



ABIA MOBILISER

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY, ABIA STATE DIRECTORATE

2021 2ND QUARTER



THEME
**BUILDING
A PEOPLE
OF PEACE:**

FALL IN LOVE WITH NIGERIA

BE PATRIOTIC, DO YOUR PART TO KEEP NIGERIA
SECURE AND SAFE FROM #COVID19

GOV. OKEZIE IKPEAZU
DECORATED AS **GRAND**
PATRON OF WAI BRIGADE,
ABIA STATE



NOA ABIA COLLABORATES
WITH UNICEF TO FIGHT
VACCINE HESITANCY



CREATIVITY &
INNOVATION IN ABA
DURING COVID-19



**NOA FIGHTS SEXUAL AND GENDER
BASED VIOLENCE IN ABIA STATE**



NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY

MOTTO

Moving Nigeria to Greatness

MISSION STATEMENT

To consistently raise awareness, provide timely and credible feedback;
Positively change attitudes, values and behaviours;
Accurately and adequately inform;
and sufficiently mobilize citizens to act in ways that promote peace, harmony and national development.

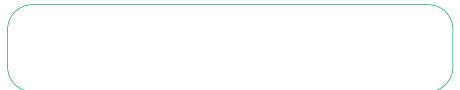
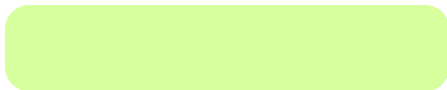
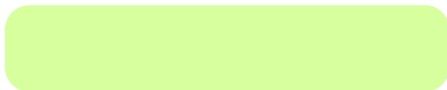
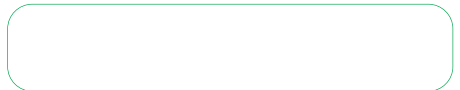
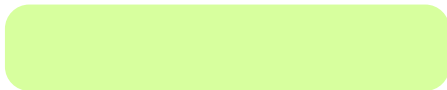
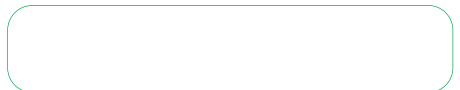
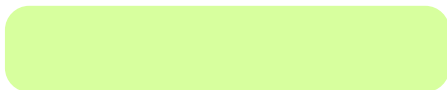
VISION STATEMENT

To develop a Nigerian society that is orderly, responsible and discipline, where citizens demonstrate core values of honesty, hard work and patriotism; where democratic principles and ideals are upheld; where peace and social harmony reign.

CORE VALUES

- i. Democracy:** requiring us to promote citizen participation.
- ii. Religious Tolerance:** requiring us to respect and accommodate all religious persuasions.
- iii. Integrity:** requiring us to match our words with action in honesty and truthfulness.
- iv. Patriotism:** requiring us to display love for country and it's symbols.
- v. Peaceful Co-existence:** requiring us to work with all persons from all classes, sex and ethnic background.

C O N T E N T



EDITORIAL

The editorial committee of Abia State Mobilizer, "Building A People Of Peace: Fall in Love With Nigeria", has taken bold steps in showcasing the activities of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Abia State Directorate, Abians in leadership positions and the private sector in the COVID-19 response. In her deliberate efforts to promote peace

among people while reminding them of the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NOA Abia State utilized various sensitization campaigns to create public awareness and value re-orientation. The Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu, led administration, is committed to the visions of NOA as elaborated in this magazine and advancing the virtues of the national core values for effective service to our fatherland. In this magazine, The citizens and residents of the State were constantly reminded not to loose guard by adhering to COVID-19 safety guidelines and instructions to stop the spread of the virus. The creativity and innovations that resonated in Abia State following the pandemic were uniquely featured. This edition promises to be informative, educative and entertaining. Please have a pleasant read.

Editor-in-Chief
Comrade Victor O. Orji



EDITORIAL BOARD

1. Lady Ngozi Okechukwu PH.D
2. Victor O. Orji
3. Chinenye Atuma
4. Gabriel Ojeka
5. Kingsley Igwe
6. Franca Igwe
7. Goddy Onwuchekwa
8. Alexander Nwaosugwu
9. Uloma Ogbuka
10. Uzumma Okoroafor
11. Bismarck C. Joseph
12. Kelechi Ahiabuike

- Publisher
- Editor-in-Chief
- Deputy Editor-in-Chief
- Editor
- Head of Secretariat
- Member
- Member
- Member
- Member
- Member
- Member
- Member

NOA ABIA STATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Facebook

National Orientation Agency, Abia State Directorate

Instagram

noa_abia

Twitter

@noa_abia49

Address:

No 49 Finbarrs Road, Umuahia, Abia State

BUILDING A PEOPLE OF PEACE:

FALL IN LOVE WITH NIGERIA DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The sudden outbreak of the deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) affected all aspects of human activities globally. The reality of the situation was challenging to bear on our nation's health, economic, political, social and educational structures and resulting in Nigeria being categorized among the high-risk countries in Africa. Accompanying the Covid-19 pandemic was reported a spike in domestic-based violence exacerbating existing disparity gaps and gender discriminations. Undeniable was the National Orientation Agency(NOA) commitment in responding appropriately and adequately to emerging issues of national concerns with a view of stimulating a suitable orientation. This is evident in the timely and proactive strategies adopted throughout the first and second wave of the coronavirus pandemic by NOA, Abia State, to mitigate threats and the exponential spread of the virus. NOA legacy in successful public awareness campaigns explains the robustness of the sensitizations in the state and the LGAs related to the monitoring of resumption of school protocols, outdoor campaigns in motor-parks and markets and advocacies to religious and traditional bodies.

The theme of the special edition of the Abia Mobiliser Magazine, "Building A People of Peace: Fall in Love With Nigeria during COVID-19 pandemic ", deliberately focuses on promoting a peaceful co-existence and religious tolerance during the COVID-19

pandemic. The theme, which resonates from two major NOA programmes, "Building a People Of Peace" and "Do the right thing: Fall in love with Nigeria", aims to foster peace, accountability and inclusiveness while reminding people of the reality COVID-19 pandemic. It is a call to keep Nigeria secure and safe from the pandemic and redouble efforts in the service to their fatherland with renewed patriotism, love, strength and faith. Our featured activities on gender-based issues underscore our commitment to amplifying our voices on eliminating violence against women and girls amidst the COVID-19 pandemic so that women can feel secure and safe in their nation.

This edition of the magazine is a must-read that left no stone unturned in communicating government activities and achieving attitudinal change. The magazine showcased NOA Abia's continuous activities during the pandemic through persuasive enforcement of COVID-19 protocols. The featured informative and educative activities of the State Governor, the Wife of the Governor, the Abia SSG, educationists, the private sector, selected MDAs and politicians aimed at promoting leadership trust and inspiring readers to greater action. The evidence clearly shows that social stigma and discriminatory behaviours provoked by the pandemic can undermine social cohesion, peaceful-existence. Thus, the lived experience of prominent Nigerians in this magazine



will help counter the contagion of bias that hamper an effective containment response to the pandemic.

A coordinated and comprehensive approach is critical to finding a sustainable solution to the pandemic. Our engagements with critical stakeholders such as the media, CSOs, Religious and traditional leaders, along with our local and international partners, were also featured. I believe that expression of love for the nation includes supporting the health, infrastructure and welfare of the vast majority of underprivileged Nigerians as practiced by patriotic individuals.



Against this background, The Abia Mobiliser is a laudable sensitization platform on COVID-19 to remind Nigerians to "TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL" and Do The Right Thing by adhering to the safety protocols and guidelines and getting vaccinated.



#Stay Safe
#TakeResponsibility
#AbiaNoaCares

Lady Ngozi Okechukwu Ph.D
State Director , NOA Abia



FALL IN LOVE WITH NIGERIA:

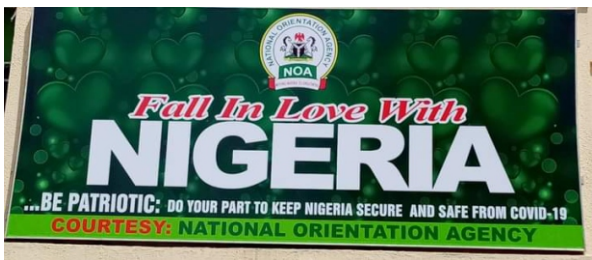
BE PATRIOTIC, DO YOUR PART TO KEEP NIGERIA SECURE AND SAFE FROM COVID-19

Garba Abari Ph.D - Director General NOA

This edition of "Building A People of Peace: Fall in Love With Nigeria: Do your part to make Nigeria Secure and safe from COVID-19 pandemic" deliberately focused on promoting peace in Nigeria during COVID-19 pandemic". The programme, which

was flagged off by Director- General of NOA Dr. Garba Abari on valentine's, 14th February at the National Headquarters was connected virtually by all the 36 State Directorates and FCT. The programme promoted peace while reminding people of the reality

of COVID-19 pandemic. The Director General urged the citizenry to take responsibility to keep Nigeria secure and safe from COVID-19 pandemic as well as redouble their efforts in the service to their fatherland with renewed patriotism.



NOA ABIA STATE DIRECTORATE ACTIVITIES

SENSITIZATION OF FALL IN LOVE WITH NIGERIA AT THE CENTRAL MOSQUE IN ABA

NOA Abia State hooked up via Zoom with the National Headquarters for the nationwide virtual flag-off of its Valentine Campaign Program.

At Aba Central Mosque, Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu, Director NOA Abia State was received by Imam Bashiru. After preaching the message of love, unity and peace. The NOA team and the Imam sang this love song together:

**Let There Be Love Shared Among Us,
Let There Be Love in Our Eyes,
May Now Your Love Sweep This Nation,
Cause Us Oh Lord to Arise.**

**Give Us a Fresh Understanding
Of Brotherly Love That is Real,
Let There Be Love Shared Among Us,
Let There Be Love.**

This love song has had great impact since it was first sang at the Aba central mosque. Due to popular demand, the State Director sang it during the 2021 International Day of women's day celebrations and several radio stations. This message of love and unity is timely as it re-enacts Nigerian core values of religious tolerance and peaceful co-existence.



GRAND PATRON OF WAI BRIGADE, ABIA STATE.

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. OKEZIE VICTOR IKPEAZU, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE DECORATED AS GRAND PATRON OF WAI BRIGADE, ABIA STATE.

In a colourful ceremony at the Banquet Hall, Government House, Umuahia, the Executive Governor of Abia State, Dr. Okezie Victor Ikpeazu was decorated as the Grand Patron of War Against Indiscipline (WAI) Brigade, Abia State Command.

The elated Kinetic Executive Governor, in his acceptance speech, said that his administration would do her best to support the National Orientation Agency in the State. He pledged to rise to the demands of his new office as the GRAND

PATRON of the WAI BRIGADE and confront the challenge of indiscipline in the State. His Excellency further stressed the need for all to get back to the era of discipline and ensure all forms of indiscipline by the citizenry are brought to an end. Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu, Director NOA Abia State disclosed that the Agency wants to reposition and revamp the War Against Indiscipline (WAI) Brigade in the State for the fight against indiscipline and corruption. While appreciating the

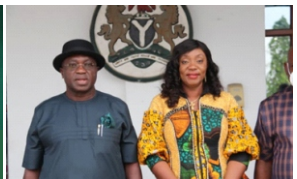
Executive Governor for his acceptance, she commended the Governor for the great insight about the need to empower youths, noting that youths' inclusiveness in government is imperative. In attendance at the occasion were: Secretary to Abia State Government, Barrister Chris Ezem; Chief of Staff to the Governor, Prof. A.C.B. Agbazuere with other top officials of the State Government and the Management Team of NOA Abia State.



His Excellency Okezie Ikpeazu Ph.D making his acceptance speech as the Grand Patron of WAI Brigade Abia State Command.



Dr. (Mrs) Ngozi Okechukwu State Director NOA Abia State delivering her speech during the advocacy visit.



Dr. (Mrs) Ngozi Okechukwu, State Director NOA Abia State, Comrade Victor Orji, Deputy Director Programmes, Mrs. Mercy Mbagwu Deputy Director Special Duty and Local Government Affairs and Barr. Chinyeme Atuma Assistant Director, Planning, Research and Statistics



BUILDING A PEOPLE OF PEACE: **PATRONISE MADE IN NIGERIA PRODUCTS & SERVICES**

**CHANGE BEGINS WITH ME:
PATRONISE MADE-IN-NIGERIA
PRODUCTS AND SERVICES HELD AT
ABA SPORTS CLUB, ABA, ABIA STATE.**
His Excellency, Dr. Okezie Victor Ikpeazu, Executive Governor of Abia State, ably represented by the Deputy Governor received in his office Dr. Garba Abari, Director General of the National Orientation Agency on a courtesy visit a day to the South East Zonal programme on Patronise Made-in-Nigeria Products and Services in Abia State.

His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Ude Oko Chukwu, Deputy Governor of Abia State, who represented the Executive Governor, did not hide his enthusiasm and appreciation for the choice of Abia State and indeed Aba for the South East Zonal programme. According to His Excellency, this programme will showcase the ingenuity

of our people to Nigeria in particular and the world at large.

The Chairman of the occasion, a legendary business man who has made his mark in the manufacturing sector of this country, Ide Jude Udeagbala, MD/CEO Udeagbala Holding Limited and President of Aba Chambers of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ACCIMA) congratulated the National Orientation Agency for the timely programme. He expressed delight on the massive participation of over 250 Entrepreneurs and their wonderful exhibitions (both inside and outside the hall), especially the physically challenged that came massively to demonstrate their God-given endowments at the exhibition. The NOA Director General, Dr. Garba Abari, who was overwhelmed by the well-articulated and organised

programme by Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu led administration and commended the State Government for their support. He stated that the need to patronise Made-in-Nigeria products and services cannot be overemphasized as it is one major way to economic growth and development. In the words of the elated and overjoyed State Director, Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu: "The unflinching support of our amiable Executive Governor, who was ably represented by the Deputy Governor, despite tight schedule is very much appreciated.

I equally thank the Chairman of the occasion and the Resource Persons for their well-articulated presentations. What can I say of the Local Government Chairmen that sponsored participants from their LGAs, I say a big thank you".







Building A People of Peace:

Abia Peace Summit

One-day Peace Summit held at Michael Okpara Auditorium, Umuahia.

In line with NOA's mission on "Building a People of Peace" NOA Abia State rallied critical stakeholders to a one-day Peace Summit aimed at increasing synergy in dousing political, ethnic and religious tensions. Carefully selected eminent resource persons raised awareness on the different

dimensions of peace and security affecting the State. His Excellency, Dr. Okezie Victor Ikpeazu, Executive Governor of Abia State was represented by His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Ude Oko Chukwu, Deputy Governor of Abia State. The Summit was chaired by Ambassador (Chief) Empire Kanu (Chairman, Abia State Scholarship Board) while the resource persons include:

1. **Barr. Charles Edozie Nwoji** (Director, NOA Anambra State).
2. **Prof. Ogonna Onuoha** (Director, Division of General Studies, Abia State University).
3. **Rev. Father Francis Nwaiwu** (Lecturer, Seat of Wisdom Seminary, Owerri and Parish Priest, St. Michael Parish, Umuahia).
4. **Captain Awa Udonsi Agwu, Rtd** (Special Adviser to Abia State Governor on Security Matters).



National Youth Summit



The National Orientation Agency, Abia State organised a One-Day National Youth Summit and Attitudinal Re-orientation held on Thursday, May 6, 2021 in the Council Hall, Umuahia North Local Government on the theme: "Youth Participation in National Development"



The summit witnessed over 200 youths in attendance with renowned speakers that did justice to the theme of the workshop.

Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu, Director NOA Abia State during her welcome remarks delivered the NOA Director General's address. The Chairman of the occasion, who is also the Executive Chairman, Umuahia North LGA ably represented by his Deputy, **Hon. Bob Ogechi Agbugba** declared the Summit open and appreciated NOA for the laudable programme in engaging the youth for a better Nigeria.

Prof. (Pastor) Ursula Ngozi Akanwa, Dean of College of Education in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umuahia gave the keynote address on "Re-awaken the Consciousness of the Youth on the need to embrace the National Core Values and Ethics". **Lady Architect Chijioke Uzoatuegwu**, Coordinator, National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Abia

State spoke on the topic "**Strategies for Engaging Nigerian Youth for Economic Growth**". **Ambassador Prince Francis Origa Ph.D.**, Special Adviser to the Governor on Humanitarian Affairs, ably represented by **Mrs. Helen Nnenna Onwuka** delivered lecture on Impact of Youth Participation and Involvement in Policy Making and Governance. **Engr. Smith Sylvanus**, Chairman of National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Abia State Chapter in his goodwill message encouraged the youth to explore several government intervention programmes to achieve their potentials. **Snr. Evangelist C. Nwogu**, Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Umuahia South LGA in his goodwill message also encouraged the youth to be responsible and law abiding citizens.



MONITORING ADHERENCE TO COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES IN

CRUNCHIES FOOD LIMITED

Monitoring adherence to the COVID-19 safety guidelines and enhanced hygiene practices in **CRUNCHIES FOOD LIMITED**. The trends of "new normal" cuts across almost every facet of the socio-economic world. With the steady changing pace due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many restaurants changed and adapted to the new normal by navigating sudden and rapidly changing COVID-19-related restrictions and operational challenges.

In Crunchies, all safety protocols were in place particularly social distancing pathway. It is highly recommended that consumers maintain washing and sanitation of hands thoroughly before and after handling foods.



**Come Enjoy Healthy Meals!
Tasty, Affordable With Lots
Of Excitement For Your Kids,
Friends And Family**



OUR SERVICES:

- Delicious & Healthy Meals
- Indoor / Outdoor & Corporate Catering
- Home Delivery
- Free Kiddies Play Area
- Kiddies Fans Club
- Gift Cards

crunchiesfriedchickenlimited



@
**SHOPRITE
MALL**
POLO PARK ENUGU

FOR ENQUIRIES: 08098242522. 09071565342. 08104184017



NOA CHARITY

PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES BY THE PROVISION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PALLIATIVE MATERIALS

In continuation with the avowed efforts to curtail community transmission of Coronavirus in Abia State, **the gospel of government preventive protocols of COVID-19 was preached to women in Obulo Eziana in Nneato autonomous**

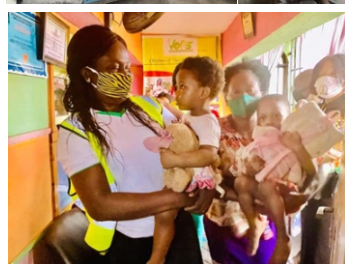
community, Umunneochi LGA and Igberere in Bende LGA of Abia State. This time around NOA Abia State leveraged, once again, on the relentless joint efforts of Dr. (Lady) Ngozi Okechukwu (Director, NOA Abia State) and Mrs. Ijeoma Onuoha-Ogwe (Communication Officer, UNICEF) in

their philanthropic activities by the provision and distribution of palliative materials and personal protective equipment, such as, Face Masks, Disinfectants, Food Items, Toiletries and Cash gifts to over 500 women in attendance at both locations.



**SUPPORT
TO MOTHERLESS
BABIES HOMES**

NOA CHARITY



Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu, Director NOA Abia State and her Management Team visited and gave palliative materials to Seventh-Day Adventist Hospital and Motherless Babies Home as well as the Victims of Need, Social and Motherless Babies Home, Aba to show some love to the Caregivers and Children in line with the latest NOA programme which intends to promote peace and love among people while reminding them of the reality of #COVID-19 pandemic.



CONTINUOUS SENSITIZATION ON COVID-19 AT METHODIST CHURCH NIGERIA



WORKING TOGETHER TO OVERCOME COVID-19

MONITORING RESUMPTION OF SCHOOL PROTOCOLS

The National Orientation Agency (NOA), Abia State carried out aggressive sensitization campaigns and monitoring on adherence to COVID-19 preventive protocols in schools during schools'

resumption, at major markets, motor parks and other sensitive locations spread across the three senatorial zones in the State. At every location, the Agency demonstrated the COVID-

19 preventive strategies and educated the audience on the observance of personal hygiene and staying healthy during the pandemic.



ANATO EZI IGBERERE COMMUNITY SCHOOL IGBERE, BENDE LGA



CONSTITUTION CRESCENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, ABA



DR. EMMANUEL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, ABA



HOLY ROSARY GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL, UGWUNCHARA, UMUHIA



IBEKE HIGH SCHOOL, IBEKE UMUHIA

BUILDING A PEOPLE OF PEACE:

WORKING TOGETHER TO OVERCOME COVID-19

SENSITIZATION IN MARKETS & MOTOR PARKS



ARIARIA INTERNATIONAL MARKET, ABA



NTIGHA-UZOR AMAIRI-NA-ABUO COMMUNITY, OBINGWA



OKIGWE MOTOR PARK, UMUAHIA

ADVOCACY SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGN ON INCREASED RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TO CP JANET AGBEDE, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, ABIA STATE POLICE COMMAND



Dr. (Mrs) Ngozi Okechukwu Director NOA Abia State being received by the CP Janet Agbade, Com. of Police, Abia State.



The Commissioner presenting a plaque to NOA Abia Director



“

[Director NOA Abia State presented to the Commissioner of Police some IEC materials on Campaign against open defecation.](#)

”

BUILDING A PEOPLE OF PEACE: WORKING TOGETHER TO OVERCOME COVID-19

ADVOCACY SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGN ON INCREASED RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO TRADITIONAL RULERS

Advocacy sensitization campaign to the Palace of His Royal Majesty, Eze Sir Joseph Ndubuisi Nwabeke, Ezeamara 1 of Eziam, Ntigha, Isiala Ngwa North LGA, Abia State



Advocacy sensitization campaign to the Palace of His Royal Majesty Eze Sir Innocent Adiele Nwaigwe, Ike Uga 2 of Okaiuga Alike Ancient Kingdom, Umuahia North LGA, Abia State.



Advocacy Sensitization Campaign on increased risk communication and community engagement to The Palace of His Royal Majesty, Eze Dr. Isaac Ikonne. Enyi 1 of Aba, cabinet members and Aba North community.



Advocacy Sensitization Campaign on increased risk communication and community engagement to The Palace of His Royal Majesty, Eze Sir O.J. Ananaba, Chairman of Obingwa Council of Traditional Rulers, Mgboko, Okahia Kingdom, Obingwa.



BUILDING A PEOPLE OF PEACE: WORKING TOGETHER TO OVERCOME COVID-19

ADVOCACY SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGN ON INCREASED RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO RELIGIOUS LEADERS

To His Lordship Bishop Lucius I. Ugorji, Catholic Archbishop of Umuahia, Mater Dei Cathedral, Umuahia



To Most Rev. Dr. R. C. Opoko, Archbishop of Methodist Church of Nigeria, Archdiocese of Umuahia,
Methodist Church Cathedral, Methodist Institute, Umuahia, Abia State.



**THE FLAG OFF OF
COMMUNITY TESTING IN
ABIA STATE AT UMUAHIA
SOUTH LGA**



**CONTINUOUS SENSITIZATION OF COVID-19
AT NTA CHANNEL 21 UMUAHIA**



Building A People Of Peace: **Promoting Understanding and Application of Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA), 2011.** Advocacy visit to the Abia State Commandant, Mr. Vincent Ogu and management of NSCDC, Abia state



ADVOCACY VISIT TO FOIA TO HRM EZE IHIANYICHUKWU ABEL EZEIGBO (OCHIMA 1 OF UHABIRI UMUCHIMA NA AMANSO AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY), OSSAH IBEKU





NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY

Preventive Measures Against Covid-19



WASH HANDS
REGULARLY WITH
SOAP UNDER
RUNNING WATER



AVOID COUGHING
INTO YOUR HANDS,
COUGH INTO ELBOW



USE HAND
SANITIZERS
ALWAYS

DRINK WARM
WATER REGULARLY



AVOID
CROWDED
PLACES



AVOID
HANDSHAKES
AND HUGS



SELF-ISOLATE
YOURSELF IF IN
CONTACT WITH
SUSPECTED
COVID-19 PATIENT



DISREGARD FAKE
NEWS, CALL YOUR
DOCTOR IF IN DOUBT.
COVID-19 IS REAL



AVOID TOUCHING
EYES, NOSE AND
MOUTH WITH
UNWASHED HANDS

COMPULSORY
WEARING OF
FACE MASK IN
PUBLIC PLACES



SANITIZE
PUBLIC SURFACES
CONSTANTLY



MAINTAIN SOME
SOCIAL DISTANCE



PRODUCED & POWERED BY
NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY

***Don't Spread Covid-19;
Let's Unite to Fight it***

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIP

FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN ABIA STATE:

DR. NGOZI OKECHUKWU, DIRECTOR NOA ABIA STATE INAUGURATED AS MEMBER.

The Abia State Executive Governor, His Excellency Okezie Victor Ikpeazu Ph.D inaugurated the State Action and Technical Committees on Gender Based Violence, with a charge on them to formulate and execute policies that will ensure total reduction and eradication of gender based violence in the State. Speaking while inaugurating the

Committees at the Government House Umuahia, the State Governor, ably represented by the Deputy Governor disclosed that concern the increasing rate of gender based violence in the State, country and world at large, necessitated the constitution of the Committees to ascertain how gender based violence can be reduced to the

barest minimum and ensure that the women folk live normal lives devoid of pain occasioned by violence meted on them. The State Chief Executive reassured Abians that the present administration is determined to use sustainable strategies to reduce and eradicate Gender Based Violence in the State.



2021 INTERNATIONAL

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS IN ABIA STATE



Deaconess Nkechi Ikpeazu Ph.D, wife of the Executive Governor of Abia State organised a symposium to mark the global annual event, with the theme: "Women in Leadership Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World".

The ebullient First Lady of Abia State invited the State Director as one of the Speakers. The programme which was transmitted live in all Radio and Television stations in the State had Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu, Director NOA Abia State amplified her voice on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), thus:

Women leaders must work together across sectors to address the various aspects of gender parity. We cannot be lukewarm when 90% of informal workers are women. We cannot keep quiet when 90% of the population who are women are subjected to menial jobs due to poor education, abused by people they love and trust. If we step up, we may achieve a world where women and girls can live free from fear, violence, discrimination, and reach their full potential; enjoy equal opportunity, mutual respect, and confidence.



AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN COMMEMORATION OF 2020 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL-CHILD

Her Excellency, Deaconess Nkechi Ikpeazu Ph.D organised an awareness campaign on the way forward for the domesticated "Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act" in the State.

The general theme "MY VOICE, OUR EQUAL FUTURE" resonates with the fact that our girl-child should be empowered to have a voice to mitigate the

unfortunate rising gender-based violence and plight of the girl-child. Her Excellency assembled coalition of stakeholders and change agents to educate girls about the law that prohibits all forms of physical, sexual, psychological and domestic violence. The Speakers included:
Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu, Abia State Director of National Orientation Agency (NOA).

CP Janet Agbede, Abia State Commissioner of Police.

DSC Onuoha Juliana Silas, Head of Anti-Child Trafficking, NSCDC, Abia State.

Mrs. Enyidiya Uma-Onwunta, Chief Magistrate in charge of Family Court, Abia State.



Family Enhancement Summit



The National Orientation Agency NOA Abia State participated in the fourth edition of the Abia Family Enhancement Summit organized by the wife of the Governor of Abia State Deaconess Nkechi Ikpeazu Ph.D who delivered the welcome speech, Prof. Roseline Ndimele delivered the keynote lecture while the State Director of National Orientation Agency Dr. (Mrs) Ngozi Okechukwu delivered a lecture on **"Womanhood and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)"**.



16



**ORANGE
THE WORLD**
#16DaysOfActivism

DAYS OF ACTIVISM

Orange is a color that symbolizes enthusiasm in Abia we joined the rest of the enthusiastic women around the world as we celebrated 16Days of Activism, hosted by the First Lady of Abia and Founder of Vicar Hope Foundation at the State House.

16 Days of Activism is an annual campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. It is worthy to note the hike in an increase of violence against women especially in the issue of Rape.


NOA Abia State Directorate celebrated the

#16DaysOf Activism in commemoration of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) on theme "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!". It was a call for global action to bridge funding gaps, ensure essential services for survivors of violence during the COVID-19 Crisis, focus on prevention and collection of data that can improve life-saving services for women and girls.

According to Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu, Director NOA Abia State, **"This Shadow Pandemic identified as growing amidst**

the COVID-19 crisis cannot be allowed to continue. Though an age-long global problem of a culture of discrimination against women, a rising violent culture allowed violence to occur with impunity. I am therefore optimistic that 2020 Global 16 Days Campaign Advocacy activities are actionable to end gender-based violence in Abia State."

#16DaysOfActivism
#OrangeTheWorld
#YSMANG
#1VD

 ORANGE THE WORLD; FUND, RESPOND, PREVENT, COLLECT 2020 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			25	26	27	28
			Launch of media campaign commending #16daysactivism	save this calendar and plan your commending 16 days of activism	Wear Orange in support of the campaign and advocate for victims of VAWG	share facts about VAWG on NOA Social Media Page
29	30	01	02	03	04	05
Say a prayer for Victims of VAWG	Share facts about VAWG on NOA Social Media Page	Wear Orange in Support of the campaign and share facts about VAWG on NOA Social Media Page	All COMOs to Wear Orange and post a Photo	NOA Abia State Facebook Like and post a Photo	Wear Orange in support of the campaign and survivors of VAWG	Share the Story of a Woman who inspires you.
06	07	08	09	10		
Talk about VAWG in your place of Worship	Have you experienced VAWG? Share your Story	Thank a woman in your life for supporting you	Day of Charity in support of victims of VAWG	Encourage a woman in your neighborhood		





NOA COLLABORATION WITH PEER ADVOCACY AND ADVANCEMENT CENTRE IN AFRICA (PAACA) AND MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

National Orientation Agency NOA, went into collaboration with Peer Advocacy and Advancement Centre in Africa (PAACA) and MacArthur Foundation. The aim of the collaboration was to get notable personalities in society to sign a pledge to use their positions to fight all forms of sexual and gender based violence in society. Some of the notable personalities that signed this pledge were;

Deaconess Ikpeazu Nkechi Caroline PhD.

Wife of Executive Governor, Abia State and founder
Vicar Hope Foundation



Rt. Honourable Chinedum Enyinnaya Orji Speaker Abia State House of Assembly with Dr. (Mrs) Ngozi Okechukwu, State Director NOA Abia State.



Chief, Hon. John Okiyi Kalu Hon. Commissioner for Information, Abia State with Dr. (Mrs) Ngozi Okechukwu, State Director NOA Abia State



Honourable Ginger Onwulibe House member representing Isiala Ngwa North Constituency, Abia state with Dr. (Mrs) ngozi Okechukwu and her team



Honourable Aaron Uzodike, House member representing Aba North Constituency, Abia state with NOA Team



-Most Rev. Dr. Chibuzo Raphael Opoko Methodist Archbishop of Umuahia, Abia State with NOA Team



Professor Gregory Ibe the Chancellor of Gregory University, Uturu, Abia State with NOA State Director Dr. (Mrs) Ngozi Okechukwu



Lady Sally Anosike Head of Service Isiala-Ngwa North L.G.A



NATIONAL GENDER POLICY

IMPLEMENTATION TRAINING IN ABIA STATE



“

The National Orientation Agency, Abia State Directorate in collaboration with LIFE Foundation organized a one-day capacity building workshop for Stakeholders.

”

a. Discussion was focused on gender theories and concepts and in-depth analysis on understanding the basis for the National Gender Policy and legal framework for Gender Equality in Nigeria through National Gender Policy of 2006. CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR STAKEHOLDERS IN ABIA STATE ON NATIONAL GENDER POLICY ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY (NOA) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LITERACY INTEGRATION AND FORMAL EDUCATION (LIFE) FOUNDATION. Discussion was focused on gender theories and concepts and in-depth analysis on understanding the basis for the National Gender Policy and legal framework for Gender Equality in Nigeria through National Gender Policy of 2006. COMMUNIQUE

Following the discussions and interactions, the stakeholders at the plenary adopted the following resolutions:

1. It is no longer news that women are subjected to all kinds of oppression, discrimination and marginalization by family members, villages, society, churches, professional colleagues and even their fellow women.

2. **Despite the fact that the National Gender Policy has been put in place to address the issues peculiar to women**, efforts made to implement it seemed infinitesimal. Harmful cultural, religious and social gender biased practices are still widespread in the state which reproduce gender inequalities. They identified the following harmful practices:

3A) Harmful Cultural and Gender

Biased Practices: A widow is accused of being responsible for her husband's death and therefore is forced to sleep alone with her husband's dead body in the same room and/or to drink the water used in bathing the dead body. She is coerced to sit on the bare floor in isolation and allowed to be visited only by her fellow widows. She is forced to shave her hair without her consent. She is eventually ejected from her late husband's property and dispossessed of his finances. She is not free to remarry rather, she is forced to marry her late husband's relative. Women are not allowed to present or break kola nut during ceremonies and at meetings. They are not allowed to make inputs in decisions affecting the community. They face being ejected from their matrimonial homes or husband bringing in another wife or wives for having females only children or due to childlessness. They are restricted from owning landed property. If caught in adultery, she is severely punished while her partner is not. Matrilineal family structure was identified as a big challenge to women mostly in Ohafia, Ohafia LGA and

Ozuabam in Arochuku LGA

The girl child is not allowed to inherit family property. She faces the danger of forced marriage due to poverty. She is confronted with the danger of female genital mutilation which leads to bleeding and even death.

B) Harmful Religious and Gender Biased Practices

Women are not allowed to preach in some churches when they are menstruating. They are forced to put on head gear, scarves and hats to church. Some churches forbid women from wearing trousers. Women are not allowed to head sensitive positions or church committees except women groups or organisations. Young girls are not permitted to marry non members. Some churches maintain separate seating arrangements for women.

C) Harmful Social and Gender Biased Practices

Domestic violence. Incessant rape cases of women. The ratio of women in politics is low and they do not easily access political positions. Women are being denied reproductive health rights. Discriminating employment policies for instance, Banks and the military do not employ women above 25 years of age and they are restricted from having babies.

D) Effects of Gender Disparity and the Socio-economic Consequences

Women are seen as second class citizens and this subsequently hinders their aspiration to higher positions in life. Denying the widow access to her late

husband's property will lead to suffering and hardship. She will be unable to provide the basic needs to her children which will engender the vicious cycle of poverty

Gender disparity leads to emotional and psychological trauma which can lead to the woman's insanity or death

Many women are labelled housewives and not allowed to work but rather to take care of the children. If the man loses his job or dies, the surviving spouse becomes a financial burden to society.

Lack of spousal consent in family planning leading to high maternal mortality

Child marriage which subjects the girls to both the burden of pregnancy and the agony of child birth for which they are not physiologically and anatomically prepared, making them vulnerable to maternal death, vesico vagina fistula (VVF)

Rape of women is on the increase resulting in unwanted pregnancies, fear, humiliation and loss of self-esteem and inability to fend for oneself

Sugar daddy syndrome leading to prostitution and emotional risks and loss of identity. The influence of dating beyond their age group can distort their sense of self.

Way Forward

- i. Aggressive awareness and enlightenment from the stakeholders to the general public and the grassroots
- ii. Vigorous advocacy bordering on activism to relevant stakeholders:
 - Traditional institutions (age grades)
 - Religious leaders
 - Political class
 - Community Based Organizations
 - Faith Based Organizations
 - Governments
 - Women organizations (NCWS, FIDA, August meeting)
- iii. Community mobilization to change all harmful practices
- iv. Town hall meetings
- v. Media Engagement
- vi. Inclusion of gender based policies in the educational curriculum
- vii. Provision of functional desk officers in the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)
- viii. Increased and better participation of women in politics
- ix. Constitutional amendments
- x. Men are encouraged to write their Wills
- xi. Inculcate quality values and norms in both male and female children

Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu presenting Souvenir to Chief Barr (Mrs) Elivra Salleras of Life Foundation at the end of the workshop



Despite the fact that the National Gender Policy has been put in place to address the issues peculiar to women, efforts made to implement it seemed infinitesimal.

2020 National Ordinance Day

The Abia State Ministry of Homeland Security in collaboration with National Orientation Agency (NOA) Abia State commemorated the 2020 Ordinance Day as part of NOA's mandate in promoting National Core Values and Attitudinal Re-orientation of Nigerians.

Every September 16, the National Orientation Agency (NOA) commemorates the National Ordinance Day, which aims to

promote more understanding on what national symbols stand for, the display, treatment, and its correct usage following the unpatriotic disposition of some Nigerians who abuse the country's national symbols such as Nigerian Flag, Currency, the Coat of Arm, National Anthem, the Pledge, the Nigerian Passport, National ID and the Nigerian Constitution.

The Commissioner for Homeland Security Abia State, Hon. Prince Daniel

Okoli KSA joined in the procession which was led by Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu, Director NOA Abia State with her Team. Others include the Permanent Secretary Homeland Security, Elder Emelogu Ikechi and the Commandant, Abia State Vigilante Services Mr. Idika Martins Mbakwe with his Team of over 50 uniformed men that escorted the procession marking the National Ordinance Day.



**BUILDING A PEOPLE OF PEACE:
WORKING TOGETHER TO OVERCOME COVID-19 BY THE DEPLOYMENT OF WAI-BRIGADE MEMBERS
FOR PERSUASIVE ENFORCEMENT OF FACEMASK WEARING AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING”.**

The Honourable Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, Abia State, Chief Emeka George Ikwuagwu **flagged-off the continuous sensitization campaign on COVID-19 using the War Against Indiscipline (WAI) Brigade members** for persuasive enforcement of face mask wearing and physical distancing in crowded areas. Chief Ikwuagwu, while flagging off the campaign, applauded the charismatic leadership of the State Director, Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu in repositioning the Agency in the State.



**ABSIEC PARTNERS WITH NOA ON VOTER
EDUCATION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

National Orientation Agency (NOA), Abia State in partnership with Abia State Independent Electoral Commission (ABSIEC) organised a One-Day Mandatory Voter Education training for all candidates that participated in the Local Government Election in Abia State with the theme: Participating in Non-violent Process and Election



A portrait of Governor Okezie Ikpeazu, a Black man with glasses, wearing a blue shirt, smiling. He is positioned on the left side of the page, with his head and shoulders visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus outdoor setting.

MY COVID-19 STORY

GOVERNOR OKEZIE IKPEAZU (Ph.D)

Lesson from Survivors - Governor Okezie Ikpeazu Ph.D

SYMPTOMS THAT MADE ME SUSPECT I COULD BE POSITIVE WITH COVID

“*It all started when I started experiencing fever and mild coughs in the evenings. I had a round of anti-malaria but it persisted.*”

I became a little bit breathless and when we ran a COVID test it came out negative but my illness was getting worse, so I went for further medical attention and when we repeated the COVID test, it returned positive. I was in shock but I was happy that at least I had a diagnosis for the illness that had remained untreatable before then.

HOW THE NEWS OF MY POSITIVE RESULT WAS RECEIVED BY MY FAMILY AND PEOPLE AROUND ME?

Everyone around me was thrown into a state of confusion because it entailed that everyone around me had to undergo COVID testing down to my steward, cook, driver and everyone that was close to me was thrown in to a state of confusion but because we had identified what we were pursuing and the process became easier for us.

MY EXPERIENCE DURING MY ISOLATION AND TREATMENT AND WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT KEPT ME GOING?

The process was not a bad experience as God blessed us with a great team from NCDC, a very experienced and caring team. When they drew up my treatment plan, I knew they had a proper understanding on what they had to do to manage the disease and all that was required of me was to remain positive in my mind that I was going to get my healing.

HOW I FELT WHEN I TESTED NEGATIVE FOR COVID 19?

When I tested negative it was a big relief and a thing of joy for all those who went into prayers and encouraged me. Everyone was thrown into wild jubilation; I knew from the beginning that despite the seriousness of COVID, it was not a death sentence. The critical thing in COVID just like in other health clinical condition is early diagnosis so that the patient will be able to get attention as quickly as possible but if it is allowed to stay in one's system for a while, it can really be dangerous and devastating. It can deal with your lungs, your kidney and your entire blood system and create complications.

STEPS I TOOK IN COMBATING COVID AFTER MY NEGATIVE RESULT, AS INCIDENT COMMANDER IN THE STATE.

In combating COVID, we leveraged on what we have already, I gave a mandate that at least one-third of our population is tested. We keyed into the existing template for polio immunization,

leveraging on the 774 primary health units we have across the wards in Abia to ensure we create more sample collection centers and increase the opportunities for testing. We set up about three testing centers, trained more healthcare frontline workers and we invested heavily in consumables like the PPEs, Facemasks and Face-shields. We also encouraged private hospitals who are willing to work with NCDC to support the treatment of COVID 19 patients. I am also driving the improvement of our COVID management apparatus by getting critical stakeholders like traditional rulers, market women, Nigerian Union of Road Transport Workers and the clergy to buy into the dissemination of COVID-19 protocols. We had to get their buy in to agree on protocols for markets, schools and our churches.

HAVING SURVIVED THE VIRUS, MY ADVICE FOR NIGERIANS THAT MAY NOT BE TAKING COVID-19 SERIOUSLY

I want to tell Nigerians that COVID is real; anyone still telling a contrary story cannot help our cause. We must all take responsibility for our personal hygiene, practicing social distancing and even staying at home if you do not have any business outside. Avoid crowded places, be weary of common surfaces, use hand sanitizers and everyone has to cultivate the habit of always using facemask.

COVID IS REAL, COVID IS TRUE AND THE EARLIER ALL OF US PULL TOGETHER THE BETTER FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US. NOBODY AND NO GOVERNMENT CAN DO IT ALONE.

INT'L. COLLABORATIONS

NOA & UNICEF

BY GODDY ONWUCHEKWA



“

Realizing the immense benefit derivable from the synergy which will result from collaboration with relevant organizations, the National Orientation Agency.

”

Abia State directorate has over the years partnered with the United Nations Children fund (UNICEF), using the agency as a veritable platform for the dissemination of the messages of the child survival and maternal care or Essential Family Practices (EFPs) and the implementation of policies and programmes that pertains to the wellbeing of women and children in the state.

At the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, National Orientation Agency Abia State, with the support from UNICEF organised a motorized sensitisation campaign on Covid- 19, Routine immunisation and antenatal care. This UNICEF sponsored programme was flagged- off in the state by the Secretary to the State Government Barr Chris Ezem who also double as the chairman of the Abia state inter - ministerial committee on Covid-19. The main essence of the programme was for intensive public sensitisation, embracing the NCDC preventive protocols and for women to attend Antenatal Care and Routine Immunisation(RI).

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY MOBILISER (VCMs)

Following the decline in demand for health services including Routine Immunisation (RI), Antenatal care (ANC) and rumours and misinformation being circulated about the Covid- 19, National Orientation Agency Abia State with the support from UNICEF organised advocacy and sensitisation with selected traditional rulers and Volunteer Community Mobilisers (VCMs) in Umuahia south for information service delivery on routine immunisation and antenatal care attendance and Covid- 19 prevention and containment.

The role of the traditional rulers and Volunteer Community Mobilisers were to engender Community members to buy- in and own the intervention process to reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection and Community transmission in the state. Next, to promote the knowledge of Covid- 19 prevention, improve adherence to Covid-19 prevention and reducing the risk of infection outcome, invariably facilitate uptake of Routine Immunisation, Antenatal care and other Essential Family Practices.

COVID-19 TALKS

In order to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 and containment, the National Orientation , Agency Abia State with support from UNICEF partnered with the nine (9) Radio stations in the state to broadcast or air a thirteen weeks magazine programme targeted at sensitising the masses on the outbreak and the means of prevention and containment of Covid-19.

This laudable programme was aimed at reducing the risk of community transmission and to create the required awareness on prevention and control of the virus and increase uptake of ANC attendance and routine immunisation which is necessary for the lives of our women and children.

NOA & UNICEF COLLABORATION

*The NOA Abia State
and the nine radio
stations will ever remain
grateful to the UNICEF
for their support*



NOA-UNICEF Motorized Campaign

**NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY,
ABIA STATE DIRECTORATE
ORGANISED THE FLAG-OFF OF
UNICEF POWERED MOTORISED
SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGN ON
COVID-19, ROUTINE IMMUNISATION
AND ANTENATAL CARE.**

On Monday, October 5, 2020 at the State Headquarters Office, Barr. Chris Ezem, Secretary to Abia State

Government and Chairman of Abia State Inter-Ministerial Committee on COVID-19 flagged-off NOA Abia State Motorised Sensitization Campaign on COVID-19, Routine Immunisation and Antenatal Care powered by UNICEF. Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu, Director NOA Abia State while welcoming the Secretary to Abia State Government, Barr. Chris Ezem appreciated his leadership acumen and doggedness in the fight

against COVID-19 in the State. The highlight of the occasion was the superlative performance of the State WAI Brigade at the occasion. The Director, NOA Abia State conferred on the Secretary to Abia State Government, Barr. Chris Ezem the honour of PATRON, War Against Indiscipline (WAI) Brigade, Abia State Command.



NOA ABIA TACKLING VACCINE HESITANCY THROUGH A MOTORIZED CAMPAIGN WITH SUPPORT FROM UNICEF-19



NOA Intensified effort to boost uptake of COVID-19 vaccine with Support from UNICEF

As of May, 2020, Abia State was rated 30 out of the 36 States in vaccine hesitancy requiring intensified

response. With support from UNICEF, NOA Abia organized mobile messaging campaigns on vaccine acceptance using kitted vans for intensified public announcements in 7 LGAs over a period of seven days.

A US Based Organization
Inspire Hope

INVITES YOU TO AN
INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL TRAINING OF STAFF OF
NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY (NOA), ABIA STATE

"Health talks - Safe Practices, Maintaining Health & Boosting Immunity during the Covid"

Staying Healthy
**DURING COVID 19
PANDEMIC**

CHINYERE ANYAOGU
MD MPH, FACOG
HEALTHCARE LEADER

DR. NGOZI ONWURAH
State Director, Noa Abia

DR TYOWINE CHIO
Chief Obstetrics

COULIBALY AMINATA
Family Nurse Practitioner

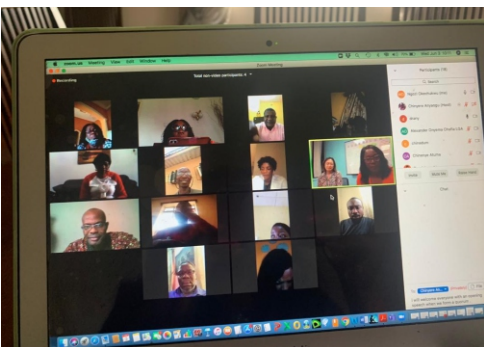
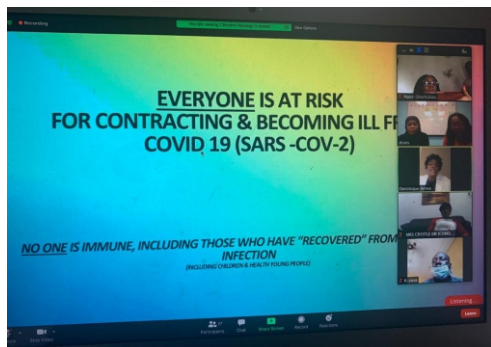
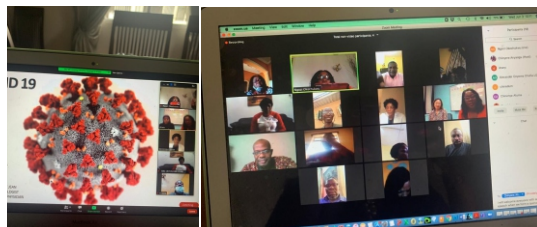
DOMINIQUE JAMES JEAN, M.D
Attending Pediatric Anesthesiologist

3RD JUNE 2020 // 10AM - 12NOON
MEETING ID: 884 1324 8402 // <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88413248402>

NOA Collaborates with InspireHope Foundation USA on COVID 19

An interactive virtual training organised for top management staff and seventeen LGAs- Community Orientation and Mobilization Officers (COMOs) of the Agency by a United States based Non- governmental organization- INSPIRE HOPE on COVID- 19 Pandemic . The partnership was aimed at preparing the COMOs for aggressive community to community Sensitization on how to live healthy and prevent the spread of the covid - 19.

In her lecture, the team leader of the US based NGO -INSPIRE HOPE, Dr. Chinyere Anyaogu who spoke on 'staying healthy during Covid-19 pandemic', said preventive cure was the best measure to curtail the spread of the virus. She added that we should adopt safe protective cure of avoiding person to person droplets transmission, touching surface areas, maintaining social distancing, regular washing of hands with running water with soap and using alcohol base.

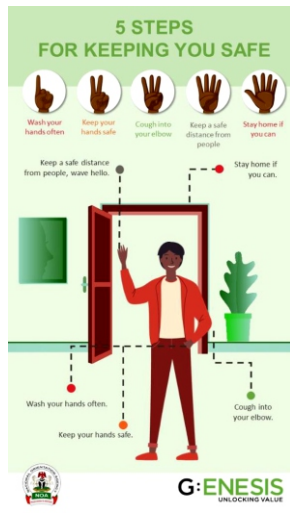




G:ENESIS

UNLOCKING VALUES

Genesis Analytics & NOA Partnership create awareness on coronavirus protocols



WASH YOUR HANDS
WITH SOAP AND
WATER AS OFTEN
AS YOU CAN



SING THE FIRST
VERSE OF THE
ANTHEM
WHILE WASHING
YOUR HANDS –
IT TAKES JUST
20 SECONDS.
TRY IT!



LEARN HOW TO WASH YOUR
HANDS LIKE A PROFESSIONAL



KEEP SAFE TIPS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

G:ENESIS
UNLOCKING VALUE

KEEP YOUR HANDS
SAFE AND AWAY
TO REFRAIN FROM
TOUCHING YOUR
FACE



FOCUS ON
KEEPING
YOUR HANDS
IN YOUR
POCKETS OR
KEEPING
YOUR ARMS
CROSSED



DO WHAT YOU CAN TO KEEP YOUR
HANDS SAFE AND AWAY FROM YOUR
FACE, AS TOUCHING ONE'S FACE IS
OFTEN AUTOMATIC AND
INVOLUNTARY



KEEP SAFE TIPS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

G:ENESIS
UNLOCKING VALUE

1. DON'T ONLY LOOK AFTER YOUR PHYSICAL
HEALTH, YOUR MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS TOO



2. CLEAN AND DISINFECT
SURFACES YOU TOUCH
A LOT AT HOME



3. IF SOMEONE YOU LIVE WITH MIGHT BE
SICK, HELP THEM ISOLATE SAFELY WITH
SUPPORT



4. PROTECT YOUR
PEACE OF MIND



KEEP SAFE TIPS BROUGHT TO YOU BY
G:ENESIS
UNLOCKING VALUE

Clean and disinfect
surfaces you touch
a lot at home



KEEP YOUR
HOME CLEAN;
KEEP IT FREE
OF COVID-19

KEEP SAFE TIPS BROUGHT TO YOU BY
G:ENESIS
UNLOCKING VALUE

NOTE THE SURFACES YOU TOUCH A LOT



PROTECT YOURSELF IN 3 STEPS



1. CLEAN IT 2. DISINFECT IT 3. WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

KEEP SAFE TIPS BROUGHT TO YOU BY
G:ENESIS
UNLOCKING VALUE

KEEP A SAFE
DISTANCE
AT LEAST 1 METRE
FROM PEOPLE



HOW FAR
AWAY IS 1
METRE?
COULD YOU
DO THIS
WITHOUT
TOUCHING
ANYONE?

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF
CORONAVIRUS BY KEEPING A
SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU
AND OTHER PEOPLE



KEEP SAFE TIPS BROUGHT TO YOU BY
G:ENESIS
UNLOCKING VALUE

Nigerians in Diaspora

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa but does not excel only in numbers!

With an abundance of talents and brilliance, many Nigerians have made a name for themselves. A common desire to succeed in life enabled by education is a

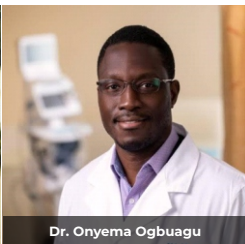
common theme in most Nigerian homes. More than half of Nigerian Immigrants (54%) in the US are more likely to occupy management positions compared with 32% of all foreign-born populations and 39 percent of US-born populations, according to 2017 data on migration. One of such Nigerian is Dr. Onyema Ogbuagu, a medical doctor who hails from Umukabia Ohuhu in Umuahia North Local Government Area Abia state, the son of Professor Chibuzor Ogbuagu, former Abia state NOA director and former Vice-Chancellor Abia state university Uturu and Professor Stella Ogbuagu. Onyema Ogbuagu is an Associate Professor of Medicine, in the clinician-educator track and Director of the HIV Clinical Trials

program of the Yale AIDS Program, Section of Infectious Diseases of the Yale School of Medicine.

In response to the COVID pandemic, Onyema Ogbuagu was Yale's principal investigator on multiple investigational therapeutic and preventative clinical trials for COVID-19, including remdesivir (now FDA approved) Ieronlimab and remdesivir and tocilizumab combination therapy as well as the Pfizer/BioNTech and GSK/Sanofi COVID-19 Vaccine trials. Dr. Onyema Ogbuagu is today celebrated worldwide for leading a team of researchers for Pfizer, which announced with BioTech that a vaccine against COVID-19 was developed with 95 percent efficacy. This feat, however, is not surprising for those who know him well. Dr. Onyema is a very thorough and consummate scholar who leaves nothing to chance. Before this important discovery, Dr. Onyema is very passionate about contributing and creating sustainable patient care. Nigerians are proud of him and commended his efforts in the trials of an effective vaccine as an effort to bring to a stop the COVID-19 pandemicmore wins!!!!



Prof & Prof Mrs. Chibuzor Ogbuagu



Dr. Onyema Ogbuagu

ADVOCACY VISIT TO THE SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE ON DIASPORA MATTERS.

Dr. Ngozi Ogbona-Erundu, Special Adviser to Abia State Governor on Diaspora Matters expressed deep appreciation for the wonderful social re-engineering in the State by the National Orientation Agency (NOA) during the advocacy visit in her office by Dr. Ngozi Okechukwu, Director NOA Abia State and her Team. The advocacy visit was aimed to establish partnership on issues of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Child Protection, Value Re-orientation of youths. The State Director, overwhelmed by the activities of her name sake, concluded that, "indeed together we can help Abia State grow."



INTERNATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

International Days are days set aside by the United Nations and its affiliated Agencies and Organizations, to commemorate or celebrate annually for sensitization, advocacy drive or raise awareness on issues that are of global importance. In line with the UN Mandate, NOA Abia religiously raises awareness on the importance of the international days towards Global issues.





MY COVID-19 STORY

Garba Abari Ph.D - DG NOA

Lesson from Survivor - Director General NOA

“

Ever since covid-19 hit the shores of Nigeria with the index case in Lagos, I personally and the National Orientation Agency, NOA, as agency of government charged with the responsibility for citizens' engagement embarked on massive sensitization and awareness creation campaign about this disease which symptoms are said to resemble that of meningitis and other viral infections with the only difference as at that time being itchy throat and dry cough.

”

People advanced in age are said to be more susceptible to contracting the disease. But people advanced in age and with underlying illnesses like diabetes, high blood pressure and asthma are not only a risk group but are prone to fatality arising from covid 19 infection.

I am 65 years old, diabetic and hypertensive. I have managed both illnesses for over 20 years. Aware therefore of my precarious condition I took a lot of caution in observing the Covid-19 protocols. I wore my masks everywhere I went, I kept an enhanced personal hygiene regime, washing my hands frequently with soap and water, and carried with me a bottle of high grade sanitizer in my pocket, in my car, on my desk and in all corners of my house. I was strict with watching physical distancing and unnecessary mingling with people. So strict was I in my avoiding unnecessary contact that on my floor, no one, not even my personal staff were allowed access into my office without a face mask and sanitized or washed hands. I was very conscious of my underlying illnesses and my vulnerability to covid affliction.

Despite all the cautionary measures I was afflicted with covid 19. I contracted the virus in Lagos, where I went on the 4th of December 2020 for an official assignment from Abuja. I stayed in a hotel in Ikeja from the 27 December.

On the night of December 5, I had this severe headache, dry cough and extreme fatigue. I called my wife in Abuja and narrated to her how I was feeling, but reassured her it was cold and perhaps malaria, and that I had called my friend Dr Muiz Banire to send his driver to any nearby pharmacy and buy anti-malarial drugs, some lozenges and vitamin C because at that time the itching in the throat was getting more severe by the following morning, December 6, I could not even come down to the Restaurant for breakfast nor even order for food from the room. The headache continued and the fatigue which was further worsened by gross lack of appetite became intense. Throughout that day I ate nothing because I had no appetite I was really feeling very sick. But I had an event on the island to which I had earlier committed to attend. It was the Zik

Leadership Award ceremony. Three persons close to me were among the awardees, and so I felt obliged to be with them at that important event. These three gentlemen are the Secretary to the Government of the Federation Boss Mustapha, my friend and brother, Governor of Borno State Prof Babagana Umara Zulum and my good friend Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta, Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigeria Communications Commission, NCC.

The Zik Award for Leadership ceremony was scheduled for 6pm. Knowing the notorious Lagos traffic I managed to drag myself downstairs from my room and literally sank into the back seat of the car some two hours before the event. The drive

bed, ran a very hot shower and got to the airport. I arrived Abuja on schedule but instead of driving to the office as I usually do whenever I arrive from an outside trip during offices hours, I drove home. The lack of appetite, fatigue severe headache has now reached crescendo. Not only was I lacking appetite I hated the sight and smell of food completely. At that point I told my wife I was suspecting this illness might be covid. She said no, since I had my taste and smell senses it would not be covid. She did not want to hear anything covid, as if contracting covid was a death sentence. The rest of that week up to December Saturday, December 12 saw me most times in bed, hungry but no appetite, fatigued and very weak.

me despite all the dangers and risks involved. But her decision to stay with me turned out the wisest decision given the level to which my condition deteriorated a day after getting into the isolation centre.

It was not a proper hospital setting although it has medical personnel and ambience of a hospital environment. Going into the isolation centre in itself has its own psychological effect, especially as everything about covid 19 was novel. It coincided with the outbreak of the second wave which was more deadly and as at that time had taken the lives of many of my friends in quick succession. It was a fearful, traumatic and frightening period for me, for my immediate family, for friends and well wishes. My

“ **This was how I was able to overcome the first hurdle, with a negative reading after I was discharged. The story of post covid recovery is yet another story.** ”

from Ikeja to Victoria Island and back was like an infinite drive to the valley of death. All through, I was feeling dizzy, when I got to the venue, I had no strength for any banter, but managed to exchange pleasantries with a few Guests including the awardees. After that, I just grabbed a chair and sat down because I had started feeling as if my legs could no longer carry me. Happily, the program did not last long but even as it was going on all I wanted or felt like doing was to lie down.

By the following morning December 7, 2020 I could hardly get off the bed to get ready for the airport to catch my scheduled 7am flight to Abuja. I just managed to drag myself out of

On Saturday, 12 Dec I decided to go and run a covid test. I also went to run a chest-ray especially as my breathing was getting heavy. The covid result came out positive. Being an opportunistic disease corona virus had infected my lungs so severely thereby making my breathing more tenuous.

Now sure that I have tested positive to the virus, I put a call to my friend and brother Dr Sani Aliyu, the National Coordinator of the Presidential Task Force on Covid -19 who right from hearing my voice was able to tell I was ill. He organized and facilitated my being taken to the isolation facility in Asokoro. My wife insisted on going and staying with

fright and trauma got heightened when the doctor told me I would be on oxygen and for substantially a long period until when the infection in my lungs was arrested. For the first three days I was on oxygen, continuously and intermittently for another three days. Intensive COVID-19 medication alongside other unorthodox medications like drinking a combo of lemon, ginger, garlic and olive oil became my lot. One of my inmates at the isolation centre helped with menthol grits which I religiously inhaled. This was how I was able to overcome the first hurdle, with a negative reading after I was discharged. The story of post covid recovery is yet another story.

Congratulatory MESSAGE

The Chairman / CEO – Chief Mel Daimeon, Directors, Management & Staff of CMD Worldwide Services Limited felicitates with the National Orientation Agency Abia State Directorate as it publishes its maiden edition of the magazine "THE MOBILIZER" which catalogs the activities of the Agency during the pandemic.



CMD

Visit us @ <http://www.cmdservicesltd.com/>

Email: cmd@cmdservicesltd.com

CMD Key Service Areas are:

•Onshore / Offshore Oil & Gas Field Supplies and Services

•Marine & Ship Supplies / chandelling Including Port Delivery Services

•Materials & Equipment Procurement Including Major Project Procurement

•Engineering & Construction Services

Logistics Services

•Technical Manpower Development and Supplies

•Telecommunications (Turkey site installation, Mast Erection Services)

•Equipment Leasing & Warehousing Services

OEMs Representatives





The trajectory of Prince Dan Kalu, the Executive Chairman of Arochukwu LGA political evolution and engagement has not only posited him as a thorough bred grassroots leader but an enigma of some sort that has brought victory, unity and inclusiveness in any political clime he has found himself. Prince Dan has an affection for his constituents that is permeable, penetrating and positively contagious. The local government is dotted with human and infrastructures that are traceable to him now and when he served in the transition status.

A non-clannish leader who though, of the Abam Onyerubi stock but is at home in Ihechiowa, Arochukwu, Ututu and Isu communities where he has built a network of friendship and conviviality. His recent

AROCHUKWU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

HON. PRINCE DAN KALU :: EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN AROCHUKWU L.G.A, ABIA STATE

appointment of Supervisory Councillors and other aids are clear testimonials of a leader with a mindset to empower his constituents and run an inclusive government. Hon Prince Dan Kalu is a catalyst and a rallying point among the political class which have found in him the wisdom tree to shade developmental projects.

Some of the exploits of Hon. Prince Dan Kalu, the Executive Chairman of Arochukwu LGA, starting from when he was a T. C. Chairman are as follows; Construction of a modern administrative block which is presently the Chairman/Deputy Chairman's office, and office for other political appointees, installation of street lights in the council, construction of a modern health centre that he is now turning in to a cottage hospital at Amaeke Abam, construction and reticulation of a water borehole in the council headquarters, construction of two boreholes at Amaeke Abam, Construction and reticulation of a water borehole at Idima Abam, ongoing construction of a

customary court at Amaelu Abam, ongoing construction of a one (1) Storey Chairman's office complex in the council headquarters. He also purchased and distributed of motorcycles to twenty (20) Transition Committee councillors and other senior appointees of his government.

And now, within his short stay as the Executive Chairman of Arochukwu LGA, he has constructed a functional borehole in the council headquarters, restored back power supply that was left moribund in the council headquarters, attracted a primary health care center at Ndi Inya Abam, the construction of the health center is ongoing now. Hon. Prince Dan has inaugurated the Arochukwu covid-19 committee/taskforce team which National Orientation Agency is also a member under the supervision of the Deputy Chairman to ensure effective awareness creation, surveillance and enforcement.

Hon. Prince Dan is a man of integrity, man of justice and a selfless leader who is always thinking about his people and

searching for solutions for the betterment of his people. In his own words,

“
My main purpose of becoming the Executive Chairman of Arochukwu LGA is for the betterment of my people, to amend and build bridges, make our people happy and bring more people closer to my party and also win more souls for God.
Because at the end of our journey here on Earth, we will be judged by God and the judgement will be based on our impact and activities on Earth.”



THE INAUGURATION OF COVID19 COMMITTEE BY THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN



DRILLING OF BOREHOLE AT THE COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS BY HON PRINCE DAN KALU



DHON PRINCE DAN KALU (OKEMKPU 1 OF ABAM) WAS PART OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE EKPONIBRO CULTURAL FESTIVAL (UGBOMMIRIMMA) AT AYAN ABAM. A CULTURAL FESTIVAL THAT ATTRACTED TOURISTS TO ABAM ONYERUBI.

COMO Arochukwu LGA

In her quest to ensure strict compliance to safety guidelines and instructions from health authorities, the National Orientation Agency, Arochukwu LGA embarked on advocacy sensitization campaign on increased risk communication and community engagement on Covid-19 to Traditional Rulers, Religious Leaders, Community leaders, Women groups, etc. the Community Orientation and Mobilization Officer, COMO, Mr. Gabriel Ojeka called on all stakeholders to take personal and collective responsibilities and complement the efforts of government and other relevant stakeholders in order to stop the spread of the virus.

The NOA Arochukwu supported by UNICEF organized a motorized sensitization campaign on Routine Immunization, Antenatal Care Attendance and Covid-19 in major markets in various communities.

The team also embark on Advocacy visit, Community Dialogue and Engagement, Town Hall Meetings, Door-To-Door campaign.

Key messages such as Family Planning, Open Defecation, building a people of Peace and Peaceful Co-existence, Conservation and protection of critical infrastructures that are relevant to the respective target groups were also integrated inter the Agency's programmes/activities. NOA Arochukwu LGA has been fulfilling its mandate of awareness creation for societal development while collaborating and facilitating a more coordinated and integrated social mobilization approach at community levels for greater programme impacts.



The COMO addressing Women Organization on Essential Family Practices EFP at Catholic Church Amuvi Arochukwu and Amamiri Ihechiwoa



The COMO Arochukwu LGA Gabriel Ojeka addressing Council of traditional Rulers and Community Leaders during an Advocacy Sensitization Campaign



The COMO embarked on Door-to-Door campaign in residential areas, business areas/markets



NOA team embarked on aggressive awareness campaign in major markets in various communities in Arochukwu LGA

BENDE LGA BATTLES COVID-19 PANDEMIC



THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, CHIEF EMMANUEL ONWUCHEKWA



“

Bende local government under the Executive Chairman, Chief Emmanuel Onwuchekwa in a bid to tackle the spread of Covid19 pandemic in the Area inaugurated a Covid19 task force with the Deputy Chairman of the Local Government Hon. Promise Uzoma Okoro as its Chairman.

”

The committee was amongst others mandated to monitor the activities of night clubs, eateries, hotels and hospitality industries, markets, burial and wedding activities to ensure they comply with stipulated guidelines. Furthermore, the Council under the able leadership of the proactive and visionary Chairman went ahead to ban all cultural festivals till further notice.

To ensure that Bende local government is totally safe from the effects of Covid19, the Executive chairman inaugurated three subcommittees, namely enforcement which serve as taskforce. Others were sensitization as well as surveillance and notification subcommittees.

The council Chairman Chief Emmanuel Onwuchekwa further inaugurated two zonal taskforces to take care of Ikwusii and Umunna zones. It is worthy of note that the local Government took delivery of 3800 doses of covid19 vaccines and so far 767 persons including the Executive Chairman and other principal officers have been vaccinated.

The council did not rest on her oars in ensuring total compliance with the Covid19 protocols, hence on 22nd march 2021 the task force team sealed a popular Hotel for violating the protocols.

There is no doubt that the council will continue to wax stronger to ensure the safety of NDI BENDE.

NOA WAGE WAR ON COVID19 IN BENDE

In line with the mandate of the National Orientation Agency which include the

enlightenment and sensitization of the populace on the activities and programmes of government, the outbreak of the covid19 was a critical period for the Agency. This became necessary considering the magnitude of the effect of the pandemic to the economic, social, political, and infrastructural milieu including the religious lives of the citizens, not just to Nigerians but globally.

It is in the light of the above that NOA Bende local government took the bull by the horn to sensitize and enlighten the good people of Bende LGA on the preventive and precautionary measures aimed at curbing or containing the spread of the virus.

To ensure that the two main stocks of Umunna with five clans and Ikwusii with seven clans making a total of 13 electoral wards and 107 autonomous communities were properly enlightened, the Agency identified some critical stakeholders which include the National Union of Road transport workers, Okada rider's union,

market unions, schools, traditional rulers /town union executives as well as religious leaders for advocacy visits. Thereafter, this was preceded by the sensitization programs of the identified groups. Over forty schools, twenty churches, major markets and motor parks were visited at such towns as Bende, Uzuakoli, Igbera, Ozuitem, Alayi, Ugwuoke, Akoli Imenyi, Nkpa, etc. During the sensitization programme, the Agency applied several methods to ensure proper understanding of the message.

Such methods include demonstration methods as well as the use of Information Education Communication (IEC) materials, where fliers and posters were used to further pass the message.

It is worthy of note that the Agency further carried out a motorized sensitization campaign which took us virtually to all nooks and crannies of the local government.

Furthermore, following the second wage of covid19 and in appreciation of the enormity of efforts of NOA to curb the spread of the virus, the Agency was among the critical stakeholders integrated into the local

government ministerial committee for covid-19 and subsequently inaugurated by the Executive Chairman Chief Emmanuel Onwuchekwa along with other institutions which include the Health Authority, National Union of Road Transport Workers, Market Unions, police, Civil Defence Corps members while the Deputy Chairman of the council, Mr Promise Uzo Okoro acts as the Committee Chairman.

The membership of the Committee further offered the Agency the opportunity to further sensitize, observe and enforce compliance of the people of the Area on the covid-19 protocols.

“

The committee has visited several places, institutions and markets. The Committee has power to monitor and penalise defaulters.

”



The COMO Bende LGA sensitizing



The COMO addressing students during



ISIALA NGWA NORTH

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The Executive Chairman of Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area Abia State Hon. Chinwendu Ochulor who was sworn in on the 28th of December 2020 during the pandemic period started off with the inauguration of the Covid-19 protocol implementation committee on the 5th of February 2021 at the conference hall and subsequently the sub committees. The committee was charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the people of Isiala Ngwa North adhered strictly with the guidelines as established by NCDC and other relevant health bodies.

The committee which is Multi-Sectoral has membership cutting across the health sector, Education, security, FBOs,

CBOs, NURTW, Market leadership, NOA etc started work in earnest

NOA Isiala Ngwa North took the task with the seriousness which it demanded, going round churches, schools, markets to sensitize and re-orientate the citizens with one core message which is staying safe during the pandemic. Advocacy visits were paid to the traditional institutions, leadership of the CAN, NUT, ANCOPOS, APPS, NURTW, OKADA Union, Market leader's etc. The people were not really adhering to this new situation but with continuous persuasion and the establishment of task force a lot of success were achieved that as at the end of first quarter of 2021, the LGA has not recorded any Infection.

“
With the introduction of the vaccine in the LGA, the Executive Chairman Hon. Ochulor flagged it off by being the task the first person to be vaccinated.”

In his speech after the vaccination, the Chairman advised that people should discountenance the rumour and propaganda against the vaccine he encouraged people to come out and be vaccinated.



The Executive Chairman displaying the “No Facemask No Entry” inscription to be displayed in front of all the offices



The COMO addressing market women



The COMO Isiala Ngwa LGA demonstrating one of the Covid19 protocols



“

...the chairman admonished the people to go to designated places to get their first jab and to shun the rumour and propaganda against the vaccine.

”

NEWS FROM OBINGWA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The Executive Chairman of Obingwa Local Government Area, Hon. Ibe Nwoke on assumption of office confronted the Covid-19 pandemic by setting up a committee that will help mitigate the transmission of the virus in the local government.

The committee was subsequently broken into sub-committees to tackle the various aspects of the fight against the pandemic. The committee, which has National Orientation Agency (NOA) and other sectors in its membership

commenced work earnestly. The NOA Obingwa approached the task strategically by embarking on advocacy visits to the traditional leaders, leaders of the various churches, primary and Secondary School teachers both in private and Public schools, NURTW and OKADA Union. Market leaders were not left out.

Despite all the efforts, it was discovered that the people were not adhering to the protocols as directed by the NCDC. This led to more aggressive and continuous persuasion and the establishment of a task force. A lot of success was achieved subsequently.

The Executive Chairman flagged off the Covid -19 vaccination with the introduction of the vaccine in the LGA by being the first

person to be vaccinated. During the flag off ceremony, the chairman admonished the people to go to designated places to get their first jab and to shun the rumour and propaganda against the vaccine.



The Executive Chairman Hon. Ibe Nwoke displaying his green card after vaccination



ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY, **OHAFIA** LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

**National Orientation
Agency Ohafia Office led
by kinetic Community
Orientation and
Mobilisation Officer, Mr.
Ekele Onyema were not
found wanting in
discharging their duties.**

During the period under review, the team was able to cover all the areas as assigned to them both from the federal and state levels.

ESSENTIAL FAMILY PRACTICES

The NOA team in Ohafia were able to mobilise Community Development Organizations to help in informing the grass root people on the importance of imbibing the essential family practices, the advantages and disadvantages. The essential family practices crusade done in all the three components that made up Ohafia LGA, include Ohafia, Abiriba and Nkporo really brought about good hygiene awareness to the people generally. Some of the essential family practices include:

1. EXCLUSIVE BREAST FEEDING: Breast-feed infants exclusively for up to 6 months.

2. HYGIENE: Dispose of faeces, including children's faeces, safely, and wash hands after defecation before preparing meals and before feeding children.

3. IMMUNIZATION: Take children as scheduled to complete a full course of immunization (BCG, DPT, OPV, and Measles) before their first birthday.

4. MALARIA: Use of bed net. Protect children in malaria-endemic areas, by ensuring that they sleep under insecticide-treated bed net.

5. ANTENATAL: Ensure that every pregnant woman has adequate antenatal care. (this include having at least 4 antenatal visits with an appropriate health care provider and receiving the recommended doses of the tetanus toxoid vaccination.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC/PROTOCOL: The NOA Ohafia team, worked assiduously to see that the grassroot people in the LGA were not consumed by the pandemic. The team carried out massive sensitisation exercise to almost all the communities on how to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols. This was done by means of visiting Schools, Churches, Traditional Rulers, Markets, Parks, etc. The COVID-19 PROTOCOL awareness was highly accepted by the people of the LGA as can be observed the council registered 0% victim





UMUAHIA NORTH

HON. NJINKONYE JOSEPH UGOCHUKWU
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN UMUAHIA NORTH L.G.A, ABIA STATE



HON. UGOCHUKWU JOSEPH NJIKEONYE
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN UMUAHIA NORTH L.G.A
ABIA STATE

The activities of National Orientation Agency in umuahia North Local Government Area.

The community orientation and mobilization officer (COMO) and her team took the bull by the horn at the onset of the Covid19 pandemic. The team made sure all

the political wards in the Local Government Area were visited with the message of Covid19 the core message of prevention and adherence to the protocols set up by the relevant authorities. Several meetings were held with the National Union of road transport Workers, NURTW, town union

heads, religious leaders, market women, school principals and headmasters and other relevant stakeholders.

With the inauguration of the Covid19 committee in the Local Government Council, National Orientation Agency was not left out as they we are fully integrated in the sensitization subcommittee.



A CROSS SECTION OF COMO WITH THE PRINCIPAL AND TEACHERS



THE COMO SENSITIZING THE STUDENTS ON COVID 19 PROTOCOLS



THE COMO NOA UMUAHIA NORTH LGA INSPECTING THE BUCKET OF WATER AND THE CLASS SETTING



Umuahia South

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Engr. Dr. Humphrey Chukwudi Benson :: The Executive Chairman Of Umuahia South LGA

The Executive Chairman of Umuahia South Local Government, Hon. Engr. Dr. Humphrey Chukwudi Benson inaugurated members of Umuahia South Covid-19 Task Force in his office on Friday 5th February, 2021, to compliment and strengthen the efforts of Abia State Government in reducing the spread of Covid-19 second wave in the rural communities of Umuahia South. Members of Covid-19 Task Force were drawn from all the critical sectors in the LGA and were charged with the responsibility of ensuring a total compliance on all precautionary measures on Covid-19 by the general public. The committee members were

divided into sub-committees and, each of the committee has its defined role of operation aimed at reducing the spread of this ugly monster called Covid-19 and to contend with the second wave which was considered to be more deadly.

“
The sensitization committee visited schools, churches, market places, motor parks and various communities in the Local Government.
”

creating serious awareness on all the preventive measures while urging the people to adhere strictly to all preventive protocol of wearing of facemask, hand washing, social distancing etc as clearly stated by NCDC and WHO.

To demonstrate the care and love he has for his people, the Chairman took the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine in his office, he urged all heads of department to follow suit. He encouraged all well-meaning people of Umuahia South to visit the nearest approved centre for the Covid-19 vaccine.



COMO Umuahia South LGA talking about the Covid19 protocols in the market



IEC material by Umuahia South LGA



Umunneochi

Local Government Area



Hon. Ifeanyi Madu
Executive Chairman Umunneochi

As the inauguration of Chief Ifeanyi Madu led council executive took place, the executive chairman confronted the pandemic without sparing resources both financially and Manpower. The strategic location of the local government being a local government sharing border with three states made it imperative that the local government should work even harder. The chairman started with setting up a committee charged with ensuring the strict compliance to the covid-19 protocols.

National Orientation Agency in the local government area swung into action. The Agency went round the entire communities in the three Clans of Nneato, Isuochi and Umuchieze, The Agency went

round churches, schools and markets to ensure that adequate sensitization is made in all the nooks and crannies of the local government area. The Agency even took the messages to the motor parks and and to the Nigerian union of road transport workers, working with all other stakeholders in the LGA like the community based organizations, faith based organizations etc. The Agency equally embarked on a motorized campaign where a stopover was made at the market and other strategic locations in the area. Town Union meetings were held with community-based organizations, faith-based organization and civil Society groups.

“

With the introduction of the covid19 vaccine, the chairman flagged it off by being the first person to be vaccinated in the local government area. He also encouraged the people of the local government to go to the designated vaccination points to have themselves vaccinated against this deadly virus

”



NOA COMBAT COVID-19 IN UKWA EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

sudden outburst of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The sudden appearance of COVID-19 posed a huge challenge to the Agency and the latter took urgent steps to reduce its effects on the economic, social and religious lives of the people via aggressive enlightenment and sensitization of the communities in Ukwa East LGA on the need to observe and comply with the COVID-19 protocols especially during large gatherings.

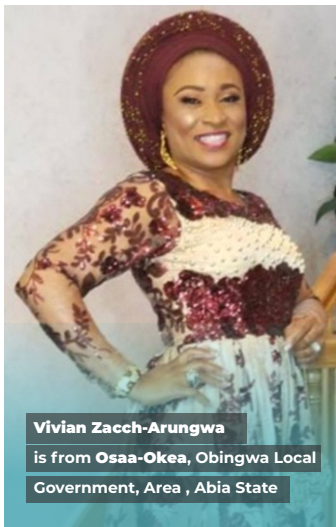
With the unalloyed support of the Chairman of Ukwa East LGA, Hon. Chuks Wagbara, the Agency was able to reach the major stakeholders from the ten electoral wards, including market unions, National Union of Road Transport Workers, KEKE NAPEP operators and Okada riders, traditional rulers, primary and secondary schools

among others. The Agency also monitored the testing of corona virus and the injection of COVID-19 vaccination carried out at Azumiri Health Centre, Akwete Health Centre, Obohia, Ohanku, Obeaku and at the Council Hall.

The Agency adopted different methods such as motorized community enlightenment campaigns, sharing of Information and Education Communication (IEC) materials including, fliers, handbills and posters at all the major markets, parks and town halls to ensure that the message was driven home.

The Agency recorded considerable success due to the fact that we took advantage of the platform provided by the youths and women leaders and town unions respectively to inform and educate them on the dangers of noncompliance to the COVID-19 vaccines and protocols.

**The National
Orientation Agency
(NOA), Ukwa East LGA
dutifully and devotedly
carried out its
essential mandate of
enlightenment and
sensitization of the
community of Ukwa
East following the**



Vivian Zacch-Arunga

is from Osaa-Okea, Obingwa Local Government, Area , Abia State

MY COVID-19 EXPERIENCE

LESSON FROM SURVIVAL - VIVIAN ARUNGA

I have been a nurse for over thirteen years, migrating to the United States in June 2001 and entering nursing school having left my job as an accountant. In making such a substantial career change, I took the words of Florence Nightingale to heart. After being displaced and watching the remnants of terroristic violence around me, I knew I wanted to serve and care for others.

But, during COVID-19 pandemic, frustrations rose amongst my colleagues and I as danger lurked around us, and we began to notice our sorrowful, insufficient training for a pandemic of this scale. As a nurse and a front-line worker in New York City, I, like many colleagues, was worn down by the raging infection that I saw destabilizing my industry. It shut down the respiratory system of my friends and families. It turned breathes into wheezes and fatigue into lifeless states. Soon, the city became the coronavirus epicenter, with deaths increasing alongside my dread. My coworkers and I were determined to save as many lives as possible, forcing ourselves into a losing battle while clinging to God for salvation, because for us, the next struggling patient is an encouragement to keep fighting.

As a God-fearing woman, I had believed that COVID would not affect me, cloaking myself in my faith as I continued dutifully serving the growing number of patients under my care. Given COVID-19 unique

nature, I was not only dealing with a foreign illness but also my patients' only social contact. For many, I was the only person comforting them as I spent hours talking with disillusioned and terrified human beings.

Each life I cared for was important, but there was this one young man who was sent to my hospital after his mental health and addiction check-up for treatment following a positive test. He was in his early twenties and his assessment indicated that he was the healthiest COVID patient on my rotation, with only low-grade fever and some weakness. He was not ripe with respiratory distress like the others. He was alert, oriented, mobile, and physically fit.

As his primary nurse, I performed his assessments and spoke with him about his admission. He was quite open, mentioning his mental health issues and strained family relationship. He was hoping to call his parents at some point to let them know he was ill. Despite this, I noticed that he was free from the anxiety that haunted the other patients.

Having spent too long losing patients that appeared with mild symptoms, I couldn't fool myself into being relieved for him just yet. I kept my eye on him, but even as I did, corona had already clenched its way into his organs.

My day proceeded normally. I wore the same personal protective equipment (PPE) throughout my twelve-hour shift due to PPE shortages, heightening my exposure to corona. I travelled to another floor that night to obtain supplies for another patient. Then a code was called. I rushed back. It was for the young man.

Minutes ago when I assessed him, he was fine. Now, his oxygen levels are low, and a battalion of doctors and nurses surrounded his bed, attempting to intubate him. That is to insert tube into his windpipe so that oxygen can be supplied to the lungs. At that time, and still today, personnel were

stretched thin, and resources were limited. We had to transfer him to an empty bed in the intensive care unit (ICU). He died that night.

My experience with him and later getting COVID-19 eight months into the pandemic had upset me. I didn't think it was fair that my patients had to suffer, that only nurses bore the responsibility to ease that pain, or that God decided to inflict the virus on me. I entered my home through the back and removed my scrubs, shoving them into the washer and wrapping myself in a towel my husband left for me on top of the dryer. I bought additional PPEs. I washed my hands enough that some of the other nurses thought I was paranoid. Why wasn't I invincible?

COVID scared me. The chills and body aches reminded me of the times I developed malaria back in Nigeria. I didn't want to be another patient in the ICU or spread the illness in my family. Through the fear, I reflected upon the past months with God. I realized that I was too haughty. Even after taking the Moderna vaccine, and having symptoms from the vaccination, like deep body aches, I know that I am not superior to others. I am no better, not cleaner, or safer than many people who have gotten COVID-19. I hope to silence any shame which non-healthcare workers with COVID may feel and validate other nurses' tales.

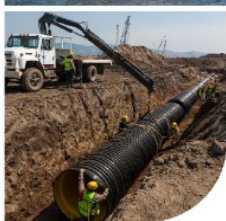
“

I want people to learn from my experience and train themselves against self-importance or at least find some kindred solace from my story.

”

GOODWILL MESSAGE

The board, management and staff of BOK Construction Company felicitates with the National Orientation Agency Abia State Directorate on the publication of the maiden edition of the Mobiliser magazine.



BOK

CONSTRUCTION C O M P A N Y

Experts in all civil engineering works such as road construction, building, water dredging and drilling, drainage construction, etc.

BOK is your one stop shop for every civil engineering work.

Abuja Office:
No. 64 Extension,
'Area' A Last Road
Nyanya Abuja.

0812 9910 002
0803 3216 998
0803 5501 797

Corporate Office:
KM 5/6 Old Aba Owerri Road
Osisioma IND Layout, Opp. Osisioma
Local Government
Headquarters, Abia State.

bokcoyltd@yahoo.com
bokcoyltd@gmail.com
www.bokcompanylimited.com



“

The life of every Abia and Nigerian by extension is very important and deserves all the protection needed

- SENATOR T. A. ORJI

(Representing Abia Central Senatorial District)

”

There is no gainsaying that Senator TA Orji stands out like a colossus in the Senate, National Assembly and Federal Republic of Nigeria, doing Justice to the duty call of his constituents to give them quality, effective and efficient representation and speaking their voices at the highest echelon of national service.

As the covid-19 reared its ugly head, the distinguished Senator:

- Towered in height among elected representatives whose perception and grasp of the covid-19 was well-tailored and methodically understood, he brought succor to his constituents in every ward and L.G.A with aggressive interventions and palliatives
- He shared several Thousand bags of rice, beans, tubers of yam and other food items
- Shared face masks, sanitizers, washing hand basins and buckets to stave off

the ugly pandemic

- Mounted sensitization and awareness campaigns to ensure the understanding and appreciation of the protocols.
- Renovated class rooms to ensure adequate sitting and maintaining of social distance in the class rooms.
- Building and renovation of existing health Centers to ensure adequate provision of health care to his people.
- In constant synergy with the Nigeria Medical Association to bring personnel to work in the new and renovated health centers.



His Excellency, Most Distinguished
Senator T.A Orji Ochendo
Icon Of Representative Democracy

Revisiting Covid19:

BY BARR. CHRIS EZEM

●● SECRETARY TO ABIA STATE GOVERNMENT AND CHAIRMAN
●● ABIA STATE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON COVID-19



The outbreak of novel Corona Virus (Covid-19) on 7th January 2020 in the city of Wuhan, China destabilized the world system. The world economy was grounded. It affected every aspect of human activity as there was complete economic and social lockdown.



The record by the state of its first index case, called for the need to put in place some Covid-19 protocol to curb the spread of the virus. Accordingly, the Abia State Covid-19 Inter-Ministerial Committee led by the Secretary to the State Government Barr. Chris Ezem, put in place amongst others the following; immediate lockdown of interstate movement, restriction of market operations, review of interstate transport system as it affects number of passengers, closure of all schools including tertiary institutions and

restriction of religious activities amongst others.

Furthermore, a medical protocol team was put in place to ensure strict compliance with all medical protocols required to manage Covid-19 patient and ensure contact tracing with respect to the new index cases. Suffice it to say that commercial and social activities came to a halt in Abia. These steps to say the least were aimed at mitigating spread of the deadly virus.

In order to ensure effective and efficient management of the spread of the virus, the State further embarked on setting up of Covid-19 sensitization committee in all the seventeen (17) Local government Areas. There was a formal launch of this body which major thrust was to drive home the Covid-19 gospel down to the villages and communities within the various Local government areas. This step helped in sensitizing all and sundry down the line. In the words of the Chairman of inter-ministerial committee Barr. Chris Ezem "The safety and life of all Abians and those Resident in Abia is the major Priority of the Governor Dr. Okezie Victor Ikpeazu" and the Governor left no one in doubt as he gave all necessary support morally, materially and financially to the Covid-19 committee to ensure its success in all ramifications. The various health platforms were all brought on board to ensure success in the management of Covid-19. The platform includes but not

limited to Abia Tele-Health and Geriatric Service (Home care for the elderly).

In order to provide facility for testing within the State, the Government led by Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu immediately swung into action and provided 2 molecular labs in Abia (one in Aba and another in Amachara Umuahia) excluding the one in Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Umuahia. These labs ensured rapid testing for Abians. The State with support of Access Bank provided 120 bed Isolation Centre in Amachara Umuahia where our Covid-19 patients were nursed back to life. The labs and isolation centres operated on 24 hours daily service. The Covid-19 committee launched community testing in all the 17 Local Government Areas of Abia State and established sample collection centres in all local government councils. Abia adjoined one of the highest testing States in the South East.

Needless to state that the various protocols put in place, medical facilities and doggedness of the State medical protocol team went a long way in reducing the mortality rate arising from Covid-19.

It is pertinent to point out that the general lockdown in the State occasioned some hardship. However, the State following the magnanimity of the Governor embarked on distribution of palliatives through the churches and 17 Local Government Areas not

Abia State Experience

excluding the less privileged, disabled persons, Road transport union, the elderly and motherless homes/ orphanage. At this point, one must not fail to applaud and commend the contributions of well spirited Abians, corporate organizations and various bodies who donated cash and materials in form of food items, face masks and sanitizers in the fight against Covid-19. These donations went a long way in assisting the State in the struggle against this deadly pandemic.

The second wave of the virus got the inter-ministerial committee led by the Secretary to the State government on its feet. The Committee on 4th February 2021 held interactive session with Abia State leadership of traditional ruler's council, religious leaders, security agencies and some selected stakeholders where after long deliberation, they all resolved to re-instate the Covid-19 protocols in order to curb the spread with the new wave.

However, reprieve came to the country and by extension Abia State when on 2nd March 2021 the country received 3.94 million doses of AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine. The NCDC proceeded to distribute the said vaccine across the 36 States and Abia State received her allocation on 11th March 2021 through the Ministry of Health.

This paper will not be complete without mention of the very professional conduct and display of competence by the Hon. Commissioner for Health Dr. Joe Osunji towards the management of Covid-19 and the medical protocol team. I must equally commend the effort of the members of the Inter-ministerial committee who individually and collectively rose to the call to render service towards the fight against Covid-19. Not forgetting the role of the various enforcement team at the State and Local Government level and equally the various security agencies who were readily available to enforce the various protocols rolled out by the State.

It is pertinent to mention at this point that the outbreak of corona virus, the experiences and effects therefrom is a clarification and wakeup call to our Government at the National and State level on the sorry state of medical facilities.

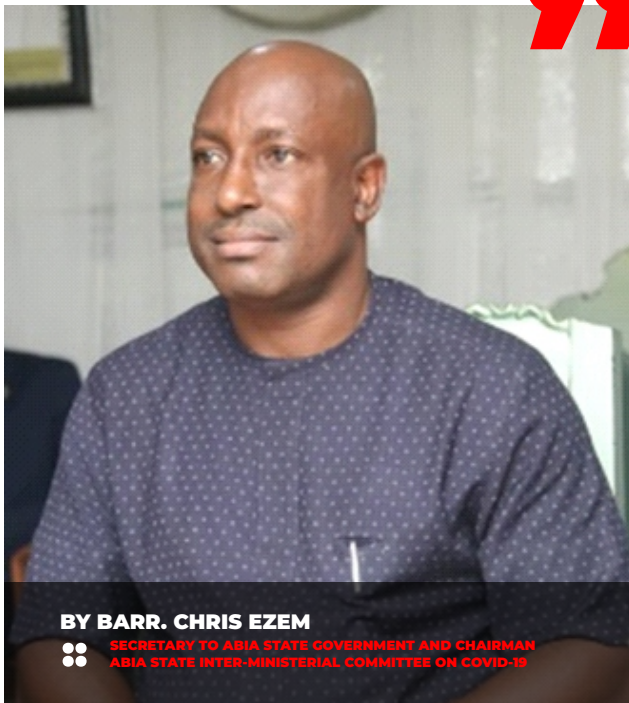
No one would believe that a time would come when you cannot travel out of the country to access medical care for emerging or existing ailment.

Consequently, the experiences from the corona pandemic should challenge our Government at all level to revisit the state of medical facilities and do the needful. It is common saying that health is wealth.



In conclusion, it is important to state that the war against Covid-19 pandemic is not over.

The virus is still with us. Accordingly, I must encourage all and sundry particularly Abians to make themselves available and take advantage of the vaccine. The Vaccine is the global acceptable preventive measure today. I urge every person to continue to observe the Covid-19 safety protocol in place and by that keep our environment safe.



BY BARR. CHRIS EZEM



**SECRETARY TO ABIA STATE GOVERNMENT AND CHAIRMAN
ABIA STATE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON COVID-19**

“

The new NACCIMA National President and Group Chairman/ CEO J Udeagbala Holdings Nig. Ltd., Ide John C. Udeagbala has...

○ ○ ○

called on all Abians”

The Group Chairman/CEO of J. Udeagbala Holdings Nig. Ltd., Ide John C. Udeagbala, has called on all Abians and Nigerians to adhere to the COVID-19 safety guidelines as it appears that many citizens have thrown caution to the wind. He made the call when the Abia NOA State Director, Dr Ngozi Okechukwu paid him a courtesy visit in his office recently.

The call came on the heels of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with how fast it is spreading across Nigeria. He observed that from November 2020, the number of infections gradually began to rise, and by mid-December, about 1,270 new cases were recorded as of 12th December 2020. According to him, this is an indication that the country is still far from defeating the virus. He urged Nigerians to follow all protocols so that there

will not be another lockdown, regretting that the response to the first wave of the pandemic was fraught with overwhelming challenges that affected every aspect of the people's lives. Ide J.C Udeagbala came up with the following recommendations:

1. Vaccination must be made compulsory to secure the health condition of the citizenry.
2. Rehabilitation and upgrade of the strategic health centers across the nation.
3. Seek international co-operation in health management system.
4. Diversify the health sector of the economy.
5. Develop human capital resources for containment of cases as in discuss.
6. Economic diversification of the Nigerian economy as a stimulus to economic growth.

Ide John C. Udeagbala, KSJI is an economic nationalist, and graduate of Harvard University, Ide John Udeagbala brings a wealth of experience from over forty years in business. He is a National Productivity Merit Award winner, 1996.

7. Ensure interruptible power supply.
8. Address insecurity adequately.
9. Build a stronger synergy among ministries, department and agencies of governments for timely responses in cases as in discussion.
10. Public health sensitization program across socio-political and cultural divide in the c

Ide John C. Udeagbala, KSJI is an economic nationalist, and graduate of Harvard University, Ide John Udeagbala brings a wealth of experience from over forty years in business. He is a National Productivity Merit Award winner, 1996.

Ide John C. Udeagbala, the Group Chairman/CEO of J. Udeagbala Holdings Nig. Ltd

Bende North Constituency

Hon. Chijioke Chukwu



Member Representing
Bende North State
Constituency



When the first case of covid19 was identified in February 27 2020 Hon. Chukwu understood the challenge posed to his people in Bende North state constituency, he left his base and relocated back to his village at Ugwueke to be with his people and encourage them. He came up with strategic ways to tackle the pandemic. **He realized that the first thing to be done was to get the people to understand what the covid19 is and how to avoid it, he started a vigorous sensitization exercise covering the entire 7 wards of the constituency.**

As the effects of the lockdown intensified, he knew that the people need more than sensitization but food and basic things to stay alive. He shared several bags of rice, bags of beans, tubers of yams and other food items.

“

With the attendant loss of jobs following the lockdown honorable Chukwu diverted to empowering the constituents by giving out cash, sewing machines, grinding machines, generators, barbing equipment and motorcycles to enable his constituents get over the pandemic.

”

The efforts of the honorable member representing the Bende North state constituency during the pandemic is worth commending.





BY RICHARD OKORO

I remember my experience with the novel coronavirus popularly known as COVID-19. People dread it as a death sentence being tainted with myths and misconceptions, but contrary to this erroneous impression, it is an illness that can be managed within the confines of informed knowledge.

In November 2020, I noticed that for four (4) days, I could not sleep well at night, and I decided to visit Amuzukwu PHC in Umuahia Urban II, where I registered under the Basic Health Care Provision Fund. Out of curiosity I asked the nurse on duty to check my blood pressure. Although I don't have a history of high blood pressure before now, I was surprised when the health provider informed me that I had 145/95, but I did not believe her. However, the nurse advised me to take some days off and get plenty rest.

Four (4) days later, I went to bed early at about 9:00 pm only to wake with a very high temperature at about 12.30 am. I had never experienced such a high fever and almost immediately I noticed that I was struggling to breathe (my big nose notwithstanding). At first, I thought it was the normal malaria signs, but then I observed that I found it difficult to swallow saliva or cough out

My Covid-19 Experience

(the November Rain)

anything. Furthermore, as I tried to get up from the bed, I noticed that the back of my neck was becoming stiff. It was at this point that I knew that I was not just battling with ordinary malaria.

I knew what it was, having been in several virtual meetings and trainings organized by NPHCDA and NCDC on COVID-19 and also having good knowledge of the early signs and symptoms of the virus. I was not really half as much afraid as I was about the time of the night it came, considering the hysteria and unnecessary fears associated with the illness in our health facilities by the health providers as of that time. I made up my mind to be very strong and courageous and not to press the panic button by alerting the other members of the family.

A week before the incident, I was privileged to have attended a virtual meeting organized by NPHCDA and NCDC where the Chief Medical Director in charge of COVID-19 in the FCT Abuja and other consultants brought two people who just recovered from COVID-19 to share their experiences. I asked the kind of drugs that were administered to them and the general treatments they had while the whole process lasted. The information I got coupled with my past knowledge about COVID-19 helped me to manage the situation.

My major priority at that point in time was to regain my breathing which had become so difficult. I then remember that we normally buy fresh ginger and garlics in sizable quantities to keep in the house. I dragged myself to the dining table where these items were kept and began to eat them as much as I could and within some few minutes the reactions from the combination of the ginger and garlic cleared my throat and I was able to regain my breathing again.

“

As for my high temperature and fever, I could not do anything until in the morning, when I went to the hospital and the rest is history now.

I finally

overcame the November Rain. Glory be to God who helped me.

”



BY DR. CHRIS IGWE

GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR OF
CHRISNAK VENTURES LIMITED.

Building Sustainable Economic Future During The Covid -19 Pandemic

Coronavirus disease is a highly infectious disease caused by the newly discovered Coronavirus. The WHO declared the coronavirus a pandemic on 11 March 2020, and since then, countries have tried to put measures in place to stem its spread, and its effects on their economies and the global economy at large.



The coronavirus pandemic has had far reaching effects on the economy due to several reasons. The first being that in combating it, countries have had to enforce lockdown measures to limit its spread.



This singular act has limited the free movement of goods and services, which is needed for economic growth. The IMF estimates that the global economy shrunk by 4.4% in 2020. In Nigeria, the effects of the coronavirus pandemic have been felt by all. The Labour Force statistics for the fourth quarter of 2020 have been quite alarming (unemployment rate rose from 27.1% in 2nd quarter to 33.3% in the fourth quarter). Socially and economically, the country has fared badly through this pandemic as reports of robbery and looting of food items were rife in the early months of the lockdown declaration.

The lockdown measures enforced by the country adversely affected the ability of many citizens to work/earn during this period, thereby causing a decline in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

This was partly because there was little or no arrangement in place to aid remote working, both in public and private establishments. Consequently, a lot of outstanding economic activities were stalled. The unease in doing business in Nigeria became even more pronounced as government workers were unable to remotely attend to many of the applications that needed to be treated to provide an easy business climate during the pandemic.

The lack of national social security/safety nets make workers/citizens highly vulnerable to an economic downturn. For instance, many businesses laid off their employees during the pandemic since business was hampered by the lockdown measures. Many of these individuals then depended on handouts and palliatives from

other private persons/organizations to survive. Meanwhile, some of the scarce palliatives provided by the government were even hoarded by many state governments, and in many cases, shared to allies and supporters.

Nigeria places a high reliance on earnings from crude oil. Therefore, the falling price of oil as an effect of the pandemic also meant that the country suffered huge economic losses, as daily crude production fell. Nigeria, a country with limited fiscal safeguards which owes 65% of its government earnings, and 86% of its exports to oil, suffered a bad hit to its budget.

In figuring out a way to build a sustainable economic future, the Nigerian government must solve several key issues that were thrown up as a result of the economic downturn during the pandemic, and these include:

1. Ease of doing business: The government must make it a priority to ease the way business is done in the country. Government agencies and their partners must embrace online processes to reduce physical contact, and provide seamless ways of getting approvals, permits, etc. Most especially, regulators must make sure that their processes are made virtual, with little or no hassles to

the regulated, so as to ensure a smooth operation in light of the changing times.

2. Social security/safety nets: The government must prioritize social security protection for its citizens. The pandemic showed that in the event of economic downturn or volatility, average Nigerian is largely on his own, and this presents a big problem for the society. Where there is no equity, justice and social security, there is a high chance of instability, which is even worse for the economy.

3. Diversification to non-oil sectors: The pandemic has also shown that placing a high reliance on earnings from oil is very dangerous. The government should do more to earn revenue from non-oil sectors in order to provide earning alternatives in the event where one sector is badly hit.

4. Healthcare: The importance of a healthy working populace cannot be overemphasized. In order to build a sustainable economic future, the government needs to fully invest in healthcare for its population – provision of facilities, vaccines, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), etc. The COVID pandemic revealed the ill-preparedness of the country to face health emergencies, and its resultant effect on the economy. Therefore, healthcare should be a

priority of the government in building a sustainable economic future.

5. Regional trade: Regional trade should be reassessed to make provisions for trade during emergency crisis such as this one. Irrespective of all the trade deals that countries have in place, the advent of the COVID pandemic saw countries making ad-hoc rules which affected many of their trading partners adversely.



In conclusion, Nigeria has a responsibility to build a sustainable economic future irrespective of the prevailing COVID -19 pandemic, and some of the broad points listed above are to be taken into consideration in planning the steps to be taken in building this future.



Challenges of Covid-19 Vaccination in Abia State

“

The coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic gripped the world with shock, thereby overwhelming the health system of most nations. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel human coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, which began in Wuhan, China, on December 8, 2019, a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on Jan 30, 2020.

”

Following this WHO declaration, the Coronavirus Preparedness Group was constituted on January 31 in Nigeria (a country with 36 states and a Federal Capital Territory [FCT]). WHO categorized Nigeria as one of the 13 high-risk African countries concerning the spread of COVID-19. Nigeria is also among the vulnerable African nations, given by the weak state of the healthcare system. In Africa, there are still communities without healthcare facilities, apart from the scarcity of health workers. The projection is that Africa could bear the final burden of the COVID-19 pandemic if the countries do not institute effective measures to combat the pandemic.

Common symptoms of the virus include fever/chills, cough (dry and wet), noticeable fatigue, difficulty in breathing or shortness of breath, body and muscle aches, headaches, sore throat, loss of smell or taste (anosmia), runny nose, or congestion, vomiting and nausea, diarrhea and other gastrointestinal issues. However, these symptoms

manifest differently in each individual, and that is why the CDC's lists change as more people contract the virus. Nevertheless, most people do not manifest any of the symptoms, and they are considered asymptomatic.

Mode of Transmission: COVID-19's mode of transmission is still under scientific investigation; hence, people are advised to observe safety guidelines (such as safe hand washing, social distancing, or staying at home). These behavioral change imperatives transform the nature of social life and realities in Nigeria. The new social normal adversely impact livelihood and survival chances amidst grossly inadequate palliatives.

Experiences and lessons from the worst-hit countries (e.g., the USA, the UK, Italy, France, and Spain) prove that no country can adequately prepare to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Globally, only a few countries have achieved generalized testing. CHALLENGES OF COVID-19 VACCINATION IN ABIA STATE

Introduction: In Abia state, the index case was reported on the 20th of April 2020 and this heralded the activation of the state Covid-19 EOC for the coordination and implementation of outbreak response activities.

Main activities conducted during this period were:

1. Responding to alerts, signals, case investigation, samples collection and testing as well as contact tracing.
2. Training and retraining of different cadres of Health Care Workers and other frontliners
3. Public enlightenments and community sensitization
4. Provision of palliatives to different groups

of persons in the state including vulnerable and less privileged individuals.

5. Establishment and equipping of three isolation centres in the state
6. Establishment and equipping of two testing centres in the state both in Aba and Umuahia.
7. Establishment, inauguration and training of covid-19 committee and Rapid Response Teams in all the LGAs in the state for effective and efficient emergency response.
8. And most recently, vaccination of eligible persons with COVID-19 vaccines, etc

Consequently, not minding its huge benefits to the covid-19 response, these activities especially the vaccination process has met with varying challenges, hence the need for this paper to better highlight some of these challenges and possible corrective solutions for future reference.

Epidemiology of COVID-19 Vaccination in Nigeria:

In Nigeria, vaccination with safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines is a critical part of the strategy to interrupt the COVID-19 pandemic and curb transmission of the virus. To this end, several pharmaceutical industries have responded to the call to develop a vaccine that could combat the virus and interrupt transmission.

How COVID-19 Vaccines work:

The covid-19 vaccines help our bodies to develop immunity to the virus that causes covid-19 without us getting the illness. There are various types of vaccines and they work in different ways to offer protection. The human body protects itself from germs through the immune system using several tools to fight infection. Macrophages, B-Lymphocytes and T-Lymphocytes are part of the white blood cells which form the body's natural defense system. The first time a person is infected with the virus that causes covid-19, it can take several days or weeks for their body to make and use all the germ-fighting tools needed to get over the infection. After the infection, the person's immune system remembers what it learned about protecting the body against that disease. With covid-19 vaccination, the body is sensitized to produce memory T-Lymphocytes and B-Lymphocytes that remembers how to fight the virus in the future. This is a crucial process in building immunity for the covid-19.

Types of COVID-19 Vaccines:

There are currently four main types of COVID-19 vaccines that have been approved or currently in various vaccine development stages. They include:

1. Whole Virus Vaccines: The whole virus vaccines use a weakened or deactivated covid-19 pathogen to trigger protective immunity. Covid-19 vaccines in this category include Sinovac and Sinopharm.

2. RNA or mRNA Vaccines: The covid-19 RNA vaccine consists of mRNA molecules made in a lab that codes for parts of the SARS-CoV-2 virus – specifically the virus spike protein. Once injected into the body, the mRNA instructs the cell to produce antigens – such as the spike protein mentioned – which are then detected by immune cells, triggering a response by the body's lymphocytes. Covid-19 vaccines in this category include Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

3. Non-Replicating Viral Vector:

This type of vaccine introduces a safe, modified version of the virus – known as the vector – to deliver genetic code for the antigen. In a covid-19 vaccine, the vector is the spike proteins found on the surface of the coronavirus. Once

the body's cells are infected, the cells are instructed to produce a large number of antigens, which in turn trigger an immune response. Vaccines in this category include Oxford – AstraZeneca and Sputnik V.

4. Protein subunit vaccines:

This includes harmless pieces (proteins) of the virus that causes Covid-19 instead of the entire germ. Once vaccinated, our immune system recognizes that the proteins don't belong in the body and begins making T-lymphocytes and antibodies. If we are ever infected in the future, memory cells will recognize and fight the virus. Vaccines in this category include Novavax.

Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines:

Covid-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Currently, over 40 million covid-19 vaccine doses have been administered in 50 mostly high-income countries. These vaccines have been evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials. Intense vaccine safety monitoring systems have also been established to ensure that covid-19 vaccines are safe. As the lead regulatory agency in Nigeria, NAFDAC has provided technical guidelines and rigorous scientific standards to guarantee vaccine safety. All covid-19 vaccines administered in Nigeria have been approved as safe for use in Nigeria and by extension Abia state by NAFDAC.

Issues with Covid-19 vaccination in Abia state:

In Abia state, COVID-19 vaccination commenced in March, 2021 with the vaccination of the Governor of Abia state, Dr Okezie Ikpeazu and other stakeholders in the state. The process has reached well over 10,000 eligible persons in the state and still counting.

Not minding its huge benefits, the covid-19 vaccination in Abia state has been faced with varying challenges which includes:

1. Inadequate trained healthcare personnel to manage the vaccination process
2. Insufficient medical resources (especially personal protective equipment [PPE]) for vaccination teams
3. Lack of resources to procure hand washing facilities and face masks
4. Negative perception of the greater population who sees the virus as a ploy by politicians to siphon developmental resources
5. Suboptimal awareness creation and

community engagement

6. Denying total existence of the virus
7. Massive vaccine hesitancy amongst target groups
8. Poor health seeking behaviour
9. Conspiracy theories about the virus and vaccine
10. Religious beliefs
11. Poor funding of the entire process
12. Huge communication gap between the national and the state structures
13. Bad terrain and difficulty in accessing the rural and hard to reach areas
14. Inadequate facilities and treatment centers, among others.

Conclusion/Recommendations

In conclusion, the fact that health care workers and indeed the health system and structures in the state especially within the rural areas experience tremendous challenges during the covid-19 response including this period of vaccination necessitates doing everything possible to ensure that the cooperation of all is achieved in observing CDC guidelines and all covid-19 protocols.

This will enable the health workers to provide essential health care services that will respond to this crisis and save lives by reaching all eligible persons with the vaccines without further hindrances.

To achieve this fit, the following is therefore strongly recommended:

1. Increased community engagement with community leaders in planning COVID-19 response activities
2. Provision of food, and essential resources to needy individuals
3. Provided counseling and relevant information on COVID-19 prevention to the general public via media and other sensitization channels
4. Prioritized testing to target those at highest risk for COVID-19 infection
5. Make and enforce legislations to promote adherence to covid-19 protocols
6. Health workers should understand the barriers that affect behavioral change and address them so as to achieve behavior change without resistance.
7. Government should urgently provide and increase funding for covid-19 response activities including vaccination so as to meet desired targets, etc.

#covid19vaccine



Doubt about safety of the vaccine has been put to rest as Abia State Governor, Dr Okezie Ikpeazu received his second dose of the Oxford AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

National Primary Health Care Development Agency has assured us of equitable distribution of the vaccines with a view to taking into consideration vulnerable people.

#NoaAbiacares continues aggressive campaigns to fight vaccine hesitancy and also appeals to the citizens to **#TakeResponsibility** by adhering to **#COVID19** guidelines and instructions to **#StopTheSpread** of the virus.

**DO THE
RIGHT
THING:**



**CHANGE
BEGINS
WITH ME**

An Interview

With

Chief Felix Anyansi-Agwu

Felix Anyansi-Agwu is a Nigerian football administrator who currently serves as Chairman of Enyimba International F.C. since 1999. Under his leadership, Enyimba International has since risen from a relatively unknown club to one of Africa's most successful clubs

**“
Everyone Must
Join The Fight**

Against Covid-19

- Chief Felix Anyansi Agwu,
Enyimba FC Chairman

”

Since becoming Chairman of Enyimba Football Club about two decades ago, Chief Felix Anyansi Agwu has established himself as Nigeria's most successful football administrator of all time.

With a glistening list of honours which includes two CAF Champions League trophies, Anyansi Agwu's remarkable achievements have placed him on par with Africa's most accomplished football administrators.

He was voted the best football administrator in Africa by CAF in 2004 and 2005 for his success in guiding Enyimba to continental glory in 2003 and 2004, bringing an end to Nigeria's 39-year wait for triumph in Africa's most elite club competition.

Felix Anyansi Agwu's administrative and management expertise acquired over an accomplished career has seen him serve not only on the board of Enyimba but also

in the executive committee of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF).

He was The Leader of Delegation for the Super Eagles to AFCON 2013 where he played a key role as the country won the tournament.

In this interview, Anyansi Agwu discusses the impact of Covid-19 on football activities and what should be done to ensure general safety.



01

You are Nigeria's most successful football administrator. What has been the secret of your success with Enyimba FC over the years?

a

Well, I would say I'm just a committed worker who is driven by the passion and

expectations of the fans. In football, fans are kings so what we do is stay committed and work hard to ensure we satisfy them. Once you put the fans at the fore of everything, your general orientation will change.

There will be no place for sentiments or favouritism. Every decision will be taken with as much rationality as possible - be it in recruitment of players or hiring of coaches, or anything else. I must also be appreciative of my staff who have keyed into this ideology and have stayed true to it.

02

Covid-19 has changed the face of every sphere of life. What are the ways that football, which is your constituency, has been affected?

a

Football has been affected in many ways. I think the most obvious has to be that we now play matches without

fans in the stadium. Like I mentioned before, fans are the kings of the game, so when they can't come into the stadium to enjoy the game and support their teams, then it calls for worry. Yet, we understand that it is the sacrifice we have to make in order to overcome this pandemic. Also, the Covid-19 has made international travel very difficult and expensive. We go through a lot just to ensure that the team are able to travel for matches in other countries. Apart from this, we have to keep to other protocols, such as regular testing of our team members, wearing face masks, and so on. These are things that were not in place previously.

03

Some industries had to shut down due to the economic challenges arising from the Covid-19 Pandemic. How has Enyimba been able to thrive through it?

a Honestly, it's been very challenging, but I must be very grateful to the Abia State government for their continuous support. Even the government has its own challenges, but they've been able to support us nonetheless. We are very grateful and want to urge the governor, Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu, not to stop supporting the team because all we want to do is bring glory to the state.

04

So far, has there been any case of any member of your team testing positive for it?

a No, nobody has tested positive so far. We tried to make them understand that as sportsmen, they must take their health seriously and set good examples in following the protocols; and their responses have been very impressive. They know that one person that is infected can cause it to spread around the camp, so they have been very responsible.

05

Are there measures that Enyimba FC has put in place to prevent the spread of the virus in the team?

a Essentially, we have tried to create a lot of awareness through our medical team because the right information is the highest weapon of defence. We make everyone know we are allowed to do and what we cannot do. We also try to carry out regular testing to be sure of the status of our personnel. It's not been easy, to be honest, but we have really tried and so far we haven't recorded any casualty.

06

You have had to play matches without fans. How difficult has that been for you, knowing the level of support Enyimba enjoys from supporters?

a Extremely difficult, both psychologically and financially. Playing behind closed doors means that a channel of revenue generation for football clubs has been shut and every club is feeling the pain of this. The fans are our backbone, and having to play without them in the stadium is never easy. We love when they are around to sing and scream in support of us, but when they are not there, the atmosphere is never the same. What we try to do, though, is to have it at the back of our minds that each time we play, millions of fans are behind us from their homes.

07

Enyimba are presently competing in the Nigeria Professional Football League and the CAF Confederation Cup. Should we expect another trophy this year?

a We fully understand what is expected of us going into any competition. Our fans expect us to always win, and that is why we always give everything whenever we step out to play. We never joke with the expectations of the fans and it's not different this season. The government has also been very supportive and the only way we can pay back is by performing well. We will continue to give 100% and hopefully that will win us something that will make everyone proud.

08

What lessons do you think can be drawn from this current situation?

a One lesson I've learnt personally is that health must be put first. We all love our jobs, we all want to go about our businesses and do lots of things; but health precedes all of these. That's why at some point almost everything was shut down across the world, just to ensure health and safety. We've all learnt to take our health seriously.

08

Finally, what advice do you have for Nigerians as we fight to overcome this pandemic?

a First, everyone has to come to terms with the fact that Covid-19 is real. Also, everyone has to understand that they have a role to play in the fight against this pandemic. It is when we take corrective responsibility that we can collectively overcome this menace.



Impact of Covid-19 on the Nigerian Education System: The Way Forward

Professor Gregory Ikechukwu Ibe

Currently, the world is combating the effects of a global pandemic. The reality of living in such a time as this, with all its attendant adverse effects undoubtedly makes life severely difficult.

“
As a developing nation, Nigeria is not spared the ravaging effects of this pandemic as we are constantly confronted with the uncertainty of future realities that this covid-19 pandemic portends. Situations are indeed difficult not only for people but also on societal systems of which the Nigerian education sector is not spared.”

In the aftermath of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and as part of measures to curtail its spread, Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Education ordered the immediate closure of all levels of academic pursuit – tertiary, secondary and primary – across the country. There were further restrictions on inter-state movements, social and commercial activities. Basically, life as we knew it, pre-2020, had changed. This situation had a

demoralizing effect on the academic pursuits of Nigerians.

There are no doubts that the Covid-19 situation has had a negative impact on school age children. The reality remains that for under-privileged students, there are fewer opportunities for academic development outside the school environment. The Covid-19 pandemic not only caused an interregnum in the acquisition of knowledge by Nigerian students but it materialized at a critical time when examinations were set to begin, thus leading to a postponement or outright cancellations of such exams. This sad situation had led to a deferment in higher studies by prospective students and also a hurried learning experience which would not guarantee the thoroughness required in acquiring an education.

Families being the bedrock of society and a child's first educational experience were equally impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Parents were put under undue pressure to keep their children meaningfully engaged in other indoor activities. Considering the present economic situation of the country, such an undue pressure has turned out being difficult on parents as they were forced to provide homecare and supervise whatever meaningful activity their children and wards were to be engaged in, at a time when they should have been at work places striving to earn and fend for their families. Other parents who had to struggle continually, despite prevailing factors, to work and earn had to leave children at home thus exposing such

children to likely deviant acts.

Observing a pause in academic pursuits predisposes children to unwanted pregnancies, risky behaviours, child labour, exploitation, outright abandonment or discontinuation of education.

Teachers who are knowledge repositories and provide academic nurture to students have had a hard time as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. They are also members of society and are not immune to occurrences within their communities. Rather, they have suffered all forms of psychological issues occasioned by fear of the unknown, stress-induced thoughts, panic attacks, depression and insomnia. These situations would inevitably lead to poor output at work and continued loss of concentration on assigned duties.

For students of tertiary institutions, they have had their durations of studies summarily extended. Others who may be in private institutions of learning may have complemented their programmes with online academic experiences but there are still doubts on their ability of knowledge assimilation occasioned by glitches in online learning technologies. This sad situation occasioned by Covid-19 would have extended the duration of study for these students. For Nigeria's young graduates, there are slim chances of getting jobs as several categories of employers are either shutdown or are running on half their capacities. Some graduates were not mobilized

for national service and those graduates who were in orientation camps for their mandatory single year service to the nation had to be hurriedly discharged as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

A cursory look at Nigeria's education landscape would reveal to the keen observer that academic environments are also commercial locations for people who reside within and around such educational centres. Therefore, shutdown of schools would definitely create adverse effects across such communities. It did. Several families had their livelihoods cut short and are yet to recover from the restrictions on school environments as occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic. Educational centres operate as quasi cities and a large mass of people living around such environments earn their sustenance through the operation of various businesses which include restaurants, private hostels, beauty parlours, taxi services, printing outfits and the likes. University towns depend a great deal on students and staff members. It can only be left to the imagination the hardship meted out on Nigerians who are dependent on university towns due to the clampdown on academic activities as a result of the pandemic.

The situation looks bleak, students across all levels are being hurried, organizations are downsizing with more people not being employed, civil servants are being asked to remain at home, small businesses are being stifled with debt of customers who are now finding it difficult to pay for goods bought on credit, hunger is on the increase, despondency is on the rise and people are worried about any looming challenges that may appear yet again on the horizon. But we cannot wallow in the present sad situation as occasioned by this pandemic.

The way out of our present predicament as instigated by the corona virus remains eternal vigilance of the education sector which we all hold dear. Our constant interest in that

sector would ensure a sustained growth trajectory within it. Therefore, it is pertinent that we begin with increasing digital infrastructure for learning activities. There is an urgent need for government, across all executive levels to equip its administered schools with digital devices while activating such equipment with required internet connections. Privately managed institutions of learning are not left out as a good number of universities in that category had begun putting the digital requirements in place to ensure continuation of academic activities.

“
Universities are a microcosm of the larger society in which we live. Therefore, it becomes pertinent that lifestyles obtainable within Nigeria's ivory towers mirror that which ideally should be experienced within the society.”

Hence, as nations have battled to raise their defences against the Covid-19 pandemic, in forms of vaccines and other protective gear, Nigerian universities should lead the charge in developing home grown products as their contribution in mitigating the adverse effects of the global pandemic. To this end, I have led our university's efforts in creating locally manufactured items within our laboratories such as our alcohol based hand sanitizers and widely distributing same within our university's immediate environs in Abia and Imo States. Through our biosciences and pharmaceutical structure, we have produced several natural curative drugs – Sniff Sniff, Adonis Yellow, etc - which are currently being analyzed by the nation's food and drug regulatory body, the National Agency for Food and Drug

Administration and Control (NAFDAC). Following the conclusion of analysis, clinical trials of the drugs would ensue and would eventually be available in the mass market as another line of cure, protection and defence against the covid-19 pandemic.

In promoting sustenance within the education sector while maintaining the morale of families reliant on our Gregory University community both near and far, I had offered my token of support with various quantities of consumables and staples as palliatives. A considerable number of families within our local catchment area had benefited from my widow's mite in two rounds of palliatives distribution. This represents our support to various families within and outside our area of focus which include but is not restricted to our staff and student body.

I call upon the government to totally revamp our education sector to bring it up to modern standards. At Gregory University, Uturu, we are constantly reviewing and upgrading our learning facilities to be at par with what is obtainable in developed nations of the world. We are putting in place cutting edge technology to ensure our students carry on their learning with ease and utter seamlessness. Government at all levels should lead the charge in this regard as they have the unending abilities to boost our youth population's quest for a taste of digital education.

Again, I restate that our eternal vigilance over our nation's ivory towers and other levels of education within the country will ensure we are never again caught flat-footed and enduring disruptions to our academic calendars thus endangering the glorious future of our children.

Professor Gregory I. Ibe is the proprietor and chancellor of Gregory University, Uturu, Abia State, Nigeria.

Challenges of Covid-19 Vaccination in Abia State:

Dealing with Vaccine Hesitancy, Myths & Prospects

BY RICHARD OKORO

“

According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization, vaccine hesitancy is a “delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination despite availability of vaccination services”

”

In 2019, the WHO identified vaccine hesitancy as one of the leading threats to global health. Individuals' refusal of vaccines has limited the control of vaccine-preventable diseases, fostered disease outbreaks, and wasted public health resources. Vaccine hesitancy manifests differently across people, places, and vaccine types, and the reasons for it vary accordingly, from fears of nefarious covert effects to concerns about inadequate testing. Individuals' refusal of vaccines has limited the control of vaccine-preventable diseases, fostered disease

outbreak, and wasted public health resources.

In Abia State, the environment of disinformation, mistrust, myths, misinformation and conspiracy theories are the key factors that hindered the successful vaccination of the frontline workers who are scheduled to take the lead in the first stage of the COVID-19 Vaccinations which lasted for ten days (10) with an additional three (3) days additional as mop up days, making a total of 13days (16th March 2021 -28th of March 2021).

Conscious campaigns against vaccines have fueled distrust and limited uptake. People have blamed vaccines for sterility or accused international bodies of using vaccines as a tool for covert population control. Anti-vaccination groups are using social media to heavily influence COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy with the deliberate spread of disinformation and conspiracy theories. Anti-vaccination enthusiasts have recently increased their presence on social media to forge new

connections and to build support for their conspiratorial views, which could have disastrous impacts on the successful rollout of COVID-19 vaccines.

Poor support and uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine from most religious leaders have led to distrust from their followers as most religious worshippers awaits the direct instruction from their spiritual fathers on issues which appears contentious.

Other Possible causes of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in Abia state could be considered as a cause-effect model, and its causes could be examined through multiple perspectives. Public distrust in the COVID-19 outbreak response by the government of Nigeria and public. Anecdotal reports obtained in Nigeria prior to the index case of COVID-19 in Africa on the 14th February, 2020 revealed a laxity in the implementation of border closure. During this period, political moguls across Nigeria ensured the exit of their families and relatives from COVID-19 high-risk countries such as China, Germany, and the United

States to Nigeria. Such acts were not appreciated by individuals on the African continent because such prejudice led to the importation of COVID-19 to Africa and ultimately compromised the health of the masses. In addition, community involvement using the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) was lacking, especially during the early stage in risk communication management and distribution of COVID-19 palliatives while social distancing, hand hygiene, and other COVID-19 control measures were being implemented. Due to these reasons, many Nigerian/Abians displayed lack of confidence in the government following reports of COVID-19 in Africa.

Inadequate and poor pre COVID-19 vaccination plan and effective galvanization of existing state, local government and ward structures including the civil society groups in health to sensitize Abians on the proposed strategy (ies), dates and locations for the first stage of the COVID-19 vaccination, including providing logistical support for the Vaccination and the Monitoring Teams from both the state and LGAs throughout the vaccination period. These factors affected the anticipated patronage from the private health facility workers, paramilitary agencies like the Civil Defense, the Police, the Prisons, the Immigrations and the Army.

As of the 2nd of April 2021, Abia State recorded 40% of her targeted population in the first stage of the Nation-wide vaccination period.

Strategies for preventing the occurrence of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in Abia State:

Community participation presents a promising approach to addressing COVID-19. Through the involvement of community stakeholders such as traditional heads, chiefs, opinion group leaders, and religious leaders, community member's participation can be achieved. Community mobilization in this regard is aimed at achieving two goals; firstly, to discredit false reports on the COVID-19 vaccine and ensure health education on the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine. In this regard, the role of community health workers, community pharmacists, patent medicine vendors, and civil-society based organizations come into play. Secondly, community mobilization would contribute to an increased uptake of the prospective COVID-19 vaccine when available. Since community participation promotes a sense of ownership of any health intervention, if a traditional top-down approach is implemented while planning the COVID-19 vaccination activities in Abia state, rejection of the vaccine would result in many settings, the purpose of procuring the vaccine would be defeated, and wastage of resources would ensue. Community participation would on the other hand enhance planning for the structure and modalities for making vaccines available in each ward setting, and enable location of vaccine collection points in community-wide acceptable areas

Conclusion:

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in many unplanned mortality and fatality cases. To prevent more cases in this regard, the COVID-19 vaccine has been developed and rolled out for use in many countries. Similar to previous health events, COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy has been

hypothesized on the African continent despite the benefits it presents.



To overcome Vaccine Hesitancy, we recommend optimal community involvement in the structure and modalities for vaccine delivery. Also, feedback mechanisms for the acknowledgement of community efforts in previous health interventions should be improved to encourage their acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, improved multi-sectoral collaboration would enhance acceptance of COVID-19 vaccines through the provision of more resources required to address COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy.



BY RICHARD OKORO
Executive Director Rural
Development Planners International
Umuahia, Abia State.

National Directorate Of Employment (NDE),

Abia State and Youth Empowerment During The Covid-19 Pandemic

Lady Arc. Dr.
Uoatuagwu C. I

● ● ●
State Co-ordinator
NDE



NDE is a federal government agency charged with the responsibility of designing and implementing job creation programmes geared towards promoting attitudinal changes, employment generation, poverty reduction and wealth creation.



VOCATIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT:

Training and empowerment of 1,360 unemployed persons in marketable and demand driven vocational skills, 340 unemployed women on production and packaging of cosmetology based products like sanitizers, liquid soap, disinfectants, insecticides, hair creams and shampoo, perfume.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING SCHEME (SADTS):

In line with the vision of the NDE, fifty (50) unemployed persons were trained and empowered in Sustainable Agricultural Development Training Scheme (SADTS) at the NDE demonstration farm, Umuezegu, Isiala Ngwa North LGA of the State.

CBN – AGMEIS LOAN SCHEME: The NDE trained and packaged the business

granted to persons and those who wish to start or improve their business enterprises.

SKILLS FOR JOB (S4J) COMPONENT OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SUPPORT OPERATION (YESSO):

Training and empowerment of 1,103 unemployed youths under the S4J component of YESSO, a world bank intervention project empowered each participant with starter pack valued at One hundred and fifty thousand (N150, 000.00) naira.

EXTENDED SPECIAL PUBLIC WORKS –

774, 000 JOBS: Implemented the FGN SPW 774, 000 jobs designed to empower unemployed persons reduce the effect of the pandemic The beneficiaries of the scheme commenced work in the thirteen (13)



NDE responded positively to sustain the drive for the fight against unemployment and empowerment during the COVID-19 pandemic. The year 2020 witnessed tremendous economic challenges as a result of the fall in oil prices due to the effect of the pandemic which led to shortfalls in government revenue, amidst inflation trend, security challenges, and rise in unemployment. Despite the challenges, NDE continued to impact positively on the lives of the youths and unemployed persons, through numerous training and empowerment schemes.

plans of one thousand, eight hundred and twenty (1,820) persons for the CBN – AGMEIS loan Scheme.

GRADUATE ATTACHMENT

PROGRAMME: The NDE recruited, screened and deployed one hundred (100) unemployed graduates to some government and corporate organizations for on – the – job training.

ENTERPRISES/WEALTH CREATION:

Created one thousand and thirty-two (1,032) enterprises through the soft loans

LGAs of the State during the same period. COVID-19 protocols were strictly adhered to during all the training and empowerment programmes. Hand sanitizers and facemasks were provided to all participants and social distancing was maintained. In conclusion, NDE is disposed to do more, but needs more support from federal and state governments, private and corporate organizations, international organizations and well-meaning individuals who may wish to collaborate with the Directorate in curbing unemployment and poverty in Nigeria.

Patronize Made in Nigeria Products & Services

Building a People of Peace

aba fashion week



Aba Fashion Week Berths In Style Even In Covid 19 Pandemic

On Monday, Dec 7, Aba witnessed the start of a festival of style, culture, grace, and craft, all of which culminated in an exquisite night of music, lights, camera, and fashion.

It was an extravaganza conceptualized by creatives like Toskyme and Samuel for creatives.

Time stood still as models strutted out gracefully, displaying the poise of seasoned campaigners who have walked the runway on the world stage. For some of them, it was their first time but they showed no nerves as they embraced the stage like they have always belonged there.

"I am adding this to my portfolio," I heard a model say in excitement, nicely dressed in a uniqueness that can only be MADE IN ABA.

The apparent excitement, nerves of steel, and deft movement and touches, even under the gaze of industry leaders and bright spotlights, hinted at years of longing for such a stage and preparation to seize it.

The designers, models, shoemakers, and bag makers have always wanted a platform; a stage to shine and show

their ingenuity as well that of other creatives in the storied city.

**With the Dr Okezie Ikpeazu
supported ABA FASHION WEEK, they
got their stage.**

Brands like Toskyme, Tchukas, Rikwech, Nora Pebbles, Ria Bani, Abaz De Royale, KK wears, Needle Fly, Ice Couture, Rev Dior, Tariwills, Star Joyce, Florence Briggs, Didi Tees, Nina Threadworks whose creative work, alongside thousands of other bubbling young creatives, have been silently crisscrossing the country earned the applause of the esteemed crowd gathered to witness the epic spectacle on display at the runway event. It is a testament that great things can happen here if we collectively put our minds to it.

“

**With what we have
just witnessed, and like
Sam Hart proclaimed
at the end of the night,
the headline wouldn't
be far off..... if it
screams...**

ABIA IS

RISING

”

Aba
Fashion
Week 28

ABIA
ONLINE



“
This is an event that
is dear to me as it will be
an evening to showcase
the fruits of the support
that our administration has
given the fashion industry
in Abia State since I
assumed Office
”



DR. OKEZIE IKPEAZU
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, ABIA STATE

Aba Fashion Week Excerpts



COVID 19 PANDEMIC: A PLATFORM OF INNOVATION LESSONS FROM ABIA STATE

Sam Hart, Esq.

Director - General Abia State Marketing and Quality Management Agency

“

At the inception of the Governor Okezie Victor Ikpeazu's administration, he communicated his desire for the repositioning of Abia businesses in the global scheme of things whenever business is to be discussed.

”

While highlighting his desire to return Abia State to its rightful place as the state housing homegrown solutions and innovations to manufacturing problems in the country, he identified two major strategies to meet these objectives.

The first was marketing the products of the producers and manufacturers in Abia to help them find new markets and expand on the already existing ones while ensuring the quality of these products to meet pre-approved standards. The second approach was to build synergy with agencies of government at Federal level as well as international development organizations that are committed to the growth of homegrown businesses.

Among these agencies are the Standards Organization of Nigeria, SMEDAN, Bank of Industry, National Orientation Agency and Nigeria Export Promotion Council. The COVID-19 pandemic which was first reported to the WHO country office in China on the 31st of December 2019 presented the world with the challenge of the shortage of personal protective equipments (PPEs), China which is the hub of global manufacturing shut down its country in a bid to control the spread of the Corona Virus. The devastating spread of the pandemic from Wuhan to other parts of China also meant that already

produced Facemasks and other Personal Protective Equipment remained in China for use by its citizens and health facilities in the country. This led severe shortage in most parts of the world including Nigeria with demand exceeding supply. In keeping to its objective to provide innovative solutions to manufacturing problems in today's world, Abia State Government released a 12 million Naira grant to selected tailors to enable them buy equipments, source material and expand their work force to accelerate production of Personal Protective Equipment.

This process improved Abia's capacity to supply Personal Protective Equipment across the country as frontline health workers relied on the facemasks and personal protective overall produced in Abia. The earlier stated synergy between Abia State government through the Abia State Marketing and Quality Management Agency and the relevant Federal Agencies such as the Standards Organization of Nigeria played a role in the standardization of the Personal Protective Equipments made in Abia.

Acting on the instruction of the Governor of the state, the Agency in conjunction with the Standards Organization of Nigeria ensured that masks and PPEs produced in Abia underwent ultra-violet sterilization before they are shipped to any part of the country. The Governor led from the front in driving the process of marketing the products and by appearing in several audio and video announcements where he told the world about the availability of the scarce Facemasks and Personal Protective Equipment in Abia and the state's ability to meet demand nationwide.

Key government officials notably the Director General of the Abia State Marketing and Quality Management Agency, Barrister Sam Hart also took to the social media to make "Made in Abia" a trending topic.

“

By December 2020, 2 million masks and 50,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including waterproof overalls had been delivered to 28 states and more than N500m to 1,000 tailors who created an additional employment for 3500 workers.

”

While standing in the gap for the entire nation and playing an active role in fighting the ravaging pandemic, the injection of the funds into the economy of the state helped in placing the state as the number three destination for Foreign Direct Investment according to figures recently released by the National Bureau of Statistics.

“

By December 2020, 2 million masks and 50,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including waterproof overalls had been delivered to 28 states and more than N500m to 1,000 tailors who created an additional employment for 3500 workers.

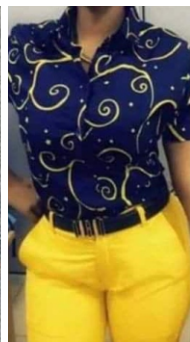
”



PANDEMIC CREATIVITY

ABA HOME OF CREATIVITY & INNOVATION

ABA, the gateway of trade and commerce to West African. ABA, the commercial capital of Abia State , ABA, manufacturing business center of Nigeria. The pandemic did not wane the creativity and innovation in ABA , but rather amplified the resilience and the inherent capacities in thr people which brought ABA to national and international focus



THE TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF DR. ORJI UZOR KALU

The transformational leadership of Dr Orji Uzor Kalu, Chief Whip of the Senate and Senator representing Abia North Senatorial District, in Abia state transcends self-interest and stands out during the COVID-19 pandemic. His passion, compassion, vision and prototype of leadership by example created a consciousness of purpose in the community, empowering citizens, bringing changes and pushing their resilience during the pandemic in Abia North. Kalu, who always canvassed for peace and unity of the nation, said, "Nigeria must remain great and strong. This can only be sustained by demonstrating selflessness, patriotism, piety, love, peace and unity in our daily endeavours. We must embrace positive acts for the sake of nation-building. Let us shun violence, enmity and acts that are capable of polarising the country."

From his wealth of experience, the former Abia State Governor offered a qualitative and unique servitude focused on infrastructural

"Life is not about living in mansions and having aircrafts; Life is about what you're able to do for people and what they can remember you for when you're no more"
Orji Uzor Kalu



development, road construction, reconstructions of health centres and schools and water projects to cushion the impact of the gaps created by the pandemic. Without exception, all the local government areas in Abia North -Arochuku, Bende, Isuikwuato, Ohafia and Umueneochi - have the imprimatur of Kalu's people-oriented projects, having attracted 19 road projects at different levels of completion, rehabilitation of schools, and completed borehole water projects showing his deep engagement with the rural dwellers and vast majority who are marginalised. He understands the rudiments of empowerment and often calls for the involvement of all well-meaning Abia-North sons and daughters, despite their socio-political differences, to collectively work together to fight the scary scourge of Coronavirus that is very devastating.






 GOVERNMENT OF ABIA STATE NIGERIA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH ABA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
 INDUSTRIES, MINES AND AGRICULTURE (ACCIA)

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOR
 HIS EXCELLENCY
 PROF. YEMI OSIBANJO,
 SAN. SCOR, VICE PRESIDENT
 FED. REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

CHIEF HOST
 OKEZIE VICTOR IKPEAZU
 PhD, FNS.,
 GOVERNOR, ABIA STATE.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
 HIS EXCELLENCY
 PETER GREGORY OBI
 FORMER GOVERNOR,
 ANAMBRA STATE

TECHNICAL PARTNERS
 ABA CREATIVES
 COLLECTIVE



ABA BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AND AWARDS 2021

TRANSFERRING TESTED AND PROVEN BUSINESS
MODELS TO THE NEXT GENERATION

DATE 26th & 27th/ May/ 2021
TIME 10am Prompt
VENUE ABA SPORTS CLUB, ABA, ABIA STATE
REGISTER <https://ababusinesssummit.com/>
WEBINAR <https://event.webinarjam.com/login/zgv05uxvhy3mfyz2>



ABA BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AND AWARDS 2021

storage and ware-housing, ethics of business as well as corporate social responsibility among others. **Distinguished eminent Nigerians who were present include:**

1. keynote presenter by a former Governor of Anambra State, Mr Peter Obi who identified lack of mentorship in the family, lack of proper corporate governance and structure , improper fiscal policy to support businesses as some of the factors militating against sustenance of family businesses in Nigeria.

2. 2nd presenter, the President of Coscharis Group Dr Cosmas Maduka who advocated for the Igbo apprenticeship system of mentorship for the younger generation

The summit featured a Panel Discussion Session on the theme "Pathway To Trans-generational Wealth Transfer,(Aba as a case study)" by eminent Nigerians including Ide John Udeagbala of the Aba Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Darl Uzu CEO , Crown Realtors/Enyimba Economic City, Professor Bath Nnaji, Chairman of Geometric Power, Professor Pat Utomi of Lagos Business School, Sir Lawrence Obetta and Chief Mrs Stella Igbokwe.

Even the second wave of Covid -19 pandemics did not undermine the " Business and Leadership Summit and Awards 2021 with the theme: Transferring Tested and Proven Business Models To the next Generation" held at Aba Sports Club. The highlight of the program is the soon coming Aba Business school as announce by Governor Okezie Ikpeazu to help consolidate the business skills of younger Igbo entrepreneurs.He noted that no country has developed in science, technology and Business without emphasis on their Mother Tongue, using China as an example. Dr Ikpeazu maintained that the system offers great insight into business concepts including teaching alternatives, packaging and repackaging , procurement,



"We will establish the Aba Business School shortly. We want to expand the capacity of our traders here to excel in their businesses. We will get people like Professor Pat Utomi to help develop the curriculum and get successful business leaders like Dr. Cosmas Maduka to come and teach and deliver it raw.

The language of instruction at the school will be vernacular...pure igbo language".

#AbaBusiness&LeadershipSummit
 #AbaSportsClub,
 #AbiaOnline



THE ROLE OF FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN BUILDING A PEOPLE OF PEACE IN A COVID 19 ERA

THE VERY REV IKECHUKWU. E. NKULO JP, FIPMA, TFG :: Secretary Southeast, Religious Leaders Forum And Member, Technical Working Group (TWG) Faith For Life (F4L) Project

COVID 19 ERA:

Here in Nigeria the COVID 19 era could be said to span from its nascent stage, end of February 2020 and blossomed to the peak up to June/July of the same year with its devastating concomitants of shutting down of all valid activities of man, movements, trade, social interactions and engagements which crippled spiritual activities and their likes. The damaging effects of the global shut down suddenly brought about an accelerated poverty, discontinued labour pursuits and aggravated hunger, idleness which we believe is synonymous with devil's workshop.

To this end, the government through her relevant agents and agencies depended heavily on the Faith Based organization FBO'S to dissolve the misgiving by the ignorant populace whose routine had been grossly injured, violated and distorted.

Here in Nigeria, the Faith-Based Organization (FBO'S) provided critical links to local faith communities in humanitarian contexts, sharing of palliative, facilitating rapid response to the COVID 19 pandemic protocols, insisting that adherents should accept the NCDC protocols and reinforcing resilience of local communities for peace building and recovery. Recall that many Faith leaders were used repeatedly in jingles, spot announcement to attract compliance. Sermons were preached severally to make faith communities to adhere to the emerging norms and values repugnant to the existing ones, known to them over years. For instance, isolation, quarantine, wearing of masks, zero gathering, keeping distance from relations, friends and associates. It was and still is an era of consistent hand washing, use of sanitizers, inter alia. These practices were strange and difficult to understand. The COVID 19 pandemic was seen as a myth rather than reality. In most communities, it was like a mirage. Nevertheless, COVID 19 ERA exposed the insufficiency in medical facility as a nation and our dependence on foreign aids. We may need to learn from that.

ROLES OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS

It is the view of Faith for Life F4L as contained to view many issues surrounding

maternal and child survival in the light of teachings from the Holy Bible and Glorious Quran. To identify our role as religious leaders we ought to acquaint ourselves with the information therein contained. It is our responsibility to use this information to take lead on the wellbeing of our community and people. Our role should be to spread awareness and care to the community considering that to save a human life is to save the whole of humanity at the church level and community level

5. POTENCY OF FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION (FBO'S)

Generally, Faith - Based Organizations, have good understanding of the local context, speak out for the disenfranchised, deliver higher quality services, mobilize energy and resources, contribute to consensus-building and connect local communities with higher authorities.

Sometimes, Faith - Based Organizations FBOs can be the only development-focused organizations in a remote community, or they have been there the longest. Their close links to communities and influence over them provide them with an ideal opportunity to promote health issues and address other cultural factors contributing to high child morbidity and mortality.

Observably, Religious values and practices are often deeply entwined in the fabric of daily lives. Faith - Based Organizations FBOs tend to grow from and build on faith communities' belief that they have a moral imperative to help those in need and improve the human condition. FBOs may focus on issues of morality more than secular organizations, such as rules of family life and the spiritual basis of disease. Interestingly too, FBO's ability to ground their work in religion can enhance their influence with communities, as it enables them to call on people's moral duty.

Consistently, Faith - Based Organizations (FBOs) work to better the world and their communities by caring for those in need. We play an enormous role in providing health information and health care all over the world. For instance, in Abia state what is

known today as Federal Medical Center in Umuhia was founded by FBO's: Methodist, Anglican and Presbyterian Churches. The present General Hospital Amachara was Methodist hospital Amachara. The Hospital in Uzuakoli was owned by Methodist including the rehabilitation center for cure and care of lepers is Methodist and the Motherless Babies Home Uzuakoli. Faith - Based Organizations FBO hospitals and clinics are often the most respected and trusted health care providers in communities of all sizes. I don't want to talk about Schools; Faith - Based Organizations FBOs provided schools all over the Country, of course, before the government takeover of schools and the decline in educational infrastructure. In fact, Faith based organizations had been and are still the conscience of our societies.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Government through her relevant agencies, NOA, Ministries and parastatals should use Faith Based Organizations particularly Faith for Life structure to domesticate her programs and public enlightenment so far as it does not conflict with her tenants and fundamental belief. Government can partner with Faith Based Organizations in the provision of Social infrastructure in Communities reliably.

Government can sponsor Seminar / Conferences targeted on relevant issues affecting the society, particularly the vulnerable groups in the society from time to time.

“
Government, public spirited individuals and NGO'S should seek ways and means to sponsor or increase funding of NOA and other agencies laden with the responsibility of dissemination of information to enhance response to modern trends in the provision of health care to the populace particularly in this era of COVID 19, and always.





BUILDING A PEOPLE OF PEACE:

RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AS A MEANS FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE IN NIGERIA

“

The CAN President, Chief Imam collaborates with NOA on Faith For Life (Initiative) Project.

”

The search for religious tolerance in the world has become particularly pressing today in promoting peaceful co-existence in a religiously plural and heterogenous society like Nigeria.

Within the COVID – 19 pandemic and more frequent occurrences of religious strife , manifestations and consequences of religious intolerance in Nigeria. NOA sees religious

tolerance as a panacea for peaceful co-existence as evident. The Abia State Chairman of CAN, Apostle Agomoh and Chief Imam, Abia State, Shriek Ali Ukaïwe and the Very Rev. I. E. Nkulo JP, FIPMA, TFG collaborates with Abia State Director NOA on the Faith For Life (Initiative) Project for effective sensitization on religious tolerance and building a people of peace.

FAITH FOR LIFE INITIATIVE (F4L) is a UNICEF supported initiative that seeks to partner with religious leaders (Christians and Moslems) for effective health campaign, promote acceptability and positive response to healthy living. F4L relies on faith-

based organization FBO'S to achieve her global quest to reduce the increasing cases of mother and child mortality rate generally in Nigeria. Using the model developed in Kenya, UNICEF in collaboration with NOA introduced F4L for social and behavior change.





BUILDING A PEOPLE OF PEACE:

RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AS A MEANS FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE IN NIGERIA

“

The CAN President, Chief Imam collaborates with NOA on Faith For Life (Initiative) Project.

”

The search for religious tolerance in the world has become particularly pressing today in promoting peaceful co-existence in a religiously plural and heterogenous society like Nigeria.

Within the COVID – 19 pandemic and more frequent occurrences of religious strife , manifestations and consequences of religious intolerance in Nigeria. NOA sees religious

tolerance as a panacea for peaceful co-existence as evident. The Abia State Chairman of CAN, Apostle Agomoh and Chief Imam, Abia State, Shriek Ali Ukaïwe and the Very Rev. I. E. Nkulo JP, FIPMA, TFG collaborates with Abia State Director NOA on the Faith For Life (Initiative) Project for effective sensitization on religious tolerance and building a people of peace.

FAITH FOR LIFE INITIATIVE (F4L) is a UNICEF supported initiative that seeks to partner with religious leaders (Christians and Moslems) for effective health campaign, promote acceptability and positive response to healthy living. F4L relies on faith-

based organization FBO'S to achieve her global quest to reduce the increasing cases of mother and child mortality rate generally in Nigeria. Using the model developed in Kenya, UNICEF in collaboration with NOA introduced F4L for social and behavior change.



Health & Nutrition Advice

During The COVID-19 Outbreak



The outbreak of Coronavirus has impacted our lives in so many ways. It is strongly recommended that everyone gets vaccinated against COVID-19, protects you from getting infected, sick, or dying. By getting vaccinated, you take responsibility to protect yourself, loved ones and your community. In addition to getting vaccinated, NPHCDA recommends continuous adherence to the health protocols of COVID-19. However, a major way to mitigate the marks of this pandemic on our health is by keeping a healthy and balanced diet to help boost the immune system and fight the COVID-19 virus. People who eat a well-balanced diet tend to be healthier with stronger immune systems and a lower risk of chronic illnesses and infectious diseases.

Eat fresh & unprocessed foods every day.

Eat fruits, vegetables, legumes (e.g., lentils, beans), nuts and whole grains (e.g., unprocessed maize, millet, oats, wheat, brown rice or starchy tubers or roots such as potato, yam, taro, or cassava), and foods from animal sources (e.g., meat, fish, eggs, and milk). Daily, eat 2 cups of fruit (4 servings), 2.5 cups of vegetables (5 servings), 180 g of grains, and 160 g of meat and beans (red meat can be eaten 1–2 times per week, and poultry 2–3 times per week). For snacks, choose raw vegetables and fresh fruit rather than high in sugar, fat, or salt. Do not overcook vegetables and fruit, as this can lead to the loss of important vitamins. When using canned or dried vegetables and fruit, choose varieties without added salt or sugar.

Drink enough water every day

Water is essential for life. It transports nutrients and compounds in blood, regulates your body temperature, eliminates waste, and lubricates and

cushions joints. Drink 8–10 cups of water every day. Water is the best choice, but you can also consume other drinks, fruits, and vegetables containing water, such as lemon juice (diluted in water and unsweetened), tea, and coffee. But be careful not to consume too much caffeine, and avoid sweetened fruit juices, syrups, fruit juice concentrates, fizzy, and still drinks as they all contain sugar.

Eat moderate amounts of fat and oil.

Consume unsaturated fats (e.g., found in fish, avocado, nuts, olive oil, soy, canola, sunflower, and corn oils) rather than saturated fats (e.g., found in fatty meat, butter, coconut oil, cream, cheese, ghee, and lard). Choose white meat (e.g., poultry) and fish, which are generally low in fat, rather than red meat. Avoid processed meats because they are high in fat and salt.

Where possible, opt for low-fat or reduced-fat versions of milk and dairy products. Avoid industrially-produced trans fats. These are often found in processed food, fast food, snack food, fried food, frozen pizza, pies, cookies, margarine, and spreads.

Eat less salt and sugar.

When cooking and preparing food, limit the amount of salt and high-sodium condiments (e.g., soy sauce and fish sauce). Limit your daily salt intake to less than 5 g (approximately one teaspoon), and use iodized salt. Avoid foods (e.g., snacks) that are high in salt and sugar. Limit your intake of soft drinks or sodas and other drinks that are high in sugar (e.g., fruit juices, fruit juice concentrates and syrups, flavored milk, and yogurt drinks). Choose fresh fruits instead of sweet snacks such as cookies, cakes, and chocolate.

Avoid eating out

Eat at home to reduce your contact rate with other people and lower your chance of being exposed to COVID-19. We recommend maintaining a distance of at least 1 meter between yourself and anyone coughing or sneezing. That is not always possible in crowded social settings like restaurants and cafes. Droplets from infected people may land on surfaces and people's hands (e.g., customers and staff). With lots of people coming and going, you cannot tell if hands are being washed regularly enough and surfaces are being cleaned and disinfected fast enough.

Counseling and psychosocial support

While proper nutrition and hydration improve health and immunity, they are not magic bullets. People living with chronic illnesses who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19 may need support with their mental health and diet to ensure they keep good health. Seek counseling and psychosocial support from appropriately trained health care professionals and also community-based lay and peer counselors.

Supplements, nutrients, and foods to support immune function

Since the onset of the COVID-19, people have also shifted to healthier, nutritional options to fight the virus and boost immunity. There are several nutrients, plant-based botanicals, & supplements that can boost immune function, provide symptom relief, and may help to shorten the duration of illness. Consider some of the following:

1. Vitamin C: Vitamin C also known as ascorbic acid, is necessary for the growth,

development, and repair of all body tissues. It is involved in many body functions, including the formation of collagen, absorption of iron, the proper functioning of the immune system, wound healing, and the maintenance of cartilage, bones, and teeth. Citrus fruit & red bell peppers (both rich in vitamin C). It helps to prevent infections, including those caused by bacteria and viruses. Regularly administered Vitamin C helps shorten duration of colds while higher doses during an illness can act as a natural antihistamine and anti-inflammatory. So unless you can eat plenty of fruits and vegetables, you may need to take a dietary supplement of vitamin C to gain all the benefits.

2. Vitamin D: Vitamin D, known as the "sunshine vitamin," is one of the most important and powerful fat-soluble vitamins that helps support the immune system and may help the body fight viral infections like COVID-19 SARS COV-2. Vitamin D works with calcium to maintain strong healthy bones, teeth, and muscles and prevent osteoporosis. Good sources include oily fish - such as salmon, sardines, herring and mackerel, red meat, liver, egg yolks, fortified foods - such as some fat spreads and breakfast cereals. Some people will not make enough vitamin D from sunlight because they are unable to spend between 10-15 minutes under the sun. A high % of the population is deficient, so daily supplementation (ideally in vitamin D3) offers the best protection.

3. Vitamin A: Vitamin A is a fat-soluble vitamin necessary for the proper function of the immune system, vision, cell growth, and differentiation. It acts as an antioxidant and helps repair damage. It is found in liver, meat, fish, and dairy products. Another component called beta-carotene can be found in orange fruits, carrots, sweet potatoes, mangoes, apricots, and vegetables. For short-term use & with

moderate vitamin A deficiency, supplementation can be extremely helpful in supporting the body's ability to fight infections, particularly respiratory infections.

4. Zinc: Zinc is a nutrient found throughout your body that helps your immune system and metabolism function. Zinc is anti-inflammatory and antioxidant important to wound healing and sense of taste and smell. With a varied diet, your body usually gets enough zinc. Best sources are found in foods rich in zinc, such as oysters, clams, mussels, cashews, liver, beef, and egg yolks. Others include chicken, red meat, and fortified breakfast cereals. Zinc is available as lozenges which helps to reduce the frequency of infections as well as the duration & severity of the common cold when taken ~ 24 hrs. of onset.

5. Spices: Herbs and spices are a great way to add flavor, color, and fragrance to dishes without adding extra fat, sugar, or salt. They also provide powerful antioxidants and have a range of other health benefits. Herbs, like parsley, sage, rosemary, basil, thyme, and dill, are leaves and can be used fresh or dried also be added to soups, stews, stir-frys, or salad dressings.

6. Honey: Raw honey relieves minor pain and inflammation of mucous membranes has antioxidant properties with some antimicrobial effects. Honey also has antiseptic and antibacterial properties. Modern medical science has managed to find uses for honey in chronic wound management and combating infection. Helpful for coughs and sore throats and can be added to hot tea.

7. Garlic: Contains a variety of compounds that can influence immunity. Both fresh garlic and aged garlic extract and garlic supplements may reduce viral

upper respiratory infection severity and function in the prevention of infection with viruses that can cause colds.

LIFESTYLE:

- 1. Stress and anxiety reduction:** It is natural to feel stress, anxiety, grief, and worry during a pandemic.
- Chronic stress can negatively alter immune system responses, making you more likely to get sick. **Identify personal stress reduction strategies and practice them regularly.** Stress can deplete magnesium levels too. E.g., are legumes, nuts, seeds, leafy greens, and whole grains.
- 3. Taking care of your emotional health during an emergency** will help you think clearly and react to the urgent needs
- 4. Sleep:** Sleep has a big influence on immune function; it is essential to get plenty of sleep. Practice good sleep hygiene and maintain consistent sleep hours—turn off screens, ensure the room is cool, quiet, and dark, set a reminder to help yourself go to bed on time.
- 5. Exercise:** Moderate, regular physical activity helps boost immune system function by raising levels of infection-fighting WBC & antibodies, increasing circulation, & decreasing stress hormones.
- 6. Follow an exercise program** to help prevent respiratory infections but also to improve cognitive and physical resilience.

References:

<https://www.who.int> , <https://www.cdc.gov> ,
Staying healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Training organized by Inspirehope foundation,
U.S.A for staff of NOA, Abia State.

Ngozi U. Okechukwu,
Ph.D., MPA., FIIAS
State Director National Orientation
Agency(NOA), Abia State

“

However, a major way to mitigate the marks of this pandemic on our health is by keeping a healthy and balanced diet to help boost the immune system and fight the COVID-19 virus. People who eat a well-balanced diet tend to be healthier with stronger immune systems and a lower risk of chronic illnesses and infectious diseases.

”



Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) Survey in Ikwuano and Umunneochi LGA in Abia State on the COVID-19 Pandemic: A cross-sectional,

descriptive study **Ngozi U. Okechukwu, Ph.D., MPA., FIAS** *State Director National Orientation Agency(NOAA), Abia State*

ABSTRACT:

The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (COVID 19) has plagued the world with about 115, 289,961 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 2,464,560 deaths (<https://covid19.who.int/>) as of March 5, 2021, and 158, 042 confirmed cases and 1,954 deaths in Nigeria (ncdc.gov.ng). The purpose of this cross-sectional, descriptive study was to assess the Knowledge, Attitude,

and Practice (KAP) of COVID-19 protocols in Abia-State, Nigeria. The knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) people hold towards this novel disease underscores its acceptance and adherence to safety protocol. A total of 380 respondents were randomly selected using the multi-stage sampling technique from the two selected local government areas in Abia State - Ikwuano and Umunneochi. The data analysis processes involved eliciting

responses from interviewer-administered, pretested questionnaires. Data were entered into Excel and exported to SPSS version 21 for analysis. Of all 380 respondents, (52.6%) were men compared to 47.4% females with a mean age of 39.9±12.8 years. However, Ikwuano LGA respondents were predominantly females (52.6%) and were younger - 37.8±12.5 years. (58.7%) were married and (49.2%) had tertiary education. A proportion of the married respondents and those with tertiary education were from Umunneochi, 63.7% and 50.5%, respectively.

The result showed that though 50% of respondents regarded contracting COVID-19 as a severe illness, their risk perception was low because only 27% rated their chance of getting infected with COVID 19. Based on the exponential spread of COVID-19, findings suggest the need for continuous and multi-dimensional increased risk communication through health education and public awareness on COVID-19. Sensitization is paramount to preclude stigmatization and encourage positive preventive safety practices to stem transmission and reduced mortality during the second phase of the pandemic.



INTRODUCTION:

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is recently identified as a fatal respiratory problem caused by the novel coronavirus subtype SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus, 2). On the last of December 2019, a cluster of pneumonia cases appeared in Wuhan, a highly populated city in Central China, where more than 11 million population reside. The highly contagious disease is characterized by fever, cough, dyspnea, fatigue, myalgia, and anosmia (Tamang et al., 2020). Although facts on COVID-19 are rapidly evolving, it is now known that there can be a PR symptomatic, symptomatic, and asymptomatic transmission. It can also be transmitted through other sites apart from the respiratory route (Mbachu et al., 2020). In some countries, new variants have emerged while many others are experiencing the second wave. However, most infected persons experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recuperate without requiring special treatment, but the elderly and those with underlying medical problems such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer

are more likely to develop severe illness (<https://covid19.who.int/>).

In Nigeria, the first confirmed case was on February 27, 2020. Vaccines have been developed along with some non-pharmaceutical interventions to help prevent the disease amongst susceptible individuals (Reuben et al., 2020). Without a permanent immunity to control the exponential transmission of COVID-19, several countries, including Nigeria, adopted some public health measures such as: Enforcement of use of face masks in public Constant hand washing under running water with soap for at least 20 seconds and use of alcohol-based sanitizer if unavailable Maintain at least 2 meters (6 feet) distance between yourself and anyone Maintaining good respiratory hygiene: Cover your mouth and nose properly with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands. You may also cough into your elbow if a tissue is not available. Obey national and state directives on avoiding large gatherings. Get vaccinated at the various designated vaccination centers nationwide (Ngwenwondo et al., 2020). According to the National Orientation Agency (NOA) DG, Garba Abari, despite the government's efforts, the lackadaisical attitude of the Nigerian public towards COVID 19 portends grave danger with the current spike in community transmissions and increased mortality.

<https://nigeriannewsdirect.com/no>

a-to-enforce-covid-19-safety-measures-in-fct/).

THE KAP THEORY

The KAP theory proffers that success in controlling a pandemic can only be guaranteed by people's adherence to control measures, which is primarily affected by their knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) towards COVID-19 (Zhong et al., 2020). Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) surveys are widely used to gather information for planning public health programs in all countries. The current "KAP" study measured the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices by collecting information on what is known, believed, and done concerning COVID 19 in Abia State to support evaluation, planning, and implementation during the pandemic (Kaliyaperumal, 2004). Ability to identify information commonly known and common attitudes enhance communication processes and sources that are key to defining effective activities and messaging on COVID 19 prevention and control. The KAP survey can also identify knowledge gaps, cultural beliefs, problems, and barriers or behavioral patterns that facilitate understanding and CPOVID 19 response (Kaliyaperumal, 2004; WHO, 2008). Therefore, to facilitate outbreak management of COVID-19 in Abia State, Nigeria, the current study evaluates the public's awareness and practice of COVID-19 in Abia State.

READ FULL ARTICLE FOR RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATION

<https://jfeacademia.org/Articles/Knowledge-Attitude-and-Practice-KAP-Survey-in-Ikwuano-and-Umunneochi-LGA-in-Abia.pdf>

“
Therefore, to facilitate outbreak management of COVID-19 in Abia State, Nigeria, the current study evaluates the public's awareness and practice of COVID-19 in Abia State.”



GRANDSTAR LIMITED

26 Park Road, Aba, Abia State

Phone: 08033419343 :: E-mail: grandstarltd@yahoo.co.uk



the construction grand-masters...



[Chief Leo Ike Okoye \(Uduakommiri\) trustee Aba Sports Club Urges Abians to Continue with the Safety Protocols, disregard all rumors and get Vaccinated.](#)



NOA ABIA TAKING RESPONSIBILITY



COVID-19 FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON COVID-19 VACCINATION.

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE)

1. What's COVID-19?

COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus, known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.

2. Where does coronavirus come from?

Coronaviruses are viruses that circulate among animals, with some infecting humans. Bats are considered natural hosts of these viruses, and several other species of animals are also known to act as sources. For instance, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) is transmitted to humans from camels, while Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-1 (SARS-CoV-1) is transmitted to humans from civet cats.

3. What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, tiredness, dry cough, and difficulty in breathing. Some patients may have body aches and pains, loss of smell, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat, or diarrhea. These symptoms usually start mildly and gradually become serious. Some people become infected but do not develop any symptoms and do not feel unwell.

Most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing hospitalization. One out of every six (6) people who get COVID-19 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty in breathing. Older people, and those with underlying medical conditions like high blood pressure, heart problems, cancer or diabetes, are more likely to develop serious illness.

4. How does COVID-19 Spread?

COVID-19 spreads from person to person (human-to-human transmission) through direct contact. It is currently estimated that, in the absence of physical distancing and other preventive measures, one infected person will on average infect between two and three other people.

The virus is transmitted mainly via respiratory droplets and aerosols when sneezing, coughing, or interacting with others in close proximity (usually less than two metres). These droplets can be inhaled or can land on surfaces that others come into contact with and are then infected when they touch their noses, mouths or eyes. The virus can survive on surfaces from between several hours (copper, cardboard) up to a few days (plastic and stainless steel). However, the amount of viable virus declines over time and may not always be present in sufficient amount to cause infection.

The incubation period for COVID-19 (i.e. the time between exposure to the virus and the onset of symptoms) is currently estimated to be between one and 14 days. We know that the virus can be transmitted when people who are infected show symptoms such as coughing. A person who is infected can also transmit the virus up to two days before they show symptoms; the extent to which such asymptomatic infections contribute to the overall transmission is not currently clear.

5. How can I protect myself from getting infected?

If you are healthy, the use of a medical face mask when visiting busy, closed places reduces the spread of the infection in the community. Always follow local recommendations regarding

the use of masks in public spaces.

Avoid touching your face

The virus can enter your body via your eyes, nose and/or mouth, so it is important to avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.

Wash your hands

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or clean your hands thoroughly with alcohol-based solutions, gels or tissues in all settings.

Stay away from infected persons

Avoid having close contacts with people infected with COVID-19.

Avoid social gatherings

Avoid physical meetings, events and other social gatherings in areas with ongoing community transmission and follow local recommendations applicable to mass gatherings.

Use a face mask

Wear a face mask indoors and outdoors whenever physical distancing with other people cannot be guaranteed.

6. If I am sick, how do I protect my loved ones and others?

Use a face mask

If you are infected, the use of a medical face mask reduces the risk of you infecting other people.

Cough and sneeze etiquette

Cough or sneeze into your elbow or use a disposable tissue. If you use a tissue, dispose of it carefully after a single use and then wash your hands.

Stay at home if you are sick

If you feel unwell, stay at home. If you develop any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider for advice immediately. Keep physical distancing. Physical distancing means physically

staying apart from other people. Maintain social contact with friends, family and colleagues from a distance instead.

Self-isolation

Self-isolate if you know you are infected with COVID-19, or if you have any symptoms of an acute respiratory infection like a cough, fever, sore throat, or runny nose.

COVID-19 VACCINES

COVID-19 vaccines aim to prevent COVID-19 disease by triggering an immune response.

COVID-19 vaccines are being developed following the same legal requirements for quality, safety, and efficacy as for all other vaccines.

Like all vaccines, the effects of COVID-19 vaccines are tested first in the laboratory, including in animals, and then in human volunteers.

The National Regulatory Authority, such as NAFDAC, is the agency in charge of evaluation and supervision of medicinal products. It evaluates COVID-19 vaccines against the same high standards as for all other vaccines before they can be released for use. NAFDAC continually monitors side effects in people who have received COVID-19 vaccines and identifies and evaluates new information that arises on the benefits and safety of COVID-19 vaccines promptly.

7. Were safety procedures and standards not compromised to develop and produce COVID-19 vaccine in less than one year, when it took 5-10 years or more to develop and produce other well known, safe and efficacious childhood vaccines and others like yellow fever and polio vaccines?

No, standards were not compromised nor were safety procedures ignored in producing COVID-19 vaccine. It is huge misconception to assume that the work on COVID-19 vaccine started when the pandemic began. Prior to the development of the COVID-19 vaccines, scientists had experimented and perfected a fast and flexible method- plug and play-to revolutionise vaccine development and production.

Researchers at Oxford University had constructed ChAdOx1 - or Chimpanzee Adenovirus Oxford One and used it as

the building block for vaccine against almost any disease. Before COVID-19, over three hundred people had been given ChAdOx1 based-vaccines for diseases ranging from flu to Zika virus, and prostate cancer to the tropical disease chikungunya. The ChAdOx1 is modified to contain the genetic blueprints for whatever you want to train the immune system to attack. ChAdOx1 is in essentially a sophisticated, microscopic postman, and scientists then change the package, such as COVID-19 spike proteins to be delivered by the ChAdOx1 postman.

8. Why should I get vaccinated for COVID-19?

It is strongly recommended that you get vaccinated against COVID-19. The vaccine will protect you from getting infected, sick, or dying. By getting vaccinated, you also protect your loved ones and your community.

11. If I have had COVID-19 and have recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes. NPHCDA recommends that you get vaccinated even if you have already had COVID-19, because you can be infected more than once. While you may have some short-term antibody protection after recovering from COVID-19, we do not know how long this protection will last. Hence, it is recommended that that you get vaccinated because you can be re-infected.

9. Can pregnant and lactating mothers receive the vaccine?

NO! Studies are yet to be conducted to ascertain the safety of the vaccine on pregnant and lactating mothers.

10. Can the COVID-19 vaccine alter human genetic information (DNA)?

No! COVID - 19 vaccines do not alter your DNA. It triggers an immune response that will protect your body against the virus if encountered. Once you and your community members are protected, the chances of the spread of the disease are reduced.

11. Does COVID-19 vaccine contain a micro-chip?

NO! COVID-19 - 19 vaccines do not contain any harmful substance or micro-

chip. All vaccines including COVID-19 vaccines are manufactured under strict compliance with WHO guidelines. Also, before the vaccine is administered in Nigeria, NAFDAC will certify it safe for human use.

12. Is it safe to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have an underlying medical condition?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccination is especially important for people with underlying medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, cancer, etc. People with these conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19. The vaccine does not cause the disease but helps the body to develop immunity against the disease.

13. Will the shot hurt or make me sick?

Mild side effects may occur as in any other vaccinations. However, they are signs that the vaccine is working to build your immunity. This does not mean you have COVID-19. If they do not go away in a few days, please see your doctor.

14. How do I know if COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

Before a vaccine is certified for use, it must receive approval from WHO. Here in Nigeria, in addition to WHO approval, all vaccines including COVID-19 vaccine are certified safe for use by NAFDAC. Even when in use, NAFDAC continues to monitor the vaccines to ensure they cause no harm.

15. Do I still need to wear facemask after vaccination?

Yes, you are advised to continue to practice the preventive measures - wear your face masks, frequently wash your hands with soap and running water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer, observe physical distancing and avoid large gathering and unnecessary travels to stop community transmission of COVID-19. This is because getting the vaccine does not stop you from getting exposed to someone who has been infected, but the vaccination and development of immunity will stop the infection from progressing to disease - hence you still need to practice the preventive measures.



NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY

STATE HEADQUARTERS

49 St. Finbarr Road,
(behind Stadium)
PMB 7233
Umuahia, Abia State, Nigeria

May 19, 2021

NOA/AB/SD/PD/21/013

Engr. (Sir) Nwafor Enyinnaya.

Sir,

Nomination as a Patron of WAI Brigade

The management and staff of National Orientation Agency (NOA), Abia State selected you as one of the patrons of the WAI- Brigade. WAI Brigade is a voluntary organization under NOA established 1984 under **President Muhammadu Buhari / Idiagbon** military regime aimed to instill discipline support the fight against corruption and enforce in the everyday lives of the citizens high level of moral rectitude.

Sadly, its draconian posture that specified tough penalties evaporated with the demise of that regime. In the light of the above , National Orientation Agency (NOA) Abia State is re-launching WAI brigade to assist the government in curbing rising cases of indiscipline and corruption .

Following your immense contributions in human and national development we nominate you as a patron of WAI -Brigade. This appointment is in recognition of your contribution to economic, human and national development as well as your selfless service to humanity. You are expected to support the (WAI) Brigade of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), in activities that instill discipline and support the fight against corruption towards an orderly and secure society.

We are delighted and look forward to working with you.

Dr. (Lady) Ngozi Okechukwu
State Director

ORANGE THE WORLD



**GENERATION
EQUALITY** STANDS
AGAINST
RAPE!

#orangetheworld

#GenerationEquality

#orangetheworld

#16days #spreadtheword

#NoaAbiaCares



**“ I Envision A Nigeria Where
All Women and Girls
are **FREE** from
Violence and Harmful Practices ”**



DO THE RIGHT THING:



CHANGE
BEGINS
WITH ME