



**NIDCOM**  
 NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

# DIASPORA

## NEWSLETTER

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 : AN HONOUR, WELL DESERVED



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# ANY HOPE FOR REJECTED DIASPORA VOTING BILL

■ By Khadija Shehu Bamalli

**A**s it says, "a setback often moves us to a road that is even worse but leads to an even better destination". -Winston Churchill.

Participating in elections is a civic responsibility of the citizens of the nation. This affects the quality of life and makes difference in the community.

Most Nigerians home and abroad are deeply interested in voting for their preferred candidates at all levels of government.

This interest brought about the need to sponsor the Nigeria Diaspora Voting Bill.

The Bill aims to pave way for Nigerians in the Diaspora to cast their votes from their countries of residence without having to go through the stress of travelling down to Nigeria to exercise their franchise.

Efforts have been intensified by involving all hands on deck to advocate for its existence.

Sadly, the bill which made it to the final reading was voted against by both Nigeria's upper and lower legislative houses on March 1st, 2022 during the constitutional Amendment Review Session (third reading) held at National Assembly Complex in Abuja.

The upper chamber (Senate) voted: Yes = 29 and No = 62.

The lower chamber (House of Reps) voted: Yes = 58 and No = 240.

The bill seeks to amend section 77 Subsection (2) of

the Principal Act to now read " Every citizen of Nigeria, who has attained the age of eighteen years residing within or outside Nigeria at the time of registration of voters for purposes of election to a Legislative house, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter for that election."

Femi Odere, the Chairman, Association of States' Diaspora Focal Point Officers, in a statement, described the turnout as not only set back the hands of the nation's democracy clock, but also disenfranchised a huge segment of Nigerians in the Diaspora who are, without doubt, necessary for, if not indispensable to, the socio-economic development of the nation.

According to the statement, the importance of Nigerians in the Diaspora to national development has been demonstrated by the Buhari administration with the establishment of Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM). With this, virtually all the states in the federation now have Diaspora Focal Point Officers (some states have full Ministries or Commissions) to drive economic developments at the sub-national levels, which has been yielding the desired economic results for these states. It therefore beggars belief that just when all hands are now on deck for the inclusion of Nigerians in Diaspora into the nation's development matrix through specific tools such as the proposed "Nigerians in Diaspora Investment Trust Fund" by NiDCOM and several other policy



instruments and programmes by the states, what the National Assembly had done and said in no uncertain terms, with the rejection of the Diaspora Voting Bill, is that this incredible critical mass of our people, whose collective annual remittances dwarfs the country's annual budgets in most cases, do not matter in the overall socioeconomic and political scheme of things.

The group also believes that the rejection of the Diaspora Voting Bill has not only sent a very wrong signal but a wrong step in the wrong direction. They therefore wish that the Bill will be re-represented for the right thing to be done.

The National Diaspora Voting Council (NDVC) in a statement issued by its Secretary, Tolu Oluwatuyi described the setback as a renewed determination and pledged to double-up on its efforts to widen and intensify its scope of diplomacy and re-strategise going forward.

The Council, however, thanked its Chairman, Prince Ade Omole, the board members, Executives, and members for their patriotism, dedication and commitment to the DV advocacy.

They equally showered accolades on Sponsor of the Nigeria Diaspora Voting Bill, Hon. (Mrs) Tolulope Akande-Sadipe, House Committee Chairperson on Diaspora Matters, who worked

relentlessly with her ever untiring team led by Mrs Omoshalewa to ensure that the Bill saw the light of the day.

The Council also thanked her for the many travels she embarked on during the zonal public hearings in a bid to ensure that the Diaspora Voting Bill was a success.

The Council specifically thanked the various major stakeholders who have equally been in the constant advocacy for the materialisation of the DV Bill. They appreciated the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) under the able leadership of Hon. (Mrs) Abike Dabiri-Erewa; the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) under the chairmanship of Prof Mahmood Yakubu, for the technical know-how support and willingness to help thus far; the Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation (NIDO) and other Diaspora groups and persons for their unflinching support and commitment.

NDVC also assured that they will not relent in their efforts to spread their advocacy until the goal is achieved.

It is expected that the bill will be represented during the 10th National Assembly for reconsideration.

# DABIRI-EREWA HAILS NWARIAKU AS THE NEW CHIEF OF SURGERY IN US

By: Khadija Shehu Bamalli



## DR. OHWOFIEMU NWARIAKU

It is with incredible pride and joy that Hon. (Dr) Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) congratulated Dr Ohwofiemu Nwariaku on his appointment as the new Chief of Surgery at University of Uta, USA.

In a congratulatory message, the NIDCOM boss said Nwariaku's appointment was not surprising as he has proved his leadership prowess and passion for his chosen profession.

She urged him not to relent in his service to humanity but remain focused and strive to achieve more in the service of mankind.

Nwariaku, who is a medical practitioner, will resume as the New Chief of Surgery at the University of Utah, USA, effective July 1st, 2022.

He graduated from University of Ibadan, College of Medicine (UCH), Ibadan in 1987 and did his internship at Baptist Hospital in Ogbomoshos where he distinguished himself and ended up at UTSW in Dallas, USA for residency in surgery.

# EVACUATION : NIDCOM TINKERS WITH POST TRAUMATIC STRESS FOR RETURNEES

■ By Doosughun Abughidyer



**N**o one prays for war, however the realist approach in International Relations explains the emphasis to the role of the state, national interest, and power in world politics. This means humans are driven by lost of power and desire to dominate others.

For those who haven't experienced war, it's really not a good sight and should not be welcomed. The world was thrown into chaos especially, young Nigerian students studying in Ukraine after Russia invaded Ukraine; burning down some parts of the country.

As a mother, the Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, (NiDCOM), Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa saw the need to engage the Nigerian-Ukrainian evacuees in post-traumatic therapy because most of these young students were still traumatised by the horrific experience in Ukraine having first-hand knowledge of the war.

Fortunately, a group, the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) visited the Management of Nigerians in Diaspora

Commission in Abuja to volunteer in reintegrating Nigerians returnees since they also have a department in behavioural and mental health.

According to the President, ASSP, Nigerian chapter, Mr Shehu Kabir said the good works of the Commission has prompted them to visit and seek a strong relationship with both organisations for greater opportunities.

In addition, the organisation is bringing value on board to NiDCOM in resources, stating that the Nigerian resources in the Diaspora can be pulled back especially on independent investigation, putting an end to accidents in Nigeria.

Shehu added that it became necessary to partner with NiDCOM in order to broadcast and showcase the passion of ASSP which Nigerians in the Diaspora can freely network and engage with the organisation. This is the right step in the right direction if I must say.



# ZUMUNTA ASSOCIATION USA INC.: SENDING LOVE FROM THE DIASPORA

■ By Deborah T. Anaelechi

**A** society is made up of communities. According to the Oxford Dictionary, a society means “people in general living together in communities”.

Also, it could be termed, “people grouped together based on shared geographical territory, and common culture”.

These communities are made up of cultural norms, traditions that are linked to a people. Therefore it is safe to say that the society is an interdependence of different communities woven together.

We, as individuals, belong to groups we can identify with and have similar goals or ideologies, inside communities. This is referred to as a group.

In an elaborate way, a social group is made of certain number of individuals who share common identity, goals, common solidarity, and shared norms.

These groups help in one way or the other in fostering development in the area they find themselves, the community or the society as a whole. For example, sociocultural groups, alumni associations are part of social groups.

When talking about sociocultural groups, it is referred as those associations, groups, bodies etc., of people from all walks of life that are linked by similar ethnic, traditional and/or regional ties.

Here in Nigeria, there are so many traditional sociocultural groups: some of which are christened as village meeting, nzuko, kporakpo, etc.

Be that as it may, social groups such as these are found in each and every city in Nigeria, to connect people of like culture, ethnicity, characteristics or ideas together.

The diaspora is made of several communities; with the sociocultural groups being among the largest (if not) the largest group of all.

Take Nigeria for instance, there are many nationals living in Nigeria. Like the Asians, Americans and other Africans.

Still an example, the Asians could have “Asians United Nigerian Chapter”. So whether you're Philippine, Chinese, Malay, Indian, Thai or Vietnamese, you belong to it; if you so desire.

Going further, other sub-groups will emerge like “Associations of Indians living in Nigeria”, and another group could emerge to unite all Rajasthani or Punjabis living in Nigeria, for example.

Similarly, in the diaspora there are several Nigerian communities or sociocultural groups.

These groups are designed to preserve our cultural values, traditions, and heritage, which are passed to generations, noting that they are very far from home.

Have you ever wondered that outside the shores of Nigeria, outsiders address you not by your individual ethnicity, origin, but by your country or race?

Imagine, you come across a very familiar, common Nigerian name, in a place far from home. You get this feeling of reconnecting with a lost brother. It doesn't matter what part of Nigeria he or she is from but the fact that you met another Nigerian in a foreign land.

Also, this creates some bonding among people.

These groups besides preserving culture and reconnecting with one another, contribute in developing host country and their countries of origin.

One of such is the Zumunta Association USA Inc., The sociocultural group was founded in 1991 and based in the USA. The group is centred at uniting indigenes from the 19 northern parts of Nigeria, including the FCT, based in the US. About 12 Chapters are spread across the USA.

Zumunta which mean Meeting in Hausa language has lived up to its expectations in uniting the northerners, home and abroad, in love, unity and



brotherhood.

One interesting feature about this organisation is it's philanthropic nature.

The association is heavily involved in community development, scholarship, education and humanitarian services.

Not too recently, the Zumunta Association USA Inc. embarked on its second phase of the Zumunta Association USA Inc. Benevolent Palliative Project in Abuja.

The ceremony had symbolic palliative cheques amounting to about Nine million Naira presented to 18 NGOs from 12 northern states in Nigeria.

The event had, in attendance, dignitaries and notable, industrious northern indigenes currently or formerly based in the Diaspora.

Among them is the Governor of Nasarawa State, His Excellency, Abdullahi Sule.

The Nasarawa State Governor said Nigeria can go far where unity and love is top most in the daily affairs of citizens.

During his speech as the Special Guest of Honour, he maintained that these sacrifices, in terms of time and other resources, to improve living conditions back home was done out of compassion, which should not be taken for granted.

Coincidentally, an ex-President of the Association, Gov. Sule showed his happiness that the succeeding officials have improved upon the legacy of the group in bringing development to the Northern part of the country.

Similarly, the Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, Amb. Zubairu Dada agreed that the Zumunta Association USA Inc., has displayed a true spirit of patriotism and humanitarianism in providing, tangible and intangible materials to bring succour to the less privileged, in the northern parts of Nigeria.

He remarked that collaboration with the Nigerians in

Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) will ensure guided steps to pragmatic project deliveries.

Meanwhile, the Chairman/CEO, NiDCOM, Dr Abike Dabiri-Erewa laudes the group for truly being exemplary figures in relation to President Buhari's three-point agenda, one of which is, "never to forget home, by giving back".

The NiDCOM Chairman said that the Commission is happy to have worked with the group, and wish them well in other future endeavours.

No doubt, the Zumunta Association USA Inc. has indeed shown patriotism, love and brotherhood in its true fashion.

Just like the group's President, Mr. Philip Moses said, it is in hope that: "the singular act will encourage others to help in changing lives for the better and the country as a whole".

## MEDIA TEAM

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# PVC, NiDCOM, NCFRMI Offers Free Trauma Clinic To Nigerian Students From Ukraine

By Juliannah Erin



Ukraine’s ministry of education and science, Morocco, Nigeria, and Egypt are states in the top 10 list for countries whose students are studying in Ukraine, accounting for 8,000, 4,000 and 3,500 students respectively. The three countries made up nearly 20% of all foreign students in Ukraine as of 2020. Russia’s Invasion on February 24 has damaged and destroyed schools and universities.

A large majority of Nigerian students living in Ukraine had to flee their place of residence after Russia invaded the country in February. They left behind everything. Thousands of Ukrainians have been killed and injured, including children. Daily pictures and video of atrocities suffered in Ukraine are splashed across the media.

In an attempt to improve the traumatic plight of Nigerian returnees from Ukraine, a two-day psychosocial Trauma Clinic For Ukraine returnees was created and coordinated by Nigerians In Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) in conjunction with the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants And Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI).

The opening ceremony which took place at the State House Auditorium, Presidential Villa, the President of PVC NAIJA and the initiator of the project, Dr Bolaji O. Akinyemi said the initiative became necessary because “when we have events that expose individuals to trauma, it is better that we nip them in the bud and that was what informed the idea of this project”.

He urged the returnees to open up during sessions with the experts as the programme is meant to help them, saying that “I believe that you will get the needed help, we’re trusting that we will take this to all the regions so that people won’t have to travel to access this.”

The Chairman/CEO Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, Hon. Dabiri-Erewa appreciated Dr. Akinyemi for the initiative said that “the passion with which he said we must do this for them, I agreed with him completely.”

The NiDCOM boss said that she quickly reached out to the Commissioner, National Commission for Refugees, Hajiya Imaan Suleiman-Ibrahim who said that “we must do this as quickly as possible.”

She announced that the profiling and detention of Nigerians and other African nationals in Poland detention centers is highly unacceptable and reprehensible. She added that two day clinic was the preliminary , as it will be a continuous exercise in the six geo political zones . The Commission quickened partnership with The Sunshine Series to create a 24 hours helpline (#112) for returnees who need counseling.

Dabiri-Erewa noted that though President Muhammadu Buhari had made every necessary arrangements for Nigerians caught up in the war situation to return home, some chose to remain in some countries like Poland, stressing that the most appropriate action for Poland to take was to return them back to their countries, rather than keep them in tortuous detention centers.

According to Hajiya Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, Federal Commissioner, Refugees Commission, "We tend to ignore our mental health but mental health is key.

"As Nigerians we have a lot of resilience we have that ability, but not everybody has the same threshold when it comes to resilience and hence the need for this particular platform so that those that need extra support or extra care and assistance, can be able to access it".

Hajiya Sulaiman-Ibrahim stated that the NCFRMI is the focal organ of government for rehabilitation, resettlement and integration and psychosocial support is the core of rehabilitation.

She went further to explain that NCFRMI has offices in about 14 locations and are ready to make their offices available to ensure that collaboration with the Project Victory Call Initiative (PVC) team and academic experts make this counseling easily accessible for the returnees.

The president of Nigeria Students in Ukraine, Mr Fehintola Damilola Moses, narrated the gruesome living conditions they had to endure before help arrived from the Nigerian Government. In his words " We had to boil snow to drink water ". He expressed how brutal the situation was and the terrifying experiences most of them faced during the war between Russia and Ukraine. From spending nights in an inadequate bunker to being

racially profiled in some instances.

He applauded President Muhammadu Buhari, the Minister of foreign Affairs, H.E Geoffrey Onyeama, Hon. (Dr.) Abike Dabiri-Erewa and the Nigerian in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) team , the Nigerian Ambassador to Ukraine, Amb. Shina Feege , Nigerian diaspora organizations, NGOs and all other government agencies for the prompt response and rescue of the students from Ukraine.

## DID YOU KNOW?

By: Maryam Kehinde Abdulazeez.

1. Agbani Darego was the only one to wear a maillot as opposed to a bikini during the Miss Universe contest in 2001.
2. The 'Ankara' material is not indigenous to Nigeria. Our indigenous textiles include the Akwete, Ukara, Aso-Oke and Adire.
3. Aloma Mukhtar is the first female lawyer from the North and went on to become the first female Chief Justice of Nigeria.
4. Dr. Toyin Tofade an OAU alumna has been appointed as the first black female president of the U.S. Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (ACPHS). She was selected to become the 10th president, following a comprehensive search.

Source:- Wendy Pie's wall (Facebook), Newspeakonline.com

# HON. (DR) ABIKE DABIRI-EREWA: AN HONOUR, WELL DESERVED

By: Abdur-Rahman Balogun



Hon. (Dr.) Abike Dabiri-Erewa

(LASU), Ojo, Lagos has deemed it fit to bestow on her the Honourary Doctorate Award during its 25th Convocation ceremony on Thursday March 24, 2022, it was one honour too many and an award well deserved. To all those who have been following the selfless and proactive impactful life of Hon. Kafayat Abike Dabiri-Erewa, one will see that it has been rewarded and appreciated with too many awards, honours and recognition of excellence too numerous to list. As at my last count, apart from those she rejected, I have counted well over 300 received since she became a public officer in 2003 to date.

Permit me to list some of the major ones here for record purposes:

## SOME AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1. Educate Africa Institute (EAI) Merit Award 2021 for commitment to service delivery, outstanding contribution and service to humanity.
2. Centre for Ethics and Self Value Orientation Award as Integrity Icon of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Gold Medalist in Public Administration. 2021.
3. FOI Award of Excellence 2021, to mark the 10th anniversary of Freedom of Information Act in Nigeria.
4. Ansar-ud-deen Youth Association (ADYAN) 2021 Northern States Council Congress Merit Award.

**A**llah says in the Glorious Qur'an 3: verse 26 thus:

Say, "O Allah, Owner of Sovereignty, You give sovereignty to whom You will and You take sovereignty away from whom You will. You honor whom You will and You humble whom You will. In Your hand is [all] good. Indeed, You are over all things competent".

The foregoing verse further confirms to me that it is only Allah, our uncreated Creator that can only honour we the homo- sapiens creatures of His. Irrespective as human beings tried, the Creator must sanction such honours and put the thoughts and actions in human beings to implement.

So when the letter of honour came to the Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa that the authorities of Lagos State University,

5. Global Excellence Award by Afroglobal television, Toronto, Canada.

6. The 2021 NEWSDIRECT Award of Excellence for Exemplary leadership by News Direct Newspaper.

7. All Africa makeup (AFRIMAC) Conference and Exhibition award 2021 in appreciation of her outstanding contributions and immense support to the upliftment of AFRIMAC.

8. Royal Award by the Ayangburen of Ikorodu kingdom, His Royal Majesty, Oba (Engr.) Kabir Adewale Shotobi, for uplifting the standard of Ikorodu, Lagos State and Nigeria as a good ambassador.

9. Award of Excellence by H.E Dr. Benson Alfred Bana, the Tanzania Ambassador to Nigeria. 2021.

10. Citizens Advocate Ambassador Award of Excellence by the Photo Journalist Association of Nigeria (PJAN) for outstanding performance in promoting the interest of the Citizens first, and the country as a whole.

11. Induction into the Center For Black and African Arts and Civilization's (CBAAC) Black and African Hall of Fame 2021.

12. The Guardian's Award for the 'Most Outstanding Female-led Federal Commission. 2021

13. The Frontline Defender Award for Human Rights and Sustainable Development by Drum Major of Social Justice and Awards. 2021.

14. Lifetime Achievers Award, given in lieu of Sterling Leadership 2021.

15. Women Enterprise Alliance (WenA) List of Top 5 Sky-trampling Personalities for IWD2021.

16. ThisDay Style Magazine's list of "50 Women We Admire: Titans of Our Time." (Mother's Day Edition 2021).

17. Nigeria Women Annual 100 Leading Women 2021, in acknowledgement of a distinguished career and contribution to the development to the society.

18. International Tourist Choice in recognition of outstanding contribution towards National and Global development in the area of Agriculture , tourism and its value chain.

19. Kaleidoscope Global Conference Award Personality of the year 2020.

20. Outstanding Women Achievers Award (OWAA), 2010, organized by Hugo Magazines, recognizing her as a Parliamentarian Achiever.

21. Donald M. Payne (US House of Reps) Award and Certificate of special congressional recognition for her unwavering commitment to humanity and serving as Chairwoman for Nigeria House Representatives Committee on Diaspora Affairs, 2010.



22. Most Productive Female Representative of the Year, 2010, by Igbogbo Community Ikorodu.

23. Nigerian Union of Journalists Zone G, for her Excellence in service, 2010.

24. Parliamentary Award, 2010, South-west House of Representatives member of the Decade, 2010.

25. African Parliamentary Award, Committee Chairman of the Decade, 2010.

26. Academy of Training and Employment, Newark, New Jersey Award, in honour of her outstanding dedication, commitment and accomplishments to the Nigerians in the Diaspora, especially in America, 2010.

27. Ikorodu Division Resource Development Group Award, in appreciation of her laudable achievement and distinguished contribution to Ikorodu Division in particular, and mankind in general, culminating in her enviable admission into the Ikorodu Hall of Fame, 2010.

28. Lagos State Indigenes Association, Abuja, Award as the best people's representative of the year 2010 and her contribution to the development of state and Nigeria in general.

29. Catholic Youths Organization of Nigeria (CYON), Garki Deanery Award, in recognition and honour of her contribution in advancing democracy in Nigeria, 2010.

30. ROMAKEY CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Award, in recognition of her selfless and immense contribution to the growth and development of the organization, 2010.

31. Humanitas Magazine Patriotism Award as a distinguished Nigerian in recognition and appreciation of her selfless and patriotic services to the country and people of Nigeria, 2010.

32. NIDO Global Award, Canada, Federal Republic of Nigeria people choice awards, 2010.

33. Certificate of Recognition from California Legislative Assembly, in honour of her participation in the 2009 National Association of Seadogs 6th Annual Black History Celebration.

34. 1st National Waves Gold Award for Achievers, as the best House of Reps. Member of the year, 2008.

35. Chief Obafemi Awolowo (AWOIST) leadership Award, as the Grand Officer of the Masses (GOM), in due recognition of her roles as an epitome their political heritage, selfless services to humanity as well as vanguard for the emancipation of the downtrodden Nigerian populace in her bid to orchestrate AWOISM in her political endeavours, 2008.

36. Legends' Hall of Fame Award for inspiring qualities and outstanding feats worthy of emulation, 2008.

37. Radio, Television, Theatre and Arts Worker's Union of Nigeria (RATTAWU), Award, in recognition of her exemplary and visionary leadership in her field of endeavour, 2008.

38. Association of Lagos State Indigenes, Kaduna, Award as a focused and ingenious legislator, 2008.

39. National Association of Administrative Students of Nigeria (NAASN) Award as a good replica of democracy, 2008.

40. Yar'adua/Jonathan Solidarity Forum (Home and Abroad) Award, in recognition of her dedicated service to our great nation, 2008.

41. Role Model Award of The Association of Professional Women on Rural Development (PWORD), 2008, in recognition of her unparalleled achievements in her chosen career.

42. An Award of Excellence in Public Service from Business Day.

43. Certificate of Appreciation from the President, Board of Directors and the Executive of The Nigerian Union, U.S.A, in recognition of her outstanding leadership and sharing of the vision of the Nigerian Union-U.S.A in building stability and Democracy of Nigeria through participation in the "Nigerian Election 2007" Town Hall Forum in Houston, Texas.

44. Commander of Great Ife (CGI), National Award, 2007.

45. Students Union Government, Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa, Award of excellence, in recognition of her 3rd Annual Ladies Week, 2007.

46. Uniife Muslim Graduates' Association, Abuja (UNIFEMGA) award for exemplary leadership, 2007.

47. President's INTER-SUBEB Primary School Debate Programme Award, in recognition of her noble contributions to the educational development in Nigeria, 2007.

48. The Presidency and Ministry of Education Award, in recognition of her noble contributions to the educational development in Nigeria, 2007.

49. This Day Representative of the year, 2006.

50. EKO Pioneers of Lagos Distinguished merit Award, in recognition of her immense contribution towards the development of Lagos State, 2006.

51. Federal Ministry of information and National Orientation Award, in recognition of her contribution to the success of The Nigeria Mothers Summit, 2006.

52. Mothers' United and Mobilized Award, to commemorate the inauguration of Loyola Jesuit College, as a PTA Chapter, 2006.

53. Movement for Democracy and Visionary Leadership Award, in recognition of her immense contribution to democratic development, stable and peaceful united Nigeria, 2006.

54. Igbo People's Action Congress (IPAC), Award, in recognition of her outstanding role in the media industry, principles and qualitative leadership roles at the National Assembly and total commitment to democracy, 2006.

55. Sardauna Magazine Excellence and Leadership Award, as the Outstanding Female Legislator, 2006.

56. City People Award, as the Best Female Politician of the year 2006.

57. National Legislative Award 2005/2006.

58. Society for Self Employment and Self Reliance Award as the Most Outstanding Female Honourable Member of the House of Representatives, 2005.

59. African Culture Institute and Zenith Bank JEWEL OF THE FUTURE Award, 2005.

60. Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Chapel Award, in recognition of her distinguished performance and contributions to the advancement of democracy, as a honourable member of House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004.

61. Independent Television and Radio Programme Producers Association of Nigeria (INTARPPAN),

Award, in commemoration of her investiture as patroness of INTARPPAN, 2004.

62. Royal Achievers International Media Network Award, in recognition of her initiative, loyalty and commitment to the overall growth and development of her beloved country as well as for representing the hope and aspirations of the world committee of patriotic women of integrity in the era of global civilization, 2004.

63. The Students Planning/Implementation Committee (SPIC), Lagos State Polytechnic, School of Part- Time Studies, Ikorodu Annex Award as the Most Vibrant Federal female Legislator (MVFFL) and in recognition of her sublimity as a visionary leader, committed to youth empowerment and social political development, 2004.

64. Faculty of Law, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Award of merit for her laudable assistance towards the development of youths, 2004.

65. Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) Award for commitment to NIPR's Campaign for National Reputation on Professional Excellence, Human Dignity and Pride in Nigeria, 2004.

66. Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Alumni Association, Lagos Branch Award for Distinguished Alumni Outstanding Professional Attainment, 2004.

67. Students' Union Government (SUG), House of Parliament, University of Jos Award, as a ray of hope for this generation, 2004.

68. Society Role Model and Achievers Award, 2004.

69. Lead Bank Award, in congratulation for her position of leadership, 2003.

70. Prime International Achievers' Award for distinguished private individuals and Chief Executives of Corporate Organizations, in recognition of her developmental achievement in Nigeria and West Africa, 2003.

71. UNICEF Child Friendly Award for Human Interest Reporting on the Story of Mary, the Miracle Baby on NTA Newline, 2003.

72. Rotary Club of Abuja District Merit Award for Community Service, 2003.

73. Prime International Gold Award for Distinguished Private Individuals and Chief Executives of Corporate Organizations for Development and Achievement in Nigeria and West Africa.

74. Lagos State House of Assembly Correspondents Association Outstanding Award for consistently pursuing a noble cause and for being a Role Model for Nigerian Women.

75. Named Millennium Model (Nov. 25, 2001). A tribute Excellence sponsored by Platinum Bank to inspire present and future generations of Nigerians, to their very best in this Millennium.

76. 5th Diamond Award for media excellence and TV Reporter of the year 1996.

77. Nigerian Media Merit Award (NMMA), as the 1995 winner of Cadbury Nigeria Plc's prize for TV Reporter of the year.

78. National Association of Administrative Students of Nigeria (NAASN) Award for her enormous contribution to the Nigerian polity and strive towards the Freedom of Information Bill (F.O.I).

79. Commendation from the Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California.

80. PROLAYEE SPORT ACADEMY IKORODU Award of excellence for her exemplary leadership.

81. African Leadership Prize (2)

82. Face of Russell and Creative Communicator Award, in recognition of her contribution and achievement in the communication industry.

83. Northern Youth Coalition Movement (NYCM) award for excellent performance.

84. Female Ministries Forum International Award of Excellence for the Upliftment of Womanhood.

85. The Most Outstanding Female-led Head of a Government Federal Agency, a Guardian Award as part of the Guardian's Women's Day Summit 2021;

to be continue in the next edition.....





# FOOD CORNER

■ By Doosughun Abughidyer

Awara is a very good source of protein, and meat substitute option for vegetarians.

Awara is either called fried soyabean curds or tofu. It can be eaten any time of the day and it's a popular delicacy among the northern and western parts of Nigeria.

## INGREDIENTS

1. Cups soya beans
2. Groundnut oil (or any other vegetable oil, for frying)
3. Chilli pepper
4. Medium-sized onion
5. Seasoning cubes
6. Crayfish (optional)
7. Alum
8. Salt

## METHOD

1. Soak the soya beans till it's soft; then wash and grind the beans. After grinding the soya beans, sieve to extract the milk and throw away the chaff.
2. Pour the sieved content gotten from the soya beans in a sizeable pot and put on fire.
3. Soak the alum in two litres of water. Immediately the soya milk starts to simmer, add the alum solution gradually till the soya milk curdles or forms lumps. Once it curdles, stop pouring the alum solution and let it boil for 20 minutes.

## AWARA (Soya Beans Tofu) RECIPE

4. After 20 minutes, pack out the lumps into another separate clean pot- add maggi, salt, pepper, onion, crayfish, and mix all together.
5. Put it back on fire to cook for about 20 minutes then you bring down and allow it to cool down.
6. Get a clean sieve cloth (like a muslin fabric for processing pap) and pour it in and tie up. Place it on a clean surface. Get a clean heavy object to squeeze the water out completely. Allow it for some time depending on when you will want to use it.
7. When it is ready to use, cut it into your desired shapes and sizes.
8. Heat up your fry pan; add vegetable oil, when it's hot, slice the onion and put into the pan- allow to fry a little, then you add the soya bean curds into the pan.
9. Place on a medium heat till it turns light or dark brown, depending on what you want. Your soya beans tofu is ready to be served.

NB: blend pepper and onion to a coarse texture to prepare some sauce and eat with it.

Enjoy.

# TOUR NIGERIA:

■ By: Bridget Temtsen



I'm almost certain the first thing that springs to your mind when Ebonyi state is mentioned is 'Abakaliki rice.'

Well, I'm glad to take you on a tour of Ebonyi State, where you'll be astounded by the stunning sights the state has to offer, despite its status as an agricultural region and one of Nigeria's main rice producers.

Ebonyi state, established in 1996, is located in the country's south-eastern region, with Abakaliki as its capital.

Uburu Salt Lake : There are four major salt lakes in Ebonyi state and they are all located in one town 'Uburu'. These salt lakes does not only serve as a good source of common salt, but also serves as a source of revenue for the people of Uburu.

Golden Sand Beach: This golden sand beach offers all kinds of activities, including swimming, sport fishing, boating, and sunbathing. Ndibe Sand Beach is another name for the beach.

Amanchor Cave: is located in the Afikpo South of Amanchor. The cave of Amanchor is estimated to be four kilometers in length. For visitors, it is a pleasant sight.

Okposi Salt Lake: This okposi salt lake exemplifies why Ebonyi state is known as the "salt of the nation." A visit to this lake will educate you on how salt is made locally.

Mkpuma Ekwa Oku Rocks: These are naturally sculpted rocks in the shape of eggs. They're in Ndieze Community, which is part of the Izzi Local Government Area. This is one place you should not miss while on a tour in Ebonyi state.

The Amusement Park: This park is exceptionally well-designed as a place for youngsters to relax. It is well-equipped in such a way that you don't regret visiting the park . It's also in Abakaliki, the state capital of Ebonyi.

Other places that are worth visiting are:

- Abakaliki Greater Rice Husks
- Slave Market
- Abakaliki Golf Course
- Abakaliki Green Lake





# DIARY OF EVENTS

■ By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



**Z**ain Asher with her copy of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission's Publication, "600 Diaspora Icons at 60" during her short trip to Lagos.



**H**on. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO Nigerians In Diaspora Commission, at the Two-Day Preliminary Psycho-social Trauma Clinic for Ukraine returnees organized in partnership with National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), NIDCOM and Project Victory Call Initiative (PVC) in Abuja.



**T**he Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa receives the Namibian deligation headed by Mr. David Ligonda, Deputy Direction, Labour market Information, Min. of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment, who were in Nigeria to understudy NIDCOM's projects, programs and policies.



**H**on. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO Nigerians in Diaspora Commission with dignitaries during the unveiling of a new product that enhances the TV viewing box. The project was initiated by a group of Nigerians based in Canada.

# DIARY OF EVENTS

■ By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



**H**on. Abike Dabiri-Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/ CEO Nigerians in Diapora Commission during “ The Pride of our Ancestry, the strength of our diaspora” an event held to honor 13 Nigerian Americans appointed into the Biden/ Harris administration.



**H**on. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO Nigerians In Diaspora Commission during a courtesy visit to the Nigerian Ambassador to the US, HE Amb Uzoma Emenike, Nigerian’s first female Ambassador to the US, presents her a copy of +600 Nigerian Diaspora Icons at 60, a publication celebrating the success stories of Nigerians all over the world.



**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari attends UN Environment Programme (UNEP) 50th anniversary special session in Kenya’s capital.



**T**he Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Geoffrey Onyeama receives in audience the European Union Delegation to Nigeria led by Amb. Samuela Isopi in his office.





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Yours Sincerely,

**Abdur-Rahman Balogun**  
Head, Media, Public Relations  
and Protocols Unit (NIDCOM) Abuja.

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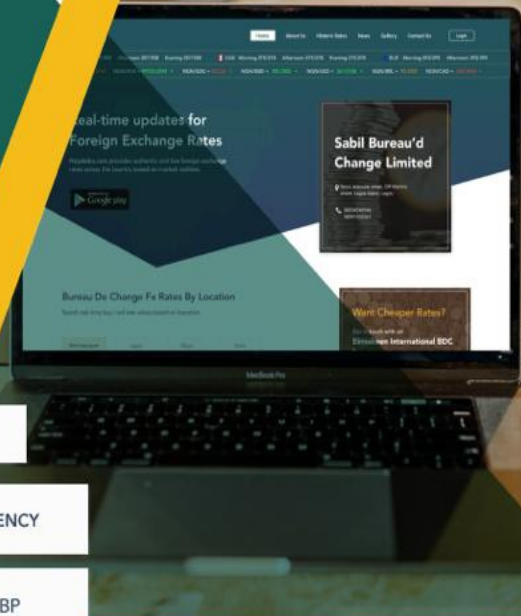
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17 June 2020	465 /468	466 /468.5	467 /469	EURO



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