



NIDCOM
NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

DIASPORA

NEWSLETTER

In this Edition



HON. ABIKE DABIRI-EREWA COMMENTS DR PHILLIP OZUAH, A DIASPORAN, FOR DONATING A ONE- MILLION DOLLAR STUDENT HOSTEL TO UCH COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

THE VIBRANT WORLD OF YORUBA ATTIRES

DID YOU KNOW



PRESIDENT TINUBU CELEBRATES ALHAJI ASHAFI EROGBOGBO ON HIS 99TH BIRTHDAY

THE MENACE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA AND THE PURPOSE: NIGERIA, A CASE IN POINT

LET'S TALK FASHION



NIDO GHANA: FIGHTING TRAFFICKING ONE PERSON AT A TIME

NIDCOM ADVOCATES FOR A HOLISTIC APPROACH IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA.

DIARY OF EVENTS

FOOD CORNER



NiDCOM
NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

SAVE THE DATE
25TH – 26TH JULY, 2025
ABUJA, NIGERIA

**NATIONAL
DIASPORA DAY
CELEBRATIONS
& NATIONAL
DIASPORA MERIT
AWARD 2025**

Theme:
*“Optimizing Formidable Diaspora
Potentials for National Growth”*

Chief Host:

Hon. (Dr) Abike Dabiri-Erewa, OON
Chairman/CEO,
Nigerians in Diaspora Commission
(NiDCOM)

WWW.NIDCOM.GOV.NG

HON. ABIKE DABIRI-EREWA COMMENDS DR PHILLIP OZUAH, A DIASPORAN, FOR DONATING A ONE- MILLION DOLLAR STUDENT HOSTEL TO UCH COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

BY JULIET O.IKWUAGWU



Hon. Abike Dabiri Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) has applauded the kind donation of one million dollars (N1.6 billion) by a Diasporan, Dr Philip Ozuah to the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan.

The said donation was used for the construction of six blocks of student hostel project at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. (CoMUI).

Dabiri-Erewa, who was at the inauguration of the project in Ibadan on Wednesday, eulogised Ozuah's philanthropic contribution and urged other Nigerians living abroad to emulate such gesture geared towards boosting health care and education in Nigeria. She also commended the UCH Alumni class of 1985 that initiated the project.

Alumni class of 1985 that initiated the project.

The NIDCOM boss stressed the importance of diaspora involvement in transforming Nigeria's health care delivery system through generosity and provision of infrastructural support.

She said that such collaboration especially with Nigerian Professionals abroad have gone a long way in transforming medical tourism and help reverse its current trends.

Delighted by this gesture, Abike Dabiri-Erewa disclosed that in the last four years, more than 10 hospitals have been built by diaspora doctors, including the recently commissioned African Medical Centre of Excellence in Abuja besides series of medical missions in the country.

"Undoubtedly, we can reverse the medical tourism if we organise and harness the expertise of our health practitioners both at home and abroad", she said.

While applauding the kind gesture from Dr Ozuah, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa said that with proper structure and collaboration, Nigerian medical practitioners abroad can come together to build a world-class medical centre of excellence that will attract patients instead of losing them to foreign hospitals.

Dr Philip Ozuah is a 1985 Alumnus of the College of Medicine and President/CEO of Montefiore Medicine in New York, USA.

PRESIDENT TINUBU CELEBRATES ALHAJI ASHAF A EROGBOGBO ON HIS 99th BIRTHDAY

BY EMEDIONG EKWAN EKANEM



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu warmly congratulates Alhaji Ashafa Ajibola Erogbogbo on the joyous occasion of his 99th birthday today, commending his remarkable life of dedication, principle, and service. In his message, President Tinubu lauds Alhaji Erogbogbo for embodying the enduring values of discipline, integrity, and compassion throughout his distinguished career and personal life. Alhaji Erogbogbo gained his first job experience at the Government Printing Press in Lagos.

He then moved to the Nigerian Customs Service and joined Shell Company of Nigeria Limited in 1954 to begin a storied career. His diligence propelled him through the ranks of Shell's aviation division, where he served as Aviation Supervisor before rising to District Manager across Kano, Kaduna, and Katsina.

His exemplary leadership continued as Aviation Superintendent at Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos. President Tinubu hails the nonagenarian as a pillar of family and community, a devoted father to remarkable children, notably Mrs Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman, Nigeria Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), whose contributions to Lagos State and Nigeria, echo the values of service, intellect, and purpose instilled in them.

“As you turn 99, I join family, friends and well-wishers across the nation in celebrating your life. I pray that you continue to enjoy good health and peace in the company of your loved ones. I pray you cross the centennial mark in good health and sound mind. “ I thank Almighty Allah for granting you long life and being alive to witness the achievements of your children and grandchildren.”, the President says.

NIDCOM BACKS MAN O' WAR ON DIASPORA STRATEGY

BY OYIBE CHRISTIAN MATHEW



In a strategic move to reframe Nigeria's global image and strengthen ties with its diaspora communities, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO of Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), has expressed support for Man O' War Nigeria's newly introduced Diaspora Engagement Strategy. Dabiri-Erewa, represented by the Secretary to the Commission, Dr. Sule Yakubu Bassi, said the partnership aligns with NiDCOM's broader objective of repositioning the Nigerian diaspora as a key development asset. He noted that with over 20 million Nigerians living abroad, 18 million in the modern diaspora and 2 million in the historic African diaspora, the potential for engagement is vast and strategic. "The diaspora is not just a demographic, but a formidable resource pool that contributes to critical sectors including health, ICT, culture, sports and investment," Bassi said. He reaffirmed NiDCOM's commitment to partnerships that enhance diaspora relations and highlighted ongoing initiatives such as the National Diaspora Policy, Diaspora Data Mapping Portal, Nigerian Diaspora

Investment Summit and Nigerian Diaspora Mortgage Scheme, among others. Bassi described the Man O' War initiative as timely and commendable, pledging NiDCOM's readiness to support meaningful collaboration that encourages unity, citizenship education, and national reorientation.

National Commander of Man O' War Nigeria, Gbenga Adedamola, shared the organisation's vision to counter misinformation and reshape narratives about Nigeria through direct engagement with Nigerians abroad. He announced the establishment of a Diaspora Command within Man O' War, tasked with educating diaspora communities on government initiatives, encouraging patriotic discourse, and promoting investment in Nigeria. "We are focused on one-on-one engagement and constructive dialogue. Our mission is to foster renewed trust, civic responsibility, and national pride among Nigerians abroad," Adedamola said. He added that Man O' War, established by an Act of Parliament, remains committed to leadership development and good citizenship, and will continue to support the Federal Government's nation building efforts at home and abroad.

DID YOU KNOW ?

BY MARYAM KEHINDE ABDULAZEEZ

1. Nigeria Has Over 500 Languages. It is one of the most linguistically diverse countries in the world, with over 500 indigenous languages spoken across its states.



2. The River Niger is the longest river in Nigeria and West Africa. It is also the third-longest river in Africa, stretching about 4,180 kilometers (2,600 miles) longer than the distance from Lagos to London. It flows through Guinea, Mali, Niger, Benin, and Nigeria, finally emptying into the Atlantic Ocean through the Niger Delta in Nigeria.



3. Historically the river Niger was a Trade Route. The river was once a vital route for trans-Saharan trade, connecting the inland African kingdoms to coastal areas. Canoes and boats were commonly used for transporting goods and people.



4 . Two Major Rivers Meet in Nigeria:- The confluence of the River Niger and River Benue occurs in Lokoja, Kogi State. It's one of the most iconic geographical landmarks in Nigeria, where the brownish Niger meets the bluish Benue.



5. Your Brain is More Active at Night. Most people think the brain slows down when we sleep but that is not true. Your brain becomes even more active at night during sleep, especially during the REM (Rapid Eye Movement) stage. That is when dreams happen, memories are stored, and your brain does a “clean-up” to get you ready for the next day.



NIDO GHANA: FIGHTING TRAFFICKING ONE PERSON AT A TIME

BY DEBORAH T. ANAELECHI



Hope was just 17 when she left Nigeria, filled with excitement for what lay ahead in Ghana. A distant aunt, who had returned to the village for the holidays, had promised to take her along to upskill her hairdressing talent. With her parents' blessing, they made the journey. True to her name, she was elated that this opportunity could empower her financially, allowing her to support her family and help put her three younger siblings through school. She also believed it might enable her to finally enrol into the university and complete her education, having only her SSCE certificate and unable to pursue further studies due to financial constraints. Her dream was to become a lawyer. But on arriving in Ghana, Hope soon realised, unfortunately, that not every wish, promise or even person is always as

they seem. Although Hope's story is fictional, it represents the real-life experiences and struggles faced by many young Nigerian girls who fall prey to human trafficking across West Africa. The constant belief that the grass is greener on the other side and the rising urge to japa, often end far from the dream that inspired the journey. What starts as a quest for a better life becomes an unending nightmare. Hundreds of Nigerian teenagers, especially young girls (as young as 15 or less), are trafficked into Ghana, lured with promises of stable employment or education over there. Instead, they find themselves confined, abused and coerced into prostitution, hence making the pursuit of opportunity into a life of exploitation, regret and untold

hardship. Behind the lively streets of Accra, Tema, and other bustling cities of the former Gold Coast, as reported, lie these harsh realities. But confronting this ongoing crisis head-on is the Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation, Ghana Chapter (NIDO Ghana), working tirelessly to fight human trafficking and restore dignity and hope to its victims.

Ghana has recently been on the radar for human trafficking, and like many of you, dear readers, the question arises: why has it become a trafficking hub in West Africa? A brief look at its history and the factors fuelling this crisis offers some clarity on why the problem continues to escalate.



Located in West Africa, Ghana gained independence from British colonial rule in 1957. It shares borders with Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Togo, and the Gulf of Guinea. Historically, Ghana's strategic location, with its accessible land, sea and air routes, has long made it an important passage for human movement across the region. Dating back to the trans-Atlantic slave trade, where millions were forcibly taken through its coastal ports, to modern migration, its location has continued to attract both legal and illegal pathways for people. Although the slave trade era has since been abolished, the exploitation of vulnerable individuals, particularly women and children, sadly persists in emerging and gory forms. In addition, several factors have made Ghana both a destination and transit hub for human trafficking, such as the perception of safety and opportunity. Compared to some neighbouring countries, Ghana is seen as more stable and prosperous. This perception attracts both genuine migrants and trafficked victims lured by better living standards there. Also, the increase in poverty, unemployment and insecurity across West Africa, particularly in Nigeria, prompts many desperate individuals to accept offers from traffickers under the pretence of assistance or incredible job offers. Another factor is inadequate resourcing, security manpower and border control. Regional cooperation, though improving, remains inconsistent.

While Ghana has produced legal frameworks to combat human trafficking, studies by organisations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report note that such enforcement remains challenging due to limited resources, gaps in border control, and complex regional trafficking networks that span multiple countries. Furthermore, in cities such as Accra, Tema, Takoradi and Kumasi, there is reportedly a rising demand for cheap domestic labour, street hawking and commercial sex work, which sadly, continues to intensify the activities of traffickers. The 2023 Ghana Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report revealed 944 victims were identified by authorities; 821 of whom were exploited for labour, while the remaining victims suffered sexual exploitation. Despite efforts to expand victim support, the figures rose from 574 victims in 2022, according to the report. Another reason is the trend operation. With the upgrade in digital technology, the victims, in some cases, are now being forced or cajoled into online sexual exploitation or fraudulent cybercrime activities controlled by organised syndicates. On the other hand, it won't be entirely fair to place the full responsibility on Ghana.

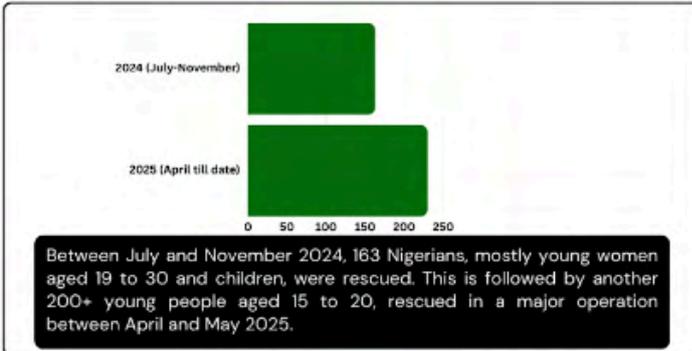
Both Ghana and Nigeria are in the West African region and members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which allows for relatively free movement across borders. In Nigeria, challenges such as insecurity, unemployment and the search for better living conditions and affordable standards of living have driven many Nigerians to desperately seek opportunities outside the country. This isn't intended to criticise either nation, but rather to emphasise that the issue is a shared problem for both countries, each with its challenges within the area. Now, to the crux of the matter. The press statements from the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) noted that in 2024 (July to November) alone, 163 young Nigerians, mainly young ladies aged 19-30 and children, were rescued and returned to Nigeria. Also, just in April and May of this year, over 200 young Nigerians between the ages of 15 and 20 years were rescued from traffickers and returned to Nigeria, according to reports from NiDCOM and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).



Informational Data

Overview of Nigerians Rescued from Trafficking in Ghana

The infographic provides a visual summary of the number of Nigerians rescued from human trafficking in Ghana between July 2024 and May 2025, with more ongoing rescues. Source: NiDCOM Press Releases



These remarkable efforts were made possible through the Office of the Nigerian First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu; the Ebonyi State First Lady, Mrs. Mary-Maudline Nwifuru; and the collaborative partnership involving NiDCOM, NAPTIP, NIDO Ghana, Ghana’s Anti-Trafficking Agency and several well-meaning private organisations in Nigeria. Their collective dedication ensured the

smooth return, rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims; hence demonstrating a shared commitment to protecting the dignity and welfare of Nigerian citizens.

Acknowledgement is due to NIDO Ghana, under the leadership of Chief Callistus Elozieuwa, who also serves as Chairman, Rescue Life Foundation International, a not-

for-profit organisation. As the official umbrella body representing Nigerians living in Ghana, NIDO Ghana plays a vital role in uniting the Nigerian community, providing support, and strengthening ties with the homeland. With Ghana hosting one of the larof human trafficking, particularly involving vulnerable young Nigerians, among other responsibilities.

gest Nigerian populations in West Africa, the chapter has been quietly but effectively tackling the challenge

Guided by the true Nigerian spirit of brotherhood and service, Chief Elozieuwa's administration has been instrumental in providing shelter for survivors, working very closely with Ghanaian authorities and NiDCOM, and advancing diplomatic efforts that have secured safe repatriations. Commending these efforts, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, NiDCOM Chairman/CEO, recognised Chief Elozieuwa's vital role in bringing perpetrators to justice, ensuring immediate shelter, medical attention, trauma-informed counselling, facilitating the safe return and rehabilitation of rescued victims. In recognition of his contributions, Chief Elozieuwa has received some honours, including the 2024 National Diaspora Merit Award for Philanthropy and, quite recently, an award from the Institute of Strategic and Development Communication (ISDEVCOM), Nasarawa State University, Keffi (NSUK) in March, for his campaign against irregular migration and human trafficking, among other accolades. The work carried out by NIDO Ghana isn't without significant challenges.



Traffickers constantly adapt their methods, exploiting legal loopholes and targeting economically vulnerable families. Also, there's the issue of financial capacity for the continuous rescue and rehabilitation of these victims. Yet, the organisation remains resolute, driven by a strong sense of responsibility among the Nigerian diaspora who believe that protecting their own must extend beyond borders.

Their work is not only a rescue mission; it's equally a powerful call to action. Governments, international partners, NGOs, private sector players and concerned citizens all have a role to play. Human trafficking isn't merely a crime; it's a humanitarian crisis that demands united, sustained efforts. Stronger policies, increased funding, survivor rehabilitation programmes and cross-border collaboration remain crucial if any lasting progress is to be made. Public awareness must also be intensified, especially among

young people, to enlighten them on the dangers of get-rich-quick schemes, irregular migration and human trafficking. Therefore, the media has a crucial role to play in driving this sensitisation through consistent and responsible messaging, as well as, factual and balanced reportage.

Also, parents and guardians are equally urged to carry out proper due diligence and background checks before entrusting their children or wards to anyone, even if that person is a relative or family friend.

As for the youth, they must understand that they're enough as they are. No one should pressure or manipulate them into doing something unlawful and regrettable, which they don't want to do. They should, equally, be cautious not to fall for the one-sided narrative of a glamorous life abroad without first understanding the full picture.



CHIEF CALLISTUS ELOZIEUWA, CHAIRMAN, NIDO GHANA/RESCUE LIFE FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL. CREDIT: GOOGLE

Today, Hope is a 21-year-old 200-level law student at a Nigerian university. Two years ago, she was rescued during a raid on a brothel in Ghana and repatriated by the authorities. Her time there was marked by unspeakable hardship, but today, she's gradually regaining her life and future. Pushed by her sad experience, Hope aspires to become a human rights lawyer, to work with strategic organisations across both the public and private sectors, and contribute to the fight against human trafficking in Nigeria; thereby ensuring that no young person suffers what she faced.

Her story, though imaginary, mirrors the lived experiences of too many Nigerian girls who have fallen prey to trafficking. It's against this background that the efforts of the Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation, Ghana Chapter, under Chief Calistus Elozieuwa's leadership, should be encouraged. Their relentless pursuit of justice and restoration has helped a great deal but the fight is far from over. Human trafficking isn't just a crime against persons; it's a crime that undermines national dignity and global reputation. This 'war' isn't the job of one person, organisation, government office or country; it's a collective effort. Therefore, let's join hands to make sure that Nigerians, especially young girls like Hope, are never trafficked again.



PREPARATION OF ZOBO DRINK

Zobo drink is a vibrant Nigerian beverage made from dried Hibiscus petals and a mix of spices. This refreshing, tangy drink can be tailored to your liking with pineapple and ginger for an extra zing. Enjoy it chilled, garnished with fruits, and savor the unique taste of homemade Zobo.

Preparation

Time: 10 minutes

Cooking Time: 20 minutes

Total Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients

Servings

12 cups Dried Hibiscus petals (Zobo leaves)

8 cups Water

1 cup Pineapple peel optional

3-4 cups 1-2 Pineapple juice Adjust to taste

Ginger root blended Adjust to taste

FOOD CORNER

BY EMEDIONG EKWAN

2-3 Cloves optional

1 Cinnamon stick

1 tsp Black pepper corn

1-2 cups Orange juice optional

Ice cubes.

Instructions

1. Add hibiscus leaves in a bowl, add warm water and rinse thoroughly. Strain and repeat one more time. This step is to get rid of sand and dirt from the dried hibiscus leaves.

2. Add the hibiscus petals, ginger, clove, black pepper, pineapple peel, cinnamon and water in a pot.

3. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer for 10-15 minutes.

4. Remove the pot from heat and let the mixture cool to room temperature.

5. Strain the liquid through a fine-mesh sieve or cheesecloth into a clean container to remove the hibiscus petals, pressing to extract all the juice.

6. Add the pineapple and orange juice to the strained hibiscus juice.

7. Add sugar or honey to taste.

8. Chill the Zobo drink in the refrigerator for a few hours or serve over ice cubes

Best served chill.

The Vibrant World of Yoruba Attires

By Babra Busa Bisong

Traditional Yoruba Attires



Yoruba traditional attire is characterized by its bold, bright colors and intricate patterns. The fabrics used are often made from cotton, silk, or a combination of both.

- Aso Oke: A hand-woven fabric made from cotton or silk, often worn during special occasions like weddings, festivals, and coronations.
- Adire: A traditional Yoruba textile art form that involves tie-dyeing or resist-dyeing fabrics to create unique patterns and designs.
- Ankara: A colorful, printed fabric that is popular among the Yoruba people, often used to make dresses, tops, and pants.

Yoruba attire is known for its diverse styles and designs, which often reflect the wearer's status, occupation, or occasion. Some popular styles include:

- Iro and Buba: A traditional Yoruba attire consisting of a wrapper (iro) and a blouse (buba), often worn with a headscarf (gele) and a shawl (ipano).
- Dansiki: A traditional Yoruba attire for men, consisting of a long, flowing robe with intricate embroidery or appliqué.
- Kaftan: A long, flowing garment often worn by Yoruba men and women, adorned with intricate designs and patterns.

Yoruba attire is more than just clothing; it's a reflection of the culture's rich heritage and traditions. The intricate designs, colors, and patterns woven into the fabrics tell stories of the Yoruba people's history, myths, and values. Traditional attire is often worn during important ceremonies, festivals, and social gatherings, serving as a visual representation of the Yoruba people's cultural identity.

Yoruba attire is a stunning representation of the Yoruba people's rich cultural heritage. The vibrant colors, intricate designs, and symbolic meanings woven into the fabrics tell stories of the culture's history, myths, and values. Whether traditional or modern, Yoruba attire continues to play an essential role in the culture, serving as a visual representation of the Yoruba people's identity.

THE MENACE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA AND THE PURPOSE: NIGERIA, A CASE IN POINT

BY OYIBE CHRISTIAN MATHEW



INTRODUCTION

Trafficking in human beings is a very sensitive issue as it is at the very intersection of contemporary anxieties concerning the global political economy, population growth, gender and ethnic stratification, transnational organised crime and human rights abuses, as well as the inability of states, groups of states and international agencies to control any of these effectively.

Human Trafficking is the modern form of slavery and considered to be the third-largest criminal activity in the world after arms and drug trade. It happens when people are recruited, transported, or received through deception, threat or force. Once trapped, they are exploited using threats, physical force, emotional abuse, or told they must pay off a large debt to their captors. They may be enslaved for years, or their entire lives.

The problem is of global proportion. Almost every country, including Nigeria-Africa, is implicated in this shocking trade of human lives either as a place of recruitment; transit through to other countries, or a final destination for trafficked people. Due to the difficulties with identifying victims, the numbers remain vast but unknown.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

The first internationally agreed upon definition of trafficking is enshrined in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Person, Especially Women and Children Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) which Defines trafficking in person as: “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons: “Trafficking in Persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

Trafficking of persons shall mean: “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat, use of force or other means of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the receiving or giving of payment... to a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”



IMPLICATIONS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Human trafficking leaves the victims with all kinds of negative vestige that may likely render the victim useless for life. Over the years, trafficking in persons both internally and externally has resulted in the increase in the number of HIV infections. In general, women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV and AIDS infection. Thus, trafficked girls and women are mostly at risk because they are unable to insist upon condom use and they may be forced to have sex with multiple partners. Also, the physically immature bodies of young girls are extremely vulnerable to sexual injury which eventually increases their risk of infection. Many trafficked persons have other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) due to forced and unsafe sexual activities.

Also, trafficked victims are denied formal education on arrival at their destination. Before leaving the country, the traffickers promise them quality education outside the country but when they finally get to their destination they are made to get involved in something different entirely and before they realize it their chances of getting formal education is truncated. They therefore end up with no future prospects.

Again, victims get involved in other crimes such as drug trafficking. Their end users use them as a means of accomplishing crimes that would further enrich their pockets. Pitiably, the victims get caught and bear the consequences alone while their end users are no where to be found.

In Nigeria especially, these victims fall into the hands of bad people who kill them and use their blood for money rituals. This kind of incident happens frequently in Nigeria because of the desperation to amass quick wealth. Children who are trafficked for domestic purposes usually become victims of rape. Their end users take advantage of their weakness and abuse them sexually.

Another implication is that victims who end up being deported find it difficult to endure the stigma because the society considers them as prostitutes who no longer fit into the society. As a result of the shame, some of them either migrate to another State of Nigeria where they are not known to continue their prostitution or go on to start a new life entirely.

In conclusion, Nigeria has being plagued with the problem of human trafficking for decades. As a result of the Clandestine nature of this internationally recognized criminal activity, it has been a bit difficult to unmask perpetrators who subvert human rights.

NIDCOM ADVOCATES A HOLISTIC APPROACH IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA.

By Babra Busa Bisong

A call for unity among government bodies, civil society, and grassroots actors marked a crucial turning point in Nigeria's ongoing fight against human trafficking, as stakeholders gathered in Abuja for a landmark event aimed at strengthening collaborative responses to the crisis.

Speaking at the Stakeholder Knowledge Exchange, Engagement and Partnership Programme (SKEEP) organized by Open University UK in partnership with the University of Ibadan, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), the National Human Rights Commission, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), the National Assembly, and the National Anti-Bullying Campaign Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO of NiDCOM, stressed the need for a "whole-of-government and whole-of-society" approach to effectively tackle trafficking.

Represented by Engr. Dr Sule Yakubu Bassi, Secretary of the Commission, Dabiri-Erewa called on all critical stakeholders—including youth, community leaders, religious institutions, government ministries, the media, and international agencies to work in synergy.

"Combating trafficking cannot rest on the shoulders of one agency alone," Bassi said. "We need everyone from policymakers to the people on the streets fully engaged."

Dabiri-Erewa revealed that over 15,000 Nigerians have been repatriated from countries such as Libya, Oman, Ghana, Mali, Lebanon, and Côte d'Ivoire through NiDCOM's efforts in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, embassies, NAPTIP, IOM, and several state governments.

She underscored the importance of addressing both push factors—such as poverty and unemployment that drive Nigerians to seek opportunities abroad—and pull factors that lure victims into dangerous situations.

Echoing the urgency of the message, NAPTIP's Director of Research, Mr. Josiah Emerole, who represented the Director-General, Mrs. Binta Adamu Bello, outlined the agency's comprehensive strategy centered on five core pillars: Policy, Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnerships.

"We have systems in place to ensure a victim-centered approach," Emerole said, adding that the agency remains committed to reinforcing national and international partnerships to stamp out trafficking.

Also present were Dr. Margaret Ebubedike and Dr. Saraswati Dawadi from the Open University UK's International Education Institute, who shared insights from Nigeria, Nepal, and Uganda. They applauded Nigeria's progress in developing anti-trafficking mechanisms and emphasized the need for grassroots orientation programs and public shaming of traffickers to deter future crimes.

The event took an emotional turn when survivors of trafficking shared their personal stories, underscoring the human cost of the crisis and the urgent need for reform.

As Nigeria continues to grapple with the complex challenges of human trafficking, the message from Abuja was clear: a unified, inclusive, and action-oriented strategy is not just desirable it is essential.

DIARY OF EVENTS

BY JULIET OGOCHUKWU IKWUAGWU



(L-R) Abiola Bayo, Nollywood Actress, Miss Adeola George, Daughter of Nollywood Actress , Jumoke George. Rescued from Mali. Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO Nigerians in diaspora commission (NIDCOM) And Mr Niyi Johnson, Nollywood Actor. Miss Adeola was Received at NIDCOM office in Lagos after living from Mali. The alarm raised by Jumoke George concerning her Daughter who had been missing for 4 years.



(L) Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, NIDCOM, Eniola Shokunbi(innovator) Ayodele Olawande(Minister of Youth Development and (R) Mrs Shokunbi, during a strategic Meeting at the Ministry of Youth Development in Abuja.



(L-R)Hajia Binta Adamu Bello, DG NAPTIP with Abike Dabiri-Erewa OON, Chairman/CEO , NIDCOM during a Strategic meeting between NIDCOM and NAPTIP at NIDCOM Headquarters Abuja.



Hon. Dr. Abike Dabiri-Erewa OON, Chairman /CEO Nigerians in diaspora commission (NIDCOM) received in audience 11 years old champion Miss Amazing-Grace Salami, From Greenpath Preparatory School, Abuja, Winner of the Spelling Bee in Nigeria (SPIN) competition.



4th Middle, Dr Sule Yakubu Bassi, Secretary to NIDCOM, Kleopatra Vagas, Dr Krystal Chanchangi and Mr Gabriel Odu, NIDCOM Media, (3rd, left), Mr Abiodun Akanbi, Head Programmes Development, NIDCOM and others, during a strategic meeting at NIDCOM Headquarters, Abuja.



NIDCOM BACKS MAN O' WAR ON DIASPORA STRATEGY

In a strategic move to reframe Nigeria's global image and strengthen ties with it's diaspora communities, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, chairman/ CEO of Nigerians in diaspora commission (NIDCOM),has expressed support for Man O' WAR Nigeria's newly introduced Diaspora Engagement strategy.



2nd Right, Dr Joseph Madu, President, the US/Africa Chamber of commerce, (1st Left)Dr. Gbenga Agbelemose , Director Respiratory Therapy services, Cedar -Sinai medical centre USA, (3rd middle) Dr. Usman Iskilu Salen, Executive Secretary, Nasarawa State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NAPHDA) and Mrs Violet Nwosu, Assistant Director of Media, Public Relations and Protocols (NIDCOM)



(L)Ayo Akande, Owner of City Jollof, London. (2nd Left),Hon Abdulrahman Terab, Head TTI&I(NIDCOM), (Middle) Princess Opeyemi Bright, Mayor of Barking and Dagenham, London, (2nd Right), Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, NIDCOM, (First right),Funso Akinwunmi, Director, Avenue Impact, London.

Hon. Dr. Abike Dabiri-Erewa OON, received in audience Mrs Dimanche Sharon, Chief of Mission Nigeria, International Organization for Migration (IOM) at NIDCOM Headquarters, Abuja.

QUIZ TIME

1. Question:

Nigeria is often referred to as the "Giant of Africa"but do you know why?

- A. Because of its geographical size
- B. Because it has the largest population in Africa
- C. Because it has the most oil reserves
- D. Because it has the oldest university in Africa

(a) It is because it has the largest population in Africa

2. Riddle:

I speak without a mouth and hear without ears.
I have no body, but I come alive with wind.
What am I?

Answer: An echo



MEDIA TEAM

The Diaspora Newsletter is an official Bulletin
Published by NiDCOM Media And Public Relations Unit

- **Abdur-Rahman Balogun**
Editor-In-Chief
- **Violet Nwosu**
Correspondent
- **Deborah Anaelechi**
Correspondent
- **Babra Busa Bisong**
Correspondent
- **Rosemary Moribirin**
Correspondent
- **Omolabake Omoniyi**
Correspondent
- **Akinsola Akinboye**
Correspondent
- **Khadija Shehu Bamalli**
Correspondent
- **Esther Osei-Otiotio**
Correspondent
- **Gabriel Odu**
Deputy Editor-In-Chief
- **Juliannah Vincent-Yakubu**
Correspondent
- **Juliet Ogochukwu Ikwuagwu**
Photo Journalist
- **Samson Elijah Simeon**
Photo Journalist
- **Olufunke Oloye**
Correspondent
- **Edikan Micah Umoh**
Graphics Design
- **Emediong Ekwana**
Correspondent
- **Maraym Abdulazzez**
Correspondent
- **Oyibe Christian Matthew**
Photo Journalist

E-mail: diasporanewsletter19@gmail.com

Call +234 80 33 19 80 77 +234 81 74 38 39 62

for further inquiries visit our website: nidcom.gov.ng

@nidcom_gov. Instagram @NiDCOM_GOV and

Facebook: Nigerians in Diaspora Commission.



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 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 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 N3,500,000 (Three Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira) for one year subscription while monthly payments attracts only N350,000 (Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) per page.

Signed by;
Abdur-Raheem Balogun
Head, Media, Public Relations and
Protocols Unit (NiDCOM) Abuja.

Contact Via email:
rahmor2001@yahoo.com,
diasporanewsletter19@gmail.com
or reach out via:
08052729751, 08167614759





NiDCOM
NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

SAVE THE DATE
25TH – 26TH JULY, 2025
ABUJA, NIGERIA

**NATIONAL
DIASPORA DAY
CELEBRATIONS
& NATIONAL
DIASPORA MERIT
AWARD 2025**

Theme:
*“Optimizing Formidable Diaspora
Potentials for National Growth”*

Chief Host:

Hon. (Dr) Abike Dabiri-Erewa, OON
Chairman/CEO,
Nigerians in Diaspora Commission
(NiDCOM)

WWW.NIDCOM.GOV.NG