



May Edition Vol. 11. 2021

# NIDCOM

NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION



*Anniversary*

# DIASPORA NEWSLETTER



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# NIDCOM AT TWO: BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

By Abdur-Rahman Balogun

The month of May can aptly be described as Diaspora month in Nigeria. This, apart from July 25, designated as National Diaspora Day by the Federal Government, was the month when the dream of most fundamentals of diaspora was birthed. It was in May 19, 2019, the hitherto office of Senior Special Assistant to the President on Diaspora Affairs and the occupier, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa transmuted to Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) following the Senate approval and her confirmation as the Chairman/CEO of the new Commission.

It was indeed a dream nurtured when in May 2017 President Muhammadu Buhari signed the bill into law through the acting President then Prof Yemi Osinbajo following the eventual passage by the eighth National Assembly. Similarly, it was also in the month of May that the Federal Executive Council ratified and approved the much-awaited and expected National Diaspora Policy, the first of its kind in Nigeria and a holistic policy geared towards engagement of Nigerians in the diaspora in policies, projects and in participation in the development of Nigeria.

So, the formation of NIDCOM through the Act of Parliament, the appointment of the first Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa as the pioneer boss of the Commission, the ratification and final approval of National Diaspora Policy by the Federal Government all took place in the respective years in the month of May as well as the final public presentation and launch of the National Diaspora policy, also took place in the month of May 2021. With the stage set for the commission to justify the need for its establishment, among which is the reduction in the massive exodus of Nigerian professionals abroad in search of greener pasture thus creating a 'brain drain' in the system and efforts by the commission in stemming the tide and change the narrative to

brain-gain through a constructive engagement with the Diasporas and tapping their potentials for national development.

Not backing down due to daunting challenges staring at it in the face, the Commission has been able to live up and even beyond expectations in its two years of existence. It must be mentioned here that the Nigerian Diaspora is part and parcel of the population to bring about accelerated economic growth using their resources, intellect and global exposure. They are the real catalyst and asset for economic development of the country. NIDCOM ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS Since the establishment of Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, a lot of activities have been embarked upon to fulfil the mandates of the Commission. Within two years, the Commission has lived up to expectations and even beyond it despite daunting challenges.

1. Such activities include advocacy to states to key into the larger Diaspora movement with the inauguration of Diaspora focal point offices and officers in 33 out of the 36 states of the Federation including the FCT. In May 2021, the focal point officers coordinated by NIDCOM had a successful three-day Summit in Abuja, the third in the series since 2019.

2. NIDCOM also ensured the consolidation of the declaration of July 25 every year, by the Federal Government of Nigeria as 'National Diaspora Day', a date set aside to recognise and appraise Nigerians in the Diaspora on their contributions to national development. This is to ensure networking, dialogue and constructive interface between Nigerian professionals and experts in the Diaspora and Nigerians at home on development challenges and opportunities. The third in the series will hold on Sunday July 25, 2021 via hybrid and webinar.

3. Similarly, by Nov. 2021, the Commission will be organising the third in the series of Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit (NDIS) in Abuja with other stakeholders from across the globe via webinar thus lubricating the Diasporas interest and participation in investing back home in any sector of their choice. It will be recalled that as a follow-up to the Summit, on 18th and 19th December, 2019, two young Nigerians resident in Saudi Arabia, put together the first Saudi Arabia/Nigeria Investment Forum, an offshoot of the Nigerian Diaspora Investment Summit in Abuja and it was also a great success.

4. As part of the Commission's collaborative efforts with other stakeholders, some 19,085 Nigerians were evacuated and brought back home from various countries due to reasons of deportation, human abuses and trafficking, voluntary returnees and effects of Covid-19 pandemic from June 2020 to March 2021.

5. Of course, with Nigerians in Diaspora contributing so much to the Nigerian Economy, estimated at over \$25 billion US dollars in 2019, it is widely believe that they deserve to vote. So, the Commission already working with the National Assembly and other stakeholders like National Diaspora Voting Council, to hopefully make this a reality in Nigeria through amendment to the country's Electoral Act and the 1999 Constitution.

6. The Commission through its Chairman/CEO or her representatives had participated in many activities within and outside the country geared towards advancing the course of Nigerians in the Diaspora. Such activities include the participation of Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa in the 25th anniversary of Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas (ANPA) wherein she was amazed at the quality of Nigerians doctors as the best brains in the Americas

7. In line with President Muhammadu Buhari's desire that the welfare and well-being of Nigerians anywhere in the world is top priority, the Commission paid swift intervention visits to

many High Commissioners and Embassies in Abuja to put a stop to the indiscriminate xenophobic related killings of Nigerians, discrimination, inhuman treatment, illegal detention among others, insisting that it is highly reprehensible, condemnable and unacceptable.

The Commission was at the forefront for the release of Zainab Aliyu on death row by the Saudi Arabian government for alleged drug related offences as well as Ibrahim Ibrahim. The Commission intervened positively in rescuing other Nigerians in such dilemma in Malaysia, Oman, U.A.E., China, Brazil, Morocco, Singapore, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Qatar and Ethiopia.

8. One of the objectives of the Commission is to have adequate data of Nigerians living abroad for effective planning purposes and the flag off was done in partnership with National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) where the enrolment took the Commission to some parts of West Africa, Europe, Asia and Americas. This is a continuous exercise under the commission Diaspora Mapping policy.

9. Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa assisted by the Secretary of the Commission, Engr. Dr. Yakubu Sule Bassi and other top management of the Commission at various times do interact with stakeholders such as International Organization for Migration (IOM), National Youth Service Commission, EFCC, Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria, Godwin Emefiele, Minister of Finance, Mrs Zainab Ahmed, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), International Labour Organization and Association of Bureau De Change Operators of Nigeria, NAPTIP, NDLEA, among several others to see how collaboration with the Commission will enhance better opportunities for the Nigerians abroad.

10. Inauguration of some NIDO Chapters: The Commission under the leadership of Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa also led some Commission staff to witness the inauguration of some of the NIDO Chapters wherein they were counselled to be good ambassadors of Nigeria.



11. Securing a Nigeria passport abroad has been a recurring headache to many Nigerians in the Diaspora. To ease the process, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa took out time to engage with Minister of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola as well as the Comptroller General of Immigration Service. These efforts have paid off as backlog of the passports issuance occasioned by the lockdown of covid -19 in many countries have been eased out. 12. During the year under review, the Commission had its maiden Diaspora Quarterly Lecture with both Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Amb. Zubairu Dada and Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, Minister of Interior Affairs. The duo engaged the Nigerians abroad on many issues of great concern with Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa moderating for over four hours. It was indeed a fruitful engagement and mutually rewarding.

13. In exercising its over-sighting functions, various standing committees of the National Assembly do engage with NIDCOM Management from time to time to brief them on the activities of the Commission and solicit for more support especially in the areas of funding and necessary legislative interventions to ease the task of the two-year old Commission.

14. Media Engagements: From time to time as it may be required, NIDCOM issued various statements and interfaced with the media especially on issues as it affects the welfare of Nigerians in the Diaspora. It has also a 30-minute weekly package on NTA International called ``The Diaspora'' wherein the programmes and activities of the commission were being showcased. Similarly, there is monthly Diaspora Newsletter being produced by the Commission where all the activities of the Commission within the month are well stated out. Added to that is the new online global radio station being test run for the commission. It is expected to start full operation before the year runs out. All these are in addition to NIDCOM social media handles.

15. Diaspora Town Hall Meetings: NIDCOM boss in entourage of Mr. President on state visit do organise town hall meetings for Nigerians living abroad to meet and interact with Mr. President

discuss issues affecting their welfare while using the opportunity to also brief Nigerians in Diaspora on efforts being made by the administration to revamp the economy, tackle insecurity and fight corruption to a standstill in the country.

16. Petitions: On daily basis, NIDCOM treats petitions of Nigerians in the Diaspora received in its known mail addresses: [ssa@diaspora.gov.ng](mailto:ssa@diaspora.gov.ng) and [admin@nidcom.gov.ng](mailto:admin@nidcom.gov.ng), as it affects their welfare and get it resolved as soon as possible.

17. Enlightenment/Advocacy: NIDCOM Chairman or her representatives devote time to engage Nigerians both within and outside the country on advocacy and enlightenment on the mandate of the Commission by delivering lectures, goodwill messages and talks on various Diaspora related issues.

18. Diaspora Festival: The Commission in conjunction with some private sector NGOs held the third in the series of Diaspora Door of Return in Badagry in Lagos from October 15 to 20, 2019 where the Diasporas made a pilgrimage to the motherland, reminiscing of the slaves' trade of the 18th and 19th centuries. Due to Covid-19, the 2020/2021 editions of the festival could not hold as planned.

19. Intervention: Due to the efforts of Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, some individuals and groups from the diaspora donated both medical equipment and services worth millions of Naira towards ameliorating the impacts of Covid--19 pandemic in the country as a way of giving back to their fatherland. Many more Nigerians were recognized for their wonderful contributions to their host country and Nigeria as a way of encouraging others and for them to do more. To this extent, the Commission is presenting to the public soon a compendium of great Nigeria achievers in the diaspora as a way of celebrating and encouraging them to do more.

20. COVID-19 AND NIDCOM: Despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, the Commission remains active online as

a necessary tool to link up with the Nigerians abroad. It was through this effort that the commission launched a portal wherein it coordinated the collation of data of Nigerians stranded abroad and facilitated the evacuation of over 9,000 stranded Nigerians back home in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other agencies. Regrettably, Nigeria lost over 60 of her citizens to Covid-19 pandemic abroad. May their gentle souls rest in perfect peace.

21. Welfare: Staff welfare is a top priority at the Commission. Apart from internal training, some of the staff across the departments and units were sent on capacity building training both within and outside the country to enhance their performance amidst other welfare packages by the management.

22. It is gratifying to note that owing to some of the modest achievements within two years of the existence, a lot of accolades, awards and recognition were bestowed on the Chairman/CEO and the Commission by various groups such as Business Day Award and Guardian Distinguished Award amongst several others in recognition of the contributions of NIDCOM to Diaspora affairs in the country.

23. Also in May 2021, NIDCOM was listed among the 20 outstanding Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government adjudged as performing in the year 2021.

This was disclosed by the CEO, Profiles & Biographies, Mr. Kammonke Abam, in a statement in Abuja, as an update on the firm's research and compilation of the accomplishments of MDAs to mark the sixth anniversary of President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. He said the assessment result is relative to the MDAs fulfilling their ministerial mandate in line with the administration's 9-point development agenda, and his firm's evaluation benchmark.

**FUTURE PLANS:** Undoubtedly, it is a statement of fact that within 24 months of the Commission existence, it has really lived up to expectations and even surpassed it, though not yet uhuru, as

interest and welfare will continue to be adequately taken care of. In addition to the sustainability of the above achievements, the Commission intends in the years ahead to work with stakeholders to do DIASPORA MAPPING geared towards having a data of Nigerians living abroad for effective planning. More importantly, the commission intends to re-launch DIASPORA BONDS in collaboration with Debt Management Office just as the \$300 million Diaspora bonds was successfully launched in 2017. In the years ahead, the Commission intends to have a regular DIASPORA CHAMPIONS and AWARDS to deserving Nigerians in the Diaspora as a way of encouraging them to be good ambassadors of the country.

Equally, the Commission will work with National Assembly relevant committees to ensure DIASPORA VOTING for Nigerians living abroad through amendments to some electoral laws. Talks are on with relevant government agencies to have a befitting Diaspora City in Abuja with over 17,000 housing units. This will be replicated in some states of the federation.

**CHALLENGES:** Despite two major challenges facing the Commission, which is lack of office accommodation and paucity of funds, the Chairman/CEO, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa has vowed not to be cowed by the challenges but to forge ahead and ensure that Nigerians in the Diaspora are not short changed in the scheme of things. Writing on NIDCOM and the dilemmas of our diaspora" Dr Abiodun Adeniyi of Baze University Abuja opined that "NIDCOM is rich in ideas, but often unfortunately weak in execution. This weakness is no fault of theirs, nevertheless, for some reasons. First is poor funding, and second, because of a subtly loud indifference for its mandate. Third is some suspected threat of a conflict of responsibility between it and the overarching foreign ministry. Fourth is the poor structural and facility support it presently has, plus a disinterest in helping them out, or even a concern for denying them of the little they have, Fifth is the hitherto inability to appreciate the full import of diasporic influence. In spite of the above challenges, Adeniyi added that the progress in the

public sphere of Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa has arguably been synonymous with diaspora issues, making her a factor in the description of Nigeria diaspora. "Add her passion, media initiative, and a level of influence she covets, plus her stimulus and it would be tougher to deny the effect of her brand". "Overall, I imagine an empowered NIDCOM reconciling, or resolving these issues" he said. Above all, with the establishment of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, which has been a veritable link in many areas of human endeavours

to ease the task of Nigerians in Diaspora in engaging with the Nigerian economy, it is expected that all Nigerians in the Diaspora will reciprocate the gesture by continuing to be good Ambassadors and project the good name of the country wherever they may find themselves. The Commission shall continue to celebrate her heroes and heroines in the Diaspora.###

Abdur-Rahman Balogunis the Head, Media, Public Relations and Protocols Unit Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, (NIDCOM) Abuja)

## NIDCOM SUPPORTS GALLANT WOMEN ABILITY FOUNDATION, G-WAF

By Abughidyer Doosughun



The United Nations' Charter on right of persons living with disabilities, prescribes the need to promote, protect and to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons living with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. It is against this backdrop that the Gallant Women Ability Foundation G-WAF derives its establishment and foundational structure. In a bid to open new vistas for collaboration, the founder and president of G-WAF, Mrs Olaide Awosedo paid a courtesy visit to the Chairman/CEO Nigerians in Diaspora Commission Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa, to promote self reliance with dignity among disabilities in Nigeria. She said G-WAF was founded in 2018 mainly to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all humans rights and fundamental freedoms by all

women with disability, less privileged children and the elderly. She noted that her inspiration was fuelled by her involvement in a car accident in Nigeria in 1998 and was flown to the United Kingdom for treatment, This unfortunate incident changed her course of life and inspired her to form the Gallant WomenAbility Foundation G- WAF, a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO). In addition, she said the NGO is saddled with the responsibility of caring for the physically challenged, women and children and promoting independent living and self reliance. In her appeal, Mrs Olaide Awosedo said that there is near absence of infrastructure facilities in place in Nigeria for the physically challenged, hence her passion to launch the Gallant Women Ability Foundation later in the month, and therefore seeks collaboration to work with NIDCOM and other stakeholders in attaining a state of equity and rights of women and children with disabilities. The NIDCOM Boss Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa was pleased with the initiative, and commended her efforts in giving back to society as a good Diaspora Ambassador. She further stressed the need for others to emulate Mrs. Olaide Awosedo and assured that NIDCOM would assist to liaise with other government agencies particularly National Commission for persons with Disabilities and the Ministry of Women Affairs to promote the her good course.



# NIDCOM PARTNERS EU-IOM TO LAUNCH THE NATIONAL DIASPORA POLICY WITH OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

By Omolabake Omoniyi



A historic feat for Nigeria and her citizens across the globe, as the long awaited National Diaspora Policy has been launched following its adoption and ratification by the Federal Executive Council (FEC). A Document that will effectively promote and harness the resources and capacity of Nigerians in the Diaspora for the growth and development of Nigeria and her economy. The Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amb Zubairu Dada, who launched the Policy at the Third Summit of the States Diaspora Focal Point Officers (SDFPOs) and Standing Committee on Diaspora Matters, stated that the Policy will serve as a link between the State Government and its citizens in the global world, thereby creating a conducive environment for participation in community projects, adding that the Policy will engage, enable and empower Nigerians in the Diaspora as Change Agents for the development of Nigeria.

The Minister also informed that FEC adopted, ratified and approved the National Diaspora Policy, as a Legal framework based on the 1999 Constitution of NIGERIA as amended which provides for the human rights of all Nigerians, dual citizenship and allows for Nigerians to enjoy all the benefits of citizenship. The Chairman/CEO Nigerians in Diaspora Commission Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa stated that the Commission will ensure an enabling environment is provided for exchange of ideas, encourage, synergies and collaborate among SDFPOs, to promote policy consistency and coherence, with an overall objective of harnessing the potentials of Nigerian Diaspora for National Development.

The NIDCOM BOSS who was ably represented by the Secretary to the Commission Engr. Dr Sule Yakubu Bassi said "it is important to inform on the progress made following the 2nd summit" that three additional states have appointed their SDFPO rounding up the total of Officers to thirty-one, she also added that two new officers will join the summit, summing up the state Diaspora Focal Point Officers to thirty-three. In fulfilling the Mandate of the Commission, which is to harness the human capital and material resources of Nigerians in Diaspora, the Commission is set to engage its Diaspora with Programmes and projects which will be mainly domiciled in the State and Local Government areas of the country.

The Secretary to the Commission Engr. Dr. Sule Yakubu Bassi was represented by the head of Technology Transfer and Innovation (TTI) Hon. Abdur-rahman Terab. The Chief of Mission, IOM Mr. Frantz Celestin expressed profound delight to be part of the Official launching of the National Diaspora Policy ratified and adopted by the Federal Executive Council, FEC. He congratulated the Federal Republic of Nigeria for this great milestone and lauds Hon. Erewa for her persistence towards the achievement of the policy. Meanwhile the Chairman House Committee on Diaspora

Affairs Hon Tolulope Akande-Sadipe acknowledged that Nigerians in the Diaspora have put their Nation on the global map and have changed the narrative portrayed by the western world, as they are the best set of immigrants in all fields in the United States alone. She stressed that in a bid to efficiently and effectively mobilize Nigerian Diaspora, there is a need to build a mutual and beneficial relationship between stakeholders and Nigerians abroad. The three day event had as theme: "Strengthening Diaspora Engagement Through State Diaspora Focal Point Officers" and was adjudged a huge success.

## DID YOU KNOW?

1. Nigeria is the first country in Africa to have a holistic National Diaspora Policy.
2. Fatima Akinola who graduated with 4.73/5.0 first Class Honors in Mathematics from Usman Dan Fodio University Sokoto, has emerged best student in her American Masters degree with a perfect 4.0/4.0 in Mathematics at Marshall University.
3. Kelechi Iheanacho is the first footballer to score all 7 days of the week in one season of the premier league.
4. Tanitoluwa Adewunmi a Nigerian, is the newest America Chess Master at 10 years old.
5. Hausa tribe is Africa's largest ethnic group with 78 million people. Hausa is Africa's 2nd most spoken local language with 100 million speakers in Nigeria, Niger Republic, Chad, Benin, Cameroon, Togo, CAR, Ghana, Sudan, Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Senegal, and The Gambia. The Hausa tribe is NOT the same with Fulani tribe.

**By: Maryam Kehinde Abdulazeez**  
**Source:- Twitter and Google**





# NATIONAL DIASPORA DAY 2021

## THEME:

DIASPORA INTEGRATION FOR NATIONAL PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

**SUNDAY**

**JULY 25TH, 2021**

9PM CHINA/9AM USA

4PM KSA /11PM AUSTRALIA

2:00PM NIGERIA/UK

FREE  
ACCESS

## SAVE THE DATE

<https://nidcom.gov.ng/diaspora-day-2021/>

ONLINE

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# NIDCOM BOSS HAILS KEHINDE AGBOOLA ON HER ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN SIERRA LEONE

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli

**I**n our world today, education is the most powerful weapon you can possibly have to go as far as you are willing to go and with it, you can make all of your dreams come true. This is why Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians In Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) has congratulated Kehinde Monsurat Agboola on the great success she attained in her academic pursuit in Sierra Leone. Kehinde Agboola is a graduate of Sierra Leone University who bagged 11 awards during the schools graduating ceremony. In a congratulatory message, the NIDCOM Boss said that Agboola has proved that hard work and dedication to studies pays, saying that she is not surprised at the number of awards she won due to her resilient, dedication to her studies, hard work and doggedness. Dabiri-Erewa also encouraged Nigerians studying abroad to emulate Kehinde's feet and strive to excel in their academic pursuit as hard work is the key to success and they should keep making the country proud. Kehinde Agboola won 11 best awards in a row, a feat that has never been achieved in the



history of the West African Countries. She clinched the best graduating student prizes in the faculty of Clinical Sciences, Physiology, Microbiology, Pathological Sciences, Surgery, Internal Medicine, overall award in Surgery, Willoughby award, best candidate prize, best in overall Proficiency and recipient of Adonis Trust Fund. Kehinde Monsurat Agboola was born in March 1996 in Freetown, Sierra Leone to Alhaji Ade Agboola from Oyo State, had her primary and secondary education in Ibadan but went back to Sierra Leone for her University education. Due to her outstanding performance during her electives at Serabu Catholic Mission Hospital, a group of doctors from Switzerland offered to pay her school fees.

# DABIRI-EREWA DONATES ICT CIVIC CENTRE TO LAGOS POLYTECHNIC FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



A good leader is that whom is known to develop others. Part of the strategic engagement of Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa on the growth and development of Nigerian Youths is the newly commissioned Civic Centre built to commemorate her father's 95th birthday anniversary, Pa Ashafa Erogbogbo. This centre was built in partnership with the Lagos State Polytechnic, in Ikorodu Campus, to train the younger generation who are the agents of posterity. Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa who believes that investing in the youth is a way of equipping the future generation with competencies and skills for a sustainable national development has continuously supported and encouraged the development of Nigerian youths.

This centre, built in the same polytechnic where she was able to give out five hundred computers, laptops and iPads will serve as an avenue for continuous development of youths especially in the ICT sector. During the commissioning, she said, it is her wish that "I believe any Nigerian youth that is able to come through this centre with any training or the other will benefit from it, as it will

increase their knowledge, practical skills and nurture a long-term commitment to entrepreneurship and creativity while taking advantage of new innovations and technologies." The School Rector, Dr. Oluremi Olaleye, in his remarks said he is very delighted, as this centre marks history on the campus. He described the centre as that which is going to serve the generality of Lagos State Polytechnic students and Nigeria youths for technology development and other technology related training and skills, because Lagos State Polytechnic under the Lagos State government has robust research training developmental activities that goes on all the time. The Lagos State Polytechnic Registrar, Mr Shakirudeen Adetona Bello, appreciated and congratulated Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa for being consistent in her interest in the development of this institution through numerous developmental projects, either donated or facilitated which the administrative, teaching and non teaching staffs are enjoying today. He also described the civic centre as a landmark achievement in the campus. This brave move is highly commendable especially at this moment when the world has gone digital.



# NIDCOM HOST DIASPORA QUARTERLY LECTURE SERIES

By Deborah T. Anaelechi

**T**he Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) in its efforts to enlighten the general public on the activities of the Commission and the Diaspora with its advantages, came up with a novel and historic forum to champion its mission: "The Diaspora Quarterly Lecture Series".

It is a baby project of NiDCOM and had in attendance dignitaries from home and in the Diaspora over the first-of-its-kind lecture, which was hosted via a webinar with the theme: MOBILIZING NIGERIANS IN THE DIASPORA FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

Speaking at the event, the Hon. Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, Amb. Zubairu Dada said harnessing the human capital and material resources of Nigerians in Diaspora towards the socio-economic, cultural and political development of Nigeria can no longer be ignored.

As a community full of well-educated, skilled and talented individuals, the Minister of State, Foreign Affairs posited that Nigerians in the Diaspora are catalysts for accelerated development of Nigeria. This is apt and very deserving of such recognition.

Amb. Dada explained that the establishment of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), the National Diaspora Policy, the Constitution of Senate and House of Representatives Committees on Diaspora Affairs, liaising ties with the Diaspora through, National Diaspora Day Celebrations, the creation of the State Diaspora Focal Point Officers, and other platforms, are strategies for tapping into the human and intellectual resources of the

Nigerian Diaspora.

Also speaking at the Lecture, the Minister of Interior, Hon. Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, spoke on reforms taken by the Ministry, specifically on the Nigerian Immigration Service.

Aregbesola informed that the establishment of Front desk Offices in some selected airports in Nigeria, is a step to serve better and faster.

On applications and issuance of Passports, the Interior Minister said the shortage of passports would be resolved soon, by ensuring that passport applications take two weeks to be processed and applicants get proper notification via email, for pickup, at passport support centres.

Meanwhile the Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa described the Diaspora Quarterly Lecture Series as projected to be a major aspect of national discourse, where Nigerians can be updated of the Government's policies, programmes and projects in Nigeria and her Diaspora Community.

To her, "It will be expert-oriented and participants would also have the opportunity to contribute to the discourse".

Issues, on Insecurity, Power Supply, Diaspora Voting and others, were well marshalled out by the Minister of State, Foreign Affairs and the Chairman/CEO NIDCOM Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa.

Over 2,000 participants joined virtually to the Inaugural Diaspora Quarterly Lecture Series.

# NIDCOM BOSS COMMENDS NIGERIAN MISSION IN UK FOR PUTTING A STOP TO PASSPORT RACKETEERING

By Rosemary Moribirin

Following several reports of alleged extortions of Nigerians seeking to acquire international passports, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) has commended the Nigeria High Commission in UK for putting a stop to passport racketeering in London. In a statement by the Head of Media and Public Relations, Abdur-Rahman Balogun, Dabiri-Erewa recently applauded the efforts of the new Nigeria High Commissioner to UK Amb. Sarafa Tunji Isola for his giant strides and his efforts in sanitising the image of the mission. Amb. Sarafa Tunji Isola upon resumption of duties held several strategic meetings with relevant staff of the mission to brainstorm on the best ways to address the incessant allegations of corruption and other negative reports on the issuance of the Nigerian passport in London as well as restoring the missions credibility in the process. These new efforts led to the discovery that 18 innocent Nigerians have paid between £200 and £350 to racketeers in their bid to urgently renew and acquire the Nigerian passport.

The NIDCOM boss applauded the new Ambassador and his team on their quest to restore the missions credibility while

urging the Nigerian communities to always visit the mission on any matter concerning their stay in the UK and avoid patronising touts. Dabiri-Erewa noted that the mission has confirmed the availability of sufficient passport booklets for deserving applications. She joined the UK mission in appreciating the Controller General of the Nigerian Immigration Service for ensuring that adequate passport booklets are available at the High Commission.

The mission has resumed the Fast-Track services in line with the global practices for Nigerians with urgent reasons for passport renewal. It will be recalled that the High Commission suspended services to Nigerians in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and resumed in April 2021 following the lifting of the lockdown restrictions by the British government. As at 31st March, 2021, there was a backlog of 18,000 applications awaiting processing, which were accumulated between December 2019 to March 2021. Due to the doggedness and hardwork of officers and staff of the Immigration Section, the mission has issued a total of 8,852 passports out of 9,964 passports that were captured from the backlog.

# ABRIDGED REPORT OF NIDCOM PROGRAMMES

## DEPARTMENT

BY HOD ALHAJI. MUSTAPHA MOHAMMED EL-AMIN

The Department of Programmes Development in NIDCOM is vested with the responsibility of initiating and co-ordinating major programmes for the Commission like the **National Diaspora Day Celebration**, **Badagry Door of Return Ceremony** and the **Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit**. Other responsibilities include but not limited to: entering into Collaborations/Partnerships with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Individuals, Corporate Organizations, Foreign Missions/Organizations, etc.

The purpose of the National Diaspora Day celebration is to recognize the numerous contributions of Nigerians in the Diaspora to national development, and to celebrate those who have outstanding feats in various fields of endeavour. It is scheduled to hold on the 25th of July every year. NIDCOM marked the 2019 edition with physical presence of high profile government officials and Nigerians in the Diaspora. Subsequently, due to COVID-19 Pandemic, the 2020 edition of National Diaspora Day held virtually through a webinar, and 2021 celebration will also be an HYBRID event whereby an Incident Room will be provided for some distinguished personalities, (both Government and Private), while others join virtually across the Globe. Badagry Door of Return Ceremony provides an opportunity to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Badagry and its environs to the Visitors from Diaspora. The objectives of the Festival include: Reconnection with the root; Cultural Exchange, Socio-economic development and Award of Chieftaincy titles. The importance of the ceremony is to encourage people of African Descent, lovers of Africa and those who found African origin in their DNA.

The **Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit (NDIS)** is a platform for Nigerians in the Diaspora to come back home to invest in different Sectors of the economy. NDIS encourages the Diaspora community to

invest in different Sectors towards the diversification of the Nigerian economy. The second edition of this Summit which held in November 2020 was also an HYBRID event due to COVID-19 Pandemic that is still ravaging the entire Globe. It attracted dignitaries (both Government and Private), members of Diplomatic community and also huge number of Investors from across the World. Other accomplishments include: Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) on Entrepreneurship and Capacity Building in which over 100 Returnees from South Africa, Libya, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, etc were given Vocational and Entrepreneurship training and equipments to start their own small businesses. Partnership with National Directorate of Employment (NDE) was also initiated.

A donation of N1.5 million was facilitated through NIDCOM collaboration for one Mrs. Esther Yinka, a Returnee who lost her husband and properties during the Xenophobic attack in South Africa. The Department equally facilitated Partnership with the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) on the establishment of Nigerian Restaurants across different countries to prepare Nigerian Cuisines. Partnership with Organized Private Sector Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (OPS-WASH) to seek support of Nigerians in the Diaspora to end open defecation in Nigeria; and collaboration with Al-Yaro International Limited on Nigeria-Saudi Arabia Investment Exhibition. Another visit was also facilitated for the Al-Yaro Brothers to the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) for possible collaboration on export to the Holy land. Lastly, NIDCOM facilitated the visit of Al-Yaro Limited to the Nigerian Ambassador-Designate to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Yahaya Lawal, where the Ambassador reiterated his commitment and determination to render every assistance to them in terms of facilitating documentation process with Saudi Arabian Authorities.



# DABIRI-EREWA CONGRATULATES ABDULQADIR OLA ON APPOINTMENT

By: Khadija Shehu Bamalli

**H**on. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, (NIDCOM), has congratulated Dr. AbdulQadir AbdulLateef Ola on his recent appointment as the Director General, West African Islamic Institute of Accounting and Finance (IIAFNIGERIA). In a statement issued in Abuja by Abdur-Rahman Balogun, Head of Media, Public Relations and Protocol Unit of NIDCOM, the NIDCOM Boss said "this appointment is not just well-deserved but also wise of the institute to tap into his professional excellence." She eulogised

virtues and commended him for his expertise which earned him the appointment with the hope that he will contribute gloriously to the development of the institute. Ola is an indigene of Iwo Town in Osun State who has taught in various academic capacities and specialized in Islamic finance, Shari'a compliance in financial instruments, Ethics Business, Zakat and Halal (lawful) products in general. He is an expert in Islamic finance whose expertise cuts across Africa, Middle East and South East Asia countries. Ola had been attached to many private and State Universities in Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.

## HEALTHY LIFESTYLES WHY THE BODY NEEDS WATER (H<sub>2</sub>O)

By Jummai Usman Musa

It is common to hear that water is fundamental for your health but why? Water makes up majority of your body weight and you get most of your water from drinking beverages. Food also contributes a little amount to your daily water intake. Your body uses water to sweat, urinate and also help the bowel movement so drinking water helps maintain the balance of body fluids. You need enough water in your system to have healthy saliva, healthy stool and avoid constipation.

### Importance of Water in the Body

- It helps to filter kidney waste through urination. Adequate Water consumption helps your kidney to work more efficiently and also help to prevent kidney stones.

- Drinking a lot of water aids easy digestion. It helps to break down the food you eat.
- Drinking water supports weight loss. Studies have proven fat and weight loss with drinking a lot of water in both overweight men and women.
- It keeps you away from dehydration. Drinking a lot of water improves your daily energy.
- Water does more than quenching your thirst. It also regulates your body temperature and keeps the tissues in your body moist.
- Water helps your brain function optimally. H<sub>2</sub>O makes up 75% percent of the brain. Lack of it can cause issues including: muscle weakness, fatigue and confusion.



## ISAPA SOUP

# FOOD CORNER

By Doosughun Abughidyer

Isapa soup is a dish common among the Ekiti people of Nigeria. It is also a delicious recipe enjoyed by the Tiv speaking people of Benue (Agbende Ashwe soup). In this era of COVID-19 pandemic, it is advisable for everyone to boost his or her immune system, especially my lovely Nigerians in Diaspora. White zobo leaves have a lot of health benefits that can boost immune system.

### Recipe For Isapa Soup:

1. 3/4 cup of Roasted Egusi (Grounded)
2. A handful of White Zobo leaves
3. Pieces of Beef
4. Ponmo (Cow skin)
5. Shaki (cow tripe)
6. Smoked Fish
7. tablespoon of Crayfish powder
8. Seasoning cubes
9. Salt to taste
10. 1 tablespoon of Iru (Fermented Locust Beans)
11. 2 medium bulbs of Onions
12. Tomatoes
13. Pieces of Scotch Bonnet Pepper (Ata Rodo)
14. 2 Cooking Spoons of Palm Oil
15. 1/4 teaspoon potash (ground) Ingredient depends on the quantity of soup you intend making. Water

### METHOD OF PREPARATION;

1. In a clean pot, season the beef with a little salt, a seasoning cube, half an onion-chopped, boil till it is cooked

2. Blend your egusi with chopped Onions and set aside.

3. Blend the pepper with tomatoes and onion and set aside.

4. Heat up palm oil for about 2 minutes, add remaining chopped onions, add the iru, stir for a minute before pouring the blended pepper into the saucepan. Allow to fry, stirring at intervals

5. Soak the Ishapa leaves in hot water for 20 minutes, then rinse. Drop the potash into the hot water, this will help in removing the sourness in the ishapa leave taste. Rinse thoroughly to remove the sourness.

6. Add your seasoning crayfish powder and smoked fish, allow to simmer for 3 minutes.

7. Add a little stockfish into the fried pepper. Make a thick paste from your blended egusi and add in little lumps into the sauce without stirring, cover the pot and allow it to simmer on low heat for about 7 minutes.

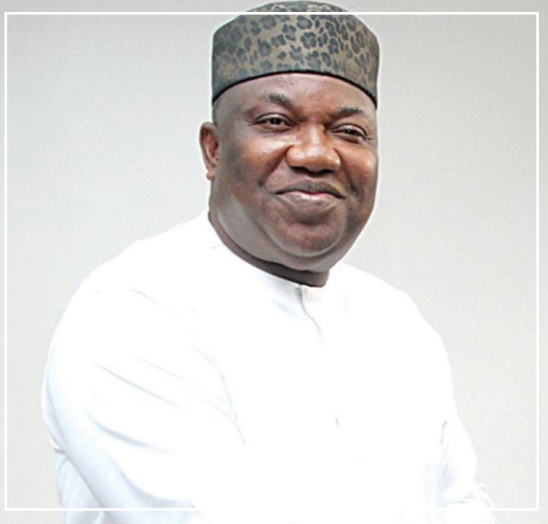
8. Add your beef, ponmo and shaki with the remaining stock and cook for an additional 10 minutes on low heat.

9. Increase the heat and add the boiled ishapa and stir gently and allow it to cook for an additional 5 minutes, taste and adjust accordingly. Soup is ready Served hot with any swallow of your choice.

# TOUR NIGERIA: ENUGU STATE



By Bridget Temtsen



His Excellency  
**RT.HON. IFEANYI UGWUANYI**  
Governor, Enugu State

Hello! If you are looking for a place in Nigeria where you can have fun and enjoy tourist sights, Enugu state is the place you should visit.

Popularly known as the coal city state, the state is located in the Eastern part of the country. it houses lots of tourist attractions.

**Ngwo Caves and Waterfall :** This Cave and water fall is surrounded by beautiful trees of the Ngwo Pine Forest. The cave was naturally formed in limestone water fall dropping down a small opening at the roof of the cave.

**Akpugoeze Monkeys :** It is said that, the people of Akpugoeze do not harm, hunt or eat monkeys because of the culture and traditions of the community. The Sclater's monkeys found here are rare and can be found only in the south-eastern part of the country.

**Enugu Golf Club :** this golf club is an 18 holed, 330 meters (360 yards) Green International standard golf club. There are other tourist attractions like:

- Ugwueme and Udi Hills
- Polo Park mall
- Margic Garden
- Iheneke Lake
- Ani Ozalla Lake
- Awthum Cave and Waterfall



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# DIARY OF EVENTS

By Samson Elijah Simeon



**L**-R: Amb. Zubairu Dada, Minister of State Foreign Affairs and Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, The Chairman/CEO NIDCOM during the INAUGURAL DIASPORA QUARTERLY LECTURE SERIES held via Zoom.



**H**abibat Pat Eluameh Representing the Chairman/CEO NIDCOM Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa at Businessday Excellent in Public Service Award.



**L**adi Bala, National President NAWOJ with Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa The Chairman/CEO NIDCOM during a courtesy visit to NIDCOM.



**E**ngr. Dr. Sule Yakubu Bassi, Secretary to the Commission, NIDCOM receives Nuhu Sani Babura Special adviser on Diaspora Affairs and Diaspora Focal Point Officer Jigawa State in his office.



# DIARY OF EVENTS

By Samson Elijah Simeon



The President, Nigerian Association of pharmacist and pharmacists Scientist in the America (NAPPSSA) Dr. Anthony Ikeme with The Secretary NIDCOM, Dr Sule Yakubu Bassi during a courtesy visit to NIDCOM.



Hajia Jummai Usman Musa representing the Chairman/CEO NIDCOM Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa as Special Guest at NTA Children's Day Celebrations 2021.



Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E Geoffrey Onyeama receives in farewell audience the Head of EU delegation to Nigeria, Amb. Ketil Karisen in his office in Abuja.



Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E Geoffrey Onyeama receives General Mahamat Idris Deby into, Chadian Interim President at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.



# NiDCOM

NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

## EBONYI STATE OF NIGERIA



**DAVID UMAHI**  
Executive Governor  
Ebonyi State, Nigeria



**Barr. Joseph Ekumankama**  
Commissioner for Investment  
and State Diaspora Focal  
Point Officer

### EBONYI STATE

Ebonyi State also known as Salt of the Nation was carved out from Enugu and Abia state, to become an independent state in 1996. Ebonyi state has a total area of 5,533 km square with Abakaliki as the state capital. The state falls under the Eastern region of the country. The main language spoken is Igbo; though of different dialect, unique to the of people-Edda, Afikpo, Ezzi-Ezza-Mgbo-Ikwo dialect cluster, Unwara, Akpoha, Okposi, Onicha, Korri, Effium, and Uburu. The state is an agrarian; producing food crops ranging from: rice, yam, potatoes, maize, beans, and cassava. The area is rich in the supply of salt deposits, Coal, Clay, Limestone, Fluorite, Lead, Silver, Zinc and it is one of the producers of crude oil in the country.

### Tourist and Investment Attractions:

Ebonyi State University (EBSU), Abakaliki Green Lake, Uburu Salt Lake, Unwana and Ikwo Beaches.



Education



Natural Resources



Tourism



Agriculture



## **EVENTS PLANNING, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED IN ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION IN 2019.**

- OPS –WASH
- FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES CAMPAIGN AGAINST OPEN DEFECATION.
- PROCTOR AND GAMBLE, GLOBAL HAND WASHING DAY.
- INDIAN WOMEN ASSOCIATION BAZAAR IN ABUJA.
- COURTESY VISIT BY ICMPD
- INTERNATIONAL MIGRATIONS DAY 2019
- FORUM AND WORKSHOP ON THE ROLES OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA IN THE REVITALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFRICA, NOV. 13-14 IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA.
- DIASPORA QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

## **EVENTS PLANNING, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED IN ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION IN 2020**

- THE MONITORING AND EVACUATION OF NIGERIANS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WAKE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.
- THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE MIGRATION DATA MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP (MDMWG) ON THE 16TH SEPTEMBER 2020 IN ABUJA.
- EXISTING MOU ON MIGRATION DATA SHARING.
- AFRICAN ACADEMIC DIASPORA VIRTUAL HOMECOMING 2020, HELD BETWEEN MONDAY, 28TH AND WEDNESDAY, 30TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2020 BY 4:00PM.
- THE EVALUATION CLOSEOUT MEETING OF THE LMER PROJECT IN NIGERIA AND GHANA, 2020.
- THE MEETING WITH KOGI STATE DIASPORA FOCAL POINT OFFICER HELD AT NIDCOM OFFICE, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT, ABUJA ON TUESDAY, 8TH OF DECEMBER, 2020.
- A COURTESY VISIT AND AWARD PRESENTATION TO NIDCOM IN COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY, 18TH DECEMBER 2020, BY A NON – GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION; EXPLORE POTENTIALS INITIATIVE (EPI).

## **EVENTS PLANNING, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED IN ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION IN 2021.**

- WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN AFRICA (DTCA) ON TUESDAY 16 MARCH, 2021.
- VISIT TO THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF ON 16 APRIL, 2021 AT NIGERIA AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA.
- CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN'S DAY EVENT HELD AT NIGERIAN TELEVISION AUTHORITY ON MAY 27, 2021.
- 3 DAY TRAINING ON MIGRATION DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING ORGANIZED BY THE NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION (NPC) WITH THE SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION ON MAY 20-22, 2021.
- INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL – JUSTICE MEDAL (ISME) AND THE NIGERIA HUMANITARIAN ACTION (NIHA) PROGRAMME YEAR OPENING CONFERENCE (PYOCOC) WITH PARTICIPATION OF HIGH POWERED DELEGATION ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND HUMANITARIAN FROM SWITZERLAND, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM HELD AT THE NICON LUXURY HOTEL, GARKI – ABUJA, ON THE 4TH – 5TH MAY, 2021.
- TRAINING FOR STAFF OF THE NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION (NIDCOM) ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT (KEY TO POLICY IMPLEMENTATION) HELD ON FRIDAY 4TH – SUNDAY 6TH JUNE, 2021 AT SAWALINO HOTEL AND SUITES, KEFFI, NASSARAWA STATE.
- REPORT ON THE MEETING WITH NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACISTS AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENTISTS IN THE AMERICAS (NAPPSA) HELD AT NIDCOM CONFERENCE ROOM ON 25TH MAY, 2021.

**By Jummai Musa**



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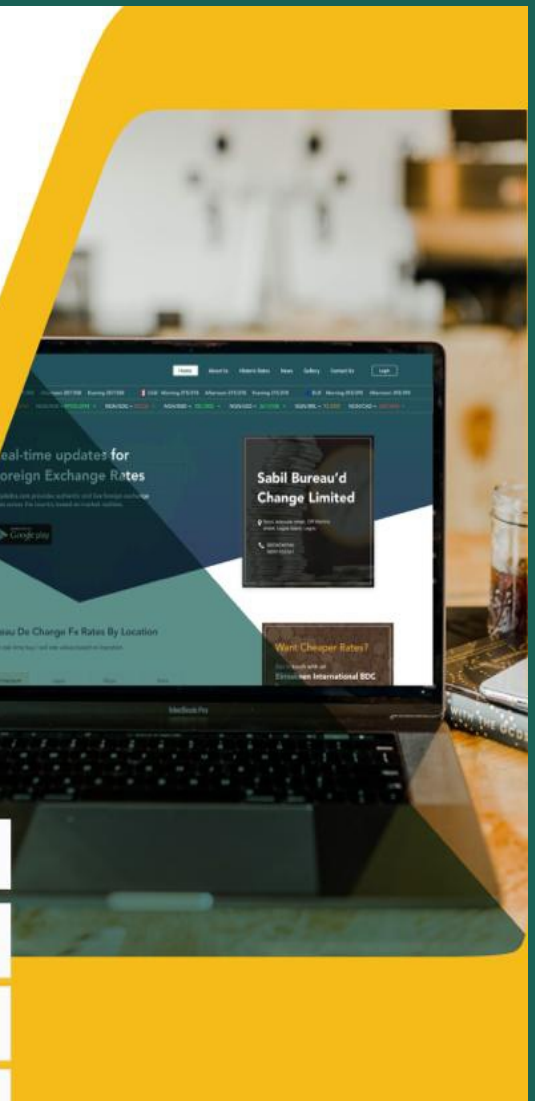
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DATE	MORNING	MIDDAY	EVENING	CURRENCY
17 June 2020	774/400	774/400	774/400	GBP
17 June 2020	465 /468	466 /468.5	467 /469	USD
17 June 2020	465 /468	466 /468.5	467 /469	EURO



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## ADVERT RATES FOR DIASPORA NEWSLETTER



The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) has repackaged its Monthly Diaspora Newsletter with juicy and far reaching news for and from our Nigerians in the Diaspora. The Newsletter when produced is distributed far and wide to all our stakeholders both within and outside the country through the E-Copy and in colour printed version.

We are therefore pleased to invite you to be one of our sponsors by showcasing your adverts or products at the minimal subsidised amount by the Commission.

Our advert rates for a full page is N1,000,000 (One Million Naira) for one year subscription while monthly payment attracts only N100,000 (One Hundred thousand naira) per page.

As a stakeholder, NIDCOM is delighted to include you in this project. We truly believe that you would provide valuable support for this initiative.

We look forward to a favourable response of patronage from you .


Yours Sincerely,

**Abdur-Rahman Balogun**  
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Protocols Unit (NIDCOM) Abuja.  
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