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NYSC

NEWS

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A JOURNAL OF NYSC DIRECTORATE HEADQUARTERS

#FREE

DG Lauds Cooperation Of Security Agencies With NYSC



Gov Zulum Doles Out Over N36m, Foodstuffs To Corps Members



NYSC: Lasting 50 Years And Still Waxing Strong Is A Big Achievement - Obi Onitsha



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EDITOR'S NOTE

On 23rd May 2023 the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) clocked 50 years. As expected, and deservedly too, the management of the Scheme rolled out the drums and trumpets to celebrate the five decades of the Service Corps' golden achievements.

In this edition, we brought you in texts and images, snippets of the week-long celebration which featured variety of activities headlined by government functionaries and other stakeholders in the Scheme.

We also brought you stakeholders testaments of the Scheme's steelier landmarks in continuation of the stocktaking of NYSC's' fifty years of spearheading national unity and integration including an engaging round table with the Obi of Onitsha, a revered and respected royalty in the South East Region.

This edition is equally rich and embracing in chronicling the activities and programmes of the Scheme including the numerous laudable legacies of our Corps Members while discharging their mandate.

Many thanks to the incumbent Chief Executive of NYSC Brigadier General YD Ahmed for his passion not only in consolidating on the achievements of the Scheme, but also making remarkable exploits to deepen the relevance of the Scheme within the short period he's been in office including ensuring this publication stays afloat.

Kudos also to the Editorial team who has remained committed to their mandate. And to our patrons thank you for remaining faithful.

Eddy Megwa *fnipr*
Editor-in-Chief



World Youth Day: President Tinubu Recommitted To Tackling Youth Unemployment



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu

President Bola Tinubu has reaffirmed his commitment to tackling unemployment in the country particularly among Nigerian youths by creating meaningful job opportunities.

He gave the assurance in a statement

released by his spokesman, Ajuri Ngelale in commemoration of the 2023 International Youth Day (IYD).

President Tinubu in the statement emphasised that youth empowerment is a fundamental pillar of the reforms being implemented by his

administration across sectors and are designed to create an environment where Nigerian youths can thrive and contribute to the growth and development of the nation.

He said the Federal Government will enhance job creation, education and

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skills development, digital innovation, financial technology and youth participation in governance.

The president noted the growing interest and impact of many Nigerian youths in technology-related fields the world over and vowed to honour his campaign commitment of generating one million new jobs in the digital economy for their upliftment and national economic development.

Tinubu said he is undeterred in his

focus on delivering on the promises he made to Nigerians stressing that “to whom much is given, much is expected.”

He urged the youth, as agents of change, to champion national progress, unity and collective prosperity for all citizens of Nigeria.

The International Youth Day, which was first celebrated by the United Nations in year 2000, is

commemorated every year on August 12 to bring youth issues to the attention of the international community and celebrate the potentials of youths as partners in the progress of the global community.

The theme of this year's celebration is “Green skills for youth: Towards a sustainable world”. It highlights the importance of equipping young people with the skills they need to contribute to a sustainable future.

FG Offers Automatic Employment, Scholarships, To 65 Ex-Corps Members As NYSC Celebrates Golden Jubilee

By Femi Adetunji



Awardees at the President's NYSC Honours Award.

The Federal Government has granted automatic employment into the Federal Civil Service to 65 ex-Corps Members that excelled during their service year in 2019.

It also rewarded them with scholarships up to doctorate degree level in any university of their choice within the country.

President Muhammadu Buhari

announced this in his address at the NYSC President's Honours Award ceremony held at the Banquet Hall, State House, Abuja as part of activities organised to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of NYSC,

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Buhari also directed that the best three among the awardees should be given the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira each, while the remaining forty-nine would receive Two Hundred Thousand Naira each including the NYSC Hope Alive beneficiaries.

The Hope Alive beneficiaries are Corps Members that suffered permanent disabilities in the course of the service year.

The then President hailed the Scheme for its various contributions to national unity and socio-economic development of the country.

The President expressed his delight on the selfless services and contributions of the awardees which positively impacted their host communities and Nigeria at large.

"I feel highly elated to be associated with you and urge your successors to toe your footsteps. Specifically, I commend all of you for the roles you played in the effort to contain the coronavirus pandemic, especially through the production and distribution of facemasks, hand sanitizers, liquid soaps, as well as food and other items to people in all parts of the country.

Your demonstration of high sense of discipline in the conduct of elections as INEC ad-hoc personnel including the 2023 general elections has contributed towards enhancing the credibility of the electoral system. I give you kudos, my dear diligent, patriotic and virile youths. You performed very well and the nation is proud of you", Buhari said.

He also commended the Corps Members' role in the N-Power and the school feeding programme of the



NYSC DG, Brigadier General YD Ahmed assisting the then Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare presented plaque and medal to one of the beneficiaries.

Federal Government

The President lauded the NYSC Managers for introducing Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme into the service year which he described as a gateway to self-reliance and self-actualization for Corps Members.

He appreciated stakeholders including financial institutions that provide loans for the Corps Members to fund their businesses. The President appealed for more stakeholders' support for the Scheme in order to enable increased success.

Buhari also commended and sympathized with the ex- Corps Members that suffered permanent disabilities during the service year.

"Indeed, you have made great sacrifices for the growth and progress of the country, the nation stands by you and your labour shall not be in vain", the President said.

He promised government's continuous support for the Scheme to

consolidate on its lofty achievements.

The Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare in his welcome address hailed President Buhari for increasing Corps Members' monthly allowance from 19,800 to 33,000.

He said the President 's NYSC Honours Award is an appreciation to Members of the NYSC family, while he urged prospective and serving Corps Members to emulate the awardees.

The NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed in his introductory address said the President's NYSC Honours Award encourages Corps Members to imbibe higher ideals of patriotism, and demonstrate same through selfless and dedicated service to the country.

He disclosed that out of patriotic zeal, successive batches of Corps Members also participated actively in the implementation of national programmes such as voter registration, election, immunization

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as well as the population and housing census.

According to General Ahmed, other notable areas of contribution by Corps Members include advocacy on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the NYSC Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers and the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign.

"At this juncture, I wish to, on behalf of the NYSC National Governing Board, express our profound appreciation to Mr. President for giving priority to youth development, especially the National Youth Service Corps.

This has been clearly demonstrated through sustained provision of resources for the smooth operation of the Scheme. Permit me to also express our appreciation of the encouragement and support we enjoy from the Honourable Minister and the entire Ministry of Youth and Sports.

In the same vein, I wish to register our profound gratitude to the Chairman and members of the NYSC National Governing Board for their support. Indeed, your commitment to the mentoring and empowerment of youths in line with Mr. President's agenda has been a source of inspiration for us as we pursue the NYSC mandate.

As we prepare to launch the NYSC into its post-Golden Jubilee era, I would like to assure that we, the Managers and the Corps Members nationwide, shall continue to pursue the mandate of the Scheme with renewed vigour. In particular, we are committed to repositioning it for greater participation in national and global development efforts. I am confident that we will continue to enjoy the support of government at all levels and the goodwill of Nigerians in years to come", the DG said.

NYSC, Wema Bank To Partner On Empowerment Of Corps Members

By Femi Adetunji



NYSC Director General, Brig Gen YD Ahmed (right) making a presentation to the Wema bank Executive Director, Retail and Digital Business, Tunde Mabawonku when the latter visited the NYSC Headquarters in Abuja.

The National Youth Service Corps and Wema bank would soon collaborate on the establishment of digital skill acquisition hub for Corps Members to enable them have wider access to business opportunities.

The Wema bank Executive Director, Retail and Digital Business, Tunde Mabawonku, made the proposal when he led a delegation from the bank on a courtesy visit to NYSC National Directorate Headquarters in Abuja.

He said that there was need to create an enabling platform with advanced technology to make value change with impact on youth empowerment.

Presenting the proposal to the NYSC

Management, Mabawonku added that the collaboration between both agencies would deepen the impact of NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme with financial benefits for Corps Members.

He also lauded the various contributions of the Scheme to national development since its inception.

In his response, the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed reiterated that part of his policy thrust include strengthening stakeholders' engagement for the promotion of the frontiers of the Scheme and pledged the Scheme's readiness for the collaboration.



Gowon Inaugurates NYSC ICT Building, Tasks Corps Members On Vocational Skills

By Femi Adetunji



The New NYSC ICT Building at the National Directorate Headquarters in Maitama, Abuja.

Former Head of State Nigeria and founder of NYSC, General Yakubu Gowon, has appealed to youths to pay attention to the vocational training and skill acquisition programmes of the Scheme to prepare themselves for self-employment.

According to him, vocational training and skill acquisition programmes are the best ways to becoming financially independent instead of searching for scarce job opportunities.

The Former Head of State gave this advice at the inauguration of the NYSC ultra-modern ICT building and Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) exhibition, held as part of the week-long golden jubilee anniversary celebration of NYSC in Abuja.

He said that introducing the SAED programme into the Orientation Course of the NYSC in 2012 has been a blessing to the country, noting that “It has created jobs for many youths

who are now business owners and employers of labour”.

“In the same vein, the digitisation of the NYSC mobilisation process since 2014 is another attestation to the improvement of its operations which has made registration of Prospective Corps Members from any part of the globe seamless. The monthly

clearance for Corps Members and other numerous ICT related activities on the NYSC-NIS platform are worthy of commendation. I have no doubt that this ultra-modern ICT centre will be a major boost in this regard,” he said.

General Gowon appealed for Presidential assent for the proposed NYSC Trust Fund, which he said would cause a turnaround for the Scheme, especially in the improvement of training facilities, provision of start-up capital to Corps entrepreneurs, among other benefits.

The Director General of NYSC, Brigadier General YD Ahmed said the introduction of ICT in the operations of NYSC had become inevitable and an essential tool for the smooth running of all areas of Corps administration.

He hailed the Federal Government for approving the project and releasing funds for its execution.



General Yakubu Gowon (middle) inaugurating the newly constructed ICT building at the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters in Maitama, Abuja.



50th Anniversary: NYSC Hails Media For Support

By Femi Adetunji



Brigadier General YD Ahmed addressing members of the press.

The Management of National Youth Service Corps has lauded the Nigerian Media for their role in projecting the Scheme's activities.

The NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed gave the commendation during an interactive session with members of the press in Abuja in commemoration of the golden jubilee of the Scheme.

Ahmed restated that NYSC would continue to build on the legacies of the founding fathers of the Scheme, while also improving on the security and welfare of Corps Members across the country.

The DG noted that in the past fifty years, the Scheme has made invaluable contributions to the socio-economic development of Nigeria, which has made it a household name in the country.

“NYSC has been contributing to the development of education through the posting of Corps Members to teach in schools at all levels. This is in addition to the activities of the Corps Mass Literacy Group, with the cardinal mandate of reducing illiteracy to the barest minimum in Nigeria.

Corps Doctors and paramedics have continued to serve in public hospitals,

especially Primary Healthcare Centres all over the country. They have been using the platform of the community Development Service to carry out medical outreaches in various communities.

Corps Members have impacted numerous communities through projects executed on the platform of the Scheme's Community Development Service. These include school structures, health facilities, water boreholes, culverts, road construction and many other projects that dot the entire landscape of the country”, the DG added.

General Ahmed listed some of the challenges facing the Scheme to include; “inadequate facilities in many Orientation Camps in the face of the yearly increase in the population of corps participants, rejection of Corps Members by some employers, lack of transit lodges for Corps Members in many states, under-utilization of Corps Members among others”.

He added that without doubt, NYSC has lived up to its mission statement of being the leading light of youth organizations in Africa.

The Director General appealed to the media to always seek clarification on issues affecting the Scheme, before going to press as this would prevent sharing wrong information to the public.



NYSC @ 50: Gowon, Buhari Others Bag Golden Jubilee Awards

By Femi Adetunji



NYSC Director General, Brig Gen YD Ahmed (L) receiving an award from the former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha (R) during the Award/Dinner Night organised by NYSC to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Scheme in Abuja.

Former Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon and President Muhammadu Buhari were among the dignitaries conferred with Golden Jubilee Awards at an Award/Dinner Night organised by the National Youth Service Corps as part of the activities organised to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Scheme in Abuja.

Sunday Dare, then Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Director General of the NYSC, Brigadier General YD Ahmed,

among others, were also conferred the Golden Jubilee awards.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Boss Mustapha, then Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), said he was glad with the excellent record of the Scheme. He applauded General Gowon for establishing the Scheme to unite the nation after the civil war.

“It gladdens my heart that our father and founder of the scheme, former Head of State, Gen. Yakubu Gowon, is physically present here today, hale and hearty, to witness the event, and accomplishments of this national asset he planted during his youthful age”, he said.

Mustapha, who was the Special Guest of Honour stated that the event was organised to recognise and celebrate individuals, groups and organisations who have been



Former Director General of NYSC, Brig Gen Maharazu Tsiga receiving an Award from the former Chairman, NYSC National Governing Board, Ambassador Fatima Bala Abubakar during the event.

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part of the success story of the NYSC.

“While we relish their enormous contributions, it is hoped that this recognition will inspire other individuals and organisations to join hands with the Scheme as it refocuses greater energy on making greater impact on the Nigerian youth and the entire nation. Permit me to say that the Federal Government will stop at nothing in its determination to take the Scheme to the next level in fulfillment of its dreams and aspirations”, he said.

Mustapha said the government and people of Nigeria would remain grateful to successive batches of Corps Members and managers of the Scheme for their commitment to the realization of its lofty objectives.

In his remarks, Sports and Youth Development Minister, Mr. Sunday Dare who was represented by Alhaji Ismaila Abubakar, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, thanked the founding fathers for the sustainability of the Scheme. Dare also appreciated the Board and Management of NYSC for their efforts to ensure the successful celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Scheme.

He urged Nigerians to continue to support the Scheme so as to enhance the desired vision of the founding fathers.

NYSC DG Bags Fellowship of Labour Institute

By Femi Adetunji



L-R: The Managing Director of Gogetters Consulting Ltd, Mr Olukanmi Ayokanmi presenting certificate of fellowship award to the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yushau Dogara Ahmed.

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed has been decorated as a Fellow of Michael Imoudu National Institute For Labour Studies.

He was accorded honour based on his enhancement of Staff and Corps Welfare issues including security-related matters since he assumed duty as the 22nd Chief Executive of NYSC.

Speaking on behalf of the institute during the ceremony held at the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters in Abuja, the Managing Director of Gogetters Consulting Ltd, Mr. Olukanmi Ayokanmi hailed the outstanding

performances of the Director General.

He added that General Ahmed was also decorated for his contributions to labour-related matters as a friendly Chief Executive.

In his response, the Director General lauded the Management of the Michael Imoudu Institute for finding him worthy of the honour adding that there is a seamless relationship between the NYSC Management and labour unions in the Scheme.

Ahmed promised to keep the security and welfare of Corps Members and Staff nationwide topmost priority of his administration as stated in the five-point policy thrust of his administration.



Super Eagles Veteran, Amokachi, Salutes NYSC At 50

By Femi Adetunji



Members of the NYSC DG's Football Team during the novelty football match commemorating the golden anniversary of NYSC between Youth and Sports Minister's team and NYSC Director General's team held at MKO Abiola National Stadium, Abuja.

Former Super Eagles talisman Daniel Amokachi has commended NYSC Managers for modeling graduate youths in the country for leadership roles.

The Atlanta Olympic gold medalist spoke during the novelty match between the Youth and Sports Minister's team and NYSC Director General's team organised as part of the activities to mark the 50th anniversary of the NYSC.

Amokachi who was part of the Youth and Sports Minister's team congratulated NYSC on its golden jubilee and praised the service corps for staying the course of its mandate.

The Special Guest of Honour at the event then Minister of Women Affairs Dame Paulen Tallen described the Scheme as a strong unifying factor in Nigeria.

"The NYSC is a unifying force, it is what has kept Nigeria as one and I pray that the vision will continue to grow from

strength to strengthen", Tallen said.

The then Chairman, NYSC National Governing Board, Ambassador Fatima Balla Abubakar, predicted that the Scheme would attain greater heights in uniting the nation, instilling the spirit of patriotism and selfless services in the youths through its deployment policy.

The event which was held inside the main bowl of the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja, also featured a match between NYSC football team and FCT football team.

Dignitaries at the event included the then Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Sunday Dare, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Alhaji Ismaila Abubakar, some of the former Director's General of NYSC, retired Directors, critical stakeholders, sports enthusiasts, NYSC Officials, Corps Members, pressmen among others.



NYSC DG, Brigadier General YD Ahmed (left) assisting the Special Guest of Honour, the then Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Paulen Tallen (right) presenting a trophy to Mr. Daniel Amokachi (middle) after the novelty football match to celebrate the 50th anniversary of NYSC.



NYSC, Pivot Of National Unity

- FG

By Femi Adetunji



NYSC DG, Brigadier General YD Ahmed making a presentation to the representative of the Vice-President the then Minister for Power, Engineer Abubakar Aliyu during the Opening Ceremony of the week-long golden jubilee celebration of the NYSC.

As the National Youth Service Corps celebrates its golden jubilee, the Federal Government has poured encomiums on the Management of the Scheme and successive batches of Corps Members that have participated in the programme.

It lauded the contributions of the Scheme to national development especially the activities of Corps Members in rural and urban development interventions and their roles in fostering national unity and integration adding that the giant strides recorded by the NYSC through its community development projects have contributed greatly to improve the living standard of rural dwellers across the country.

Then Vice-President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo stated this during the

opening ceremony of the week-long event marking the Golden Jubilee of NYSC.

Osinbajo, whose address was read by the then Minister for Power, Engineer Abubakar Aliyu urged Nigerians to support the programmes and activities of the Scheme, especially on community and rural development.

He promised that the Federal Government would continue to accord priority to youth development through policies that will empower them not only for economic survival, but also for future leadership roles.

"Since its establishment 50 years ago, the story of NYSC has been that of growth, progress and expansion. It has recorded numerous achievements, including the promotion of national unity and integration as well as

intervention in critical areas of our national economy such as education, agriculture, health, infrastructural development, science and technology, social and other economic sectors among others.

There is no doubt that since its inception 50 years ago to reconstruct, reconcile and rebuild the country after the civil war, the NYSC has continued to play a significant role in actualizing the role of building an indivisible nation", Osinbajo said.

He lauded the General Yakubu Gowon led administration that came up with the idea of establishing NYSC, which was designed to harness the potentials of young, educated Nigerian graduates towards national development.

The Vice-President also noted that NYSC has continued to renew and make itself indispensable by evolving policies and programmes that have clearly identified it as a foremost institution for development in the country, describing the involvement of Corps Members as ad-hoc staff in elections since 2011 as divine intervention.

In his address at the ceremony, the then Minister for Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare said the nation witnessed remarkable ingenuity from Corps Members during the COVID-19 pandemic, where Corps Members during the lockdown engaged in the production of preventive materials such as facemasks, hand sanitizers, automated hand washing equipment, disinfectants among others, and distributed them free to complement government in the fight against the virus.

In her address the then NYSC National

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NYSC Director General, Brig Gen YD Ahmed presenting a souvenir to the Anniversary Guest Lecturer, former INEC Chairman, Professor Attahiru Jega during the ceremony in Abuja.

Governing Board, Chair, Ambassador Fatima Balla Abubakar stated that the deployment policy of the Scheme has birthed numerous cross regional and inter-cultural marriages among Corps

Members as well as their host communities.

The NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed said in

discharging the NYSC mandate, the Scheme has provided inspiration for sister African countries like Gambia which it helped to establish its National Youth Service Scheme, modelled largely after that of Nigeria.

"As we step on the threshold towards the attainment of the diamond jubilee of the Scheme, we look forward to an improved working relationship with all the stakeholders in the years ahead", he added.

Also speaking, the Guest Lecturer at the event, former INEC Chairman, Professor Attahiru Jega hailed the contributions of successive batches of Corps Members in ensuring free, fair and credible elections in the country. He said the involvement of Corps Members in the Nigeria's electoral process has being of immense benefits to the electoral body and the country's democracy.

Private School Owners Request For More Corps Members

By Philip Uwa



NYSC Delta State Coordinator, Mr. Alao Olusegun (6th right) and members of NAPPS Asaba Branch during the courtesy visit to the former.

The National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPPS) Oshimili South

Chapter has solicited for posting of more Corps Members to private schools in the Area. The group made

the request during a courtesy visit to the National Youth Service Corps Delta State Coordinator Mr. Alao Olusegun in his office in Asaba.

The association led by the Chairman, Comrade Samson Ekene appreciated the NYSC for the cordial relationship between the body and the Scheme. He stated that the purpose of the visit to familiarize themselves with the leadership of the Scheme in the State and to solicit for more supports in the area of posting Corps Members to private schools in Asaba.

In his response, the NYSC State Coordinator described the Association as important stakeholders and promised to look into their request.



MEET THE NEW MINISTER OF YOUTH DR. JAMILA BIO IBRAHIM



Dr. Jamila Bio Ibrahim, Honourable Minister of Youth

Background and Academic Qualifications:

Born on February 7, 1986, Jamila Bio Ibrahim hails from Baruten LGA, Kwara State. She had her primary education at NEPA Staff School, New-Bussa, Borgu Council Area of Niger State.

She then proceeded to Federal Government Girls' College, Bwari, Abuja for her secondary education and finished in 2002.

She thereafter gained admission into University of Ilorin where she trained as a medical doctor, graduating with an MBBS degree in 2010 at the age of 24.

She proceeded further to the University of Washington for a six-month course on health management and leadership.

Work Experience:

After her academic qualifications, she

set up Yon Seno Foundation, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in 2017.

In addition to running her NGO, she volunteered on the Presidential Committee on the North-East Initiative (PCNI) during the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari.

The mandate of the PCNI was to strategize, coordinate and serve as an advisory body for all humanitarian interventions, and transformational developmental efforts in the North-east, a region that was hit by insurgency.

Apart from these, she has worked in the following positions:

- Department of Pediatrics, Murtala Mohammed Specialist Hospital, Kano, Nigeria, as a Medical Doctor, before going global to involve herself in development goals aimed at ending poverty.
- Advocate for children's rights. At

several fora, she campaigned for the underprivileged to have access to quality education and gender equality, which falls under goals 4 and 5 of the SDGs.

- Campaigner for several other SDGs-2, including the "End Hunger and Achieve Food Security" among others.
- Participated actively in the Kwara Farmers Support Programme, a scheme that extended tractor services to unserved and underserved farmers across the North Central State.

Appointments:

- Kwara State Coordinator NEPAD. In this role, she was responsible for the coordination and implementation of NEPAD (African Union Development Agency) programmes and projects in the State.
- Appointed Senior Special Assistant on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the Governor of Kwara State in 2020.
- National President of the Progressive Young Women Forum (PYWF), an initiative of the All Progressives Congress (APC).
- Served as a member of the APC presidential campaign committee on sustainable development.
- Until her appointment as Nigeria's Minister of Youth, Dr. Jamila Bio Ibrahim was the Kwara State Focal Person for a World Bank project called the National Human Capital Development Programme in Nigeria.

Awards:

Jamila's works have earned her numerous recognitions including:

- Clean Nigeria Ambassador Award;
- UN Peace Ambassador by the International Association of World Peace Advocates;
- Distinguished Honorary Award for contributions to Education and SDGs among others;

Hobbies:

At her leisure time, Jamila plays Polo and she is a non-executive director of the Emirates Equestrian Club, Ilorin, Kwara State.



MEET THE NEW MINISTER OF STATE FOR YOUTH **MR. AYODELE OLAWANDE**



Mr. Ayodele Olawande, Honourable Minister of State for Youth

Background and Academic Qualifications:

Mr. Ayodele Olawande, 34, hails from Ondo State, South-west region of Nigeria. He completed his secondary education in Ekiti State at Christ School, and then proceeded to the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti, then to Federal University of Technology, Akure, for his degree. He is a seasoned community development

expert and a prominent youth leader.
Work Experience:

The Minister of State for Youth has held the following positions:

- Site Administrator/Engineer at Renz Nigeria Limited (2019-2022);
- Director of Business at TEHUB (2020);
- Director Operations at LAHHOMES (2020);

- Field Officer at IDP/NSIP NSIO (2020-2021).
- Operations Manager at The Way Project Nigeria Limited.

Appointments:

The Minister is an active youth mobilizer, especially for the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC) in Ondo and Lagos States and also the founder of the Action Youth Movement (AYM). His efforts earned him the following appointments.

- Youth Coordinator for the APC Lagos State Chapter;
- ICT Director for Ondo APC;
- Former South-west Co-coordinator. Asiwaju Grassroot Foundation (AGF)
- Deputy Director Presidential Campaign Council Youth Southwest 2023.
- He served in the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari as the Personal Assistant to the Special Adviser Innovation to the Vice President from 2019 to 2023.

Until his present appointment, he was the Strategic Communication Officer at Emerging Community Africa, a project of the European Union (EU).

He was nominated by President Bola Tinubu on 17th September, 2023 and confirmed as Federal Minister of State for Youth on 4th October, 2023 by the Senate.



Youth Minister Canvasses More Stakeholders' Support For NYSC

By Femi Adetunji



The Minister for Youth, Dr Jamila Bio-Ibrahim receiving a souvenir from the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed during her courtesy visit to the Director General in his office in Abuja.

The Minister for Youth, Dr Jamila Bio-Ibrahim has advocated for improved stakeholders' support for the National Youth Service Corps.

She said this would strengthen the Scheme in order to consolidate on its laudable achievements in youth empowerment, national unity and integration, rural development, educational improvement among others.

The Minister stated this in her address when she paid a courtesy visit to the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters in Maitama, Abuja.

Bio-Ibrahim promised to work with the NYSC Management in order to build on the achievements of the objectives of the Scheme.

"I have been a strong advocate of the NYSC and this is the time when the country needs the Scheme.

It is my hope that the Scheme is sustained and we will work together with you for the sake of Nigerian youths", she said.

Speaking earlier, the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed congratulated the Minister on her appointment.

He said the Scheme has become a household name in Nigeria through its

invaluable contributions to national unity and socio-economic development of the country.

General Ahmed added that as a dynamic organisation, the Scheme has continued to assert its relevance by being responsive to prevailing national needs.

He stated further that in its quest to enhance the NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme, the Scheme has partnered several agencies like the Central Bank of Nigeria, Access Bank, Unity Bank, Gombe State University, Nasarawa State University, NYSC Foundation among others.

He said the partnership has granted financial empowerment and technical support to some Corps Members as start-up capital to establish their businesses in line with the skills they acquired during service.

The Director General listed some of the challenges facing the Scheme to include; poor condition of some Orientation Camps, inadequate Corps Lodges, insufficient vehicles for inspection of Corps Members among others.



A group photograph of the Minister for Youth, Dr Jamila Bio Ibrahim (4th left) with the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed (4th right) and Directors of NYSC during the courtesy visit of the Minister to the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters in Maitama, Abuja



NYSC At 50: Clerics Canvass Support For Scheme

By Yunusa Baba and Femi Adetunji



NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed with Clerics and Corps Members offering prayers for the Scheme during the Jumm'at prayer held at the National Mosque Abuja in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of NYSC.

Christian and Moslem clerics have urged Nigerians to rally round the NYSC to consolidate on its numerous achievements in the fifty years of the Scheme's existence.

In his sermon at the non-denominational thanksgiving service to mark the 50th Anniversary of NYSC, held at the National Christian Centre in Abuja, the Chaplain in Charge of Sunday Service, Reverend Mike Agbon stated that history would always be kind to all participants in the Scheme from inception till date, including past and present managers of the Scheme for their selfless services to the country..

The Cleric commended General Yakubu Gowon for establishing the NYSC, which he said has been developing the consciousness of nationhood and patriotism in Nigerian youths over the years.

Agbon added that the NYSC should be a major concern of all Nigerians because it is the seed of the future. He decried the alarming decline of Nigeria's value system and advised the

Corps Members to strive to live purposeful lives.

"Many of our leaders are products of NYSC. Great is the work of NYSC in how it has impacted our society through inter-cultural affinity. We need to come together and combat the challenges facing our nation. We should be more concerned about the future of our youths, we need to stand and work together as one," the cleric said.

The minister prayed for continued success in the Scheme's activities.

In his speech at the service the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed, represented by the Director, ICT, Mrs. Christy Uba disclosed that about six million youths have passed through the Scheme noting that the Service Corps has weathered several storms in the 50 years of its operation.

"The Scheme has continued to grow in leaps and bounds and many Nigerian graduate youths who have passed through the NYSC are still making

significant contributions to the growth of the country in their chosen careers", Ahmed stated. He added Nigerians owe God the gratitude for holding the Scheme till date.

Among the dignitaries in attendance at the service was an ex-Corps Member and a former Governor of Adamawa State, Mr. James Ngilari.

Similarly, Muslims across the country offered special prayers for Allah's interventions in all spheres of the NYSC operations so as to sustain its mandate of fostering national unity and development.

In a jumm'at sermon to mark the Golden Jubilee of the NYSC the Chief Imam of the National Mosque in Abuja, Professor Ibrahim Maqary, described the youth as future leaders who must be properly oriented and protected for a prosperous nation.

While admonishing the congregation on leadership and its obligations, the Chief Imam posited that the NYSC has contributed tremendously towards grooming future leaders, aside its continued relevance to national integration and economic development.

He prayed for Allah's protection for the teeming youths participating annually wherever they might be deployed, to enable them contribute meaningfully to their host communities.

In attendance at the Special prayers and Jumm'at service were the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed, a former Director General of the Scheme, Brigadier General MI Tsiga, Directors of the Scheme, staff and Corps Members.

Other dignitaries who also performed their Jumma'at service alongside the Corps Members include the Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar III, the Etsu Nupe, HRH Yahaya Abubakar, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Ghali Umar Na'abba, Registrar, JAMB, Prof Ishaq Oloyede among others.



Over 4M Benefit From NYSC Healthcare Intervention Programme

By Femi Adetunji



L-R: former Chairman, NYSC National Governing Board, Ambassador Fatima Bala Abubakar, wife of the former President, Mrs. Aisha Buhari and Pioneer Director General of NYSC, Col. Ahmadu Ali during the Health Initiative For Rural Dwellers (HIRD) Programme commemorating the 50th Anniversary of NYSC held at Jahi 2 Village in Abuja.

The National Youth Service Corps has disclosed that Over four million Nigerians have benefitted from the Scheme's health care intervention programme, Health Initiative For Rural Dwellers (HIRD).

The Director General of NYSC, Brigadier General YD Ahmed revealed this while speaking at the flag-off of the medical outreach organised to mark the Scheme's 50th Anniversary at Jahi village in Abuja.

He expressed appreciation to the former First Lady, Dr. Aisha Buhari for the mobile clinic she donated which has greatly enhanced the health intervention programme.

He said; "The HIRD programme was launched in 2014 with a view to ameliorating the difficulties faced by indigent Nigerians, especially the rural dwelling ones, in accessing quality health care. It was implemented through well planned

medical outreaches with special focus on rural areas.

"Available records have shown that the

programme, which is carried out every quarter of the year in all the States of the Federation and the FCT, has brought succour to over four million beneficiaries, who could not have afforded medical bills," he said.

The then First Lady, Aisha Buhari, the Special Guest of Honour at the event called on the Scheme's Management not to relent in promoting the unity of the nation.

She said the donation of the mobile clinic is to enhance the efforts of the Scheme.

"I am optimistic that the commemoration of the anniversary will continue to show the relevance of the Scheme", Aisha Buhari stated.

There was a goodwill message from the then NYSC National Governing Board Chairman, Ambassador Fatima Balla Abubakar at the event.



NYSC Director General, Brig Gen YD Ahmed presenting a souvenir to the Special Guest of Honour, wife of the former President, Mrs. Aisha Buhari during the Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD) Programme commemorating the 50th Anniversary of NYSC held at Jahi 2 Village in Abuja.



DG To Corps Members: Make Positive Impact In The Your Host Communities

By Femi Adetunji



Brigadier General Yushau Dogara Ahmed with Corps Members in Bayelsa State Orientation Camp, Boro.

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed has urged Corps Members to ensure they leave positive footprints in their host communities before the end of their service year.

He advised them to execute projects that will improve the well-being of their hosts.

The DG stated this while addressing Corps Members during his visit to NYSC Bayelsa State Orientation Camp and their counterpart in Delta State Camp.

He added that one of the four cardinal programmes of the Scheme,

Community Service (CDS), was designed as a platform to enable Corps members contribute to improving the standard of living of the people.

Ahmed also warned the Corps Members to be security conscious at all times and not to indulge in anything that can expose them to danger.

'You must be security conscious at all times. Avoid late night movements and don't travel at night. Avoid lone movements and don't board vehicles by the roadside. If you are traveling, go to designated motor parks and once it is six in the evening, break your journey and pass the night in any military or police barrack, Corps Lodge, NYSC formations and other

safe places", he said.

The NYSC Bayelsa State Coordinator, Mrs. Obiageli Okpalifo informed the Director General that the general conduct of the Corps Members has been very impressive.

She added that disciplined conduct of the registered 1,159 Corps Members and the diligence of camp officials has made the activities seamless.

In a similar vein, the NYSC Delta State Coordinator, Mr. Olusegun Alao informed the DG that the synergy among camp officials and the cooperation of the registered 1,905 Corps Members consisting 891 males and 1,014 females have been encouraging.



NYSC Sensitizes Officers On Service Innovation

By Yunusa Baba Isa



Sitting from left: Director, Ventures Management, Prince Mohammed Momoh, Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, Alhaji Ahmed Wada Ikaka, representative of NYSC DG, Director, General Services, Mr. Yusuf Baba Abdullahi, representative of the Head of Service of the Federation, Mrs. Nkiru Nneji, Head, Reforms Unit, Mr. Sunday Aroni, Director, Corps Certification, Mrs. Bona Fasakin and others after the programme.

The Director General of National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has renewed the commitment of the Scheme towards actualizing all the objectives of the service innovation drive of the Federal Government in line with the renewed Civil service strategy and implementation plan.

He stated this in his address at the flag-off of the innovation sensitization campaign for officers of the Scheme, held at the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters, Abuja.

Represented by the Director, General Services, Yusuf Baba Abdullahi, the

Director General disclosed that the Scheme has trained Service innovation pipeline officers in all its formations as well as many Corps Members who are driving the service innovation campaign at the grassroots.

General Ahmed assured all stakeholders that the Scheme is leaving no stone unturned towards elevating its Servicom rating as a four-star agency with more innovations in its operations.

In his goodwill message, the Permanent Secretary, Special Duties, Office of the Head of Service of the Federation, who was represented by Mrs. Nkiru Nneji, said the Federal

Civil Service Strategy and Implementation plan is meant to introduce many innovations that will guarantee effective service delivery.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, the head of Reforms Unit, Mr. Sunday Aroni stated that the sensitization campaign was aimed at reawakening the creative skills of officers who will drive the innovation process in their assigned tasks as well as sensitise other stakeholders.

The sensitisation campaign, themed "innovation, the new frontier", exposes officers of all grade levels in NYSC to new trends and innovations that can ease and speed up the attainment of the Scheme's goals.



Gov Zulum Doles Out Over N36m, Food Stuff To Corps Members



Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Zulum inspecting the Guard of Honour Mounted by Corps Members during his visit to the Orientation Camp in Maiduguri.

The Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Zulum has donated over Thirty-Six Million Naira and foodstuff to Corps Members deployed to the State for the 2023 Batch 'B' Stream Two NYSC service year.

Each Corps Member received the sum of N30,000 as palliatives through their bank accounts.

The Governor, who visited the NYSC Orientation Camp in Maiduguri few days after he attended the Swearing-in ceremony of the Corps Members expressed delight at the resumption of NYSC Orientation Course activities in the State after 13 years of closure due to insurgency.

Governor Zulum also allocated 100

bags of rice, 10 cows, 10 bags of 100 kg of beans, and 10 gallons of cooking oil for special meal to be prepared for the Corps Members during their three weeks orientation course.



Corps Members in Borno State Orientation Camp during Governor Zulum's visit.

The Governor announced that “the palliatives were to cushion the effect of the fuel subsidy removal on the Corps Members.”

He urged the Corps Members to adhere to camp rules and engage in acts that would foster peace in the country.

The governor reiterated that the Borno State Government is interested in engaging the corps members to effectively contribute to the development of the State.

The NYSC Borno State Coordinator, Mr. Adamu Jiya lauded Governor Zulum for his magnanimity, promising that the Corps Members would reciprocate his good gesture by contributing immensely to the socio-economic development of the State.



NYSC Trust Fund: Gov. Fintiri Calls for Speedy Presidential Assent

By Isa Mohammed



The Governor of Adamawa State, Rt. Hon. Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri at the Swearing-in Ceremony of the 2023 Batch 'B' Stream One Corps Members deployed to the State.

The Governor of Adamawa State, Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, has called for speedy presidential assent to the NYSC Trust Fund bill currently awaiting the President's approval.

Governor Fintiri made this call in his address at the Swearing-in Ceremony of the 2023 Batch 'B' Stream One Corps Members deployed to the State at the NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp Damare.

The Governor commended the Corps Members for their courage and sacrifice to leave the comfort of their homes to serve their fatherland in Adamawa State. He declared that the Corps Members, with their status, are bona fide indigenes of the State.

"This is a privileged status conferred on you by me as the number one

Citizen and Executive Governor of the State", he said.

Fintiri also applauded Corps Members for their contributions to the success of the 2023 general elections, which he asserted underscored their integrity, patriotism and loyalty to the Nigerian project. The Governor equally identified Corps Members, as strategic partners in the implementation of the State Government's policies and programmes particularly in education, healthcare, agriculture and rural development.

While charging the Corps Members to be serious and participate actively in all the camp activities and programmes, the Governor assured them of adequate security wherever they may be posted in the State.

The Coordinator of NYSC in

Adamawa State, Denis Jingi, thanked the state government for its friendly disposition to the NYSC demonstrated through numerous interventions. He appealed to the State Government to expedite action on the already approved construction of the perimeter fencing of the NYSC Orientation Camp in Damare.

"Your Excellency, the importance of this concrete fencing to the security of the Orientation Camp can never be overstressed", he said.

The NYSC Coordinator charged the Corps Members to respect the uniform of the Service Corps and strictly abide by the approved dress code.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the Chairman NYSC Adamawa State Governing Board, Alhaji Muktar Aminu Tukur, appreciated the Governor for his love for Corps members and the NYSC scheme.

He enjoined the Corps Members to embrace the NYSC SAED programme to become self-employed and job-creators rather than job-seekers after the service year. He called on them to take advantage of the numerous partnerships NYSC have with some major financial institutions like the CBN, Bank of Industry, Access Bank, Heritage Bank to access credit facilities to start their businesses.

A total of 776 Corps Members were sworn-in by the Chief Judge of the State.



NYSC Spokesman, Megwa Charges Corps Members To Strive For Excellence, As PR Unit Sends-Off Radio, TV, Corps Personnel

By Femi Adetunji



NYSC Director Press and Public Relations, Mr. Eddy Megwa.

There was shower of accolades as the Press and Public Relations Unit of NYSC sent-off the 2022 Batch 'C' Stream One Corps Members who served with the NYSC Radio and Television stations.

Speaking at the colourful event held at the Conference Hall of NYSC National Directorate Headquarters in Abuja, the NYSC Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr. Eddy Megwa commended the Corps Members for their diligence and selflessness during their period of service at the NYSC Radio and TV Stations.

"I found everybody to be a team player, and you were very eloquent in the environment you found yourselves. NYSC has been able to reshape you and brought out the best in you so that having passed through the furnace, you can stand on your own. I want to appreciate you for the ingenuity you brought into the stations during your period of national service," Megwa said.

The Director advised the Corps Members to start small, avoid get-rich-quick syndrome and strive for excellence in their future endeavours.

"Don't stick to searching for white collar jobs that are not available, rather use your passion and the skills you acquired from NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Programme to create prosperous future for yourselves", he added.

The Director also lauded the magnanimity of the staff of Press and Public Relations Unit in mentoring the Corps Members during their period of service. The chief image maker of NYSC also presented letters of commendation and souvenirs to the Corps Members.

In a vote of thanks on behalf of her colleagues, Mariam Delekpe appreciated the Director and other staff of the Press and Public Relations Unit for the love and tutelage they enjoyed throughout the period of their service. She promised that they would serve as good ambassadors of the Scheme.



NYSC Director General Brig Gen YD Ahmed (middle) Director Press and Public Relations, Eddy Megwa (left), Deputy Director Publications, Emeka Mgbemena with the exiting NYSC Radio and TV crew after the Send-off ceremony.



NYSC: Deconstructing 50 Years Of Pivoting National Integration And Development

By Emma Obeni



Corps members on parade ground

The National Youth Service Corps is a child of necessity. It was established 50 years ago by Decree No 24 of 22nd May, 1973, later repealed by Decree No 51, of June 1993, which is now an Act of the National Assembly. The establishment of the Scheme was in response to the challenges arising from the Nigerian civil war which ended in 1970. The Federal Government, under the then leadership of General Yakubu Gowon sought, among other measures, to harness the potentials of educated Nigerian youths for the

implementation of its post war policy of Reconciliation, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. The NYSC is therefore a platform that mobilise Nigerian graduate youths of thirty years of age and below for national unity and development through its four cardinal programmes for a continuous period of twelve months pursuant, to the objectives of the Scheme.

Objectives of the NYSC

(a) To inculcate discipline in Nigerian Youths by instilling in them

a tradition of industry at work, and of patriotic and loyal service to Nigeria in any situation they may find themselves;

(b) To raise the moral tone of Nigerian Youths by giving them the opportunity to learn about higher ideals of national achievement, social and cultural improvement;

(c) To develop in the Nigerian youths the attitude of mind, acquired through shared experience and suitable training, which will make them more amenable to mobilization

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in the national interest;

- (d) To enable Nigerian Youths, acquire the spirit of self-reliance by encouraging them to develop skills for self-employment;
- (e) To contribute to the accelerated growth of the national economy;
- (f) To develop common ties among Nigerian Youths and promote national unity and integration;
- (g) To remove prejudices, eliminate ignorance and confirm at first hand the many similarities among Nigerians of all ethnic groups and;
- (h) To develop a sense of corporate existence and common destiny of the people of Nigeria.

The Scheme has four cardinal programmes which mainstream the activities of members of the Service Corps. They include Orientation, Primary Assignment, Community Development Service and Winding-up/Passing-out activities. Every Corps Member must successfully pass through these cardinal programmes to qualify for issuance of the Certificate of National Service at the end of twelve months.

NYSC in National Development

Since the establishment of the NYSC, managers of the Scheme have been committed to meeting public expectations in the pursuit of its mandate with the support of

government and other stakeholders. In line with the vision of the founding fathers, deliberate steps have been taken to reposition it for greater performance. The result indeed has been heart-warming as the Scheme, over the past five decades, has made invaluable contributions in all facets of the socio-economic development of the country including:

Fostering national unity and integration

The policy of posting Corps Members to states other than their state of origin and away from their geo-political zones has helped in giving participants in the Scheme broader understanding of the country, especially as they experience first-hand the socio-cultural peculiarities of their host communities. Over the years, inter-tribal marriages have continued to enhance better understanding among youths who meet in the course of national service. Many ex-Corps Members have also become permanent residents and contributors to the socio-economic development of their states of deployment.

Education

NYSC has made invaluable contributions to the development of education through the posting of Corps Members to teach in schools at all levels, in addition to the activities of the Corps Mass Literacy Group with the cardinal mandate of reducing literacy to the barest minimum in Nigeria. The impact of the Scheme in the country's education sector is immense given that over sixty percent of Corps

Members serve in schools. In fact, some primary and secondary schools across the country may collapse without the services of members of the Service Corps.

Healthcare

NYSC has enhanced healthcare delivery through contributions of the Scheme's Corps Doctors and paramedics who have continued to serve in public hospitals all over the country especially primary healthcare centres. Furthermore, Corps medical personnel have been using the platform of the Community Development Service to carry out medical outreaches in various communities. The Scheme partnered with other bodies to halt and reverse the menace of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the Ebola virus through awareness campaigns and sensitization of the public on prevention and care. NYSC members played prominent role in containing the COVID-19 pandemic through production of preventive materials, awareness creation and donation of palliatives to indigent persons during the lockdown imposed to limit the spread of the virus in the country.

Equally, the NYSC health intervention programme, the Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD), launched in 2014 and designed to bring health services to indigent persons particularly in the rural areas provided the Scheme a veritable platform to further contribute to healthcare delivery in the country. Under the programme, an annual nationwide medical outreach is carried out, and usually lasts one week. From the inception of the programme to date, over two (2) million rural dwellers have been

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Corps members teaching pupils

treated by the NYSC medical teams. Apart from the centrally coordinated outreaches conducted simultaneously nationwide, each NYSC State Secretariat also mobilises Corps Medical Teams to conduct health missions to various communities on regular basis.

Infrastructure:

Corps Members have added value to numerous communities across the country through infrastructural projects executed by Corps Members under the Scheme's Community Development Service, including structures in schools and health facilities, water supply, culverts and many other projects that dot the entire landscape of the country.

National Programmes:

The Scheme has been in the fore in the implementation of various national programmes such as the national population census, immunization and conduct of national elections. Corps Members

were major purveyors of the awareness creation programmes for the erstwhile Millennium Development Goals (MDGs; now Sustainable Development Goals) and also participated actively in the conduct of the World Survey whose outcome inspired the ideas of the new SDGs. Members of the Service Corps have continued to make penetrating impact in activities such as legal aid services, anti-corruption sensitization, road safety awareness, and campaign against drug abuse and trafficking amongst others.

The Service Corps' collaboration with the Independent National Electoral Commission has improved the credibility of Nigeria's electoral process, a fact that has been acknowledged with accolades by Nigerians and the international community. A pointer to this is the award (with gifts of laptops and ICT accessories) to 75 Corps Members by the European Delegation in Nigeria and ECOWAS in recognition of the distinctive performance of Members of the Service Corps during the [2019](#)

General elections. Similarly, The Scheme's track record in effective programme implementation has made it a beautiful bride sought after by governmental and non-governmental organisations culminating in numerous partnerships with organisations including NAFDAC, NEMA, FRSC, EFCC, ICPC, NDE, Legal Aid Council, among others.

Youth Empowerment

The Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme of the Scheme was introduced into the service year in 2012 to complement governments effort towards the eradication of graduate youth unemployment. The SAED programme is designed to equip Corps Members with vocational skills while also developing their business and entrepreneurial capacities. Presently, Corps Members are being trained in skill areas such as agro-allied, food preservation and processing, culture and tourism, cosmetology, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), environment, beautification, construction, education, power and energy, film and photography and automobile technology.

The Scheme is collaborating with national and international organisations towards providing material, technical and financial support for the programme. As at 2022, 1,925,142 Corps Members had been Sensitised on skill acquisition and entrepreneurship with 517,486 receiving different levels of training in various skill areas earlier mentioned. Thirty-Seven Thousand, two hundred and Forty-Six (37,246)

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of them have established verifiable, successful and thriving businesses.

Successful partnership with funding institutions such as the Bank of Industry, the Central Bank, Access Bank, Unity Bank, Bank of Agriculture, among others yielded start-up capital for Corps Entrepreneurs resulting in the disbursement of N1.84 billion to beneficiaries. There are equally ongoing collaborations with the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF) and Leventis Foundation Nigeria for agro-skill acquisition and financial empowerment package for Corps Members. A number of Skill Centres have also been established across the country for the post-camp training of Corps Members including in Gombe, Jigawa, Ekiti, Nasarawa and Yobe States.

NYSC Ventures

The NYSC Ventures were established primarily to serve as training grounds in skills acquisition and entrepreneurship for Corps

Members, in addition to meeting some of the basic needs of the Scheme such as provision of kits for the Corps Members. They include the Garment Factories located in Niger and Anambra States, Rice Mill in Ebonyi, Feed Mill in Lagos, Garri processing factory in Kwara State, Water Bottling Plant and Bakery in FCT and Nasarawa State as well as Printing Press in Kaduna State. These enterprises are earning revenues that are being into the country's national treasury.

NYSC Radio And TV

The Scheme sought and secured a licence for the establishment of NYSC Radio, digital satellite television. Both stations (NYSC Radio 88.3 FM and NYSC TV on TSTV channel 365) were inaugurated in April, 2022. The stations, manned mainly by Corps Members are already strengthening the operations of the Scheme, by boosting its publicity drive, while also serving as a training ground for Corps Members who have career interest in the media.

NYSC National Cultural Troupe, Band, Museum and Film

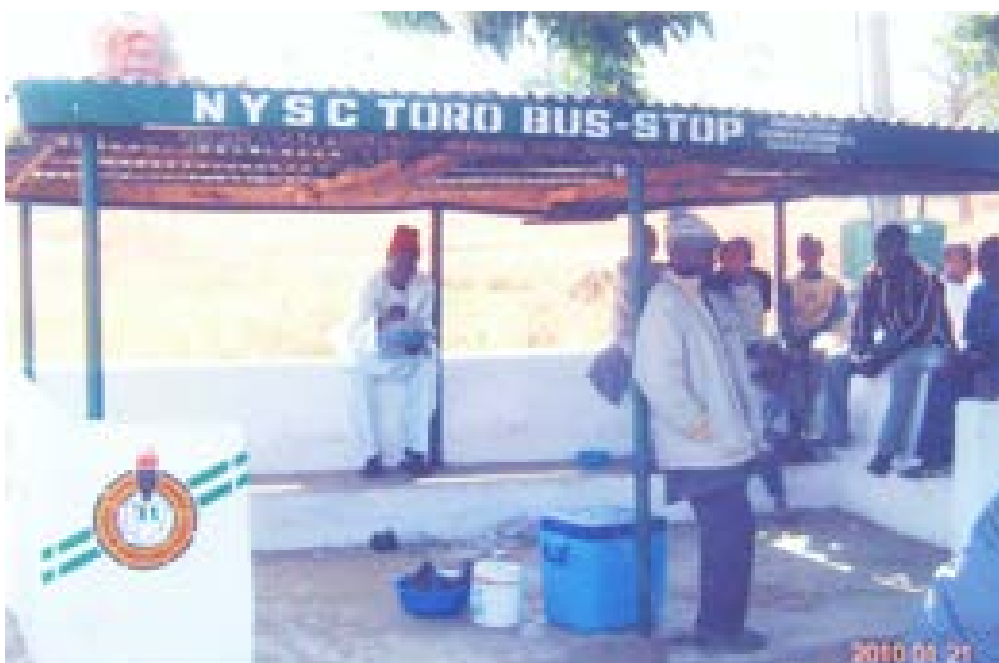
The need to provide a veritable platform for Corps Members to develop their talents in drama and cultural dance, while at the same time harnessing such talents for possible endorsement by the Nation's movie industry led to the establishment of the NYSC National Cultural Troupe. The same objective informed the setting-up of the National Band. Both outfits also assist in improving the revenue profile of the Scheme.

In the same vein, the Scheme also incorporated a Film production outfit to harness the potentials of Corps Members for education, sensitisation, advocacy and entertainment. This has resulted in the production of a movie titled: "Call to Service" and a short film "The Return". The latter is on the need to shun violence during elections.

In addition, NYSC has established a Museum to ensure effective preservation of the Scheme's artefacts and legacies, including Corps Members' inventions and fabrications.

NYSC Farms

In line with the Federal Government's policy of diversifying the economy through harnessing the country's potentials in the non-oil sectors and the desire to contribute towards ensuring food security, the Scheme has set-up farm settlements across the country. The farms located in the FCT, Bauchi, Kebbi, Oyo and Ebonyi States are into full-scale farming activities. The farms have been provided with modern



A bus stop constructed by Corps members

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implements and Corps Lodges as they are also serving as training grounds for Corps Members under the agricultural component of the NYSC Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme.

Digitisation of NYSC Operations

The ICT Department of the NYSC which was established in 2012 has been anchoring the deployment of ICT solutions to drive the operations of the Scheme for greater efficiency leading to migration of the Scheme from analogue to an Online Integrated System. The deployment of ICT solutions in the NYSC mobilisation process and existing collaboration with WAEC and JAMB in this regard have enthroned integrity in the process and virtually eliminated incidences of fake Corps Members.

The full computerization of the mobilization process which started in 2014, has brought about Online

Registration by both Local and Foreign trained Prospective Corps Members, Online Printing of Call-up Letters, Biometric Verification and Registration during Orientation programmes, Online processing of Relocation of Corps Members, Automated printing of Certificate of National Service, Exemption Certificate and Exclusion Letters embossed with passport photographs, Use of biometrics for the monthly clearance of Corps Members in all States of the federation and the FCT, among others.

The Scheme's ICT resource has therefore enthroned a culture of integrity, enhanced efficiency and ease of doing business between the Scheme and its stakeholders. This has attracted the endorsement of relevant bodies as the Scheme was conferred with the Best MDA Award in the innovative application of ICT solutions at the e-Governance Award Ceremony organised by NITDA/Nihilent in 2016. The recently inaugurated new ICT

building at the Directorate Headquarters is expected to further boost efforts at digitising all the NYSC operations.

Welfare of Corps Members

The Scheme accords top priority to the security and general welfare of Corps Members, just as it remains committed to the provision of enabling environment for them to render selfless service to the nation. Over the years NYSC management have been able to secure the review of Corps Members' allowance each time there is increment in the remuneration of civil servants. The Scheme is continuously working with relevant government agencies to enhance the welfare of Corps Members including liaison with various security agencies to ensure safety of Corps Members across the country. In addition to this the Scheme has a Distress Call Centre equipped with communication facilities that are manned 24 hours daily to ensure timely and well-coordinated response to calls from Corps Members who find themselves in distressed situations.

Health Insurance for Corps Members

The Management of the Scheme in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Authority has successfully enrolled Corps Members into the National Health Insurance Scheme to provide free health care to members of the Service Corps across the country. In addition, NYSC is continuously engaging the Federal and State Governments to improve the welfare of Corps Members.



Corps members controlling traffic

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Correspondingly, the management has made motivation of members of staff part of its guiding principles given that loyalty, hard work and commitment by the workforce are crucial to the success of the Scheme. Therefore, it consistently pursues initiatives geared towards motivating staff of the Scheme. These include ensuring that entitlements are paid as and when due, increasing the tempo of capacity building training to enhance productivity, among others.

Challenges of NYSC

Over the years, stakeholder-attitude to role expectations has become one of the major challenges faced by the Scheme. The NYSC Act clearly spelt out the responsibilities of each of the three tiers of government in the operations of the Scheme. While the Federal Government shoulders the greater part of the Scheme's needs, the provision of Orientation Camp facilities, post-Camp accommodation and transportation for Corps Members, logistics support for inspection of Corps locations, material support for Community Development Service and security of Corps Members are the responsibilities of the State and Local Governments.

However, the level of response of most of the States and Local Governments to these responsibilities has not been encouraging. The consequence of this is most glaring in the limited capacity and quality of facilities in the Scheme's Orientation Camps across the country. The managers of the Scheme have embarked on advocacy visits to State Governments to appeal for the renovation and

upgrade of Orientation Camp facilities with minimal success.

Given the yearly increase in the population of Corps Members and the attendant rise in the funding needs of the Scheme, the management of NYSC and stakeholders advocated the establishment of a Trust Fund to reduce the burden of funding the Scheme's programmes and activities on government. The bill which has been passed into law by the two chambers of the National Assembly is awaiting assent of the President.

The Trust Fund is also key to resolving youth unemployment in Nigeria. The Fund would significantly address the challenge of graduate unemployment by reinvigorating the NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme to positively respond to the contemporary issue of deficit in job opportunities through providing qualified Corps Members with start-up capital to set up their businesses at the end of the service year. This would subsequently result in raising youth entrepreneurs, with a positive concomitant effect on the employment of millions of Nigerians by the entrepreneurs, thereby tackling the problem of youth unemployment in Nigeria.

It would equally address the challenge of infrastructural deficit confronting the Scheme by providing funds for upgrading facilities at NYSC Orientation Camps across the country, thus increasing the carrying capacities of the Camps. The NYSC Trust Fund would also enhance the capacity of

staff through improved training and retraining.

Prospects of the NYSC

Despite the various challenges encountered over its 50 years of operation, the NYSC has been a remarkable success. By largely discharging its mandate through the nation's development objectives, the Scheme has become a national asset, a beacon of hope to Nigerian youths and has demonstrated that the youths can make meaningful contributions to national unity and development if their talents and skills are properly harnessed. With proper implementation and funding, the SAED programme of the Scheme is poised to achieve unimaginable feats and vistas. It is a platform which when fully developed will drive Nigeria's industrial revolution with the youths leading the charge.

In the face of competing demands that confront governments at all levels, it has become imperative for the Scheme to seek alternative ways of raising funds for its operations. The NYSC has moved in this direction. With on-going revitalisation of its Ventures enterprises, the vast pool of skills and talents at its disposal, the NYSC in the near future will not only attain self-sufficiency in the production of food and kit items for Corps Members for its Orientation programmes, but will certainly earn appreciable revenues to assist government in running the Scheme. Indeed, the scope and capacity of the Scheme will continue to expand as it continues to discharge its noble mandate of mobilising youths for national development.



Council Boss Constructs 48-Room Lodge For Corps Members In Rivers StateNYSC DG hails gesture

By Samson Ogbu and Femi Adetunji



The front view of the newly built Corps Lodge in Ikwerre.

Isiokpo community played host to the Director General of National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General Yushau Ahmed as he inaugurated a 48-room self-contained Corps Lodge built by the Executive Chairman of Ikwerre Local Government Area, Honourable Samuel Nwanosike.

The landmark project with two courtyards, two receptions and fully furnished rooms and state-of-the-art electronics and kitchens was built to mark the second year of the second term in office of the Chairman.

The project was also to appreciate the NYSC Scheme, especially Corps Members' invaluable contributions to improving the living standards of the people of Ikwerre LGA.

Speaking during the ceremony, Hon. Nwanosike described NYSC as a strong tool of national unity and integration for all Nigerians, adding that the Scheme for the past fifty years has contributed in no small measure to the rural, urban, agricultural and socio-economic development of the country.

He recalled his memorable service

year experiences in Edo State, noting that he was well treated, hence, his motivation to extend the same gesture to Corps Members serving in his Local Government Area.

The Chairman also commended the Corps Members in the Council area for their commitment, steadfastness and resilience in lifting the standard of

living of the people of the area especially, in the education sector where they have been exceptionally outstanding.

He thanked the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yushau Ahmed for his sterling leadership qualities since assuming office.

In his remarks, the NYSC Chief Executive lauded the magnanimity of the Council boss urging other Local Government Chairmen in the country to take a cue from Hon. Nwanosike's landmark gesture.

Gen Ahmed also used the occasion to appreciate the people of Ikwerre LGA for helping the Scheme by providing a conducive environment for the Corps Members to thrive.

He therefore called on the Corps Members to reciprocate the gesture of the Chairman through renewed commitment and dedication to duty while in Ikwerre.

On the DG NYSC's entourage were the Directors, Special Duties, Alhaji Musa Abubakar and Press and Public Relations, Mr. Eddy Megwa.



L-R: Archbishop of Niger Delta Province, Anglican Communion, Most Rev. Dr Blessing Enyindah (2nd left), NYSC Director General, Brig Gen YD Ahmed, the Chairman, Ikwerre Local Government Area, Engr. Samuel Nwanosike and Commissioner for Youth, Rivers State, Dr Kenneth Chisom Gbali during the commissioning of the Corps Lodge.



Foundation Empowers Corps Members With N3 million Grant

By Yusufu Philibus



NYSC DG, Brigadier General YD Ahmed assisted by the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of ASIF, Mrs. Love Idoko-Oluko (right) presenting a cheque to one of the beneficiaries.

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has commended Activate Success International Foundation (ASIF), for its partnership with the Scheme to empower Corps Members for self-employment.

He gave the commendation during the presentation of cheques worth three million naira to six Corps Member, at the NYSC Headquarters in Abuja.

Ahmed, while urging other

corporate organizations to emulate the ASIF in providing financial and material resources to encourage NYSC to produce more entrepreneurs to boost Nigeria's economy, also called on the beneficiaries to use the seed-money as a stepping stone to success in their chosen business enterprises.

He assured ASIF that NYSC will provide the needed guide and supervision to ensure that none of the Corps Members derail from the path to success in utilizing the funds.

Earlier, the Director, Skill Acquisition

and Entrepreneurship Development, (SAED), Mrs. Ngozi Nwatarali revealed that Foundation has been providing start-up capital to Corps Entrepreneurs in the past five years.

In her remark during the event, the founder and Chief Executive Officer of ASIF, Mrs. Love Idoko-Oluko thanked NYSC for giving her the platform to identify young talents that needs to be empowered to become employers of labour.

She stated that Foundation has given grants to 59 Corps Members across Nigeria since it introduced a Scheme called Youth Entrepreneurship Empowerment Programme (YEPP).

Idoko-Oluko said the selection process is transparent as beneficiaries are usually picked based on assessment of their business plans by an independent body of experts.

Responding on behalf of the beneficiaries, Corps Member Benjamin Monday (FC/22B/0389) who is into piggery appreciated NYSC and ASIF for the privilege given to them to have funds to start their business ventures, promising that they will do their best to justify the confidence reposed in them by expanding their businesses.



DG Lauds Cooperation Of Security Agencies With NYSC

By Yunusa Tanimu



NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed and Zamfara State Director, Department of State Services, Mr. Usman Shehu when the former paid a visit to the latter in his office in Gusau.

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has lauded the existing cordial relationship between Security Agencies and NYSC.

He made this remark during his visits to the Commander, 1 Brigade Nigerian Army, the Commissioner of Police and the Director, Department of State Services all in Gusau, Zamfara State.

At the Headquarters, 1 Brigade, the DG NYSC was received by the Commander, Brigadier General S Ahmed, who pledged to aid the National Youth Service Corps in achieving its mandate of promoting the unity of the country.

The Brigade Commander also acknowledged and praised the NYSC Director General's commitment to the welfare of Corps Members. This according to him is why the DG is in Zamafara State to personally ensure that Corps Members deployed to the State are safe.

Receiving the Director General in his office, the Commissioner of Police, Zamafara State, Mohammed Bunu said the Police in the State is committed to

complimenting the efforts of other Security Agencies in providing needed assistance to the NYSC Scheme.

In his response to the Commissioner of Police, General YD Ahmed commended the Police for ensuring that Staff and Corps Members of the scheme are given assurances of their safety.

This, the DG added was in line with his priorities since he assumed office. At the Headquarters of the Department of State Services, the Director General met with the State Director of Security Mr. Usman Shehu who assured him that the DSS is always available to collaborate with the NYSC.

The Director General was accompanied on the visits by the Director Special Duties, Alhaji Musa Abubakar, the Director Press, Public Relations Mr. Eddy Megwa and the Director NYSC North West Area Office, Mr. Kehinde Aremu.



Front row: Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr. Eddy Megwa (2nd left), Commander, 1 Brigade Nigerian Army, Gusau, Brigadier General S Ahmed (3rd left), NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed (middle), Director, NYSC North-West Area Office, Mr. Kehinde Aremu-Cole (2nd right), Director, Special Duties, Alhaji Musa Abubakar (1st right) and others during General Ahmed's visit to the Brigade.



We Have Come To Change The Narrative, Abia Gov Assures NYSC

By Omaka Nnachi



NYSC Abia State Coordinator, Mrs. Ufuoma Dick-Iruenabere and Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti during the courtesy visit to the Governor.

The Governor of Abia State, Dr. Alex Otti, has assured the National Youth Service Corps of his administration's readiness to assist in tackling the numerous challenges of the Scheme, adding that his government has come to change the narrative of the infrastructural decay in the State caused by years of negligence.

Otti gave the assurance when he received in audience the Abia State NYSC Coordinator, Mrs. Ufuoma Dick-Iruenabere, who paid him a courtesy visit at his country home in Isialangwa South LGA.

Responding to the brief of the NYSC

Coordinator during the visit, the Governor, assured that 'we will intervene, but not at the rate you will wish. We will look at your request and see the ones we can handle within the available resources, bearing in mind the numerous challenges facing the State.

The Coordinator had in her brief intimated the Governor of the provisions of the NYSC Act in respect to the responsibility of the State Government to the Scheme and equally outlined the various challenges of the Scheme in Abia State.

She pledged the readiness of the NYSC Scheme to support the new

administration with the skilled manpower at its disposal in achieving its agenda in the area of health, education, rural infrastructure, skills transfer and community development, among others.

The Coordinator further assured that the Scheme will assist in complementing the efforts of the State government in healthcare delivery through its health intervention programme the Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD) designed to provide free medical care particularly to those in the rural areas.



General Ahmed Inaugurates NYSC/SDGs Community Secondary School In Kazaure

By Femi Adetunji



One of the Block of Classrooms at The New NYSC/SDGs Community Secondary School In Sabuwon Jawo, Kazaure, Jigawa State.

The Director General of National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has appealed to corporate organisations in the country to assist the Scheme in developing the education sector. He stated this while inaugurating the NYSC/SDG's Community Secondary School, Sabuwon Jawo in Jigawa State.

He said the Scheme has recorded numerous achievements in all spheres of national development, especially in the education sector, provision of free healthcare services, infrastructure development, rural development amongst others, since its inception till date.

General Ahmed added that the establishment of the NYSC/SDGs Community Secondary School is in continuation of the Scheme's efforts to consolidate on the achievements of the objectives of NYSC.

The DG said the School which was established by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals and Jigawa State Government is aimed at providing a platform for the enhancement of the girl-child education.

He urged members of the host community to ensure proper maintenance of the school, while he also appealed to other well-meaning individuals to partner with the Scheme on the need to establish more schools so as to enhance educational development in the country.

"One of the ways by which the objectives of establishing the Scheme can be achieved is through partnership with reputable organisations for the development of host communities", he added.

The Jigawa State Governor, Malam Umar A. Namadi, who was represented by his Deputy, Engr. Aminu Usman promised to provide more enabling environment for the Scheme in Jigawa State.

In her address, the NYSC Jigawa State Coordinator, Mrs Aishatu Adamu said the inauguration of the school marks a

new chapter in the activities of the Scheme in the educational development of Jigawa State.

She called on other stakeholders in the State to assist the school in achieving it's mandate, especially in the development of the Girl-Child Education.

The Principal of the School, Malam Abdu Usman thanked NYSC Management and the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs for their foresight, magnanimity and laudable initiative in siting the School in Kazaure.

He said that the positive gesture will help in the development of Girl-Child education and also provide opportunity for the students to acquire skills and values that will help them live a better life.

"Presently, the school operates only Senior Secondary School classes with a total population of eight hundred and sixty-four students comprising 536 males and 328 females, together with forty staff comprising thirty-six teaching and four non-teaching staff", the Principal added.



Jigawa State Deputy Governor, Engr Aminu Usman (3rd left), NYSC DG Brig Gen YD Ahmed (middle) NYSC Jigawa State Coordinator, Mrs Aishatu Adamu (left) and others during the inauguration of the NYSC/SDGs Community Secondary School in Sabuwon Jawo, Kazaure, Jigawa State.



Rotary Club Constructs Lodge For NYSC In Ogun



The new Corps members' Lodge built by the Rotary Club of Agbara in Ogun State.

The Rotary Club of Agbara in Ogun State has constructed a new lodge for National Youth Service Corps members serving in the community.

The foundation of the building project, which was initiated in November last year, was laid by Rotarian Omotunde Lawson, the first woman District Governor (DG) of Rotary Club District 9110 International.

During the commissioning of the project, Rotarian Uche Okafor, the President of the Agbara Rotary Club, disclosed that the building cost Club N26 million. He explained that the decision to execute the project was based on a

needs assessment conducted by the Club.

Okafor stated that “officials of the

NYSC approached us, expressing their need for additional Corpsers' Lodges to accommodate members of the Service Corps in Agbara”.

He disclosed that the Club had previously completed a similar project in the last Rotary year (2021-2022), “where we built a three-block classroom for the Local Government primary school here in Agbara.”

“When the NYSC officials saw what we had accomplished there, they approached us requesting our assistance in building this lodge. We evaluated the project with our board and found it to be



The President Rotary Club Agbara, Rotarian Uche Okafor (2nd right) assisted by the NYSC South-West Area Office Director, Mr. Oluwole Amusan (2nd left) inaugurating the Lodge.

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noteworthy. Consequently, we acquired the land from the NYSC and commenced construction, starting with the bathroom and toilet facilities,” Okafor added.

He revealed further that the project took them approximately nine months to complete. “In Rotary, our term is one year, so my tenure started on July 1, 2022, and it is coming to an end on June 30. During our meeting today, I will be handing over to the new president.”

The Alagbara of Agbara Kingdom, Oba Abimbola Agunbiade expressed delight at the construction of the new Lodge in his community. “During my time as a Corps member, such generosity by a Club never occurred, and I am elated to witness this happening now that I am the Oba of the community. I must commend the Rotary Club in Agbara for constructing this remarkable edifice,” he said.

The Director of NYSC South-West Area Office Mr. Oluwole Amusan stated that “The building is not only meant for the present Corps members, but also for others who are yet to commence their service. They will also make use of this building. I thank God that a space was made available as an office for the Zonal Inspector, who will be watchful of the activities of the Corps members living here.”

HURIWA Hails NYSC On Youth Empowerment

By Femi Adetunji



The Chairman, HURIWA, Comrade Emmanuel Onwubiko receiving a copy of NYSC News Magazine from the Director General of NYSC, Brig Gen YD Ahmed when he visited the DG in his office.

The Human Rights Writers Association (HURIWA) has commended the National Youth Service Corps for empowering Corps Members with relevant skills that would make them self-reliant.

It also described the Scheme as a symbol of national unity that must be given the maximum support by every stakeholder in order to consolidate on its achievements.

The Chairman, HURIWA, Comrade Emmanuel Onwubiko stated this when he paid a courtesy visit to the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed at the NYSC Directorate Headquarters in Abuja.

He said the NYSC Skill Acquisition

and Entrepreneurship Development programme has reduced the number of unemployed graduates, adding that HURIWA would continue to partner the Scheme to record greater achievements in its activities.

In his response, the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed appreciated HURIWA for its steadfastness in upholding the truth and staying on the right path of issues concerning national development.

He also charged the association to sustain the good work it is doing in the country especially in the area of defending the fundamental human rights of Nigerians. The DG promised that NYSC would sustain the already established goodwill with HURIWA.



NYSC Seeks Lawmakers Support

By Femi Adetunji



The Chairman, Senate Committee on Youth Development, Mr. Yemi Adaramodu with the Director General of NYSC, Brig Gen YD Ahmed when the latter visited the lawmaker in his office in Abuja.

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has appealed for enhanced support from Members of the National Assembly as the Scheme strives to contribute more to national development.

He said this would enable the Scheme to consolidate on the achievements it recorded in the last fifty years.

Ahmed stated this when he paid advocacy visits to the Chairman, Senate Committee on Youth Development, Senator Yemi Adaramodu and the Chairman,

House Committee on Youth Development, Honourable Martins Esin in Abuja.



The Chairman, House Committee on Youth Development, Hon. Martins Esin with the NYSC DG, Brig Gen YD Ahmed when the DG paid him a visit in Abuja.

The Director General congratulated them for emerging as Chairmen of the Committees that would oversee youth-related issues in the country, adding that NYSC would not relent in its contributions to national unity, socio-economic development of the country, youth empowerment, wealth creation among others.

He opined that there is need to foster stronger relationship with the lawmakers so as to prioritize youth concerns in the country.

In their separate remarks, Senator Adaramodu and Honourable Esin promised to provide the necessary support that would enable the Scheme discharge its mandate.



NYSC Seeks Collaboration With China On Corps Empowerment

By Yusufu Philibus



NYSC DG, Brig Gen YD Ahmed presenting copies of the Scheme's publications to the Cultural Counselor of Chinese Embassy & Director of China Cultural Centre in Nigeria, Mr. Li Xuda when he visited the Chinese embassy in Abuja.

As part of its drive to boost the Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme which was introduced in 2012, the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has approached Chinese government, for bilateral ties to further empower Corps Members with skills in diverse fields.

This was contained in the remarks of the Director General of NYSC, Brigadier General YD Ahmed during his visit to the Chinese

embassy in Abuja.

The NYSC helmsman said that partnership between NYSC and China in ICT, textile and agriculture will go a long way in giving Corps Members more opportunities to become self-reliant and employers of labour, which will in turn increase Nigeria's gross domestic product.

Ahmed, who was received by the Cultural Counselor of Chinese Embassy & Director of China Cultural Centre in Nigeria, Mr. Li

Xuda also sought for an opportunity for some Corps Members to visit China to witness country's cultural exhibition, as a way of exposing them to the wider world.

Earlier, he commended the staff of Chinese embassy in Nigeria for frequently attending cultural carnival and other major events organized at NYSC Orientation Camp in Abuja.

In his response, Mr. Li Xuda stated that China and Nigeria have a long-standing relationship which needs to be sustained.

He equally said that the embassy will expeditiously facilitate the actualization of collaboration between his country and NYSC, to ensure that Corps Members are given opportunity to learn more especially in the areas pointed out by the NYSC Director General.

He assured his guests that the embassy will go a step further to ensure the possibility of Corps Members going to China for training in some reputable industries.

Xuda also revealed that China has an agricultural demonstration centre in the outskirt of Abuja which NYSC can take advantage of to train Corps Members in agro-allied businesses.



Delta Govt Reaffirms Support For NYSC

By Philip Uwa and Stella Ogbummuo



Representative of the Delta State Governor, Senior Policy Adviser, Rt. Hon. Funkekeme Solomon inspecting the Guard of Honour at NYSC Delta State Orientation Camp in Issele-Uku.

The Delta State Government has said it would continue to provide enabling environment for the activities of the NYSC in the State.

The Governor of the State Oborevwoiri stated this in his address during the Swearing-in Ceremony of the 2023 Batch 'B' Stream Two Corps Members deployed to the State at the NYSC Orientation Camp in Issele-

uku, Aniocha North Local Government Area of the State.

Represented by the Senior Policy Adviser, Chief Funkekeme Solomon urged the Corps Members to be disciplined, committed, and selfless in the discharge of their duties. This he noted will contribute greatly to the development of the State.

While congratulating the Corps

Members for their success in their various Course of study, he emphasized that national service is a period of sacrifice for national development through selfless service. The Governor assured the Corps Members that Deltans are hospitable people who are looking forward to receiving them in their communities.

Governor Oborevwoiri noted that the NYSC is a noble programme that has contributed greatly to the accelerated development of the state and promised continued support to the Scheme.

In his welcome address, the Delta State NYSC Coordinator, Mr. Alao Olusegun disclosed that a total number of 2,227 Corps Members comprising of 671 males and 1,556 females were registered.

He encouraged Corps employers to begin early preparations to receive the Corps Members at the end of their Orientation Course.

The State Coordinator appealed to Delta State Government for the reconstruction of the perimeter fence of the camp to safeguard the huge investment by the government.

The high point of the ceremony was the administration of the Oath of Allegiance on the Corps Members by the State Chief Judge, Justice Theresa Diai who was represented by Justice K. O. Okpu.



FG To Employers: Don't Reject Corps Members

By Femi Adetunji



L-R: NYSC Director General, Brig Gen YD Ahmed, representative of the FCT Permanent Secretary, the Acting Mandate Secretary, FCT Social Development Secretariat, Mrs. Justina Pawa and NYSC FCT Coordinator, Mrs. Winifred Shopeka at the closing ceremony of the 2023 Batch 'B' Stream One NYSC Orientation Course at the FCT NYSC Orientation Camp in Kubwa, Abuja.

The Federal Capital Territory Administration has appealed to employers not to reject any Corps Member posted to serve in their establishments, but should rather provide enabling environment that would enable them discharge their statutory responsibilities to their fatherland.

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Capital Territory Administration, Abuja, Mr. Olusade Adesola, stated this at the closing Ceremony of the 2023 Batch 'B' Stream One Orientation Course held at the NYSC FCT Orientation Camp in Kubwa, Abuja.

He implored stakeholders to make the service year memorable for members of the Service Corps.

Olusade whose address was presented by the Acting Mandate Secretary, FCT Social Development Secretariat, Mrs. Justina Pawa appealed to the Corps Members to contribute their quota to national development by promoting the spirit of oneness, mutual co-existence, national unity and cohesion; and above all, peace and harmony in the country.

He lauded NYSC Management and

other critical stakeholders for their invaluable contributions in mentoring Corps Members for leadership roles and self-empowerment through the NYSC skill acquisition programme.

"I urge the Organized Private Sector (OPS), to open their doors to accept Corps Members that will be posted to them to undergo the one-year compulsory service.

It is expected that no Company and Organization operating within the shores of Nigeria should flagrantly reject any Corps Member posted to them.

As a mark of patriotism and responsibility to national development, the Organized Private Sector should consider the NYSC as an opportunity to give back to the society and a platform to demonstrate its Corporate Social Responsibility", Olusade said.

He advised the Corps Members to take advantage of the Community Development Service platform to make impact in their various host communities and leave indelible imprints in the minds of the people, adding that excellence has a way of attracting recognition and reward.

The Permanent Secretary stated further that the FCT administration would not tolerate criminality, such as drug abuse and other nefarious activities that are likely to put the lives

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of residents and their properties in danger.

He assured that government would continue to prioritize the welfare of Corps Members as well as creating a befitting environment for them to operate.

In her address, the NYSC FCT Coordinator, Mrs. Winifred Shopeka urged the 3,291 Corps Members to accept their postings in good faith

and desist from inducing rejection.

She also advised them to engage in the post-camp training of the NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme so as to perfect the vocational skills training, they started in camp.

"NYSC has zero tolerance for night travels as this will only increase the risk of accident, but also make rescue difficult. You are therefore advised to

cut short your trips from six o' clock in the evening and pass the night at NYSC lodges, military barracks and other safe locations", Shopeka said.

The NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed accompanied by the Director, Special Duties, Alhaji Musa Abubakar and Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr. Eddy Megwa also witnessed the ceremony alongside other dignitaries.

Benue Ex-Corps Member Emerges Best At NYSC Community Development Service Award

By Femi Adetunji



Ex-Corps Member Bolatito Ogunleye BN/22A/3096 receiving the Best CDS Award at the NYSC Director General's Community Development Service Personal project category during the launching of 2023 CDS activities held in Abuja.

Ex-Corps Member Bolatito Ogunleye BN/22A/3096 emerged the best nationwide at the NYSC Director General's Community Development Service Personal project category during the

launching of 2023 CDS activities held in Abuja.

Ogunleye's recognition was based on her impact on her host community during the service year through the

execution of development projects and exemplary performance in all the four cardinal programmes of the NYSC namely; Orientation Course, Primary Assignment, Community Development Service and Winding-Up/Passing-Out.

Her personal community development projects include; provision of free dental treatment and pro-dental care kits to her immediate (Kukighir) host community, Kukighir, provision of 50 classroom desks for LGEA Primary School NAF Base and Arabic Primary School, payment of tuition fees for 50 under-privileged students of Government Model Secondary School, Makurdi, and Government Girls College Wadata.

The awardee, was also the General Secretary of the Digital Onboarders CDS group as well as one of the enumerators for the National Home-Grown School Feeding Program (NHGSFP).



Director General Tasks Corps Members On Patriotism

By Femi Adetunji



NYSC Director General, Brig Gen YD Ahmed (2nd right), Director, Special Duties, Alhaji Musa Abubakar (left), Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr. Eddy Megwa (middle) and others during DG's inspection of facilities in Rivers State NYSC Orientation Camp in Nonwa-Gbam.

Corps Members have been advised to be patriotic, tolerant and appreciate the positives in the diverse cultural values of Nigeria.

The Director General of NYSC, Brigadier General Yusha'u Ahmed stated this during his visit to Rivers State NYSC Orientation Camp at Nonwa-Gbam, Tai Local Government Area.

He warned the Corps Members against the misuse of the social media for negative tendencies, but rather

for the promotion of national unity and integration.

The NYSC helmsman advised them to respect the culture of their host communities and endeavour to add value to the living standard of the residents.

"Think of what you want to do with your lives. Be focused, shun social vices and you will succeed," he said.

The DG also warned that any Corp Member caught violating the established rules and regulations in the Scheme would be sanctioned.

The NYSC Rivers State Coordinator, Mr. George Mfongang in his report stated that all the registered 1,674 Corps Members comprising 754 males and 920 females are well-behaved and have adjusted to camp life.



Brig Gen YD Ahmed addressing Corps Members at NYSC Rivers State Orientation Camp.



Director General Seeks Staff Support To Actualize Policy Agenda

By Femi Adetunji



The Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, Alhaji Ahmed Wada Ikaka presenting his address at the workshop.

The Director General of National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed has called on staff of the Scheme to key into his administration's policy thrust so as to reposition the Scheme for greater fortunes.

He stated this in his address at the Opening Ceremony of the 2023 Key Performance Indicators Workshop for NYSC Schedule Officers held in Abuja.

The workshop with the theme; "Enhancing KPIs Framework For Effective Programme Management, Research and Development", was organized for Schedule Officers from the 36 States/FCT, Area Offices and the National Directorate Headquarters of the Scheme.

Ahmed, who was represented by the then Director Human Resource Management Department, Hajiya Habiba Bappah commended the

participants for their commitment to the development and commitment to implementation of the NYSC 5-year strategic master plan.

He noted that the contributions of the Scheme in all aspects of national development are unquantifiable adding that the workshop would provide the participants the needed

skills to function more efficiently and effectively.

"It will also enable us to develop a harmonized monitoring and implementation template for the Scheme in line with global best practices.

This will improve the participants' skills for effective research, monitoring and evaluation as well as documentation of the Scheme's activities", he said.

In his welcome address, the Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, Alhaji Ahmed Wada Ikaka stated that the workshop will offer the participants the requisite knowledge of the new performance management system in the public service to effectively evaluate the Scheme's programmes.

He also canvassed proficiency in the use of ICT tools for improved performance in discharging official assignments.



A Cross section of participants at the workshop.



ECOWAS Youth Parliament Honours NYSC DG

By Femi Adetunji



Members of the West African Youth Parliament (WAYP) decorating the NYSC DG as the African Youth Icon of the Year.

The West African Youth Parliament (WAYP) has decorated the Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brig Gen YD Ahmed as the African Youth Icon of the Year.

Speaker of the Parliament, Ambassador Olasukanmi Kolawole while presenting a plaque and a special regalia to the Director General explained that the honour was in recognition of his track record of excellence in moulding Nigerian youth.

“This Parliament has been

following your exploits in various institutions with keen interest, and has found you worthy of the prestigious award, owing to your numerous contributions to academic excellence at the Nigerian Military School, Zaria and the Nigerian Army Command Secondary Schools in Lagos and Enugu”, he said

Ambassador Kolawole further said; “the good job you have started in NYSC is also very commendable, and we pray that the Lord will give you wisdom to continue on that path”

He said the African Youth Parliament also known as ECOWAS Youth Parliament is an organization that promotes unity, democracy and good governance in the West African sub-region.

In his response, the Director General of NYSC thanked the African Youth Parliament for the honour, which he said is not done to him alone but also to the people he had worked with in different institutions across Nigeria.

The NYSC Chief Executive Officer said he feels highly elated that God has used him in making impact in the lives of many youths, most of whom are holding strategic positions in the society today.

Ahmed called on all and sundry to channel their intellect and resources towards youth development; adding that this is the greatest investment a nation can make to ensure the safety of its future.

He reeled out some of his contributions to the nation's educational sector, including taking pragmatic steps that changed the narrative concerning students' performance in examinations organized by West African Examination Council (WAEC).



NYSC To Train Public Relations Officers At NTA, FRCN Schools

...as DG Warns Corps Members Against Night Journeys

By Femi Adetunji



L-R; Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr Eddy Megwa, NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed and Director, Special Duties, Alhaji Musa Abubakar during the Opening Ceremony of the 2023 NYSC Public Relations and Protocol Officers' Workshop held in Abuja.

The Director General of National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed said the Scheme would soon sponsor its Public Relations Officers to attend the FRCN Training School, NTA College as well as NIPR training programmes.

He added that the training would further equip them for optimal

discharge of their official responsibilities.

General Ahmed stated this in his address while declaring open the 2023 NYSC Public Relations and Protocol Officers' Workshop held in Abuja.

The DG urged the workshop

participants to understand that the forum serves as an avenue for them as reputation managers of NYSC, to realign the Scheme's Public Relations strategies with a view to effectively tackle emerging challenges.

He used the forum to also warn Corps Members on the dangers of attending late-night parties, night journeys, and boarding of vehicles at unauthorised locations.

According to him; "Management is aware of the critical role of Protocol and PR Officers in projecting the good image of the NYSC, especially through various professional activities that have engendered public appreciation of its invaluable contributions to national unity and development.

I, therefore use this forum to commend the commitment and ingenuity with which you discharge your responsibilities. In particular, I salute your dedication to ensuring efficient management of our public functions in line with the dictates of protocol as well as adequate publicity of the activities of the Scheme.

"Despite your celebrated accomplishments, I hasten to remind you of the dynamic nature of your job and, in particular, the challenges that have put the Scheme in the spotlight in



A group photograph of NYSC Public Relations and Protocol Officers at the workshop in Abuja.

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recent times. We must view threats coming from detractors, especially through the social media, with utmost seriousness.

“This informed the choice of the theme of this workshop, “Managing and Improving the Reputation of the NYSC: The roles and responsibilities of PR officers.” The training will equip you for improved performance in line with my administration's policy on capacity building.

“At the end, you are expected to raise the bar of your output, particularly in monitoring the media and issuing timely rejoinders or releases to counter negative publications”.

Challenging the participants further, General Ahmed said; “I would like to use this opportunity to implore you to deploy the available platforms for sensitization of serving and prospective Corps Members on security consciousness.

“You are expected to draw their

attention to the dangers of night journey, boarding of vehicles at unauthorised locations, attendance of late-night parties, and acceptance of car ride from strangers, amongst other risky acts.

Also speaking at the event, the National President of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Comrade Chris Isiguzo, charged public relations practitioners on the need to embrace innovation to stay relevant in the industry.

He urged them as custodians of NYSC's corporate publicity to embrace innovation and commitment to their responsibilities.

“Your work is not really a profession but a profound service to our great nation. Your professionalism and expertise are the cornerstone upon which the trust is built,” he said.

Earlier, the Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr Eddy Megwa said given the increasing scrutiny of the affairs of

NYSC by stakeholders, there is need for round the clock vigilance by the Scheme, particularly the managers of its corporate image.

“Consequently, I use this opportunity to appeal to my colleagues, the NYSC PR Officers, to redouble their efforts and be more proactive in our PR strategies to ensure effective professional management of the corporate image of the Scheme”.

Also speaking, the President, Nigeria Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Dr Ike Neliaku said the importance of NYSC in nation building cannot be overemphasised.

He noted that for Nigeria to move forward, the issue of integration must be taken seriously.

At the event, Comrade Emmanuel Onwubiko also presented a goodwill message on behalf of Human Rights Writers Association (HURIWA) of Nigeria.

NYSC Strengthens Media Relations For Robust Publicity

By Femi Adetunji



A group photograph of NYSC Top Management and State Coordinator at the Workshop.

The Director General of National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has restated his administration's commitment towards the sustenance of the good working relationship with

the media.

He said the NYSC would leverage on its seamless and deepened partnership with the media as they provide a veritable platform for the Scheme's

publicity of its programmes.

General Ahmed stated this in his address while declaring open a one day Media Management Workshop for Members of NYSC Top Management

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L-R; Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr Eddy Megwa and NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed during the workshop.

and State Coordinators with the theme; "Leveraging on Media Organisations to Deepen the Contributions of the NYSC to National Development in the Post-Golden Jubilee Era", held in Abuja.

The Director General while commending the press for giving publicity to the Scheme's activities over the years, also advised them to clarify issues from the NYSC before rushing to the press in order not to misinform the public.

"I enjoin State Coordinators to take a cue from us at the National Directorate Headquarters by ensuring easier accessibility and closer interaction with media correspondents and Bureau Chiefs in your respective States. This is the surest way of nipping in the bud, bad publicity occasioned by unbalanced reportage", General Ahmed said.

The Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr Eddy Megwa in his introductory address said the training is in line with the Director General's desire that the corporate image of the Scheme is adequately protected through robust engagement with the press.

He advised the State Coordinators to develop closer ties with their Public Relations Officers including the media houses in their States for more positive

results in media relations.

"Coordinators are the Chief Image Maker of the Scheme in the field. The Director General would be looking forward to receiving more pleasant stories from the States on the relationship with the Officers on one hand, and media organisations in the States on the other", Megwa said.

The President, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Dr Ike Neliaku in his lecture during the workshop advised

NYSC Management especially the State Coordinators to create more friendly relationship with the media practitioners in order to consolidate on the positive image of the Scheme.

Speaking on the topic; "Optimizing Media Relations To Enhance The Corporate Image Of The Scheme", through the Vice Chairman of Council NIPR, Professor Emmanuel Dandaura, Dr Neliaku advised the NYSC Managers to continue to be objective in delivering its mandate to its various publics and always be proactive in media relations.

He also encouraged the NYSC Management on the professional handling of information that may bring negative publicity.

Also speaking at the workshop, a retired Deputy Director in NYSC, Mr Olanipekun Alao admonished NYSC Managers to consolidate on the achievements of the Scheme in its contributions to national unity and development.

The Workshop was organized to chart a new way forward in attaining a seamless and more friendly relationship with the press using Public Relations approach.



L-R; A retired Deputy Director in NYSC, Mr Olanipekun Alao and Vice Chairman of Council NIPR, Professor Emmanuel Dandaura, who represented the President, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Dr Ike Neliaku at the event.



Ondo Monarch Pledges Sustenance of Conducive Environment For Corps Members

By Simeon Bankole



A Corps Doctor attending to one of the beneficiaries of the Free Medicare during the NYSC Health Initiative For Rural Dwellers Programme in Ugbe Community, Ondo State.

The Traditional Ruler-Elect for Ugbe Community in Akoko North-East Local Government Area of Ondo State Oba Ilufemiloye Adefemi, Ajiboye II has promised that his community will continue to create enabling environment for Corps Members to discharge their mandate in the area.

He made this pledge during the flag-off of the NYSC health intervention programme, the Health Initiative For Rural Dwellers (HIRD) in the Community.

Represented by Otunba Oluwole Babasanya, the Monarch lauded the NYSC Management for always attracting people-oriented projects to the community.

In her remarks, the NYSC Ondo State Coordinator, Mrs. Victoria Ani stated that the primary concern of the Scheme is to ensure that all residents of the community enjoy healthy living.

The HIRD programme, according to Ani was designed to complement the government effort at providing basic

health care to all and sundry.

She said that the programme is targeted at reaching rural communities with free healthcare services through the Scheme's Corps Medical Personnel.

The NYSC Ondo State boss further explained that the programme is meant to promote the quality of life of rural dwellers apart from supporting the State Government in the provision of health care to citizens and residents.

"Let me add that the programme is

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equally targeted at further increasing the broad impact of the Scheme and expanding its values to her critical stakeholders at all levels in the society, and a positive solidification of the laudable Scheme as an enduring institution of national unity and integration.

The National Youth Service Corps has come of age. To have survived all challenges since establishment 50 years ago is an eloquent testimony that the Scheme has recorded tremendous achievements in critical areas of national need such as education, agriculture, healthcare, rural infrastructures, entertainment industry, sports, technology, etc."

The State Coordinator urged members of the community to take advantage of the programme which is designed to improve their health, adding that the medical outreach is being handled by competent NYSC medical professionals from various fields of human medicine.

Ani appreciated the supportive role of the Ondo State Government, Akoko North East Local Government area, the Olugbe in Council, philanthropists as well as community leaders in the state who are always identifying with the noble Scheme.

The Chairman of Akoko North East Local Government, Honourable Asimiyu Omojola Adekunle who was represented by the Secretary to the Local Government, Honourable Amuda Abiola appealed to the NYSC to post more Corps Members to the Council Area because of the invaluable contributions of successive members of the Service Corps in the area over the years.

Agency Seeks Partnership With NYSC To Tap Diaspora Youths For national Development

By Yunusa Baba Isa



NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed making a presentation to the Director General of Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa, Ambassador Rabiun Dagari during the latter's visit to NYSC Headquarters in Abuja.

The Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA) has expressed interest in synergising with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in molding Nigerian graduates in the diaspora for nation building.

Speaking during a courtesy visit to the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters in Abuja, the Director General of DTCA, Ambassador Rabiun Dagari stated that many Nigerian graduates living outside the shores of the country are eager to come home and contribute their quota to the development of the nation.

He therefore appealed to the management of NYSC to facilitate the process. He equally said that DTCA in conjunction with African

Development Bank (ADB) and Nigeria Diaspora Commission (NDC) have many other areas of collaboration NYSC can tap into, promising that his office will fashion out ways of making such feasible.

In his response, the Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed, disclosed that the Scheme during its last Annual Management Conference dwelt extensively on how to maximize the potentials of young Nigerian graduates for the common good of the nation.

He assured his guest that NYSC will key into DTCA's proposal in line with the NYSC Act. "We'll do our best to work in accordance with NYSC Act" said the NYSC helmsman.



NYSC Presents Insurance Benefits To Families Of Deceased Corps Members

By Yusufu Philibus



Mr. Oluwafemi Aina, father of late Corps Member Juliana Aina, collecting the cheque from the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed.

The Director General, National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has presented the insurance benefits of two deceased members of the Service Corps to their families.

Presenting a cheque to the family of late Corps Member Juliana Oreoluwa Aina who lost her life in a BRT bus that was crushed by a train in Lagos in March this year at their home in Abuja, the Director General conveyed the sympathy of the entire Management, Staff and Corps Members to the family.

"All of us in the NYSC family received with great shock the news of the sudden death of our dear sister. Please accept our deepest condolences. We have equally received volumes of condolence messages from far and near when the unfortunate incident occurred", he said.

Ahmed prayed God to avert such ugly

incident from the family and other Corps Members' families.

He thereafter presented two cheques

to the family; one from NYSC's insurance company, Capital Express Assurance Limited and the other from the late Corps Member's Health Management Organization.

The NYSC Director Corps Welfare and Health Services, Mr. Ayodele Omotade, explained that it is the tradition in the Scheme to ensure that the insurance benefits of Corps Members who lost their lives in the course of National Service are processed and presented to their next-of-kin.

The father of the late Corps Member, Mr. Oluwafemi Aina thanked the Director General and his team for identifying with his family in their moment of grief.

He particularly lauded NYSC for its prompt response when the sad event happened.

"Director General Sir, I really



The Director, Corps Welfare and Health Services, Mr. Ayodele Omotade (right) presenting the death benefit of Corps Member Juliana Osochenemi Azakaza (DT/16B/6364) to her Next of Kin, Mr. Azakaza Onajite(left).

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commend the NYSC Coordinator in Lagos State, Mrs. Yetunde Baderinwa and your members of staff, for the swift action they took immediately they heard about our daughter's death.

They really assisted us all through, even financially. They also stood by us at the time our daughter was laid to rest", he said.

Similarly, the NYSC Director General presented the death benefit of late Corps Member Juliana Osochenemi Azakaza (DT/16B/6364) to her Next of Kin in Delta State.

Late Juliana Azakaza, a mother of one, until her demise was a serving Corps Member in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State.

Making the presentation on behalf of the NYSC Director General, the Director, Corps Welfare and Health Services, Mr. Ayodele Omotade commiserated with the family of the deceased Corps Member.

He reiterated that the welfare and security of Corps Members remain a top priority of the management of the Scheme.

In his response, the Next of Kin to the deceased, Mr. Azakaza Onajite, thanked the NYSC Director General and Management for identifying with his family in their moment of grief.

The NYSC Delta State Coordinator, Mr. Alao Olusegun thanked the Director General for identifying with the family of the deceased Corps Member.

In attendance during the visit were the Director, South-South Area Office, Asaba, Alhaji Baba Ladan, represented by the Deputy Director Operations, Mr. Christopher Okun, Assistant Directors and Head of Corps Welfare and Health Services Branch.

Corps Members Urged To Be Good Ambassadors

By Femi Adetunji



Director General of NYSC, Brig Gen YD Ahmed with Corps Member Balogun Olatunde BN/23B/0250, Miss Culture, Corps Member Hassan Muzlimat BN/23B/0560 and others during the DG's visit to the Orientation Camp in Wannune.

Corps Members have been advised to serve their fatherland as good representatives of their families, institutions and the National Youth Service Corps.

The NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed gave the advice in his address to Corps Members at the Benue State NYSC Orientation Camp in Wannune, Tarka Local Government Area.

He admonished them to uphold the ideals of the Scheme as laid down by its founding fathers by being patriotic, selfless and loyal to constituted authorities. General Ahmed also advised the Corps

Members to relate very well with their host communities and leave good legacies.

"Be ready to participate in SAED post-camp training and equip yourselves with skills that will make you financially independent. Protect your integrity, be diligent, adhere to NYSC dress code and be security conscious at all times", the DG said.

The NYSC Benue State Coordinator, Mr. Abe Dankaro in his report disclosed that the Corps Members have been demonstrating high level of discipline. As at the time of Director General's visit, 1,499 Corps Members made up of 762 males and 737 females were in camp.



Philanthropist Builds Lodge For Corps Members In Akwa Ibom

By Anselem Udogwu



The Twin Storey Corps Lodge

An indigene of Obon Ukwa in Obot Akara Local Government Area of Akwa-Ibom State, Dr. Jeremiah Udoh, has taken the bull by the horns by single-handedly erecting a twin storey building of 22 self-contained apartments in the Community Comprehensive Secondary School, Obon Ukwa in Obot Akara local government area of Akwa Ibom state.

He said his reason for embarking on the project is to contribute to providing a conducive environment for corps members to discharge their mandate. The increasing number of Corps population being churned out of Orientation Camps, accommodation and other sundry issues had posed as a threat to the Corps participants which had necessitated some other bodies; private and religious bodies to come in to assist.

The donor noted that he was giving

back to the society more especially to the school and the community as well as NYSC because they played very

significant and crucial roles in his life.

He recalled that without the school, he would not have been educated judging from his poor background as his parents could not be able to take him to a boarding school far away from their home.

According to him, he was moved to do what he was doing because the entire school was an eyesore including the old Corps Lodge, which made him to promise to make the school one of the best in the State where people from different areas would be seeking to be admitted into with both technical and other aspects of teaching put in place.

He recalled his days as a Corps Member in Oyo state where he was treated well and wished the Corps Members should have same experience like himself.

“This magnificent edifice has been



The donor, Dr. Jeremiah Udoh (4th right), Director, NYSC South-South Area Office, Alhaji Baba Ladan (4th left) Akwa Ibom State NYSC Coordinator and others with Corps Members at the Lodge.

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well furnished with beds and beddings, cushions, two common-rooms, reading tables, chairs, kitchen with gas and utensils for Corps Members in the school, the school being probably the only one owned by the community", he said.

The Director, South-South Area

office, Alhaji Baba Ladan during his on-the-spot assessment of the project commended the donor for his gesture.

Ladan said the spirit of philanthropism as exhibited by Dr. Udoh should be emulated by other individuals in the society as it would

encourage the Scheme to do more in providing the needed manpower to public schools.

The NYSC Akwa Ibom State Coordinator, Mrs. Chinyere Ekwe in her remark, prayed God to continue to favour the donor in his endeavours.

Corps Members Warned Against Unauthorized journeys

By Femi Adetunji



Brig Gen YD Ahmed addressing Corps Members during his visit to NYSC Jigawa State Orientation Camp, Fanisau, Dutse.

Corps Members have been warned against embarking on unauthorized journeys and risky adventures that may expose them to danger during their service year.

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed gave the warning while addressing Corps

Members during his visit to NYSC Jigawa State Orientation Camp at Fanisau, Dutse.

He said his administration places priority on the security and welfare of Corps Members and NYSC officials, and would continue to do everything possible to ensure their safety.

He advised them to obtain permission

from NYSC if it becomes imperative, they must travel adding they must avoid night journeys and should pass the night in either military barracks, NYSC formations, police barracks or other safe places once the journey is taking them beyond six o'clock in the evening.

Ahmed urged the Corps Members to take their personal security serious and avoid associating with people of questionable characters.

"Be law-abiding, remain focused and always follow the rules and regulations in camp. You are from different socio-cultural backgrounds, learn within yourselves and make friends. You must tolerate one another because we expect high level of discipline from you.

Avoid drugs, cultism, fraud and other social vices that may put you in trouble", he said.

Ahmed further advised them to strive to identify the felt needs of their host communities and execute projects that will improve their standard of living.



Gov Akeredolu Tasks Corps Members On Nation Building

By Simeon Bankole



Ondo State Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Mrs. Foluke Tunde-Daramola inspecting the parade on behalf of Governor Rotimi Akeredolu.

The Governor of Ondo State, Oluwarotimi Akeredolu has tasked NYSC Members to recommit themselves to nation building.

Akeredolu stated this at the closing ceremony of 2023 NYSC Batch 'A' Stream II Orientation Course held at the NYSC Orientation Camp, Ikare-Akoko.

The Governor who expressed his delight to be part of the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of the establishment of the noble Scheme, said that Nigerian graduate youths have benefitted immensely from the programme

which emphasizes leadership training as outlined by the founding fathers when it was established in 1973.

"My dear compatriots in the service to the fatherland, as an ex-Corps Member who participated in the programme during the 1977/78 service year, I am glad to be part of the success story of the National Youth Service Corps and I want to confirm that it is a success story all the way especially in the rural communities where Corps Members leave indelible marks"

The Governor who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of

Youth and Sports Development, Mrs. Foluke Tunde-Daramola said NYSC has prepared them for the challenges they might face in the course of their service to the nation in Ondo State.

"The three weeks induction is primarily meant to equip you to have a better understanding of the operations of the Scheme. It is also to toughen and prepare you physically and mentally to meet the challenges ahead, especially in your new culture and environment", he said.

The cerebral lawyer noted that NYSC pursuant to its mandate of engendering national development

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and cohesion, instilled the values of patriotism, integrity, hard work and unity in the Corps Members during the Orientation Exercise.

"Gentlemen, Corps Members, the three weeks Orientation Course programme that you actively participated in is designed for all of you to contribute meaningfully to the overall development of this great country at your various places of primary assignment", he said.

Akeredolu enjoined the members of the Service Corps to put in their best and contribute productively in whatever sector of the economy they might be posted.

"Your predecessors made sacrifices that has endeared the Scheme to all and sundry. I hope you will not disappoint the citizens and residents of this country who have implicit trust in your capabilities to serve the nation relentlessly", he admonished.

In her remarks, the State Coordinator, Mrs. Victoria Ani appreciated the Corps Members for exhibiting high sense of discipline during the Orientation Course and charged them to remain outstanding ambassadors of the Scheme throughout the service year.

Ani in recognition of outstanding performance during the Orientation Course, awarded letters of commendation to two Camp Officials who distinguished themselves during the induction course.

The Coordinator described the 1,615 Corps Members as well-behaved.

NYSC At 50: What Next Africa Felicitates Scheme With Donation Of 50 Laptop Computers

By Femi Adetunji



NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed receiving one of the fifty computers donated to the Scheme by the Executive Director of What Next Africa, Mr. Temitope Ogunlusi during the latter's visit to the NYSC Headquarters in Abuja.

As a way of identifying with the National Youth Service Corps on its 50th Anniversary of tremendous contributions to national development, a Non-Governmental Organisation, *What Next Africa*, has donated fifty new laptop computers to enhance the smooth operation of the Scheme.

The organization applauded the contributions of the Scheme in the areas of education, health, rural development and other sectors in the last fifty years.

Speaking during the presentation of the computers to the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed at the Scheme's Directorate Headquarters in Abuja, the Executive Director of *What Next Africa*, Mr. Temitope Ogunlusi described Corps

Members as role models who need the support of every stakeholder.

He said the NGO prepares students for post-secondary life, adding that there is need to mitigate challenges of transition from teenage to adulthood.

In his remarks during the presentation, the NYSC Director, Planning Research and Statistics, Alhaji Ahmed Wada Ikaka described *What Next Africa* as a Trans-Continental organisation that prioritizes career development, guidance and counselling of Secondary School students, but has decided to add value to the human capital development of the NYSC.

While appreciating the donor on behalf of the Scheme, the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed promised the effective utilization of the computers.



Gombe SC Solicits Enhanced Support For NYSC

By Margaret Dakama



L-R: NYSC Gombe State Coordinator, Mr. Dawut Jidda, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth Development, Mohammed Kolo Bajuga and Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Njodi during the Coordinator's courtesy visit to the SSG in his office in Gombe.

The NYSC Gombe State Coordinator, Dawut Jidda has sought for enhanced support for NYSC from stakeholders in the State to consolidate the gains of the Scheme in the last fifty years. He noted that stakeholders' support is a major factor in the success story of the Scheme.

Jidda stated this when he visited the Commander, 301 Artillery Regiment in Gombe, Regional Manager Jos Electricity Distribution, PLC and Gombe State Chief Judge where he commended them on cordial working relationship with the Scheme.

At the 301 Artillery Regiment, Jidda espoused to the Commander, Colonel AO Ndah, the need to deepen the existing cordial relationship with the Scheme.

The visit, according to him was to among other things appreciate the Command for deploying capable

personnel to assist the Scheme in running Orientation Programmes and other activities.

"The NYSC is a baby of the Military, established in 1973. It is pertinent we

maintain cordial working relationship with the Military by appreciating their efforts", he said.

The Commander, 301 Artillery Regiment General Support, Gombe, Colonel A O Ndah observed that NYSC has promoted national unity and integration in the fifty years of its operation. He pledged that the military formation will continue to play its part to assist the Scheme realise its mandate.

At the office of the Regional Manager, Jos Electricity Distribution Plc, the NYSC State Coordinator made a passionate appeal for improved supply of electricity during the Scheme's Orientation programmes. He said the Orientation Camp depends largely on generators due to lack of adequate power supply from the public power company.

He explained that steady power supply



Gombe State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Oqua Etim and NYSC Gombe State Coordinator, Mr. Dawut Jidda during the latter's visit to the Commissioner in his office in Gombe.

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to the camp will contribute to the smooth running of Orientation Programmes and enhance the image of the State given that the Orientation Camp is the first point of call for Corps Members deployed for the one-year mandatory service.

“Provision of basic amenities like electricity and water will create a lasting impression”, he said.

The Regional Manager, Mallam Saad Abubakar assured the support of the corporation to NYSC.

At the office of the Chief Judge of Gombe State, Honourable Justice Halima Mohammed, the State Coordinator appreciated the judiciary's support to NYSC particularly for the administration of the Oath of Allegiance on Corps Members during Orientation

Programmes.

In her response the Chief Judge declared, "I appreciate the NYSC programme and will do my best to ensure its sustenance. It has made positive impact in our communities and done away with prejudices and stereotypes. More should still be done in the area of Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development to equip our youths for self-reliance".

Oyo NYSC To Partner NGO on Breast Cancer Awareness

By Abimbola Faniyi



NYSC Oyo State Coordinator, Mr. Abel Odoba presenting NYSC publications to the National President of BRECAN, Ambassador Tolu Taiwo when the latter paid him a visit.

A leading non-governmental organization, Breast Cancer Association of Nigeria (BRECAN) has paid an advocacy visit to the National Youth Service Corps Oyo State Secretariat, Agodi Gate, Ibadan. The visit which was to seek partnership with NYSC on creating awareness on the most common types of Cancer: Breast, Cervical and Prostrate Cancer.

The National President of BRECAN, Ambassador Tolu Taiwo stated that cancer is the second leading cause of death globally adding that sedentary lifestyle, poor diet and some other factors are responsible for the surge in cancer. She also spoke at length on the functions of the Association which include creating awareness, supporting cancer patients and advocacy.

Ambassador Taiwo stressed the need to sensitize the younger generation and use them for advocacy drive. She solicited partnership with the NYSC towards arresting the upsurge in cancer cases which is almost becoming endemic.

"Our organization understands the importance of Corps Members towards nation building, we also believe they have roles to play in attaining better health outcome in the society" she said.

The NYSC Oyo State Coordinator, Mr. Abel Odoba who expressed delight at the commitment and vision of the NGO to save lives, implored them not to relent in rendering humanitarian services to make the world a better place to live in.

The Coordinator further commended BRECAN for its effort to change the narrative of breast cancer being a death sentence, adding that there are testimonies of many survivors of the ailment.

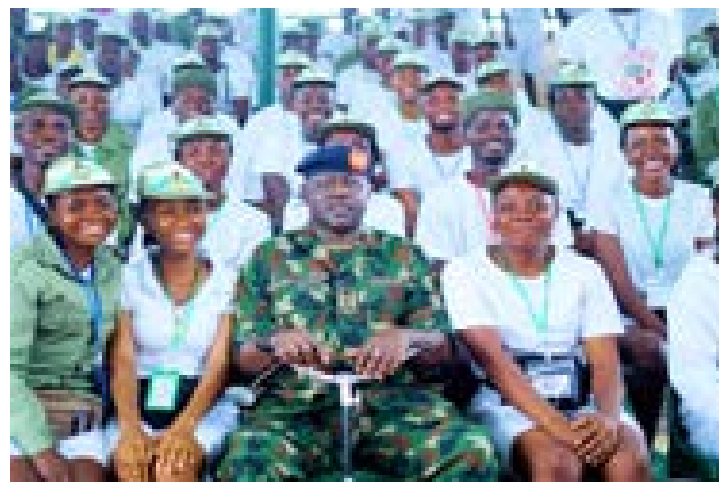
Odoba assured the team of the Scheme's readiness to partner on improving awareness and education of the public on breast cancer.



DG'S PHOTO TRAIL



L-R: NYSC Rivers State Coordinator, Mr. George Mfongang, DG of NYSC, Brig Gen YD Ahmed, Director, Special Duties, Alhaji Musa Abubakar and Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr Eddy Megwa during DG's visit to Rivers State Orientation Camp in Nonwa-Gbam, Tai LGA of the State.



NYSC Director General, Brig Gen YD Ahmed with Corps Members during his visit to Bayelsa State Orientation Camp.



NYSC DG, Brig Gen YD Ahmed inspecting a Guard of Honour during his courtesy visit to the Commandant General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps at the NSCDC Headquarters in Abuja.



NYSC DG, Brig Gen YD Ahmed (middle) inspecting the fashion and design section of the NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Centre located at Nasarawa State Orientation Camp in Keffi.



NYSC DG, Brigadier General YD Ahmed (right) making a presentation to the Commander, 33 Artillery Brigade, Bauchi, Brigadier General E. Egbe (left) during his visit to the Brigade.



L-R: NYSC DG, Brigadier General YD Ahmed, Commander, Nigeria Army Records, Lokoja, Major General SI Igbinomwanhia, HRH Oba Solomon Obahawu, the Baloo of Oyo-Iwa Kingdom, and HRH Oba (Dr) Idowu Isenibi, the Bajawa III of Obajana Kingdom, during General Ahmed's advocacy visit to the Obajana palace in Kogi State.



IMAGES OF NYSC GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION (OPENING CEREMONY)



The representative of the Vice-President the then Minister of Power, Engr. Abubakar Aliyu inspecting a guard of honour on his arrival at Chida hotels, venue of the opening ceremony.



A cross section of Corps Members.



A section of NYSC Directors.



L-R: Then Chairman NYSC National Governing Board, Amb. Fatima Bala Abubakar, representative of the Special Guest of Honour, Engr. Abubakar Aliyu, Minister of Sports & Youth Development, Mr. Sunday Dare, DG NYSC Brig Gen YD Ahmed and other Guests at the ceremony.



Some Retired NYSC Directors and other invited Guests.



A cross section of guests at the occasion.



IMAGES OF NYSC GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION (OPENING CEREMONY)



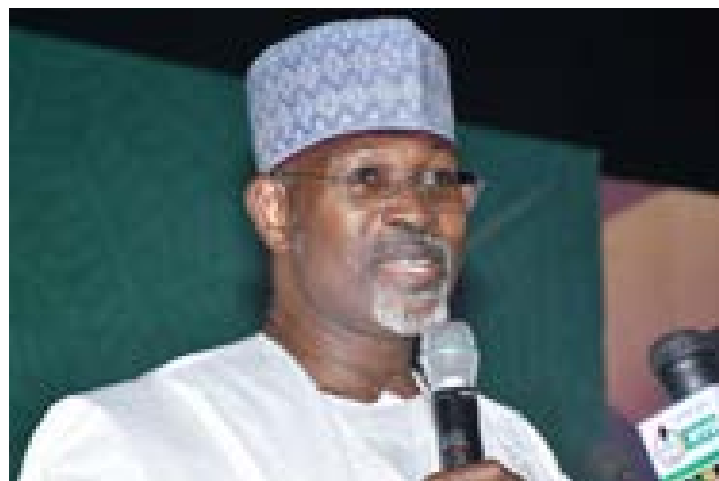
NYSC Director General Brig Gen YD Ahmed delivering his address at the occasion.



The Special Guest of Honour, NYSC DG and other VIPs cutting the Golden Jubilee Cake.



NYSC DG and the former Minister of Youth & Sports with Corps Members.



The NYSC 50th anniversary Guest Lecturer, former INEC Chairman, Prof Attahiru Jega delivering his lecture.



Former Minister of Sports & Youth Development, Mr. Sunday Dare, DG NYSC Brig Gen YD Ahmed, representative of the Vice President, Engr. Abubakar Aliyu, Former NYSC National Director, Col Ahmadu Ali, former NYSC DG Maj. Gen. Shuaibu Ibrahim after the unveiling of the Jubilee plaque.



NYSC National Theatre Troupe entertaining the audience during the ceremony.



IMAGES OF NYSC GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION (UNITY WALK)



The Unity Walk procession.



NYSC DG Brig Gen YD Ahmed Leading the Walk.



Cross section of NYSC Staff During the Walk.



The DG flanked by NYSC Directors.



A cross section of Corps Members during the Walk



Physical training session led by the NYSC DG.



IMAGES OF NYSC GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION (HIRD OUTREACH AT JAHİ DISTRICT, ABUJA, FCT)



NYSC Director General Brig Gen YD Ahmed welcoming Dr. Ahamdu Ali to the event.



The Special Guest of Honour Dr. Aisha Buhari Delivering her speech at the Flag-off the HIRD outreach at Jahi district in the FCT.



Members of the Community being attended to by the NYSC medical personnel.



Wife of the then President Dr. Aisha Buhari inspecting the NYSC mobile Clinic which she donated to the Scheme.



The Director General(L) with the Director CDS&SP Mrs. Zainab Isa(m) with a guest at the event.



A Corps physician attending to one of the beneficiaries.



IMAGES OF NYSC GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION (SAED EXHIBITION & ICT BUILDING INAUGURATION)



R-L: Former Head of State General Yakubu Gowon, NYSC DG Brig Gen YD Ahmed and first Chief Executive of NYSC Dr. Ahmadu Ali at the event.



Corps members with their products during the exhibition.



General Gowon examining a product with the NYSC DG at one of the exhibition stands.



Dignitaries at the SAED exhibition and inauguration of new NYSC ICT building.



The new ICT Building at NYSC Directorate Headquarters, Abuja.



The Special Guest of Honour, General Yakubu Gowon with dignitaries after the inauguration of the ICT building.



IMAGES OF NYSC GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION (PRESIDENTS NYSC HONOURS AWARD CEREMONY)



President Muhammadu Buhari delivering his speech at the occasion.



A section of retired NYSC Directors at the ceremony.



President Buhari decorating an awardee during the ceremony.



A section of Awardees at the ceremony.



President Buhari and the award winners at the event.



NYSC Directors at the ceremony.



IMAGES OF NYSC GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION (PRESIDENTS NYSC HONOURS AWARD CEREMONY)



*R-L: President Muhammadu Buhari, DG NYSC
Brig Gen YD Ahmed, NYSC Board Chairman,
Amb Fatima Bala Abubakar.*



*The Executive of the National Council of Women
Society (NCWS) decorating the Best female
awardee with the NCWS award.*



*President Muhammadu Buhari receiving a portrait
of himself produced by a Corps artist.*



*The DG and former Minister of Sports and Youth
Development, Mr. Sunday Dare cutting the
anniversary cake with the awardees.*



A cross section of guests at the event.



Former NYSC DGs at the ceremony.



IMAGES OF NYSC GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION (AWARD/DINNER NIGHT)



L-R: NYSC Board Chairman, Amb Fatima Bala Abubakar, the Special Guest of Honour, the then SGF, Boss Mustapha, DG NYSC, Brig Gen YD Ahmed, at the Award Night.



The Special Guest of Honour, the SGF, Boss Mustapha presenting an Award to the Director General of NYSC, Brig Gen YD Ahmed.



Members of the the NYSC National Governing Board.



Former NYSC Directors General at the event.



Former NYSC Directors General at the event.



Representatives of State Governors.



IMAGES OF NYSC GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION (AWARD/DINNER NIGHT)



Retired NYSC Directors L-R: Chief Anthony Ani, Mrs. Abosede Aderibigbe and Mrs. Bose Okakwu.



NYSC Directors at the event, L-R: Alh. Musa Abubakar, Mr. YB, Abdullahi, Prince Mohammed Momoh, Mr. Kehinde Aremu



A member of the NYSC Governing (R) presenting an award to the representative of the Imo State Government(m).



DG NYSC, Brig Gen YD Ahmed (R)presenting an award to former NYSC Director General, Brig Gen MI Tsiga (Rtd).



NYSC National Theatre Troupe entertaining the audience.



NYSC former National Director, Dr. Ahmadu Ali with NYSC DG dancing to the music of the NYSC National Band at the Award Night.



PHOTO NEWS FROM THE 2023 NYSC PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL OFFICERS' WORKSHOP HELD IN ABUJA



NYSC DG Brigadier General YD Ahmed presenting his address.



The Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr Eddy Megwa at the workshop.



A cross section of NYSC Directors and Deputy Directors at the workshop.



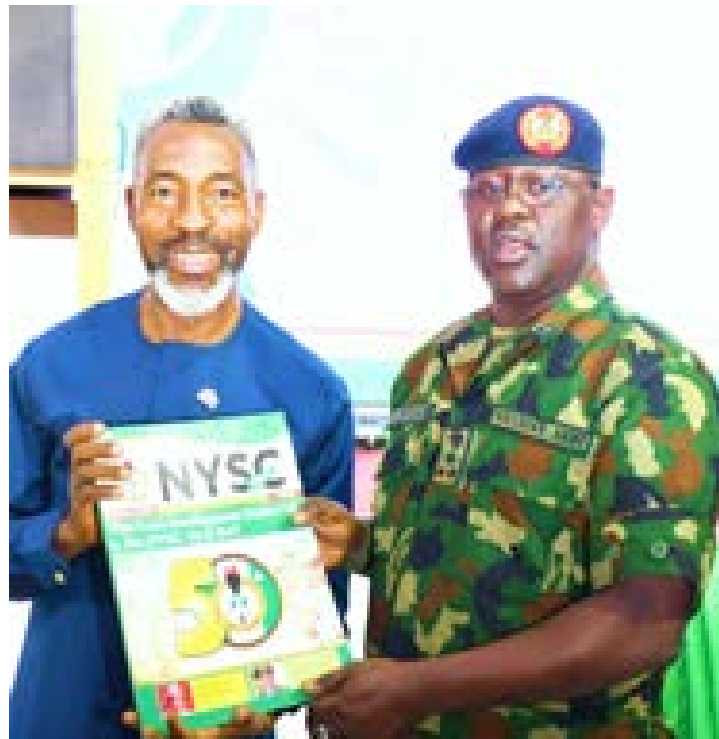
Dr Tayo Haastrup fnipr, Director, Information Management Service, National Hospital Abuja delivering a lecture at the workshop.



PHOTO NEWS FROM THE 2023 NYSC PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL OFFICERS' WORKSHOP HELD IN ABUJA



NYSC DG, Brigadier General YD Ahmed making a presentation to the Coordinator of Right To Know (R2K) Nigeria, Ene Nwankpa after her presentation at the workshop.



The President, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Dr Ike Neliaku receiving an in-house publication of NYSC from the Scheme's Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed at the event.



NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed making presentation to the Mr James Abiona, CEO JFK Consultancy Ltd.



L-R; NUJ President, Comrade Chris Iziguzo receiving a plaque from the NYSC DG, Brigadier General YD Ahmed while the Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr Eddy Megwa looks on.



DG Educates Corps Members On Importance of NYSC Orientation Course

By Lot Christopher



NYSC DG, Brigadier General, Yushau Dogara Ahmed and FCT Coordinator, Mrs. Winifred Shopeka during the DG's visit to NYSC FCT Orientation Camp in Kubwa, Abuja.

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General Yushau Dogara Ahmed has called on Corps Members to be actively involved in all activities of the Scheme's Orientation programme in order to prepare themselves adequately to contribute to nation building.

He stated this while inspecting facilities and assessing the level of preparation for the smooth take-off of the Orientation Course for 2023 Batch 'B' Stream Two Corps Members at the NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Kubwa, Abuja.

The NYSC boss who interacted with a cross section of prospective Corps Members undergoing

documentation in the Camp congratulated them for the success in their various academic programmes which qualified them for



NYSC DG Brigadier General Yushau Dogara Ahmed interacting with some prospective Corps Members during his visit to NYSC FCT Orientation Camp in Kubwa, Abuja.

mobilization into the noble Scheme.

He further urged them to utilize the opportunities of the service year for self-reliance and national development.

The Director General who was taken round major sections of the Camp by the NYSC FCT Coordinator, Mrs. Winifred Shopeka commended Camp officials for their commitment and dedication to duty, adding that his administration will sustain synergy with relevant stakeholders to take the Scheme to greater heights.

General Ahmed was accompanied on the visit by Director, Special Duties, Alhaji Musa Abubakar and Mr. Eddy Megwa, Director, Press and Public Relations and other Principal Aides.



NIM Set To Partner NYSC On Capacity Building Of Scheme's Personnel

By Femi Adetunji



The President and Chairman of Council, Nigerian Institute of Management, Dr Christy Atako (4th left), NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yushau Dogara Ahmed (middle) and other NIM officials when they paid the DG a courtesy visit in his office at the NYSC NDHQ, Maitama, Abuja.

The Nigerian Institute of Management has unfolded plans to deploy machineries to train NYSC staff as part of its contribution to the capacity building of the personnel of the Service Corps.

It also disclosed that the institute has trained, certified and inducted more than three hundred and fifty thousand young Nigerians into its graduate membership cadre since inception.

The President and Chairman of Council, Nigerian Institute of

Management, Dr Christy Atako stated this when she led Members of the institute on a courtesy visit to the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed in his office in Abuja.

She added that the NIM-NYSC strategic partnership programme which has been the bond of both organisations over the years, has birthed the development of management and entrepreneurship skills of Corps Members.

The Chairman added that NIM would continue to re-strategize for

enhanced managerial skills towards optimal productivity.

"I thank you for contributing to the nation's youth development and the deepening of the relationship between our two organisations", she said.

The Director General of National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed in his response described the NIM as a reliable organisation. He promised that the Scheme would maintain its synergy with NIM for the benefit of both organisations.



Gombe Government Reiterates Support For NYSC

By Margaret Dakama



L-R: NYSC Gombe State Coordinator, Mr. Dawut Jiddah presenting copies of NYSC publications to the Secretary to Gombe State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi when he visited the SSG in his office.

The Gombe State Government has reiterated its commitment to giving the National Youth Service Corps the needed support to pursue its mandate.

The Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi made the pledge when he received the new Gombe State NYSC Coordinator, Mr. Dawut Jiddah in his office.

Welcoming the NYSC boss, Professor Njodi stressed that the

Government has Permanent Orientation Camp for the Scheme informed the ongoing construction of a brand-new camp by the State Government. He disclosed that the facility which is nearing completion will be used for the twin purpose of Citizenship/Leadership's Training Centre and NYSC Orientation Camp in Boltongo, Yamaltu-Deba Local Government Area of the State.

He said the State Government under the leadership of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya is

working towards the immediate actualization of the permanent site.

Speaking further the SSG said Government would continue to provide an enabling environment at the Temporary Orientation Camp. He directed the Ministry of Youth and that of Education to immediately forward to his office all that would be required to renovate structures damaged by windstorm for Government's action.

The NYSC State Coordinator, Mr. Dawut Jidda, recalled with delight the antecedents of Professor Ibrahim Njodi, the Secretary to Gombe State Government during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor of University of Maiduguri as well as his impactful contributions as Secretary to Gombe State Government.

Jidda expressed appreciation for the Government's immense support to the NYSC over the years. He also used the occasion to appeal for the rehabilitation of some structures destroyed by windstorm at the Temporary Orientation Camp at Amada.



NYSC @ 50: Monarch Lauds Vision of Founding Fathers

By Simeon Bankole



The Owa-Ale Adimula of Ikareland, Oba Adegbite-Adedoyin (right), NYSC Ondo State Coordinator, Mrs. Nnenna Ani (middle) while the monarch was speaking to the press.

A prominent monarch in Ondo State, His Royal Majesty Oba Adefemi Adedoyin-Adegbite has lauded the vision of the founding fathers of NYSC for bequeathing a Scheme that has remained a source of unity to the nation.

Oba Adegbite-Adedoyin who is the Owa-Ale Adimula of Ikare land made this assertion when he paid a visit to the NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Ikare-Akoko to felicitate with the formidable youth organisation on the attainment of 50 years.

He added that Nigerians will forever be grateful to the founding fathers of the National Youth Service Corps, such as General Yakubu Gowon (rtd), Professor Adedeji, Colonel Ahmadu Ali among others for their foresight in promoting the oneness and

uniqueness of the country through mobilisation of graduate youths to rebuild the nation after the civil war that threatened existence and cohesion of the country.

According to the royal father, those who are agitating that the NYSC should be discontinued should endeavour to get closer to the laudable Scheme and experience the immense contributions of the programme towards cementing the unity of the country.

"It amuses me when some ill-informed members of the society are calling for the scrapping of the Scheme, describing the programme as mere waste of the resources of Government as well as precious time of the participants, but in real sense, NYSC has touched and it is still touching the

lives of Nigerians in positive ways. A Scheme that has survived ups and downs in the last 50 years should be given credit for exposing our younger generation to better ways of leadership and governance through the articulate programmes.

'Rather than call for the scrapping of the Scheme, the general public as well as critical stakeholders should encourage the Federal Government to improve on camp facilities and infrastructures, give better and adequate funding to implement many lofty programmes of the Scheme and enhance the welfare of corps members. Without NYSC, this country would have been something else and with the Scheme in place, the future is brighter", he said.

The Monarch made a case for scaling

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up the NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme, saying that Government should expand the scope and make it more attractive to members of the Service Corps.

"Nigeria, through the capacity building for Corps Members has what

it takes to develop this country. The existing components of the intervention known as SAED can transform the country from being a consuming nation to one that produces. I have seen exploits of corps members in Agro-Allied, Food Processing, Construction and ICT, and have come to the conclusion that

NYSC is indeed a torch-bearer", he said.

The monarch charged the Corps Members to see their deployment to Ondo State as a call to service and opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the development of the country.

Corps Members Urged To Embrace Vocational Skills

By Femi Adetunji



A cross section of Corps Members in Katsina State Orientation Camp during NYSC Director General's visit.

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps has advised Corps Members to endeavor to acquire vocational skills through the Scheme's Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) Programme.

He said the skills training at the Orientation Camp for Corps Members was designed to expose them to entrepreneurship during their three weeks Orientation period, while the post-camp training period would help them to fully perfect their

skills in preparation for self-employment after the service year.

The Director General, Brigadier General Y. D. Ahmed stated this in his address to Corps Members at the Katsina and Borno States NYSC Orientation Camps.

He advised the Corps Members to take advantage of the NYSC SAED programme and develop their potentials adding that the antidote to unemployment is acquisition of vocational skill.

Ahmed also warned the Corps Members against violating the NYSC dress code.

"The era of wrong dressing is gone. You must always dress well, every wrong dressing attracts sanctions and if you are wrongly dressed you would not be allowed into our offices", he said.

He urged them to participate actively in all camp activities and use the four cardinal programmes of the Scheme, namely; Orientation Course, Primary Assignment, Community Development Service and Winding-Up/Passing-Out as avenues to impact their host communities and build enduring friendships.

While briefing the Director General, the NYSC Katsina State Coordinator, Mrs. Aisha Muhammad said all the 1,129 registered Corps Members comprising 551 males and 578 females have adjusted to their new environment.

Similarly, the NYSC Borno State Coordinator, Mr. Mohammed Jiya reported lauded teamwork among the camp officials resulting to seamless Camp activities.



NYSC DG Commiserates With Hospitalized Corps Members

By Femi Adetunji



L-R: Friday Toby, his mother and Brigadier General Yushau Dogara Ahmed during the visit.

The NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed recently visited the Nigerian Army Reference Hospital in Kaduna to commiserate with Corps Member Friday Toby Ojo KD/22B/2109, who is on admission at the Hospital.

Toby, an indigene of Edo State and a graduate of Marketing from the Federal Polytechnic Auchu was involved in a road traffic accident in Narayi, Kaduna.

General Ahmed commended the hospital management for the quality of care being offered the Corps Member and also prayed for his speedy recovery.

The Chief Medical Director of the Hospital, Colonel NS Onuchukwu informed Director General that the Corps Member is presently receiving the best medical attention that will ensure his quick recovery and to get back on his feet.

In his response, Toby appreciated the Director General and Members of his entourage for the unexpected visit.

Similarly, the NYSC Chief Executive visited Corps Member Onuoha Elvis Udodiri AK/22B/2148 who is on admission at the Ibom Specialist Hospital in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State.

Elvis, who was an INEC ad hoc staff during the House of Assembly rerun

election in the State was shot on the leg by gunmen at the village hall, Ikot Eduk Itak in Ikono Local Government Area of the State.

The Director General commended the hospital management for the treatment being offered the Corps Member, while he prayed for his quick recovery.

The Chief Medical Director of the hospital, Dr Ini Etukudo expressed delight at the fatherly disposition of the NYSC Director General to Corps Members.

He promised that the hospital will continue to provide effective medical care for the Corps Member.

Corps Member Elvis told the Director General that his health has improved tremendously. He appreciated the hospital management, the Director General, the Akwa-Ibom State NYSC Coordinator for their support and expressed hope that he will soon be on his feet again.



R-L: NYSC DG, Brigadier General YD Ahmed, NYSC Akwa-Ibom State Coordinator, Mrs. Chinyere Ekwe, Director, Corps Welfare and Health Services. Mr. Ayodele Omotade and others during General Ahmed's visit to Corps Member Elvis at Ibom Specialist Hospital in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State.



Abia NYSC Sensitizes Corps Members On Post-Camp Skills Training

By Nnachi Omaka



A cross section of Corps Members during the programme.

The State Coordinator of the National Youth Service Corps Abia State, Mrs. Ufuoma Dick-Iruenabere has flagged-off Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) post camp sensitization of Corps Members serving in the state.

Represented by the Assistant Director SAED, Mrs. Ruth Jacob, the Coordinator encouraged Corps members to endeavor to acquire vocational skills to avoid depending on scarce white-collar jobs for employment after their service year.

She noted that the level of unemployment in the country has made it compelling for the government and other stakeholders to explore other avenues for the youth

to become self-employed through skills, which is the idea behind the NYSC Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme.

Educating the Corps Members on business name registration, a Corps Lawyer from the Legal Aids Community Development Service group, Barrister Faith Osaguona explained the importance of business name registration, stressing that it gives credibility to a business and helps the business owner to apply for loans from the bank. She therefore encouraged corps members to ensure they give their businesses legal backups by registering them.

Various skill facilitators were unveiled at the flag-off ceremony which took

place at the Umuahia North Local Government Secretariat.

The NYSC Abia State Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Schedule officer, Mrs. Chidinma Osuagu, also spoke on U-Report and encouraged corps members to register for the online programme, saying the UNICEF-sponsored programme will unlock many opportunities for those who key in and dedicate their time to it.

In attendance at the event were the NYSC Zonal Inspector of Umuahia Mrs. Patience Nwokolo; Local Government Inspector Umuahia North and South LGAs, Mrs. Christiana Ugwu, and Chizube Ogbonna respectively, skills facilitators among others.



NYSC Appeals For Befitting Orientation Camps From State Govts

By Femi Adetunji



NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yushau Dogara Ahmed and Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, Alhaji Ahmed Wada Ikaka at the workshop.

The National Youth Service Corps has called on all Stakeholders to keep faith with the Scheme as it strives towards the transformation of Nigerian graduate youths for national development.

It also appealed to State Governments to provide befitting Orientation Camps in their domain, adding that the Camp being the first point of call for Corps Members creates a lasting impression about their States.

The Director General NYSC, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed made this appeal in his welcome address at the opening ceremony of the 2023 Batch 'B' Orientation Course Workshop held in Kaduna.

Ahmed appreciated the contributions

of the Kaduna State Government to the success of NYSC operations, but appealed for the provision of "a more befitting Orientation Camp for the

State because of its implications to the welfare of participants and the general success of the Orientation Course".

He assured that the workshop will come up with far reaching resolutions on policy guidelines on the conduct of the 2023 Batch 'B' exercise adding that the Scheme is working closely with critical stakeholders to ensure the success of the 2023 Batch 'B' Orientation Course.

The Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani commended the Scheme for its lofty achievements and tremendous contributions to national development since its inception fifty years ago.

In his introductory address, the NYSC Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, Alhaji Ahmed Ikaka assured stakeholders that the exercise



A cross section of participants at the Workshop in Kaduna.

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will be executed with greater commitment.

The Pre-Orientation Workshop is a forum where key officials of the

NYSC and its partner agencies converge to review the conduct of previous exercises with a view to map out strategies for improved performance.

The theme of the workshop is "Repositioning the NYSC Orientation Course in the Post-Golden Jubilee Era For Effective National Service".

Corps Doctor Offers Free Medicare To Jigawa Community

By Adamu Sada



Dr. Kutyyi Ango (JG/22C/ 0079) attending to a child during the medical outreach.

The Dandi Community in Kazaure Local Government Area of Jigawa State has commended Corps Member Kutyyi Ango (JG /22C/0079) for conducting free medical treatment of people in the community.

The Village Head, Alhaji Rabi'u Muhammad gave the commendation on behalf of the during the flag-off of one day free medical outreach at Dandi Primary Health Care Centre.

The Village Head stated that the gesture would significantly address the health challenges of the people in the area.

He appreciated the NYSC Management and the Corps Doctor for initiating and conducting the medical outreach in his community, describing it as a life-saving programme that will address some of the health challenges of indigents in the area.

"This programme would go a long way in assisting the people of our community to have free access to health care services which they did not have before and we are very grateful for this", he said.

The Village Head also urged other Corps Members to emulate the kind gesture in providing by providing

services that can improve the living standard of residents of the community.

The initiator of the outreach, Dr. Kutyyi Ango while addressing the beneficiaries listed some of the ailments to be treated to include Malaria, typhoid-fever, hypertension, diabetes among others.

Ango appreciated the NYSC and all her sponsors for giving her the opportunity to execute the programme for the benefit of mankind.

In his remark, the NYSC Kazaure Zonal Inspector, Alhaji Hamza Wada informed the beneficiaries that the outreach is part of the NYSC's efforts towards providing access to quality health care delivery to rural communities.

The Zonal Inspector urged the members of the community to utilize the opportunity provided by the programme for their own benefit.

Hundreds of patients include children, women with different ailments were treated and provided with drugs, while advanced cases were referred to tertiary health facilities for better management.

In the course of the programme, members of the community were also sensitized on personal hygiene practices.



NYSC At 50: A Heart Of Gratitude

By Adenike Adeyemi



Corps Members Giving Three Hearty Cheers on Parade Ground.

The National Youth Service Corps established on 22nd May, 1973 turned 50 and it has been a week of celebrations. Worth celebrating - YES, I will opine.

The Scheme has come a long way, weathered the storms, survived the odds and has grown from mobilizing just over 2,000 graduates in 1973 to over 300,000 youths annually for self-development and nation-building. NYSC has not only expanded in the number of graduates mobilized, but also in the variety of programmes and skills introduced to the Corps Members.

As the Global Stage grows and improves, the Scheme has always

added life-changing skills and pieces of training that make our youths globally competitive. Regularly in the works are intentional attempts to modify and expand on the embedded pieces of training and socio-economic development programmes carried out by the scheme. Programmes such as Information and Communications Technology [ICT] trainings, Skills acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development [SAED], Financial Education, Business Development, Volunteerism, Leadership and Nation Building have been progressively added to the Scheme's training schedules.

In 50 years, 22 National Directors and Directors General have headed the

scheme, it is wise to say the scheme in particular and the Nation, in general, benefitted from their sacrificial services.

As helmsmen in the saddle, their primary concern is hinged on developing the educated Nigerian youth and securing the next generation, raising credible and patriotic leaders for our country. Gladys Stern observed, "Silent gratitude isn't much good to anyone".

That is so true. That's why this piece is a salute to the founding father of NYSC, General Yakubu Gowon (GCFR), whose vision birthed the scheme and whose love has not waned a tiny dot and has been repeatedly demonstrated

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Corps Members during the parade

in the golden years.

Secondly, the Federal and State Governments deserve all accolades for ensuring that the scheme did not go under, rather, through commitment, funding and various expansion programmes, the youth scheme is recognised as the Government's intentional programme designed to reconstruct and reconcile the Nation.

While appreciating all efforts from Governments, Corporate bodies, International Organizations and indeed all Nigerians, particularly parents, the scheme should be strengthened with solutions for credible modifications and support of the recent NYSC Trust Fund Bill awaiting assent from the Federal Government.

The third round of gratitude here goes to the past National Directors and Directors General of the scheme who

worked tirelessly to ensure progressive growth and development over the years.

Each leader came and added bricks to the solid foundation of their predecessors. The NYSC had leaders that many staff and corps members had access to and could therefore connect with and found in them authentic role models.

Men of repute in that mold include Col. A. Ali [Rtd], cheers to the leading builder. Within the first two decades came Col. S.K Omojokun, Col. P.K Obasa, Col. E.A Akpan, Col. A Braimoh and Major General H.B Momoh.

In recent decades are Brigadier General S.A Sofoluwe, Major General SM Dule, Major General KO Ogunkoya, Compol. SI Emokaro, Rev. PO Okunromade, Brigadier General W Oki, Brigadier General Y Bomo,

Brigadier General MI Tsiga, Brigadier General NT Okore-Affia, Major General JB Olawumi, Major General SZ Kazaure, Major General S Ibrahim.

Many and great thanks to you all for being important parts of the NYSC story.

The gratitude will be incomplete without a mention of the retired Directors of this noble scheme. Blessed leaders, solid selfless men and women of discipline. You were incredible bosses, consistent at teaching values, building relationships and setting leadership examples.

Warren Buffet said, "Much of what you become in life depends on whom you choose to admire and copy". Many that followed in your footsteps have stories of growth and progress. At various times, you inspired the staff and youths you superintendent.

There were dark moments and non-glowing periods no doubt, but, you trudged on. We value the insights and guidance you provided.

Mention must be made of great inspirers, firm and committed leaders in the recent decades and past years.

Golden claps to some of our bosses, Chief Enegwea Gregory Kas, Alhaji Bulama Mahmud, Alhaji Haliru Garba, Chief [Mrs] Akinlade Rita, Chief [Mrs] Lasaki F.A, Mrs. Imohe Philomena, Sir Obu Donatus Arinze, Mr. Ogunlade Johnson, Chief Onuoha S, Mr. Falase Kolawole, Dr. Abhuere John, Chief Ejoh Michael, and Alhaji Abba Tanko.

Also worthy of mention are Mrs. Babatunde Clara, Mrs. Midala Martha Sambo, Mr. Obi Emmanuel, Mrs.

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Adimorah Elizabeth Emetarom, Alhaji Obomeile Abdulwahab, Mr. Alonge Gabriel Ojo, Mr. Ochim Solomon, Mr. Arokoyo Augustine, Mrs. Kolajo Mercy Foluso, and Mrs. Erokwu Oby Agatha.

Aside from the above, Mrs. Obioha Glory Okuata, Mr. Ajayi Akinlolu, Mr. Adeleke Ademola, Mr. Taura Aliyu Hudu, Chief Ani Anthony, Mr. Alabi Stephen, Mrs. Dan-Dan-Abia Mary, Mrs. Kwaki Kaka Rhoda, Alhaji Salisu

Bashir Yakasai, Mrs. Aderibigbe Bose, and Mrs. Makinde Adetoun Comfort are also men and women of substance.

Recently retired Directors not mentioned by name are not left out of our appreciation and respect for their most valued contributions to the scheme.

Brigadier General YD Ahmed, the incumbent Director General, you are wished more transformational, insightful, credible, productive years

in the saddle: a solid catalyst for the next golden years.

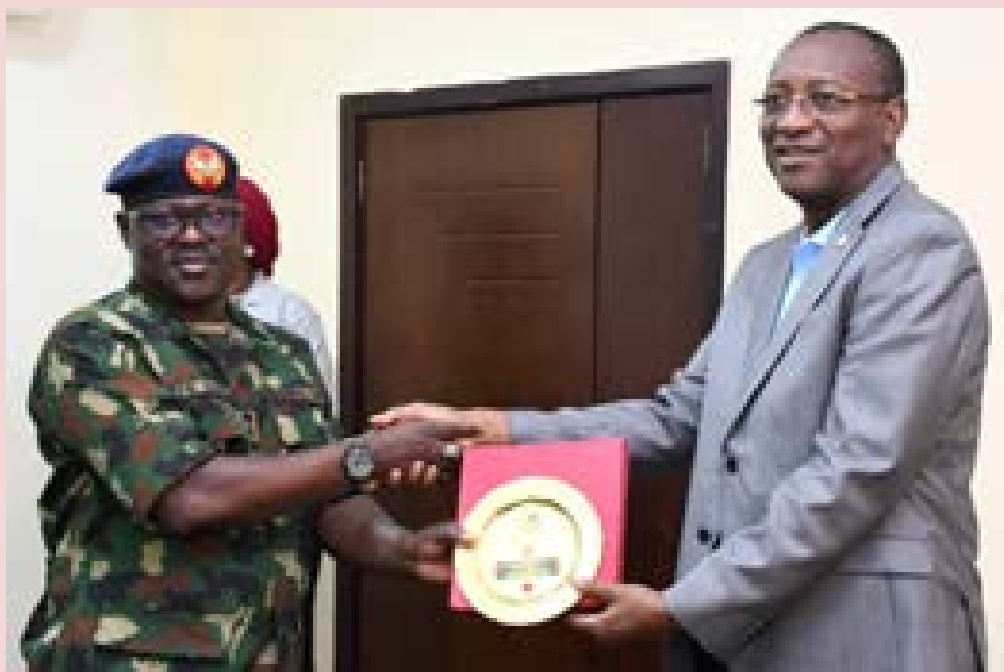
In summary, "Don't just feel gratitude, tell someone".

Happy 50th Anniversary to NYSC's past and present members.

Adenike Adeyemi, retired NYSC Director Press and Public Relations, wrote from Canada.

Mortgage Bank Set To Support Affordable Houses For NYSC Staff

By Yusufu Philibus



NYSC Director General, Brig Gen YD Ahmed presenting a souvenir to the Managing Director of Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria, Mr. Madu Hamman during his visit to the MD.

The Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) is ready and willing to support the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in its quest for affordable houses for its members of staff.

The bank's Managing Director, Mr. Madu Hamman disclosed this when

he received the top management of NYSC at his office in Abuja.

Hamman who commended the Director General of NYSC, Brig Gen YD Ahmed and his team for the good job they are doing in molding Nigerian youths into becoming responsible citizens listed three

housing schemes which NYSC staff can benefit from.

"The products at our disposal which your staff can key into are: National Housing Fund Mortgage Loan, Cooperative Housing Development Loan, and Ministerial Pilot Housing Scheme. We operate each of these plans in all our branches across the nation," he said.

The Chief Executive Officer of the FMBN reiterated the bank's commitment to ensuring that low and middle-class Nigerians obtain houses at affordable rates.

Speaking earlier, the NYSC Director General commended the bank for the enormous effort it is making to provide houses at subsidized rate to all categories of citizens.

General Ahmed said that the reason for the visit was to seek for strong collaboration with FMBN, which will give NYSC staff opportunity to own houses as part of the welfare plan of his administration.



NYSC Will Continue To Strengthen ICT Capacity To Enhance Mobilisation Process – DG

By Femi Adetunji



NYSC DG, Brigadier General YD Ahmed addressing participants at the 2023 Batch 'C' Pre-Mobilisation Workshop held in Abuja.

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has said the Scheme would continue to work towards achieving a seamless mobilization process as it continues to adapt to evolving trends in information and communication technology.

The NYSC Director General gave this assurance in his keynote address at the Opening Ceremony of the 2023 Batch 'C' Pre-Mobilisation Workshop, with the theme; “Enhancing Data Integrity for Seamless Mobilisation Process”, held in Abuja.

He advised Corps Producing Institutions in the country to ensure data integrity while mobilising their

graduates for national service.

He said that all hands must be on deck in order to ensure error-free mobilisation process. He equally urged the participants to use the opportunity of the workshop to appraise their roles in the NYSC Mobilisation process.

“I wish to, therefore, warn that we shall begin to invoke the penalty of withholding new Exemption Certificates for graduates of any institution that fails to return unclaimed ones”, the DG added.

Ahmed solicited assistance of Corps Producing Institutions in sensitising prospective Corps Members (PCMs) against traveling at night when

reporting to their States of deployment for the NYSC Orientation Course.

He said this has become necessary in view of recent incidents of kidnap and road accidents involving Corps Members, all of which occurred during night journeys.

“In view of the attendant dangers, Corps Producing Institutions should sensitize their graduates against night journeys, when reporting to the NYSC Orientation Camps. They should be strongly advised to break long journeys and pass the night at Corps Lodges or other safe places, and proceed the next morning.

It is therefore, incumbent on every one of us to always contribute towards discouraging our young graduates from putting themselves in harm's way. On our part, the NYSC Management will continue to accord priority to the security and general welfare of Corps Members”, he added.

The NYSC Chief Executive also stressed the importance of sensitising final year students on NYSC matters, adding that feedback being received shows that some institutions fail to fully mobilise their students to attend the sensitisation programme.

The DG said the Scheme would soon compile the names of schools that are not willing to open their gates for NYSC officials to disseminate information to their final year students.

The Director, Corps Mobilisation Department, Hajiya Walida Siddique Isa in her address stated that the Scheme has introduced innovations and also enhanced the level of collaboration with stakeholders in the Scheme's mobilisation process.



NYSC Trains Deployment Officers On Digital Skills

By Femi Adetunji



The Director, Corps Mobilisation, Hajiya Wallida Siddique Isa (5th left), NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed (5th right) and others during the Capacity Building Training For Deployment and Relocation Officers held in Abuja.

The National Youth Service Corps has said it would continue to ensure that the Scheme's personnel are well equipped to meet the current expectations in the ever-changing technology-driven world.

It also said the Scheme would continue to provide enabling environments for the successful performance of their duties in line with global best practices.

The Director General, of the Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed stated this in his address at the 2023 capacity building training for Deployment and Relocation Officers

of the Scheme held in Abuja.

He stressed the need for the officers to equip themselves with relevant digital skills for efficient performance as the NYSC Integrated System continues to evolve.

General Ahmed implored them to endeavor to engage both Corps Members and other stakeholders without friction in the course of their work, so as to build better image for themselves and the Scheme.

"Management remains committed to creating enabling environment for the successful performance of your duties. We shall continue to prioritize

training programmes of this nature", he said.

The NYSC Director Corps Mobilization Department, Hajiya Walida Isa Siddique in her introductory remark stated that the deployment and relocation officers in line with the NYSC Mobilisation process and posting policy have availed Corps Members with incentives to settle down and carry out their National Service without hitch.

Participants at the training include Heads of Deployment and Relocation Branches of all the 36 State Secretariats of the Scheme and the FCT, Abuja.



Ondo Lawmaker Donates Generator, Accessories to Aid NYSC Skill Acquisition Programme

By Simeon Bankole



The representative of the lawmaker, Prince Adetilewa Fafunmilade (right) and the representative of NYSC Ondo State Coordinator, Mr. S. Shina with the donated items.

The Federal Lawmaker representing Akoko North-East and Akoko North-West Constituency in the National Assembly, Honourable Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo has presented a Deep Freezer, two medium size Generators, Sterilizer and a Professional Clipper to the Ondo State Secretariat of the National Youth Service Corps.

He praised the Scheme for its numerous contributions to the

socio-economic development of the country and empowerment of Corps Members through its Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme.

Speaking through his representative, Prince Adetilewa Fafunmilade, the lawmaker said NYSC should be appreciated for giving better life to communities as well as serving as a veritable tool for national development.

Receiving the items, the NYSC

Ondo State Coordinator, Mrs. Victoria Ani appreciated the lawmaker for identifying with the NYSC Scheme on the occasion of its 50 years of fostering national unity, development and integration.

The State Coordinator expressed happiness at the turn of events as her visit to the lawmaker during the Scheme's health intervention outreach, the Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD) programme yielded positive response from the man who is loved by all and sundry not only in his constituency but in Ondo State in general.

Ani called on other good-spirited individuals in the State to emulate the good works of the community leader who is referred to as the man of the people.

The NYSC Ondo State boss while promising to make judicious use of the gift items disclosed that the Lawmaker will forever remain in the heart of Corps Members and NYSC Family in Ondo State.



NYSC, Humanitarian Institute, Set To Train Corps Members On Humanitarian Services

By Femi Adetunji



L-R: National Programme Officer, IHSD, Paul Oluyi, President/Chairman Governing Council, IHSD, Ambassador Adamu Ibrahim, NYSC DG, Brig Gen YD Ahmed and Registrar, IHSD, Prince Francis Origa during the visit.

The Institute for Humanitarian Studies and Social Development (IHSD) has solicited partnership with the National Youth Service Corps to train Corps Members on humanitarian services.

The President/Chairman of the Governing Council of the Institute, Ambassador Adamu Ibrahim made the request when he led other members of the Council on a courtesy visit to the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters in Abuja.

The Chairman described NYSC as the only institution that offers selfless

community development services to the public, adding that Corps Members' roles in rural development cannot be under-estimated.

He lauded the Scheme for the numerous community development projects by Corps Members over the past fifty years, which has benefitted many communities across the country.

He also applauded the managers of the Scheme for mentoring Corps Members on self-reliance, leadership roles and societal values.

Ibrahim stated that the collaboration

with NYSC would enable Corps Members understand the dynamics and importance of humanitarianism and also tap into the potentials of building up careers in the sector through volunteerism.

In his remarks, the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yushau Dogara Ahmed said there is need for professional humanitarians in the society.

He commended the Council for its efforts since inception and promised to look into the request with a view to cement the relationship.



NYSC: Lasting 50 Years And Still Waxing Strong Is A Big Achievement - *Obi of Onitsha*



The Obi of Onitsha, His Royal Majesty Igwe Nnaemeka Achebe CFR

The Obi of Onitsha, His Royal Highness Igwe Nnaemeka Achebe, the erudite urbane, soft-spoken technocrat occupying the most revered royal throne in South Eastern Nigeria spoke to our Crew on the 50th anniversary of the NYSC. Below are his perspectives on the Scheme.

Sir, can you give us an insight into

the Onitsha Kingdom?

I am the Obi of Onitsha. My name is Nnaemeka Achebe, the 21st Obi of Onitsha. Onitsha came into existence some 600 years ago when we migrated from Benin Kingdom. Our original migration was from Ile-Ife. The full name of Onitsha is Onitsha-ado-na-idu, that is Onitsha of Ado and Idu.

Ado is Ile-Ife, Idu is Benin. So, our name defines our origin. Settling here Onitsha soon became the confluence of trade and of movement of people up and down the Niger. People from Niger Delta came all the way here, people from the North, Igala, Nupe will come down here to exchange trade through the Niger river. Also, people from the hinter land, the Igbo and of course across the Niger from the other side. Onitsha became a melting pot. Today, we have people from Yoruba land, Ijaw and Igala all settled here. In terms of origin Onitsha people has the Ile-Ife-Edo connection. Then the Igala connection came very early because the Igala people helped the migration to ferry across. They all settled, lived together and intermingled. And of course, the Igbo element came into existence also because we now lived amongst the Igbo people. So, most Onitsha people will have Igala blood, Igbo blood and if you are lucky, the Edo blood also. So, that is the background of Onitsha.

"I gave you an example of a young Yoruba man who came here over 20 years ago for national service. Today, he is one of us. He speaks our language, settled down here, had his children and they grew up here. He set up Onitsha Business School and it is growing very strong and I am sure there are hundreds and thousands like him"

Corps Members serving in your kingdom are mainly from other parts of the country. How does the traditional institution assist in integrating the Corps Members into their host communities?

The fundamental purpose of the National Youth Service Corps is to get our young men and women coming

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out of tertiary institutions to offer service to the nation and of course be part of the national integration. So, by law and practice they are encouraged to serve away from their native home lands and they have a duty to learn about other communities. But we the host communities also have the duty to integrate them. So as much as possible we encourage our people to provide accommodation for the Corps Members either free or for small rental and by so doing, they become part of the community and they can participate in community activities our festivals our social activities and so on. So, it is a two-way situation. Some of our children from here that have gone to the North for instance, come back with fantastic stories of how well they were treated. That's the way it should be and that's the way it should continue to be.

You mentioned Corps Members meeting in your palace can you throw more light on that?

They asked us for space. If you look around you can notice the environment is very congenial. They used to have their meeting at the stadium next door, but it's not very conducive. You can see our pavilions here are very quiet. They have their meetings here. Sometimes I go out there to tease them and ask them questions about how they find the environment. This is a big palace. Even to keep it clean is a big challenge. We encourage the Corps Members to give us Community service by helping us once in a while to keep the palace clean. Working with our people in the palace is also part of integration.

NYSC is fifty years old, what is your perspectives on the Scheme? Any message for the Service Corps?

Congratulations to NYSC and congratulations to the Federal Government that set it up. An institution lasting fifty years and still waxing strong is a big achievement. If

you look at other Institutions set up for national integration, I don't want to mention names, they may have lasted fifty years but not waxing strong. They are not visible and their impact in the society is almost not there. They are just there on paper. I don't need to tell you what individual Corps Members have done to promote the dignity and standing of NYSC. But I gave you an example yesterday of a young Yoruba man who came here over 20 years ago for national service. Today, he is one of us. He speaks our language, settled down here, had his children and they grew up here. He set up Onitsha Business School and it is growing very strong and I am sure there are hundreds and thousands like him who have done well both in their own career aspirations and in being part of national integration. I say kudos and congratulations to the NYSC for success on that prime responsibility. But what about the future, another 50 years, another 100 years? The world is changing everyday and we must change with the world. If we don't change with world the world will leave you behind. The question is, in Nigeria and in the world, what is the future of Young people? One, self-employment is very important. Being creative in a profitable manner. You create something, make a living out of it and you will be happy with yourself. Two, what is the trend for the future? Information Technology is the future, though we don't all have to be experts in Information Technology, but IT is the language of the future. Whether it is Businesses, academics or even in the home your cell phones rely on Information Technology. So, all of them have to be literate in IT. Three, the world is getting smaller because the national boundaries are breaking up and they have to realise that too. You can be in Nigeria and work for an American Company in your room with your computer and get a salary. There are many other diverse areas and in our own Country, one area I think all of us accept is the great need

for genuine, committed leadership, us instead of me. Looking for the best interest of the Community, whether it is academic community, church Community or the political Community. We need Committed best ideals of nationhood.

"An institution lasting 50 years and still Waxing strong is a big achievement. If you look at other institutions set up for national integration, they may have lasted 50 years but not waxing strong. They are not visible and their impact in the society is almost not there".

We need to build new leaders for tomorrow, for today actually and then going forward. I don't want to criticize anybody but politics seems to dominate our lives in this country. In countries like in the Scandinavia for instance, where the standard of living is high, the crime rate is low, the gap between the people at the top and those at the bottom is so small. The Prime Minister there rides a bicycle to work just like his or her Secretary. They go to the same grocery shop to buy food. These are the ideals that NYSC should imbue in Corps Members, because they are the rising potentials for leadership that we have. And in those places politics has a very small role, the economy, social development is very important. The environment that your children are going to school, the environment that you are working in are very important. The value and quality of life is very important. These are my messages for NYSC. Well done for the past fifty years and the next fifty or hundred years stay in touch and be ahead of change and transformation and lead Nigeria in the proper direction. Corps Members are the leaders of the future. Everyone graduating from tertiary education goes through NYSC. All the leaders we have today, except the very old ones all passed through NYSC. We need better leadership going forward.

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“By law and practice they are encouraged to serve away from their native home lands and they have a duty to learn about other communities. But we the host communities also have the duty to integrate them”.

Is NYSC on the right part towards eradicating unemployment and poverty in Nigeria through its Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development, (SAED) programme?

To some extent yes. But then if you take somebody who does not have the disposition to, for example, tailoring and train him or her in tailoring and give him a sowing machine, you may come back six months later and discover he has probably sold the sowing machine and used it for something else. Skill acquisition is okay for those who have the calling for the particular skills, but the important thing is to fire up their minds to look at the environment, the society and find out what need that is there which they can fulfil and earn a decent living. Lifestyle is changing and the future is going to be the future of lifestyle. In the past, when we were growing up as kids, in the morning we sweep the kitchen of ash from the previous night for our parents to cook breakfast. We come back in the afternoon lunch is there and then they cook dinner. How many people cook breakfast at home these days? You are rushing to get to work, etcetera, but then people have to eat also. So how do you find the opportunity to provide breakfast, lunch and so on. If you go to Lagos for instance, young men and women are up as early at 5am. Offices open at 7am or 8am by 7am they've dropped breakfast for company A, B, C and when the Staff come, they pick their breakfast and settle down with a cup of coffee, set to work and productivity is great. Graduates in Abuja are into suya business, they don't make it themselves, they just set up suya making as a business and employ

people to make the suya. House cleaning service. Corps Members can form a company for that. Garbage collecting is another business to venture into. I know a number of graduates in Lagos who are into that in estates and get paid by month end. Residents are happy to do that because the public services are not working. Collecting and recycling of plastics are good businesses. In addition to the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Programme, there should be an avenue where influential speakers can challenge young men and women to think out of the box and suddenly discover that something that you just walk pass everyday could be a source of income. Just get self-made people like Innoson Motors, Coscharis Motors, Chief Adejo, Elizade, Aliko Dangote other people like that to talk to Corps Members. You can record it with camera and broadcast to them. That is the way to the future.

Speaking about national service, has your wife participated in the one year National service?

Yes. My wife served her fatherland in Ondo State. She still has friends from various parts of the Country who served with her. Though they have gone their separate ways, they are still in touch and visit each other after over twenty years. But again, after the national service that experience is there at the background. If as a Permanent Secretary at the Federal or State level and something comes up in Sokoto, you will have a clear picture of what it is. The National Youth Service Corps has encouraged people to travel around the country. My brother In-law, for instance, who served in Mambila (Taraba State) still visits there. It would take him two days to get there and he still goes there. He still loves the place. These are the benefits of the service year. Though the benefits are intangible, they are there. We cannot measure them but they affect the ways of life of people. We've

got to build on our positives as a nation and not on our negatives.

“my message for NYSC. Well done for the past 50 years, in the next 50 or 100 years, stay in touch and be ahead of change and transformation and lead Nigeria in the proper direction. Corps Members are the leaders of the future”.

Any advise for Nigerian Youths?

The advice I can give them is the advice that was given to us as young people. In my secondary school, we were told to work hard, play hard and to keep straight. To keep straight is to be honest, transparent and fair in everything you do. Our school Principal used to tell us that everyday that passes can never come back again. Always make the best of your day. If you work hard and you keep straight you have a clear focus of what you want to do in life, you will be contented. Do your best and you would excel. Today, it is a different world, still those fundamentals, had work, have no replacement. Yahoo yahoo gets you to jail. Drug addiction, kills you. Study your books and pass your exams. We also thought that passing exams was incidental to getting a good education. You would ask yourself then what is a good education? The purpose of going to school is not to pass exams. You will pass you exams anyway if you have a good education. A good education is overall education. The moral education, social upbringing, hard work, respect for your fellow human being, making friends, being humble even in your success among other things. These are what makes up a good education. If your objective is to pass exams, you will, but it does not make you educated. It is important that as you pass through the school, allow the school to pass through you. That is my advice to the Youths.

Thank you for your time, your Royal Highness.



NYSC Partners ICT Firm On Skills Training For Corps Members

By Femi Adetunji



The Managing Director of New Horizons Systems Solutions Ltd, Mr. Tom Akano and NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed signing a Memorandum of Understanding for the provision of Computerized Skills Training for Corps Members.

The National Youth Service Corps has reiterated its commitment to enhancing the value and employability of Corps Members through the deployment of ICT solutions.

NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed stated this during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with New Horizons Systems Solutions Ltd, at the Scheme's National Directorate Headquarters in Abuja.

Ahmed said all efforts should be geared towards equipping Corps Members with the necessary skills

and trainings that would enhance their chances of becoming self-reliant and contributors to the growth of the national economy.

The Director General explained that the idea behind the NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme and his decision to make it one of the focal areas of his administration is to reduce youth unemployment.

"We shall play our part by providing the enabling environment for the smooth implementation of this partnership.

Under this MoU, we shall put into

effective use, the ICT sections of the NYSC Skill centres in Ekiti, Gombe, Nasarawa, Ogun and Yobe States as well as others for the benefit of Corps Members and the host communities", he added.

General Ahmed urged all Corps Members to avail themselves of the training opportunity to become self-reliant and job creators.

The Managing Director of New Horizons Systems Solutions Ltd, Mr. Tom Akano congratulated General Ahmed on his appointment as the new Director General of the Scheme. He commended the NYSC Management for repositioning the Scheme towards making Corps Members highly relevant in the industrial space through digital skills.

Akano said the MoU between both organisations encompass critical thinking, critical analysing and the creation of SAED Learning Portal that would enable Corps Members with vocational training and skills to advertise themselves and their products to the world.

The MD also promised the donation of 1,000 ICT books as part of the organization's contributions to the celebration of NYSC's 50th Anniversary.



NYSC Sues For Synergy Among Tertiary Institutions, Regulatory Agencies



The Director, Corps Mobilization, Hajia Walida Siddique Isa presenting the address of NYSC Director General at the meeting.

The Director General of National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General Yushau Dogara Ahmed has sought for synergy among stakeholders in the education sector at the 2023 Policy Meeting on admissions into tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

The DG urged participants and other stakeholders to the opportunity to focus on broader issues of national importance, especially the education sector.

Ahmed whose address was read at

the forum by the NYSC Director, Corps Mobilization, Hajia Walida Siddique Isa added that NYSC will be eager to see how some of the resolutions will positively impact the realization of some of the Scheme's programmes.

The Policy Meeting was scheduled to chart policy directions for the Nation's tertiary institutions, set admission guidelines, and make a holistic review of application statistics, performance, and acceptable minimum admission standards.

At the meeting, the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and tertiary education stakeholders approved the "National Minimum tolerable UTME Score (NTMUS)," otherwise known as the cut-off mark for 2023 admission into the Nations tertiary institutions. The benchmark of 140 for Universities and 100 for Polytechnics and colleges of education were arrived at.

The policy meeting, which was presided over by the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education, Mr. Andrew David Adejoh, arrived at the decision of setting the benchmark following recommendations by the heads of institutions.

The JAMB Registrar, Prof Ishaq Oloyede, had earlier updated the house on the 2022 admissions exercise and the 2023 UTME/DE performances.

Also in attendance at the meeting were, Vice-Chancellors of Universities, Rectors of Polytechnics, Provosts of Colleges of Education and other heads of regulatory bodies.



NYSC To Partner With NGO To Empower Women

By Yusufu Philibus



NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed (3rd right) with members of the National Youth for Women Empowerment and Education in Nigeria (NYWEE) during the group's courtesy visit to his office in Abuja

The National Youth Service Corps has agreed to join forces with the National Youth for Women Empowerment and Education in Nigeria (NYWEE) in empowering women in Nigeria.

The Director General of NYSC, Brigadier General YD Ahmed stated this in his office in Abuja, while playing host to the leadership of NYWEE, who came on a courtesy visit.

The NYSC boss who noted that the girl-child is a bundle of blessings to any society disclosed that the

Scheme has over the years empowered thousands of women through its Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) Programme.

He expressed satisfaction with the progress made by NYWEE in giving succor to indigent women and girls across the country, and promised that the two organizations will form a formidable partnership that will put smiles on the faces of more vulnerable women.

The National Coordinator of NYWEE, Ambassador Ibrahim

Ibrahim he his remark outlined the objectives of the non-governmental organization which include: promotion of school enrolment, offering of free skill Acquisition training and start-up capital, combating drug abuse, curbing domestic violence, fight against child trafficking with NAPTIP etc., which are all geared towards women emancipation.

The organisation decorated the NYSC helmsman as icon of women empowerment in Nigeria during the visit.



NYSC Inaugurates Skill Acquisition Centre In Yobe Camp

By Femi Adetunji



The new NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Centre at NYSC Yobe State Orientation Camp

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has inaugurated an ultra-modern Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Centre at the NYSC Yobe State Orientation Camp, located at KM 6, Potiskum-Kano road, in Dazigau Local Government Area of the State.

Speaking during the inauguration, the DG advised Corps Members deployed to the State and youths in the host community to utilize the opportunity of the centre to acquire vocational trainings that would make them self-employed.

He said the era of salaried jobs is fading away, while entrepreneurship is the option to address

unemployment.

He urged the Corps Members to embrace skill acquisition training during the Orientation period and continue with the training after the three weeks Orientation Course.

The DG urged the community to treat the centre as their own. In his addressing to the Corps Members, he said; "I want all of you to be interested in Skill Acquisition. I encourage you to maximize your time and the opportunities of the service year to do useful things for yourself.

Prepare your business proposals because there are lots of stakeholders that would offer you business grants to actualize your dreams of becoming employers of labour".

The Director General advised the Corps Members to respect the culture of their host communities and also execute laudable projects that would improve the living standards of the people.

The DG had earlier in the day joined other dignitaries to witness the swearing-in ceremony of the 946 Corps Members, comprising 656 males and 290 females deployed to the State.

Yobe State Governor, Mai Mala Buni in his address at the ceremony said the Scheme has been providing a major platform for youths in the country to break the barriers of ethnicity, religious bigotry and primordial sentiments.

The Governor, whose address was presented at the ceremony by the Yobe State Commissioner for Higher Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Moh'd Munkaila promised that the State Government will upgrade the camp facilities and provide necessary incentives to enable the Scheme build on its laudable achievements.

The NYSC Yobe State Coordinator, Mrs Hafsat Yerima in her address urged the Corps Members to obey all camp rules and participate actively in all activities.

The Yobe State Chief Judge, Hon. Justice MK Kaigama, who was represented by Hon. Justice Aminu Shehu administered the Oath of Allegiance on the Corps Members.



There Is No Substitute For NYSC – Ondo Monarch

By Simeon Bankole



*His Imperial Majesty, Oba (Dr) Ajibade Gbadegesin Ogunoye III,
the Olowo of Owo Kingdom.*

His Imperial Majesty, Oba (Dr) Ajibade Gbadegesin Ogunoye III, the Olowo and Paramount Ruler of Owo Kingdom has asserted that the NYSC Scheme remain the best youth organisation that has no match in sub-Saharan Africa.

The prominent monarch made the assertion while assessing the NYSC on the 50th anniversary of the Scheme.

The revered traditional ruler said that NYSC has lived up to expectations in line with the objectives of its establishment by the Federal Government.

"Federal Government established the

Scheme to ensure the unity of Nigeria and Nigerians and through this programme, we have seen the acculturation of individuals from different geopolitical zones with diversity in languages and tribes coming together as one in pursuit of national development".

He said that if not for the laudable Scheme, most Nigerians would not have ventured out of their geopolitical zone, state or community.

"Establishing the National Youth Service Corps fifty years ago had cancelled all that and through the Scheme we have seen agglomeration of Nigerians in service towards a single entity, and I have strong conviction

that the Scheme has even surpassed the expectations of the founding fathers despite the enormous challenges along the way" he opined.

The custodian of culture and tradition of the Owo people posited that the Scheme through its youth-oriented policy has largely impacted the socio-economic development of Nigeria.

"NYSC, through its deliberate posting policy are bringing graduate youths from their comfort zones to other zones and regions to render quality services to the citizens and residents of this country. Through their skills, you would have noticed that the gaps in labour movement, gap in service delivery have been bridged through the selfless service of these patriotic citizens under the NYSC programme.

"You see that graduates such as doctors, nurses, educators and other professionals who are from the Southern part of Nigeria are posted up North and vice versa to give services that are in short supply and inadequate. Through the activities of the Scheme over the years, the Corps Members have impacted in all the sectors of the economy, where such is needed to develop Nigeria.

"Efforts of NYSC is largely noticeable as different professionals like Teachers, Engineers, Technologists etc, in line with their professional callings and competence have been engaged in the social, economic and political space that would have been void. So, largely

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through the socio-economic contributions and political development, NYSC has made her mark”, he said.

The first class king noted the roles Corps Members are playing during electoral process which he said has given credibility and acceptance to the electioneering in the country.

He said that the contributions of the Scheme cannot be wished away, adding that NYSC Corps Members are the ones complementing the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to achieve credible, acceptable, free and fair elections in Nigeria. The monarch also outlined the contributions of other Corps Vanguards such as the FRSC, NDLEA, EFCC, ICPC who assisted in enlightenment programmes,

advocacy campaigns and the likes to check various societal ills.

The Olowo, who was deployed to Jigawa State during the 1995/96 service year confirmed the indispensability of the Scheme.

"I enjoyed my stay in Jigawa State and right from the Orientation Camp, we came together as Nigerians with one identity. I have friends across the Niger, from the East and from the North. I learnt more about other peoples' cultures and ways of life and I want to say that the experience has further demonstrated the indispensability of the NYSC Scheme", he added.

The royal father landed the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme,

the Community Development Service (CDS) and other pivotal roles NYSC has been playing to further deepen the relevance of the Scheme.

He congratulated the managers of the Scheme for nurturing it to greatness despite all the challenges associated with growth.

"This Scheme has gone phenomenal and I want to congratulate the management, staff and entire corps members on this Golden Jubilee anniversary and to say that NYSC has impacted positively on our nationhood. It is my prayer that NYSC will continue to wax stronger and God will bless all souls that are associated with the Scheme and it shall continue to be well with everyone carrying the banner of unity and integration in this country", he prayed.

NYSC Trains Human Resource Managers For Effective Service Delivery

By Femi Adetunji

Human Resource Management Schedule Officers of the NYSC have been charged to be committed in the discharge of their duties in order to provide necessary guide to members of staff for optimum performance.

The call was made by the Director General of the Scheme, Brigadier General Yushau Dogara Ahmed in his address at this year's training workshop for HRM Schedule Officers from NYSC formations across the country held in Abuja.

Represented by the then Director, Human Resource Management,

Hajiya Habiba Bappah, the Director General said that as managers of human capital at various levels, HRM Schedule Officers must be well-informed about public service rules to be able to plan and achieve the overall organisational objectives of the Scheme.

In her welcome address, the representative of the Director, Human Resource Management, Hajiya A'isha Mohammed Tata disclosed that the workshop is one of the many innovative programmes outlined to empower staff to be updated on contemporary challenges in their schedules.

She stated further that the Scheme has initiated best staff award, briefing on Human Resource matters and continuous training of all Schedule Officers nationwide.

A retired NYSC Director, Mr. Teryima Igyuse delivered a lecture on the topic; "Rudiments and Applications of Public Service Rules and NYSC Conditions of Service".

Similarly, a lecture on the "Role and Responsibilities of Human Resource Management Officers" was presented by the NYSC Kano State Coordinator, Malam Andy Suleiman.



NYSC Trains Officers On Procurement Process On GIFMIS

By Yunusa Baba Isa



3rd from left; Director, Ventures Management, Prince Mohammed Momoh, representative of NYSC DG, former Director, Finance and Accounts, Mr Isa Abdulazeez Onimisi, Director, Procurement, Mrs Bona Adebali Fasakin, Director, General Services, Alhaji YB Adbullahi and other workshop participants during the procurement officers workshop.

The National Youth Service Corps has trained its procurement officers on emerging challenges in procurement processes on Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) to enhance efficiency and ensure financial prudence.

Declaring the training workshop open in Abuja, NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed said the training was organised to deepen the efficiency of procurement officers and instill in them a sense of fiscal discipline and block leakages.

Represented by the former Director,

Finance and Accounts, Alhaji Isa Abdulazeez Onimisi, General Ahmed stated that the Scheme is strategically positioned to conform to due process and financial regulations as it relates to all applications on Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS).

"This training is a mark of our commitment to ensuring transparency, accountability and prudent management of resources," he said.

The Director General further reminded the procurement officers that the Scheme count on them for

the seamless conduct of the procurement process, which is critical to the success of its operations.

In her welcome address, the Director, Procurement, Mrs Fasakin Bona Adibeli disclosed that the workshop was organised in collaboration with the office of the Accountant General of the Federation to broaden the knowledge of NYSC Procurement officers to keep them abreast with emerging trends and best practices.

While appreciating the Director General for providing an enabling environment for capacity building to enhance seamless operations, Mrs Fasakin enjoined the procurement officers to justify the confidence reposed in them as critical end users of GIFMIS applications designed to enforce prudent financial management of public funds.

During the workshop with the theme; "Emerging Issues in Procurement Processes on GIFMIS", a team of resource persons from the office of the Accountant General of the Federation, led by GIFMIS NYSC Coordinator, Mr Luka Joshua Izang delivered relevant papers.



Ondo Coordinator Tasks Corps Members On Vocational Skills

By Simeon Bankole



NYSC Ondo State Coordinator, Mrs. Nnenna Ani inspecting the products of Corps Members during the SAED Exhibition.

The NYSC Ondo State Coordinator, Mrs. Victoria Nnenna Ani has urged Corps Members not to relent in perfecting the skills they learnt while in camp.

She gave this advice at the closing ceremony of the 2023 Batch 'A' Stream II Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme at the NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Ikare-Akoko.

Ani disclosed that post-camp training is slightly different from in-camp training as the Corps Members have to go extra miles to make

sacrifice in terms of financial investment and time commitment to achieve the desired objective.

"Let me remind you that in-camp training was highly subsidized which means that you paid nothing to access the service, equipment and other materials needed to enhance your training. We have a good rapport and understanding with the Trainers/Facilitators and they would not exploit you.

I want to use this medium to encourage you to perfect what you have learnt in the course of the in-camp training. It is often said that Rome was not built in a day and I

want to encourage you to take serious the post-camp training which will assist you greatly in getting to your dream destination," she said.

The NYSC Ondo State boss noted that paid job is scarce, advised the Corps Members to learn a skill that will stand them out among their contemporaries.

The NYSC state Chief Executive admonished the Corps Members not to hesitate to contact their Local Government Inspectors and SAED Schedule Officers if they are facing difficulties during post-camp training as they will assist them how best to tackle such challenges.

The Assistant Director/Head, SAED, Mr. Olugbenga Adefehinti advised the Corps Members to take to the advice given them while in camp as they would be handy in helping them make informed decisions.

At the end of the inter-platoon competition/exhibition, Corps member Ayuba Danladi with code number OD/23A/2720 came first in Barbing while in Cosmetology, Oyibo Zainab, code number OD/23A/2221 beat others to come tops. In Make-Over, Ogagaroge Akpevwe with code number OD/23A/2088 edged others to clinch the first position and in Gele-tying, Onah Ifeoma, code number OD/23A/2223 outshined other contestants to emerge winner.



NYSC Trains Legal Officers For Improved Productivity

By Femi Adetunji



Across section of participants at the Legal Officers Workshop in Abuja.

The National Youth Service Corps has reaffirmed its determination to ensure that staff are well trained in order to enhance their capacity for improved performance.

The Director General, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed stated this in his address at the 2023 NYSC Legal Officers' Workshop, with the theme; "The Role of the Legal Officer in Defence of the Public Service in Nigeria", held in

Abuja.

General Ahmed, who was represented at the event by the Director, Legal Services, Barrister Ibrahim Ahmed Tijani said the training was designed to enhance the capacity and knowledge of Legal Officers in the Scheme on their professional role in the defence of the Public Service in Nigeria.

"Over the past 50 years of existence of the Scheme, training of Staff of

the Scheme has proven to be very fruitful, especially in the training of Legal Officers, judging from the laudable achievements recorded so far by the Legal Unit and the professional conduct of Legal Officers in the Scheme.

The Unit has kept faith with its mandate of rendering quality legal advice to the NYSC Management and has shown due diligence in handling cases involving the Scheme in different Courts of Law

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in Nigeria", the DG said.

He stated further that in order to contribute to the achievements of the Legal Unit, the training would also serve as a platform to evaluate the activities of the Unit with a view to breaking new grounds towards strengthening the values of the Scheme.

The Director General commended the NYSC Legal Officers for adding value to the Scheme through their selfless services.

Ahmed also urged the Legal Officers to redouble their efforts at increasing their capacity especially in the area of defending the NYSC in particular and the Public Service in general. He reaffirmed Management's commitment to enhancing capacity building to stimulate efficiency and higher corporate performance in the Scheme.

In his welcome address, the Director, Legal Services, Barrister Ibrahim Ahmed Tijani, whose address was presented by the Deputy Director, Litigation and Education, Barrister Chris Ogar urged the participants to pay full attention to the training in order to comprehensively absorb and maximize the gains of the training.

Make Good Use Of The Service Year - Director Advises Corps Members

By Orunta Ugochukwu



Acting Director, North-Central Area Office, Mrs. Olubukola Abiodun addressing Corps Members.

The Acting Director, NYSC North-Central Area Office, Mrs. Abiodun Olubukola has advised Corps Members to make good use of the service to improve themselves while serving the nation.

Olubukola gave this advice while addressing the 2023 Batch 'B' Stream II Corps Members deployed to Taraba State at the NYSC Orientation Camp in Sibre.

She enjoined the Corps Members to take their Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development training seriously, as it will enable them acquire relevant skills to start profitable business that can create

needed jobs which will in turn promote growth and development of the nation.

The Director urged them to endeavour to utilize the health insurance scheme for corps members whenever they fall sick during the service year and to take their personal security seriously.

Earlier, the Coordinator of NYSC Taraba State, Mr. Anthony Nzoka expressed appreciation for the Director's visit to the camp. He outlined achievements already recorded and pledged the commitment of the Corps Members and officials to the programmes and policy guidelines of the Orientation Course.



NYSC Trains Officers On Data Protection

By Femi Adetunji



NYSC DG, Brigadier General Yushau Dogara Ahmed (middle), Director, ICT, Mrs. Christy Uba (4th left) and other participants during the workshop.

The National Youth Service Corps has assured that it would continue to ensure adequate protection of Corps Members' data in strict compliance with the Nigerian Data Protection Regulation.

It also said the Scheme would ensure the provision of enabling environment for staff to achieve optimal productivity with the deployment of ICT solutions.

The NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed gave this assurance in his address at the ICT Training Workshop for NYSC State

Coordinators in Abuja.

The DG advised the Coordinators to adapt to evolving technological trends on data integrity and security in order to enhance their performances. He equally urged them to utilize the opportunities of the workshop to play their role effectively on the NYSC Integrated Platform.

"I wish to remind you that the usage of Information Technology in our daily activities comes with challenges. NYSC is in custody of huge volume of Corps data, therefore, adequate precaution is necessary in processing them", the

DG said.

In her welcome address, the NYSC Director, ICT, Mrs. Christy Uba explained that the aim of the workshop was to equip the participants with requisite skills for their role in the NYSC digitalization process.

"We are in a real time of exceptional growth with cutting-edge technology driving most of our activities. In order to avoid lagging behind, there is need to take advantage of these new opportunities", she said. The theme of the workshop is "Sustaining Digitization of NYSC Operations: The Role of State Coordinators".



NYSC Ventures Managers Strategises To Enhance Revenue

By Yunusa Baba Isa



The representative of NYSC DG, Director Corps Welfare and Health Services, Mr. Ayodele Omotade (2nd left), Director, Ventures Management Department, Prince Mohammed Momoh (middle) with the award recipients, Peter Akalaka of NYSC Garment Factory, Minna (left), Bawa Abubakar of NYSC Garment Factory, Keffi (2nd right) and Dashe Diyegun, NYSC Farm Kebbi (right).

Managers of NYSC Ventures across the Country gathered in Abuja recently to put in place effective Strategies to enhance revenue earnings from the Scheme's enterprises.

Addressing the Meeting, NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yushau Dogara Ahmed charged the Ventures Managers to ensure transparency and accountability in all their dealings so as to make their enterprises self-sustaining.

Represented by the Director, Corps

Welfare and Health Services, Mr. Ayodele Omotade, the Director General said as managers of NYSC business entities, they must place high premium on return on investment as well as training of Corps entrepreneurs for self-employment.

"I wish to emphasize that all NYSC Ventures will continue as self-sustaining business entities while not neglecting other mandates given to them," He declared.

Earlier in his introductory address, the Director, Ventures Management,

Prince Mohammed Momoh disclosed that the strategic meeting was designed to deliberate exhaustively on the 2022 production year with a view to evolving innovative ways of improved performance through peer review and industry best practices.

He pledged the readiness of the Ventures Managers to tackle existing challenges and proffer workable solutions by leveraging Smart ICT tools and evidence-based practices.

The Maiden Strategic meeting has the theme; "Sustaining Profitability of NYSC Ventures Through Effective Planning and Management." Resource Persons from the National Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC), NIMET and National Cereals Research Institute presented lectures at the meeting.

The Director General also presented awards to three outstanding Ventures Managers who distinguished themselves during the 2022 production year. The award recipients include; Dashe Diyegun, NYSC Farm, Kebbi, Bawa Abubakar, NYSC Garment Factory, Keffi and Peter Akalaka, NYSC Garment Factory, Minna.



Director General Extols Virtues Of Late NYSC Board Member



Late Alhaji Yusuf Nalado

The NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has described Late Alhaji Yusuf Nalado as a man who was very passionate about youth development and the growth of NYSC during his lifetime.

He expressed shock at his death adding that it is a colossal loss to Kano State and the country at large.

General Ahmed stated this when he paid a condolence visit to the family of the deceased member of the immediate past NYSC National Governing Board in Kano.

Speaking at the deceased's residence where his wife and children received

the NYSC delegation, the DG commiserated with them and prayed the Almighty Allah to grant the late patriot admittance to Aljannah firdaus and take care of the family he left behind.

He also presented a condolence letter on behalf of the Scheme to the family. General Ahmed who was represented by the NYSC Director, North-West Area Office, Mr. Kehinde Aremu-Cole was accompanied by the NYSC Kano State Coordinator, Malam Andy Suleiman, Management Staff from NYSC Kano State Secretariat and Corps Members.

The DG thereafter addressed staff of NYSC Kano at the State Secretariat where he charged them to support his policy thrust in order to birth a more productive Scheme.



The Director, NYSC North-West Area Office, Mr. Kehinde Aremu presenting a condolence letter to Mrs. Yusuf Nalado on behalf of NYSC Director General,



NYSC Enjoins Corps Members To Respect Tradition Of Host Communities

By Femi Adetunji



Corps Members performing traditional dance to welcome the NYSC Director General during his visit to Taraba State Orientation Camp in Sibre.

Corps Members have been warned to obey the customs and tradition of their host communities and avoid any action that may put them on collision against their hosts during their service year.

This warning was given by the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed while addressing Corps Members during his visit to the Adamawa State NYSC Orientation Camp in Damare, Girei Local Government Area of the State and their colleagues at the Taraba State

Camp in Sibre.

The Director General advised the Corps Members to study their new environment, learn and understand the culture and traditions of their hosts and also endeavour to inculcate new values.

Ahmed further urged them to ensure personal security and desist from any adventure that may put their lives at risk.

He disclosed that improper dressing and unauthorized journeys during the service year attracts sanctions as stipulated in

the NYSC Byelaws.

The Director General warned against the misuse of the social media adding that they should use it "for the promotion of national unity and integration, personal development and other meaningful activities. Avoid drugs, illegal gathering and whether in camp or out of camp, you must dress according to NYSC dress code".

The NYSC Chief Executive, whose visit coincided with the skill acquisition exhibition in both camps enjoined the Corps Members to embrace the opportunities of the NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme to become job creators.

The NYSC Adamawa State Coordinator, Mr. Dennis Jingi stated that all the registered 1,139 Corps Members have adjusted to camp life.

Similarly, the Taraba State NYSC Coordinator, Mr. Tony Nzoka informed General Ahmed that a total of 1,141 Corps Members comprising 601 males and 540 females have been exhibiting exemplary zeal in all camp activities.



Oyo Coordinator Presents Most NYSC Friendly LG Award To Council Boss

By Abimbola Faniyi



NYSC Oyo State Coordinator, Mr Abel Odoba (3rd left), the Chairman of Oyo East Local Government, Mr Arowosaye Saheed Adeyemi (4th left) and others during the presentation.

The NYSC Oyo State Coordinator, Comrade Abel Odoba has presented an Award of the Most NYSC Friendly Local Government to Oyo East Local Government. The Award was presented to the Chairman of the Local Government, Mr Arowosaye Saheed Adeyemi at the Local Government Secretariat at Kosobo.

In his speech, the State Coordinator stated that the Award was born out of the recognition of the fatherly roles that the Chairman and his management team have played over

the years in the life of Corps members posted to the Local Government area and the provision of a very conducive environment for both Corps members and the Local Government Inspector to perform their duties as well as his support towards the construction of the community development service Hall.

Odoba equally commended the Chairman for his administrative pragmatism and acumen in leading both the Executive and Legislative arms of the Local Government in carrying out numerous invaluable

development projects in the Local Government.

In his acceptance speech the Chairman expressed his appreciation to the NYSC Management in the State for recognising the contributions of his administration to the NYSC and the State and promised not to relent in the good work that endeared him to the Scheme.

While dedicating the Award to the serving Corps members in the Local Government, the Chairman thanked them for bringing the best out of him and promised to remain committed to the course of NYSC.

Present at the Award presentation were the Assistant Director, Human Resource Management Mr Clement Adekanye and Assistant Director, Deployment and Relocation, Mrs Margaret Omaji. Others are the Zonal Inspector, Oyo Zone Mr. Bright Ayoola, Local Government Inspectors for Atiba LG, Mrs. Fasasi, Oyo West LG, Mrs. Ayoade, Afijio LG, Mrs Gbonjubola and the host Oyo East LGI, Mr. Gbadeyan.

The Chairman and his management team conducted the State Coordinator and other senior members of staff in his entourage round the newly built hall for NYSC CDS.



NYSC Will Continue To Prioritize Corps Members Welfare - DG

By Femi Adetunji



The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Capital Express Assurance Limited, Mrs. Odukale Adebola and NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed during her courtesy visit to the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters in Abuja.

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Brigadier General YD Ahmed has reiterated that Corps members' welfare will continue to take top spot in his administration.

Speaking while receiving the management team of Capital Express Assurance Limited (CEAL) at NYSC National Directorate Headquarters in Abuja, the Director General said the Scheme will continue to prioritize issues that concerns Corps welfare in the administration of the Scheme.

General Ahmed, who applauded CEAL for being consistent in

carrying out its statutory responsibilities in line with the Memorandum of Understanding it signed with NYSC stated that there is need for the two organizations to periodically assess the implementation of the accord in order to identify and address gray areas.

He further assured that NYSC will never relent in meeting its obligations in the partnership, and called on CEAL to equally sustain the tempo at which it responds to issues pertaining to insurance cover for Corps Members.

In her remarks earlier, the Managing Director/Chief

Executive Officer of Capital Express Assurance Limited, Mrs. Odukale Adebola disclosed that the company has for quite some time been responsible for providing insurance services to Corps Members.

She said that the company which has existed for over 30 years has always lived up to expectation by paying benefits to families of Corps Members who paid the supreme sacrifice and also provide succour to those that suffer permanent disabilities in the course of the service year through the "Corps welfare insurance scheme".

She added that CEAL does intervene in executing special projects for NYSC as part of its corporate social responsibility.

"Recently, we constructed and furnished a vocational centre at NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Keffi, Nasarawa State. Prior to that, we had provided technological devices in support of NYSC's digitization process," she said.

She therefore appealed for strengthening of the symbiotic relationship for the overall interest of the Corps Members.



Corps Member With Speech And Hearing Impairment Emerges Best In Edo Camp



Corps member Comfort Ifeoluwa Abatan

Comfort Ifeoluwa Abatan ED/23B/2586 has been recognised as the best Corps member in the 2023 Batch B, Stream Two Orientation Course at the NYSC Edo State Orientation Camp.

According to reports from our correspondent, Ifeoluwa's determination and resilience shone throughout the orientation period as she surmounted the challenges of the camp and her hearing and speech

impairment to actively participating in all the activities of the camp.

The report said that Ifeoluwa excelled in drills, physical activities, embraced the Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) training with enthusiasm and demonstrated amazing dexterity in shoemaking.

It further said that in addition to her active participation in the training

sessions, the Corps Member also displayed empathy and willingness to assist others.

In recognition of her exceptional performance in the face of disabilities, the NYSC Camp management commended Ifeoluwa. The Edo State NYSC Coordinator, Mrs. Foluke Oladeinde applauded her remarkable dedication and active participation in all camp programmes and activities. She described her as a role model and an inspiration to people with disabilities. The Coordinator advocated for greater inclusivity and support for individuals facing disabilities.

According to her the Corps members active participation in the Orientation activities is a testament to the limitless possibilities that exist for individuals with disabilities adding that her story demonstrates the power of resilience, determination and the ability to break down barriers and achieve one's dream.

"Despite her limitations in speech, she found ways to communicate and engage with her fellow Corps members making them feel comfortable around her. During meal times, she gladly offered her assistance in the kitchen helping with food preparation and serving her fellow Corps members,"she said.

Ifeoluwa Abatan's remarkable journey during her time at the NYSC Orientation camp serves as a beacon of hope and encouragement for others facing similar difficulties. Her perseverance and determination are a powerful reminder that disabilities do not define a person's capabilities. It is a testament to human strength and a shining example of embracing life's challenges with courage and resilience.



NYSC Explores New Strategies For Credible Mobilization Process

By Femi Adetunji



R-L: NYSC Director General, Brig Gen YD Ahmed, Director, Corps Mobilization, Hajiya Walida Siddique Isa, Director, ICT, Mrs. Christy Uba and others at the 2023 Batch 'B' Pre-Mobilization Workshop held in Abuja.

The National Youth Service Corps has said it is evolving new strategies to ensure credible mobilization of Corps Members.

NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed stated this in Abuja during the Opening Ceremony of the 2023 Batch 'B' Pre-Mobilization Workshop.

Speaking on the theme, “Re-Strategizing the NYSC Mobilization Process for Optimal Performance in the Golden Jubilee Era,” Ahmed said the workshop provides the platform to strategise for commencement of mobilisation of participants for a new Service Year.

“The lessons learned from the implementation of decisions reached at the last workshop are expected to influence our deliberations towards

better performance in the forthcoming 2023 Batch 'B' mobilization exercise.

“This workshop commenced with the training of Data Entry Officers (DEOS) from Corps Producing Institutions

(CPIs), who were refreshed on the operations of the NYSC Integrated System and were also exposed to the portal's new features for error free uploads,” he said.

The Director General also voiced concern on observed disharmony between uploads and hardcopies of documents of Prospective Corps Members (PCMs) which has unfortunately always led to their denial of enrolment for service.

“Another area of concern is the non-compliance with laid down procedures for data uploads which has invariably led to the mobilisation of unqualified persons.

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Mr. Olusade Adesola, represented by the Director, Finance and Account Social Development Secretariat, Mrs. Justina



A cross section of participants at the 2023 Batch 'B' Pre-Mobilization Workshop held in Abuja.

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Pawa, assured that it will continue to partner with the Scheme to see to the successful implementation of its lofty objectives.

The Director, Corps Mobilisation Department, Hajiya Isa Walida Siddique said the NYSC mobilization process is constantly evolving adding that it is crucial that the Scheme

continues to equip itself with requisite knowledge and skills to stay ahead of the curve.

“This forum therefore prepares the ground for effective mobilisation and registration for participation in the NYSC. We remain committed to creating an environment that fosters

growth and development of the mobilisation process.

“We therefore believe that this theme is a step in the right direction, which will not just require new ideas but also attitudinal change and desire for thoroughness in data management,” she said.

DG Felicitates NYSC Radio, TV On First Anniversary

By Yusufu Philibus



The Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr. Eddy Megwa addressing personnel of the Stations on behalf of the NYSC Director General on the one-year anniversary of NYSC Radio and Television in Abuja.

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Scheme's radio and television as it marks its first year of operation. Speaking in his office at Yakubu

Gowon House, Maitama, Abuja, the Director General expressed happiness that the media outfits have lived up to expectation by producing and airing quality, informative, educative and entertaining programmes since they came on board a year ago.

Brigadier General Ahmed equally eulogized staff and Corps Members manning the station for their resilience and dedication to duty, which has translated into great achievements within such a short period.

He however, urged them to continue to improve their performance by coming up with more programmes to keep the audience abreast of happenings in the NYSC; promising that management under his stewardship will continue to provide the needed logistics to enable the stations to compete favourably with other media organizations.

It would be recalled that NYSC radio and television, located within the premises of NYSC National Directorate Headquarters Maitama in Abuja was commissioned by the founder of the Scheme, General (Dr) Yakubu Gowon.



UNICEF, NPC To Enlist NYSC Members For Digital Birth Registration

By Femi Adetunji



L-R: The UNICEF Chief Child Protection Officer, Dr Ibrahim Sesay, representative of NYSC Director General, Director, Community Development Service and Special Projects, Hajiya Zainab Isah and the representative of the DG NPC, Dr. Tellson Osifo during the signing of the MoU at the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters in Abuja.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the National Population Commission (NPC) have signed a memorandum of understanding with the NYSC to enlist members of the Service Corps for the registration of births and issuance of birth certificates.

The UNICEF Chief Child Protection Officer, Dr Ibrahim Sesay who led a team of officials of the agency and National Population Commission (NPC) to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the NYSC at the National Directorate Headquarters in Abuja,

said that 800 Corps Members would be enlisted for the exercise and would work alongside the National Population Commission officials.

He disclosed that the objective of the programme is to register 12.7million births in 2023, including the issuance of birth certificates that provides the names and nationality of every child in Nigeria that is under the age of 5, in 21 States in 456 LGAs and 4,978 wards across the country.

He stated further that the registration of births and birth certificates are legal identities of

every Nigerian.

Sesay, who said the data of every child would be stored in the digital birth registration system in custody of the National Population Commission, expressed optimism that the tripartite collaboration would be a success.

The NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed commended the initiative. The DG, who was represented by the Director, Community Development Service and Special Projects, Hajiya Zainab Isah appealed for adequate security and remuneration for the Corps Members that would be engaged in the exercise.

The Director, Corps Welfare and Health Services, Mr. Ayodele Omotade stated that UNICEF is the lead agency in the tripartite MoU, adding that NYSC is willing to partner with organisations that are prepared to contribute to national development.

The representative of the Director General of the NPC, Dr. Tellson Osifo also expressed readiness of the NPC for the collaboration.



FG Drums Support For NYSC Community Development Service Programme

By Femi Adetunji



NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed making a presentation to one of the awardees at the event.

The Permanent Secretary of the Federal Capital Territory Administration, Abuja, Mr. Olusade Adesola has urged stakeholders to show stronger support for the Community Development Service of the NYSC.

He noted that NYSC has done exceptionally well in promoting harmonious co-existence of Nigerians in its fifty years of existence.

The Permanent Secretary stated this in his address at the launching of 2023 Community Development Service Activities and Director General's Awards, with the theme; "Deepening Collaboration and Optimising Corps Members' Contributions through CDS for Nation Building," held in Abuja.

Adesola, whose address was presented by the Director, Finance and Administration, Mrs. Justina Pawa commended NYSC for providing

opportunities for young graduates to gain work experience, acquire leadership skills and make contributions to nation building.

He stated that the President has unveiled his blueprint for the Nigerian youths, adding the present administration will accord priority to the NYSC in view of its immense contributions to the overall development of the country.

Adesola implored Members of the Service Corps to key into the CDS programme and make their impact felt by their host communities. He disclosed that approval has been given for the construction of a new NYSC FCT Orientation Camp in Kwali.

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed in his address stated that Community Development Service is one of the cardinal programmes of the NYSC,

and a platform for Corps Members to further contribute to national and global development.

He explained that Corps Members are encouraged to identify the felt needs of their host communities and work with them to make provide or executed such projects.

He listed some of the executed projects to include construction of school buildings, health centres, roads and culverts; provision of water as well as mentorship of pupils/students in Science, Technology, Arts and Information Technology through guidance, conduct of quiz and extra-mural lessons among others.

"Over the years, Corps Members have, through the CDS, made enormous impact on communities all over the country, apart from bridging the imbalance in rural-urban development, their efforts also reawaken stakeholders' consciousness of the needs of the rural dwellers", the DG said.

In her introductory address, the Director, Community Development Service and Special Projects, Hajiya Zainab Isah assured the NYSC Director General that the impact of Corps Members through development projects would be felt in different forms all over the federation.

The Director General's CDS Award was initiated in 2021 to honour Corps Members, NYSC Staff and some of the Scheme's partners for their role in the conceptualization, facilitation and execution of outstanding CDS projects.

There were goodwill messages from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Alhaji Ismaila Abubakar, among others.



NYSC Will Continue To Prevent Unqualified Persons From Enlisting In the Scheme -DG

By Femi Adetunji



Director, ICT, Mrs. Christy Uba and Director, Corps Mobilization, Hajiya Walida Isa Siddique during the meeting.

The National Youth Service Corps has re-echoed its determination to prevent unqualified graduates from enlistment into the Scheme.

It decried the quality of graduates produced by unaccredited institutions, manipulation of data to allow part-time graduates enroll for service and other unwholesome practices by some Corps Producing Institutions within and outside the country.

The NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed stated this in his address at the meeting of NYSC Management with the Registrars of Corps

Producing Institutions in Nigeria held in Abuja.

He added that Management would deal decisively with any institution or individual found culpable in such acts.

The then Chairman, NYSC National Governing Board Ambassador Fatima Balla Abubakar, who was represented by a member of the Board, Major General BS Adetoro in her goodwill message enjoined participants at the meeting to critically assess all the steps in the Mobilisation process and fashion out a formidable template that will guarantee an unassailable process.

The Director, Corps Mobilisation

Department, Hajiya Isa Walida Siddique enjoined the Registrars to step up measures to ensure admission of only qualified students and monitor their progression till graduation.

"Supervision of the mobilization of your graduates for National Service in accordance with laid down rules and procedures equally fall under your purview", she added.

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Mr. Olusade Adesola while declaring the meeting open acknowledged that the giant strides in the FCT is attributable to the selfless services of Corps Members deployed to serve within the capital territory.

He promised that the FCT Administration would deepen its partnership with the NYSC to ensure the successful implementation of the Scheme's objectives.

The meeting had in attendance, representatives of JAMB, NUC, NBTE, Federal Ministry of Education and other critical stakeholders.



Emir Of Zazzau Counsels Corps Members on Skills Acquisition

By Lateefat Bakare



The Emir of Zazzau, His Royal Highness Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli CFR, NYSC Officials and Corps Members during the condolence visit of NYSC team to the monarch in his palace in Zaria.

The 19th Emir of Zazzau, His Royal Highness Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli has admonished Corps Members to take the Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) Programme of NYSC seriously. He advised the Corps Members to improve on their knowledge, widen their horizon and also study their host communities.

He gave this advise when the NYSC Kaduna State Coordinator, Mr. Hassan Mahmud Taura led staff and Corps Members to pay him a condolence visit.

The monarch expressed appreciation to the State Coordinator, his team and the Corps Members for the visit.

He counselled the Corps Members to embrace entrepreneurship, be creative and innovative.

"The era of white-collar jobs is gone, wake up, come out of your shell and build yourself by using your hands to create wealth", he said.

He further acknowledged the progress the NYSC has made and implored the Corps Members to build relationships that will survive the test of time.

"Whenever Corps Members visit the palace, it brings some nostalgia for my service year. I did my NYSC in Argungu in Kebbi State in 1990 and I still have friends from my service year. In fact, the last visit of NYSC to

my palace prompted me to bring out pictures of my youth service", the monarch said.

Speaking earlier, the Kaduna State NYSC Coordinator, Mr. Hassan Taura, stated that the purpose of the visit was to condole with the monarch and the residents of Zaria on the tragic incident of the collapse of a section of Zaria Central Mosque which claimed the lives of many and left others injured. He prayed for the repose of the souls of the deceased and wished the injured quick recovery.

The State Coordinator and members of his entourage used the opportunity to tour the historic palace and other places with monuments.



NYSC To Partner Nasarawa State University On Entrepreneurship Training For Corps Members

By Femi Adetunji



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Prof. Saadatu Hassan Liman (left), who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor and the representative of the NYSC DG, Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, Alhaji Ahmed Wada Ikaka (right) during the signing of the MoU at the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters in Abuja.

The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has reiterated the readiness of the Scheme to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to empower Corps Members for wealth creation.

He said his administration would continue to deepen the impact of Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development for the growth of the national economy.

Ahmed stated this during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between NYSC and Nasarawa State University for training of Corps Members on entrepreneurship by professionals from the institution. He said the challenge of youth unemployment necessitated the collaboration with the institution to encourage youths for self-reliance and

entrepreneurship.

The Director General who spoke through the Director, Planning Research and Statistics, Alhaji Ahmed Wada Ikaka said empowering youths would curtail restiveness and other forms of criminal tendencies.

"Our decision to go into this partnership is to enable us optimize the benefits of NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) Centre in Keffi with the help of professional entrepreneurship trainers of the university", the DG said.

He added that the partnership would also enable the Scheme in training Members of the host community of the NYSC SAED Centre.

The DG urged Corps Members and other youths to embrace the

opportunity of the ultra-modern equipment at the Centre to empower themselves for financial independence.

The NYSC Director, SAED Mrs. Ngozi Nwatarali disclosed that one of the cardinal objectives of NYSC is to encourage Corps Members to acquire skills that will enable them become self-reliant and self-employed for economic growth.

She added that NYSC members are sensitized, given entrepreneurship and vocational skills training and start-up funds for their businesses through financial partners as well as the provision of business mentorship until their businesses becomes successful.

"We have recorded 37,248 established businesses by ex-Corps Members which has multiplying effects in providing employment opportunities for the youths, creating wealth and taking the youths off the streets and far away from crime", she stated.

The Vice-Chancellor, Nasarawa State University, Keffi Professor Suleiman Bala Mohammad, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Prof. Saadatu Hassan Liman said entrepreneurship is a source of wealth creation for every nation.

He described entrepreneurs as national assets to every nation which must be assisted. The VC commended NYSC for empowering Corps Members with vocational skills during the service year.

"The training of Corps Members on Skills Acquisition is a tremendous achievement that the NYSC should work hard to sustain. I assure you of our utmost dedication to the cause of this collaboration", the VC said.



NYSC Has Impacted Many Participants

-Director North West

By Akonte Samuel



The Director, North West Area Office, Mr Kehinde Aremu Cole addressing Corps Members in Zamfara Camp.

The Director, NYSC North-West Area Office, Mr. Kehinde Aremu Cole has said the one-year National Youth Service Corps experience has positively changed the lives of many participants.

The Director made this assertion while addressing the 2023 Batch 'B' Stream II Corps Members at the NYSC Zamfara State Orientation Camp in Gasau.

Aremu said he has always kept track of many Corps Members who passed through him and can attest to the positive legacies the Scheme has had on their lives.

He therefore tasked Corps Members to see the service year as a period to reinvent themselves and tap from the benefits of the Scheme.

The Director specifically mentioned the NYSC Skill Acquisition and

Entrepreneurship Programme (SAED), calling on all Corps Members to take it serious during their service year.

According to him, the programme is intended to change the mindset of youths not to solely depend on their educational achievements but take pride in their ability to make money with their hands through vocational skills.

He emphasized that graduates who go into entrepreneurship have an advantage over others and urged the Corps Members to endeavour to follow up their training even after the camp.

In his words, "Take the SAED programme serious. What we are doing here is an introduction. It is an attempt to change your mindset. If you take away pride, I tell you, you can

make a lot of money using your hands. You don't have to be a millionaire to start up a business, most of the known companies abroad are SMEs.

Endeavour to follow up your training after camp because there is more to the Skills Acquisition than what is being taught on camp because of the short period. Whatever the challenge, settle down quickly and continue with your training. There is a spiritual connection with watching something grow in your hands", he said.

The Director also called on Corps Members to take advantage of the Scheme's partnership with financial institutions like Bank of Industry to access grants and loans to drive their business ideas.

He further cautioned the Corps Members against embarking on night journeys disclosing that from experience most road traffic accidents occur at night.

"Don't travel in the night. If it is not absolutely necessary stay where you are. If it is necessary, go by the day", he stressed.

Earlier, the State Coordinator, Alhaji Abdulsalam Alhassan informed the Director that the Corps Members were disciplined, hardworking and are contributing to the success of the camp.

The Coordinator also reported that there is high level of synergy among the collaborating agencies towards achieving full implementation of the course content.

Highlights of the visit was a cultural performance in honour of the Director and presentation of gifts to the Quarter Guard, Band group and the Dance Troupe.



NYSC Builds Staff Capacity On Programme Evaluation, Monitoring

By Yunusa Baba Isa



The Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, Alhaji Ahmed Wada Ikaka presenting the NYSC Director General's address at the workshop for PRS Schedule Officers in Keffi, Nasarawa State.

The National Youth Service Corps has equipped its Planning, Research and Statistics Schedule Officers with new operational techniques to enable them deploy critical thinking skills in planning, monitoring and evaluation of the Scheme's programmes.

The training programme with the theme; "The Application of Critical Thinking in Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of NYSC Programmes" was flagged off by the Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed.

Represented by the Director, PRS, Alhaji Ahmed Wada Ikaka, the DG stated theme of the workshop is in line with Management's determination to enhance the capacity of officers with skills for effective planning, research,

data collation and analysis of the Scheme's programmes.

"As PRS Officers, you are the custodians of the Scheme's records, library and archival resources in your Secretariats, which serve as the hub for our intellectual property as well as the Think Tank of the Scheme.

You must, therefore guard our facilities with all sense of responsibility and patriotism as the first point of contact for researchers and other stakeholders within and outside the country", he declared.

In his welcome address, the NYSC Director Planning, Research and Statistics, whose address was presented by Mr. Isa Wana emphasized that the workshop serves as an avenue for peer review whose outcome would be channeled towards more innovations for enhanced NYSC Programmes.

Resource persons who facilitated the training includes a Development Economist, Prof Salihu Habibu Mohammed from Nasarawa State University, NYSC Deputy Director (Monitoring and Evaluation) Malam Isa Wana, Deputy Director, Research and Library, Mr. Stephen Dewan and Deputy Director, Policy and Planning, Alhaji Abdul Suleman.



The representative of NYSC Director General, Alhaji Ahmed Wada Ikaka and PRS Schedule Officers during the workshop held in Keffi, Nasarawa State.



NYSC Inducts New Staff, DG Harps On Capacity Building

By Femi Adetunji



NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed with some of the newly recruited staff during the Induction Course.

The Director General of National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has reiterated his administration's commitment to capacity building that would enhance staff performance for higher productivity.

He stated this at the opening ceremony of the induction course for 700 newly employed staff of the Scheme held at the NYSC Nasarawa State Orientation Camp in Keffi.

General Ahmed assured the new staff that the Service Corps is working relentlessly to ensure payment of their salaries and arrears. He also pledged that they will be given the requisite support to discharge their responsibilities.

"The training will also build your capacity and equip you with knowledge and skills that will enable you perform your responsibilities diligently", he said.

The Director General urged them to take advantage of the induction course to sharpen their knowledge and skills

in order to contribute effectively to the growth of the Scheme in line with the Public Service Rules.

"It is important to remind you that NYSC is a highly disciplined organization, with dedicated, focused and committed officers. Therefore, you must understand that your roles require the highest level of exemplary

conduct at all times and in all situations", the DG said.

In his welcome address, the Director, Human Resource Management Department, Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed said the programme was packaged to equip the newly employed staff with basic information on the administration and operations of the public service and the NYSC, adding that effective dispensation of their responsibilities is highly dependent on their capability, knowledge and expertise which can only be enhanced through effective training.

Participants at the three days induction training with the theme; "Capacity Building for NYSC Staff: Panacea for a successful Career and Sustained Youth Development", were drawn from all NYSC formations across the country and the National Directorate Headquarters of the Scheme in Abuja. Speakers at the induction course include the Director, Corps Welfare and Health Services, Mr. Ayodele Omotade, the Head of Reforms Unit, Mr. Sunday Aroni among others.



L-R: Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr. Eddy Megwa, Director, Human Resource Management Department, Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed, NYSC Director General, Brig Gen YD Ahmed and Director, Special Duties, Alhaji Musa Abubakar during the Induction Course for the newly employed staff of the Scheme in Keffi, Nasarawa State.



NYSC Deploys More ICT Tools For Skill Acquisition Programme

By Ezechukwu Olugele



Representative of NYSC Director General, Mrs. Christy Uba (5th left) with some Directors and workshop participants during the workshop for ICT Desk Officers and State SAED Officers held in Abuja.

The Director General of National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed has disclosed that the Scheme has introduced more ICT solutions into its Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme.

He said the SAED initiative has enhanced self-reliance among Corps Members adding that the introduction of Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme into the NYSC Orientation Course content in 2012 has played a significant role in promoting youth empowerment and wealth creation among Members of the Service Corps.

He stated this in Abuja at the training of Heads of SAED Branch and Information and Communication

Technology (ICT) Desk Officers from all NYSC State Secretariats as well as the FCT.

According to the DG, the technical training workshop with the theme; "The NYSC Integrated System: A Panacea for Effective Management of SAED Activities During the Service Year", is targeted at equipping the Desk Officers with the requisite digital knowledge to enhance their performance on the NYSC Integrated System (NIS).

Ahmed, who was represented at the programme by the Director, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Mrs. Christy Uba said more than One million Corps Members have been trained through the SAED initiative in various skill sets. He added that the Scheme would continue to rejig its Skill Acquisition

and Entrepreneurship Development programme so as to comply with prevailing trend in the ICT world.

The Director General charged the workshop participants to take advantage of the new SAED module, which has migrated all SAED activities to the NIS to facilitate a fruitful service year for Corps Members.

Earlier in her address, the Director, ICT, represented by Mrs. Aminat Arunah, welcomed the workshop participants and urged them to pay attention to the lectures in order to effectively utilize the training in their respective schedules.

She also stressed that the role of SAED officers on the NIS covers activities from all the 774 Local Government Areas in the country as a result of the post-camp training for Corps Members.



Corps Member Constructs Water Borehole For The Police



The New Borehole Project.

The NYSC Akwa Ibom State Coordinator, Mrs. Chinyere Ekwe has appealed to the Nigerian Police to give priority attention to the security of Corps Members. Ekwe made the appeal while inaugurating a water borehole constructed by a Corps Member, Vivian Ibekwe, AK/22C/1470 at the Ikot Ofon Ikono Police Outpost.

The Coordinator who extolled the Corps Member for executing the laudable project also commended the Local Government Chairman and community leaders for providing the necessary support for the project to be

realised.

She appreciated residents of the

community for their hospitality to the Corps Members during her service period.

The project initiator, Vivian Ibekwe, a Medical Doctor disclosed that her desire to make meaningful contributions to her host community propelled her to embark on the project.

The Chairman, Uyo LGA, Uwemedimo Udo who sponsored the project expressed delight with the location of the borehole; stressing that it will be beneficial to the entire community and also be secured by the police. He further promised to improve more on Corps Members' welfare in the LGA.

There were goodwill messages from the Nigeria Police and Community and other stakeholders.



Corps Member, Vivian Ibekwe, AK/22C/1470 at the site of the water borehole she sank at Ikot Ofon Ikono Police Outpost in Akwa Ibom State.



NYSC Tasks Stakeholders On Sustenance Of Corps Members Health Insurance Scheme

By Orunta Ugochukwu



A Cross section of participants at the stakeholders meeting in Owerri.

The Director of Corps Welfare and Health Services Department of the National Youth Service Corps, Mr Ayodele Omotade has reiterated the need for the Schedule Officers, Field Officers of the Scheme, Hospital Management Organizations (HMOs) and the State Coordinators of the National Health

Insurance Authority (NHIA) to strategize and intensify efforts towards sustaining the objectives of the free Health Insurance Scheme of the Federal Government, for Corps Members.

Omotade made this assertion in his remark at the GIFSHIP-N Zonal

Implementation Review Meeting for Stakeholders held in Owerri, Imo State.

He commended the various Stakeholders for their commitment, dedication, and selfless services in ensuring the promotion of free health service for Corps Members in the country. He equally implored them to do everything within their capacity to keep the free health insurance project alive.

The meeting also provided a veritable platform for all the stakeholders to rub minds and share ideas on the best ways of discharging their statutory duties.

In attendance were the representatives of the NYSC South-East Area Office, the NHIA, Nonsuch, the Health Management Organization, as well as State Coordinators of NYSC amongst others.

NYSC Organizes Capacity Building Seminar For Staff

By Yahuza Isa Adamu

In line the NYSC Director General's vision of redefining operations of the Scheme for effective service delivery, the State Coordinator, NYSC Benue State, Mr Abe Dankaro Ashumate has organized a one day Capacity building seminar for Secretariat Staff, Zonal and Local Government Inspectors on the process of Corps Disciplinary Cases.

The State Coordinator, Mr. Abe Dankaro welcomed all the Assistant Directors, Field Officers and other Secretariat's Staff for their attendance. He said that the essence of the program is to refresh and build Staff's Capacities on standard practice in handling Corps Members' disciplinary

matters across all levels.

In her presentation, Mrs Yaakugh Florence, Deputy Director, NYSC National Programme, Corps Welfare and Health Services Department, NDHQ Abuja, disclosed that the one-day seminar was organized to enhance the capacity of the State Officers concerned with the processing of Corps disciplinary cases for effective performance and ensure uniform standards.

She noted that the focus of the seminar was to remind the staff and let them know how Corps disciplinary Cases should be handled and be mindful as Field Managers to represent and

present the Scheme very well.

She also cautioned staff against indulging in acts that negates the corporate image and reputation of the Scheme; while also warning them to desist from the habit of aiding and abetting absenteeism among Corps Members.

Mrs Yakuugh appreciated the State Coordinator, Mr Abe Dankaro Ashumate and Staff for their promptness, response and support for the Seminar.

The Capacity building Seminar ended with general discussions, questions and answers session.



NYSC Takes Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence To Zamfara Community

By Akonte Samuel



Corps Members and Officials of the NYSC sensitising the Janyau Tagagas Community of Gusau Local Government, Zamfara State on the dangers of gender-based violence and gender inequality.

The National Youth Service Corps has taken its advocacy campaign against gender-based violence and gender inequality to Janyau Tagagas Community in Gusau Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

The sensitisation programme which was well attended by community leaders, women, youths and students was flagged-off by the Director-General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General YD Ahmed.

The Director General whose address was read by the Assistant Director, Skill Acquisition Entrepreneurship Development Branch, Mrs. Maryam Shehu called on community leaders, religious institutions, parents and

other stakeholders across the country to be more supportive and sensitive to gender matters.

The DG said the event which is holding simultaneously in all the Northern states was put together by the Scheme to expose the negative effects of gender-based violence and inequality in the society.

He decried a situation where females are seen as the weaker sex and relegated to the background, adding however, that gender violence affects both males and females.

The NYSC Chief Executive called on stakeholders to work together to ensure that no individual is denied opportunity to realize their potential due to their biological formation.

The Head, Reforms Unit, Mr. Sunday Aroni whose address was delivered by the Gender Desk Officer, Mrs. Victoria Sule said the Scheme is already playing a leading role in the area of gender mainstreaming and advocacy through the Gender Vanguard Community Development Service group.

Aroni explained that the event was organised to sensitise the community that no individual should be denied the right to any form of training, help and support needed to achieve their dreams.

"Let us therefore say no to all forms of abuse and molestation of our children who are the leaders of tomorrow", he stressed.

The NDHQ officer monitoring the event, Mr. Sunday Ogbo commended the community for the high turn-out and urged them to spread the message of the programme to others.

He added, "if we must advance as a country, we must strive to get to the point where we look beyond these gender roles and give men and women equal opportunities in education, career, politics, and personal development".

Responding on behalf of the community, Alhaji Nuradeen Abuyazeed thanked the management of the Scheme for bringing the programme to the community and advised the participants to always take care of the education of their wards to ensure a brighter future.



Cross River Community Lauds NYSC Free Medical Service ... Govt Pledges Upgrade of Camp Facilities

By Ogban Ogban



Cross River State Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey (4th left), NYSC Cross River State Coordinator, Mr. Andrew Zemoh (5th left) with others and Corps Members during the courtesy visit to the Governor in Calabar.

The Village Head of Ikot Nkebre Community in Calabar Municipal Local Government of Cross River State, His Royal Highness, Chief Anthony Nkebre has described the free medical services rendered to his people by the NYSC as one of the most laudable programmes enjoyed by residents of Ikot Nkebre community in recent times.

He made the remark at the flag-off of the NYSC Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD) programme in the community. He appreciated the NYSC for the gesture stressing that the beneficiaries could not hide their joy and satisfaction.

The Village Head who was represented by the Community's Youth President, Emmanuel Nkebre lamented the prevailing economic situation in the country and their inability to access medical care adding that the NYSC

intervention was a life saver.

He thanked the NYSC management for saving the lives of his subjects who

could not afford the expensive medical bills, but are been treated free of charge by Corps Members.

Earlier in his remark, the NYSC Cross River State Coordinator, Mr. Andrew Zemoh stated that in addition to making impact in education, rural infrastructure and agriculture, the Scheme has committed resources and manpower towards mitigating the health challenges of people, especially those in rural areas through provision of free medical services.

The NYSC Coordinator promised that more Local Government Areas are billed to benefit from the NYSC health intervention programme.

Meanwhile the Cross River State Government has promised to tackle the deteriorating state of facilities at the NYSC Orientation Camp in Obubra.

The State Governor, Senator Bassey



NYSC medical personnel attending to residents of Ikot Nkebre community during the health intervention outreach programme in the area.

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Otu gave this assurance at the Government House Calabar when the NYSC State Coordinator Mr. Andrew Zemoh paid him a courtesy visit.

The Governor who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey said the State Government was aware of the deplorable state of the Orientation Camp and assured of Government's commitment to ensure that the Camp wears a new look as soon as possible.

The Deputy Governor stressed that the appeal by NYSC for urgent renovation of facilities at the Camp will remain top priority of the administration. He revealed that the Governor is passionate about Youth Development and would not hesitate to consider the urgent appeal so as to provide comfort for Corps Members deployed to the State. He reiterated his resolve to improve on the welfare of Corps Members serving in the State.

Speaking earlier, the NYSC Cross River State Coordinator, Mr. Andrew Zemoh explained that his visit was to congratulate the Governor and his Deputy on their election victory and also brief the Governor on the Scheme's operation in the State.

He added that the NYSC is ready to partner with the State Government to deliver democracy dividends to the grassroots.

Jigawa Govt, NYSC Partner To Curb Drug Abuse

By Adamu Sada



NYSC Jigawa State Coordinator, Mrs. A'ishatu Adamu (6th left) with members of the Jigawa State Committee Against Drug Abuse during their visit to the NYSC Secretariat in Dutse.

The Jigawa State Committee Against Drug Abuse is collaborating with the National Youth Service Corps in the fight against consumption of illicit drugs in the State.

The Chairman of the Committee, Khadi Bashir Ahmad Birnin Kudu said the collaboration is part of the agency's efforts at tackling drug abuse in the State. The Committee members were at the NYSC Jigawa State Orientation Camp in Fanisau Dutse, on a courtesy visit to the NYSC Jigawa

State Coordinator, Mrs. A'ishatu Adamu.

Khadi said that all hands must be on deck to tackle the menace as the consequences of drug abuse on the general well-being of the youths and the socio-economic development of the nation cannot be quantified.

"The circulation of hard drugs is high amongst youths nowadays, it's on this premise that we find it imperative to partner with NYSC considering its

wide outreach and being in the vanguard of tackling social vices in its host communities.

"The committee needs Corps Members to create awareness and educate our students and youths generally on the dangers of illicit drugs", Khadi said.

The Chairman solicited the NYSC to key into their mission to ensure a drug-free society devoid of social vices.

In her response, The NYSC Jigawa State Coordinator, Mrs. A'ishatu Adamu informed the Committee that they are in a right place for such a partnership, as NYSC has been in the vanguard of curbing the use of illicit drugs in the society through its Community Development Service group (NYSC/NDLEA Vanguard), which is in collaboration with the Nigeria Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

Adamu stated that the alarming rate of drug abuse in the society is an issue of concern, as it is the genesis of most of the crimes being perpetrated in the society and needs to be tackled collectively.

She assured the Committee that NYSC will provide them with all the support needed to achieve its mandate



Corps Member Donates Desks, Chairs To Benue School

By Victoria Ogwuche



The Desks and Chairs donated by Corps Member Patrick Eniemen to Command Secondary School, Naka road Makurdi.

A Corps Member serving in Command Secondary School, Naka Road, Makurdi, has constructed and donated thirty Benches to the management of the school.

Corps Member Unie Patrick Eniemen with State Code BN/22C/1061 said he embarked on the project to mitigate the challenge of inadequate desks and chairs for students in the school.

Speaking at ceremony to handover the desks to the management of the school the NYSC Benues State Coordinator, Mr. Abe Dankaro Ashumate eulogizes the Corps Member for contributing positively to the uplifting of the school noting that he has that he has impacted the lives of people despite the difficult economic situation.

He challenged other Corps Members to emulate the exemplary act their

colleague Patrick.

The Commandant of the School, Lt Col. A Aboderin appreciated the State Coordinator for attending the event in spite of his tight schedule. He also commended the Corps Member for his foresight, hard work, dedication and industry.

According to him, all the materials used for the project were locally sourced using manual labour, noting that the young man, used his skills in carpentry to carry out the job.

In attendance were the Assistant Directors in charge of CDS, Mr Awaja Peter, Reward and Discipline, Alhaji Ayodeji Soliomon, ZI Makurdi, Mrs Hua Comfort, Mr Akile TT of CDS Branch, LGI Makurdi, Mrs Akiga Cordelia, the Supervisor of Digital On boarder CDS, Mr Malu Raphael, PA to the Coordinator, Mr Lincoln Gavar and Mrs Ogwuche Victoria- PPRO.

Others were the Vice principal admin Mrs Grace and Dr. Augustine Agada ,the PTA Chairman.

Corps Members dazzle At Essay Competition ... get cash rewards

By Henry Tawose

Three Corps Members have emerged best from the 2023 Annual Bible Society of Nigeria Essay Competition held at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs Auditorium, Kofo Abayomi, Victoria Island in Lagos.

The intellectual competition had over one thousand entries writing on the theme; "Building strong institutions in Nigeria: A pathway to a national rebirth".

After due diligence by the selection committee from all the entries, six Corps Members emerged as the finalists.

After a 20-minute presentation by the finalist, Praise Modekwe, a graduate of Linguistics from Nnamdi Azikwe University, Awka, serving in Cross River State came first, winning a sum of N400,000 along with a Bible, and literatures. Odelana Oluwafunke, a graduate of Public Administration

from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, serving in Enugu State came second winning a sum of N300,000, a Bible and literatures, while Tashi David, a graduate of Mass Communication from the University of Jos, serving in Zamfara State, emerged third position, with a sum of N250,000, a Bible and literatures.

Meanwhile, three other finalists were given a bible each, and copies of literatures, while all the finalists were

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given Certificates of Participation.

Speaking at the event the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed, who was represented by the NYSC Lagos State Coordinator, Mrs. Yetunde Baderinwa, commended the Bible Society of Nigeria for its

consistency in the organization of the annual event which has continued to develop the knowledge of the youths.

Speaking on the theme of the programme, he said if Nigeria must live up to its posture as the Giant of Africa, "we must jettison how we do

things and invest in robust institutions, that will stay rooted to carrying out government policies".

He called on youths to take decisions that will aid the nation in building strong institutions and live as role models at all times.

NYSC Engages Stakeholders To Enhance Mobilisation Process

By Margaret Dakama



Members of NYSC Top Management with participants at the meeting of Professional and Regulatory bodies having operational links with the Scheme in Abuja.

The National Youth Service Corps has said it would continue to engage other critical stakeholders to ensure that unqualified graduates are not mobilised for national service.

The NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed stated this in Abuja during the 2023 edition of the Annual meeting of Professional and Regulatory bodies having operational links with the Scheme.

The DG, who appraised the online application of the Medical and Dental

Council of Nigeria added that the Scheme has mapped out strategies to enforce acquisition of relevant professional certificates by graduates seeking exemption or participation in National Service.

Represented by the Director, ICT, Mrs. Christy Uba, the Director General stated that there is need for stakeholders' support to the Scheme to actualize the dream of making progress.

"Analysis of performance after two years of constructive deliberations

shows that there is a great improvement and commendable efforts by all stakeholders involved.

The continued efforts of the NUC in publishing names of unaccredited institutions are quite commendable as Nigerians are getting more informed about these illegal schools.

This has however not eradicated the activities of agents running satellite campuses and awarding certificates of foreign schools in Nigeria. Many of the so-called private universities in neighbouring countries such as Benin Republic, Togo, Cameroun and Niger are operating campuses in Nigeria", the DG said.

The Director, Corps Mobilization Department, Hajiya Walida Siddique Isa reiterated the Scheme's commitment to mobilisation of only qualified graduates to participate in the Scheme.

Representatives of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) in their separate goodwill messages commended the mobilisation process of NYSC and pledged more support to improve the process.



Corps Members Advised To Maximize Their Potentials During Service Year

By Femi Adetunji



Corps Members in Plateau State Temporary NYSC Orientation Camp giving three hearty cheers to the NYSC Director General, Brigadier General Yushau Dogara Ahmed during his visit.

The Director General of National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General Yusha'u Dogara Ahmed has advised Corps Members to take advantage of the service year to maximize their individual potentials and design a better future for themselves.

He urged them to remain focused and diligent as they prepare themselves to be role models to other Nigerian

Youths.

The Director General gave this advice while addressing Corps Members during his visit to NYSC Orientation Camps in Bauchi and Plateau States.

The DG urged the Corps Members in both camps to serve their fatherland with pride as good ambassadors of their families, institutions and the NYSC.

"Be law-abiding within and outside the camp. NYSC would not condone indiscipline and if you violate any of our rules and regulations, you would be penalized in line with the NYSC Act and Byelaws.

Accept your posting in good faith and prepare your mind to contribute to the development of your host communities and places of primary assignment. Always respect the culture and traditions of your host communities and adhere strictly to the NYSC dress code", he said.

In her report to the Director General, the NYSC Bauchi State Coordinator, Mrs. Rifkatu Yakubu stated that there has been synergy among the camp officials, while the Corps Members have also been complying with instructions.

Similarly, the NYSC Plateau State Coordinator, Mrs. Esther Ikupolati reported that 1,273 Corps Members comprising 639 males and 634 females were registered in the Camp and that they have been demonstrating exemplary commitment to camp activities.

NYSC Trains Internal Auditors For Enhanced Performance

By Femi Adetunji

The National Youth Service Corps has expressed its commitment to continuous upgrade of the skills of its staff to align with global best practices.

The NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed stated this during the 2023 workshop for NYSC Internal Auditors, with the theme; "Training NYSC Internal Auditors On Requisite Information Technology Skills For Effective Service Delivery", held in Abuja.

General Ahmed while speaking through the Scheme's Director of General Services, Alhaji Abdullahi Yusuf Baba said the training is in line with his administration's Policy Thrust to enhance staff competences and work output.

"Given that we are in a dynamic world where the environment constantly evolves, there is a need for continuous upgrade of knowledge and skills of staff to align with global best practices. This training is therefore designed to

enhance your competencies for optimal discharge of your duties.

The training will focus on the following areas among others; Deploying IT skills to enhance efficiency, capacity for efficient data analysis, improving transparency in governance in the Scheme, use of IT in achieving information confidentiality and handling of sensitive data, Organizational skills and ability to stay focused on assigned tasks and understanding of data integrity and

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The Director, General Services, Alhaji Abdulahi Yusuf Baba presenting the NYSC Director General's address at the Opening Ceremony of the 2023 Workshop for NYSC Internal Auditors held in Abuja.

security policies through the deployment of IT", he said.

The Director General commended the NYSC internal auditors for their commitment and display of professionalism in handling their responsibilities and urged them to use

the training to identify areas of lapses in their schedules and come up with workable solutions and best practices with a view to improving them.

In his remarks, the Head of Internal Audit Unit of NYSC Mr. Levi Agim said the training will empower and help officers to speed up their work

accurately and efficiently. He applauded the Director General for the unwavering passion and commitment to Staff training which has enhanced the job performance and output of personnel of the Scheme.

Agim explained that officers of the Internal Audit Department of NYSC are saddled with the tasks of assessing the Scheme's financial risks, safeguarding her assets, gathering and analyzing its data, checking the accuracy of financial reports, auditing the efficiency of the Scheme's processes as well as ensuring adherence to policies, procedures and extant laws.

"It is therefore imperative that the knowledge and skill of this category of officers be constantly updated on prevailing developments and best practices particularly in the area of Information Technology as the financial environment is getting more complex and sophisticated by the day," he said.

NDA Seeks Partnership With NYSC On Staff Training



Head, Centre for Study of Leadership and Complex Military Operations of NDA, Dr. Ben J. Audu receiving a souvenir from NYSC Director General, Brigadier General YD Ahmed when the former paid a visit to the latter in his office in Abuja.

The Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), Kaduna has presented a proposal to partner with the National Youth Service Corps on the

training of the Scheme's staff on emotional intelligence.

Presenting the proposal to the Director

General of NYSC at the Scheme's Directorate Headquarters in Abuja, the Head, Centre for Study of Leadership and Complex Military Operations of NDA, Dr. Ben Audu said the training is necessary, in view of the evolving challenges in managing human resources at the workplace.

He urged NYSC to embrace the idea as its outcome will manifest in improved productivity of the workforce.

Responding, the NYSC Director General, Brig Gen YD Ahmed welcomed the proposal, stating that the training is a sure way of enhancing the capacity of staff to carry out their duties more efficiently.

He therefore directed the Planning, Research and Statistics department and the team from NDA to work out modalities for the partnership.



NYSC's Role In Nigeria's Unity Pivotal -Ebonyi Governor

By Martins Moughalu



NYSC Ebonyi State Coordinator, Mrs. Olayinka Nasamu presenting a portrait to Governor Francis Nwifuru.

The Ebonyi State Governor, Francis Nwifuru has described the NYSC as pivotal in the role it is playing in the unity and integration of the nation. He said the Scheme's critical contribution to the development of the country should not be taken for granted. Nwifuru made this assertion while playing host to the Coordinator of

NYSC in the State, Mrs. Olayinka Nasamu who paid him a courtesy visit.

The Governor, pledged to give urgent and accelerated attention to the areas of intervention requested by the NYSC Coordinator.

He described Corps Members as the future of Nigeria's leadership whose interests must be well taken care of.

Earlier, the NYSC Ebonyi State Coordinator Mrs. Olayinka Nasamu had informed the Governor that her visit was to brief him firsthand, on the condition of the NYSC Orientation camp in the State and other felt needs of the Scheme in the State.

The highlight of the visit was the presentation of a Corps Members art work of the Governor's portrait to the first citizen of Ebonyi State.

Taraba Govt Donates 500 Mattresses To NYSC

By Ugochukwu Orunta

In a move to improve the welfare of Corps Members, the Taraba State Government under the leadership of Governor Agbu Kefas has donated 500 mattresses and the sum of 9.5 Million naira to assist in feeding Corps Members deployed to the State during the 2023 Batch 'B' Stream II Orientation Course.

The representative of the Governor,

the Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, Ambassador Joseph Joshua, while handing over the Five hundred mattresses to the Taraba State NYSC Coordinator, Mr. Anthony Nzoka, said the gesture is a demonstration of the administration's unwavering commitment to the development of youths in the State and also in keeping with the Governor's pledge to always support

the NYSC in the pursuit of its objectives.

He urged the Corps Members to reciprocate this gesture by discharging their duties creditably in their places of primary assignment in the sixteen local government areas of the state.

The Taraba NYSC State Coordinator, Mr. Anthony Nzoka, expressed

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The representative of the Governor, Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, Ambassador Joseph Joshua (left) presenting the mattresses to NYSC Taraba State Coordinator, Mr. Tony Nzoka (right).

gratitude to the State Government for the assistance, stating that it would go a long way in strengthening provision of accommodation at the Orientation Camp at Sibre.

He promised to ensure even deployment of Corps Members to the critical sectors of education, agriculture, health, works, infrastructure, Information Technology Communication, as well as the informal sector to deepen and galvanize growth and development in the state.

NYSC, NDLEA To Deepen Synergy

By Philip Uwa and Stella Ogbummuo



NYSC Delta State Coordinator, Mr. Olusegun Alao (3rd left), Commander, NDLEA Delta State, Abubakar Wada (middle) with staff of NYSC staff and NDLEA during the courtesy visit.

The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Delta State have agreed to deepen their collaboration in efforts to curb drug abuse in the society. This agreement

was reached when the Delta State NYSC Coordinator, Mr. Olusegun Alao played host to the new Commander National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in the State.

The NDLEA Commander, Abubakar

Wada who was on a familiarization visit to NYSC had sought effective collaboration in its War Against Drug Abuse otherwise known as WADA. He stated that he is on familiarization and advocacy visit to sister agencies in the State, for synergy and support to achieve its goals.

The Commander thanked NYSC for engagement of Corps Members in sensitising the public through the drug-free clubs, who carry message against illicit drug use.

In his response, the State Coordinator welcomed the NDLEA Commander to the State. He wished him a successful and rewarding tenure.

Alao pledged the readiness of NYSC to boost the partnership with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency in the campaign against use of illicit drugs and trafficking.



Health *hints*

■ *Martin Uko*

BENIGN PROSTATIC HYPERPLASIA (BPH): SYMPTOMS, CAUSES AND TREATMENT

Overview: Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) is a health issue that becomes more common with age, it's also called an enlarged prostate. The prostate is a small gland that helps make semen, it is found just below the bladder and it often gets bigger as you get older.

An enlarged prostate can cause symptoms that may bother you, such as blocking the flow of urine out of the bladder. It also can cause bladder urinary track or kidney problems.

Symptoms: Common symptoms of BPH includes

- Frequent or urgent need to urinate.
- Urinating more often at night.
- Trouble starting to urinate.
- Weak urine stream or a stream that stops and starts.
- Dribbling at the end of urination.
- Not being able to fully empty the bladder.

Less Concerning Symptoms Include:

- Urinary tract infection.
- Not being able to urinate.
- Blood in the urine.

The symptoms of BPH tend to slowly get worse, but sometimes they stay the same or even improve over time.

The size of the prostate doesn't always determine how serious the symptoms are, some people with slightly enlarged prostate can have major symptoms, others who have very enlarged prostates can have minor problems and some people with enlarged prostates don't have any symptoms at all.

Other possible causes of urinary symptoms:

- Urinary tract infection.
- Inflamed prostate.
- Narrowing of the urethra, the tube that carries urine out of the body.
- Scarring in the bladder neck due to past surgery.
- Problems with the nerves that control the bladder.
- Bladder or kidney stones.
- Cancer of the prostate or bladder.

Some medicines also may lead to symptoms that seem like those caused by BPH, these include:

- Powerful pain – relieving medicines called opioids.
- Cold and allergy medicines.
- Older medicines for

depression called tricyclic antidepressants.

Causes:

The prostate gland is located beneath the bladder. The tube that moves urine from the bladder out of the penis is called the urethra. This tube passes through the center of the prostate. The prostate gets bigger; it starts to block the urine flow.

The prostate is a gland that typically keeps growing throughout life, the growth often enlarges the prostate enough to cause symptoms or to block urine flow.

It isn't clear what causes the prostate to get bigger it might be due to changes in the balance of sex hormones as you grow older.

Risk Factors: Risk factors for an enlarged prostate include;

- **Aging:** An enlarged prostate gland rarely causes symptoms before age 40. After that, the chance of having enlarged prostate and related symptoms starts to rise.
- **Family history:** Having a blood relative with prostate problems makes you more

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likely to have problems with your prostate.

• **Diabetes and heart disease:** Studies show that diabetes and heart disease might raise the risk of BPH.

• **Lifestyle:** Obesity raises the risk of BPH, exercise can help lower the risk.

• **Complications:** Complications of an enlarged prostate can include;

• **Not being able to pee:** this also called urinary retention. You might need to have a tube called a catheter placed into your bladder to drain the urine. Some people with enlarged prostate need surgery to get relief.

• **Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs):** Not being able to fully empty the bladder can raise the risk of infection in the urinary tract.

• **Bladder Stones:** These are

most often caused by being unable to fully empty the bladder; Bladder stones can cause illness, bladder irritation, blood in the urine and block urine flow.

• **Bladder damage:** A bladder that doesn't empty fully can stretch and weaken over time. As a result, the muscular wall of the bladder no longer squeezes properly to force urine out and this makes it harder to fully empty the bladder.

• **Kidney damages:** pressure in the bladder from not being able to pee can damage the kidney or let bladder infection reach the kidney.

Treatment:

Many treatments can help BPH. These include medicines, surgery and other procedures. Your healthcare providers can help you choose. The right option depends on things such as:

- Your symptoms.
- The size of your prostate
- Other health problems you might have.

Talk to your health care provider about your symptoms, even if they didn't bother you. It is important to find out if there are any causes that could be treated. Without treatment the risk of a dangerous blockage of the urinary tract can rise. If you can't pass any urine, get medical help right away.

Treatment of BPH lowers the risk of complications but urinary retention and kidney damage can be serious health threats. Having an enlarged prostate is not thought to raise the risk of setting prostate cancer.

Culled From:
mayoclinic.org

Corps Member Renovates Toilet Facilities In Adamawa School

By Isa Mohammed



The renovated toilet at Sanda Model Primary School in Yola by Corps Member Kagwari Judith Khaleveh AD/22B/1537.

As part of her contribution to enhancing the life of people in her host community, Corps Member Kagwari Judith Khaleveh (AD/22B/1537) has renovated dilapidated toilet facilities in two schools in Yola South Local Government Area of Adamawa State to curb open defecation.

The Corps member, who hails from Kaduna State and a graduate of French from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria said the passion to promote the campaign against open defecation and ensure a hygienic environment for pupils of Sulaiman Ribadu Academy and Sanda Model Primary School both in Yola propelled her to embark on the

projects.

The NYSC Adamawa State Coordinator, Denis Jingi while inaugurating the projects, commended the Corps Member for her service to humanity and called on serving and even prospective Corps Members to emulate her.

The Coordinator who was represented by the Zonal Inspector Yola Zone of the NYSC, Mr. Ishaya Shingu also used the occasion to call on stakeholders and well-meaning individuals to support Corps Members to contribute to improvement of the lives of people of their host communities which is the objective of the NYSC Community Development Service programme.

The Principal of Sulaiman Ribadu Academy, Mr. Fehintola Olugbenga, appreciated the Corps Member for the project which he described as a important to the school. He described the Corps Member who is service with the school as hardworking, dedicated and a role model, adding that she will be missed by the school at the end of her service.



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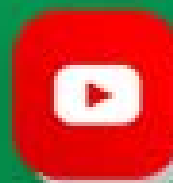
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