. His designs have been described as classic with a touch of modernity. He has been in the fashion industry for two decades now, and this has gained him fame, making him a household name in both Nigeria and London.

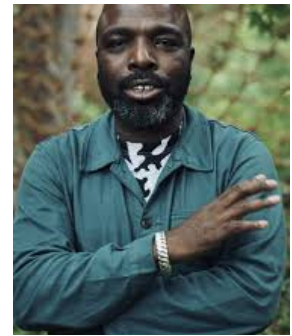


guardian.ng



## DURO OLOWU

Another Nigerian born, London-based, top designer, Duro Olowu, is a household name in both the Nigerian and global fashion industry. He is a well-respected Nigerian fashion design personality, known for his unique and colorful African prints. He is best known for his innovative combinations of patterns and textiles that draw inspiration from the rich culture, spirit, and diversity of the Nigerian people.



wmagazine.com

# DIASPORA ICONS

**NiDCOM**  
NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

**DIASPORA ICON**  
of the month

**PROUDLY NIGERIAN**

**PROFILE: RUTH INOMMA:**  
Ruth Inomma hails from Niger Delta, she is a US military personnel Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), a branch of the United States Armed Forces responsible for conducting expeditionary and amphibious operations with the United States Navy as well as the Army and Airforce.

**NiDCOM**  
NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

**DIASPORA ICON**  
of the month

**PROUDLY NIGERIAN**

**PROFILE: DR. OGUNBIYI OLAGUNJU:**  
Dr. Ogunbiyi Olagunju is a distinguished Nigerian Consultant Surgeon, based in the United Kingdom. Dr. Ogunbiyi has taught several generations of United Kingdom (UK) doctors and is an eminent surgeon at the Royal Free Hospital, one of London's leading reference hospitals.

**NiDCOM**  
NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

**DIASPORA ICON**  
of the month

**PROUDLY NIGERIAN**

**PROFILE: Ernest Ezeajighi**  
Ernest Ezeajighi hails from Anambra State, he is a Scientist by profession, he worked with the Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Ezeajighi got involved in UK politics and soon became an active member of the Labour Party, he was one of the founding fathers of the UK Chapter of the Nigerian political party, All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA). He served as Chairman of the UK chapter of APGA from 2010 to 2012, he is currently the Mayor of London Borough of Brent.

**NiDCOM**  
NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

**DIASPORA ICON**  
of the month

**PROUDLY NIGERIAN**

**PASCHAL UCHE:**  
Paschal Uche is the first English born Nigerian to be raised to the sacred office of Priesthood of Jesus Christ for the Diocese of Brentwood England one of the suffragan of the Archdiocese of Westminster.

**NiDCOM**  
NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

**DIASPORA ICON**  
of the month

**PROUDLY NIGERIAN**

**PROFILE: NJIDEKA AKUNYILI-CROSBY:**  
Njideka Akunyili-Crosby hails from Enugu state, She is an Artist and was recently honoured by the Carnegie Corporation of New York as one of the 2020 Great Immigrants into the United States. The award recognises extraordinary groups of immigrants worthily contributing to America's society.

**NiDCOM**  
NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

**DIASPORA ICON**  
of the month

**PROUDLY NIGERIAN**

**PROFILE: Efe Ajagba**  
A Nigerian professional boxer who holds the record for the fastest victory in boxing history after his opponent was disqualified for leaving the ring one second after the opening bell. As an Amateur boxer amateur he won a gold medal at the 2015 African Games and bronze at the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

# NEWS OF THE MONTH

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli

President Muhammadu Buhari, on Wednesday September 17, 2020, unveiled the Theme and Logo to commence celebrations of Nigeria's 60 years of independence. The theme of the event is 'Nigeria at 60 TOGETHER.'



Happy 60th Independence Day to all Nigerians at home and Abroad.

## PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI IN GUINEA BISSAU

President Muhammadu Buhari participated at a Programme for Guinea Bissau National Day Celebration in Bissau, on September 24, 2020.



President Buhari with President of Guinea Bissau H.E. Umaro Sissoco Embaló during unveiling of a road named in honour of President Buhari at the Programme of Guinea Bissau National Day Celebration in Bissau on 24th Sep 2020



President Buhari with President of Guinea Bissau H.E. Umaro Sissoco Embaló and President of Senegal H.E. Macky Sall during unveiling of a road named in honour of President Buhari at the Programme of Guinea Bissau National Day Celebration in Bissau on 24th Sep 2020



More photos from the event



More photos from the event

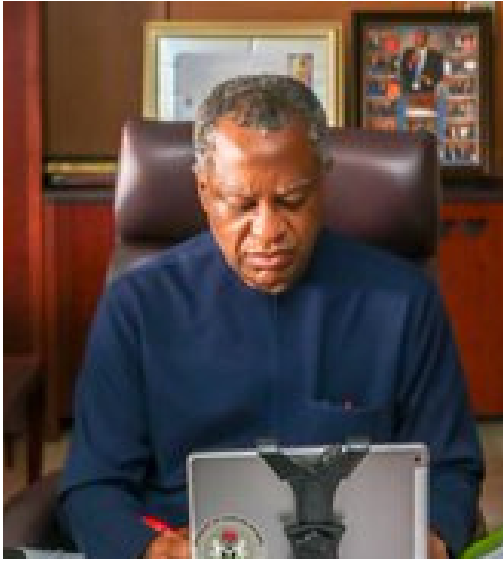


More photos from the event



More photos from the event

# HON. MINISTER'S ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MONTH



participating in the sixteenth virtual Federal Executive Council (VFEC) meeting presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari



met with Ambassador Abakar Saleh Chaimi, the new Ambassador of Chad to Nigeria



Met with Mr. Azanaw Tadesse Abreha, Ethiopian Ambassador to Nigeria over the issue of monies confiscated from Nigerian travellers in transit through Addis Ababa.



Bidding farewell to The President of the Republic of Ghana at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, after a one-day working visit to Nigeria.



Received the visit of the first Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).



Seeing off H.E. The President of Burkina Faso at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja after a one-day working visit to Nigeria.



Received H.E. Ambassador Salaheddine Ibrahim High Commissioner of Cameroon to Nigeria.



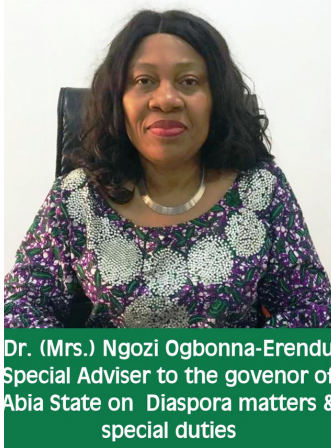
Received H. E. Eustaquio Januario Quibato, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to Nigeria. Discussed cooperation on bilateral and multilateral levels.



Members of the Presidential Taskforce on COVID-19 met with the European Union Ambassadors accredited to Nigeria. Discussed the issue of entry restrictions into Europe for Nigerians and access into the Nigerian airspace for European airlines.

# Diaspora Focal Point Officers

By Pam Dung Pam



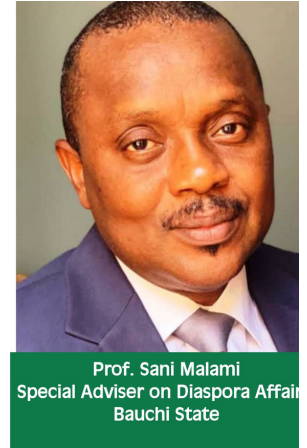
**Dr. (Mrs.) Ngozi Ogbonna-Erendu**  
Special Adviser to the governor of Abia State on Diaspora matters & special duties



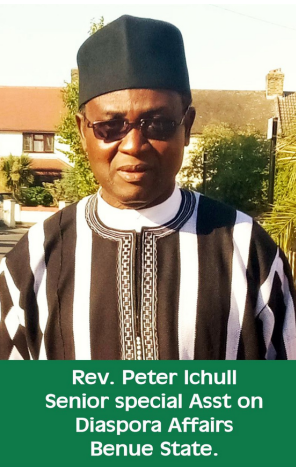
**Moysius Augustine Babadoko**  
Commissioner for Special Duties & Diaspora Focal Point Officer Adamawa State



**Christian Madubuko, PhD.**  
Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs, Indigenous Artwork, culture & Tourism, Anambra State.



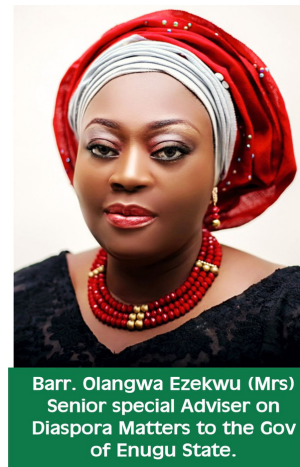
**Prof. Sani Malami**  
Special Adviser on Diaspora Affairs Bauchi State



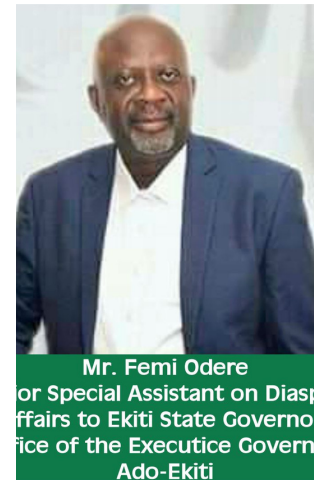
**Rev. Peter Ichull**  
Senior special Asst on Diaspora Affairs Benue State.



**Dr. Genevieve Mordi**  
SSA International Affairs and Diaspora Focal Point Officer to the Governor of Delta state.



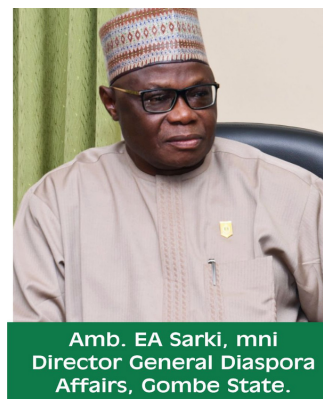
**Barr. Olangwa Ezekwu (Mrs)**  
Senior special Adviser on Diaspora Matters to the Gov of Enugu State.



**Mr. Femi Odere**  
Special Assistant on Diaspora Affairs to Ekiti State Governor, Office of the Executive Governor Ado-Ekiti



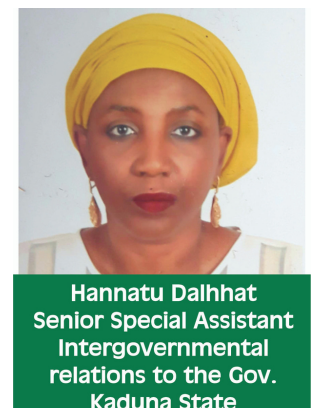
**Mrs. Sarah Areo David**  
Desk Officer/ FCT Diaspora Focal Point Officer FCTA, FCT State.



**Amb. EA Sarki, mni**  
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**Prof. Wale Sulaiman**  
Special Adviser on Diaspora Affairs  
(Diaspora Focal Point Officer)  
Kwara State



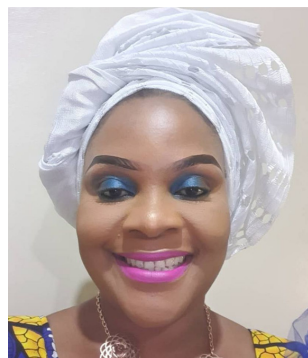
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Senior Special Adviser on  
Diaspora and Foreign Relations  
Lagos State



**Hon. Murtala Sidangi.**  
SSA Disaster Management and  
Diaspora Focal Point Officer to  
the Gov. Nasarawa State.



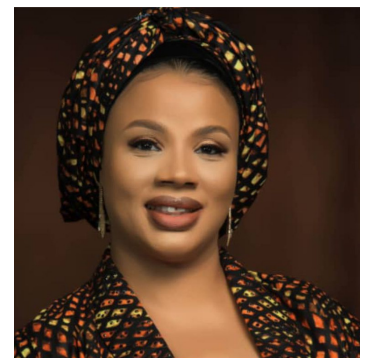
**Mr. Femi Ogunbanwo.**  
Commissioner, Ministry of  
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Senior Special Adviser on Diaspora Affairs  
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Diaspora Focal Point Officer  
Osun State.



**Hon. Bolanle Sarumi Aliyu.**  
Senior Special Assistant to the Gov  
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**Babuji Mohammed Usman.**  
Coordinator Nigeria National  
Volunteer Services & Diaspora  
Affairs Niger State Office of the  
Secretary to the Gov. Niger State



**Dr. Matthew Okiri**  
Adviser to the Governor of  
Cross State on Diaspora Matters.



**Alhaji Modu Fipma**  
Secretary EXCO/Diaspora Affairs  
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**Hon. Mohammed Maiturare Sadiq.**  
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