

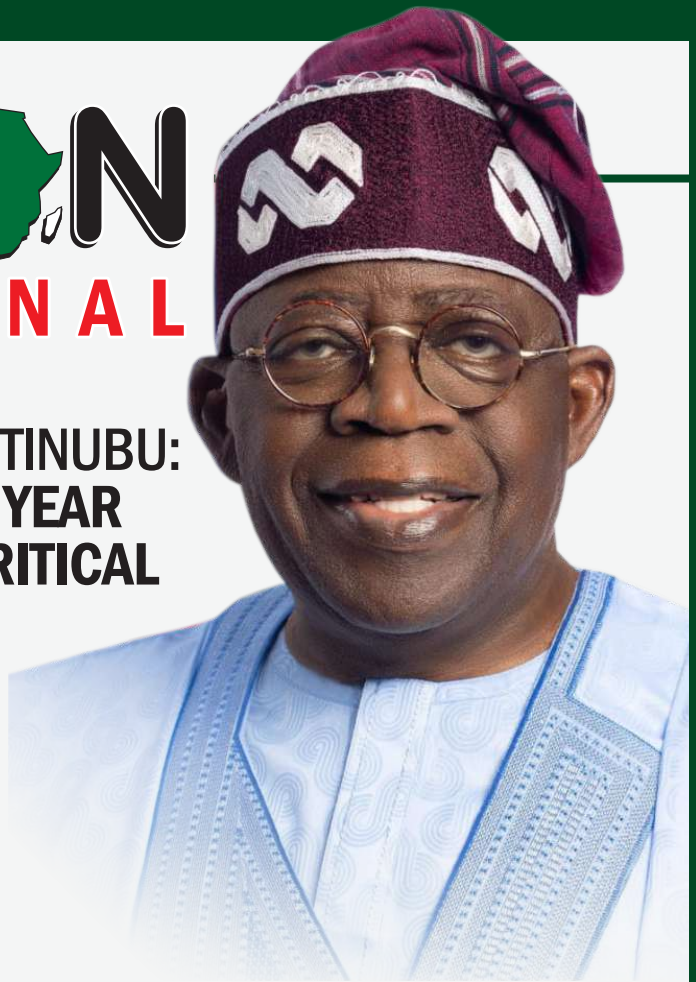
AFRICAN STRIDE INTERNATIONAL

3RD EDITION, JUNE 2024

**PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU:
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ONE YEAR
ADMINISTRATION AND CRITICAL
REFORMS IN NIGERIA**

**THE QUINTESSENTIAL AFRICAN
MEDICAL LEADER: PROF. ADEWALE
MUSA-OLOMU**

**AFRICA'S MACRO-ECONOMIC
PERFORMANCE AND OUTLOOK
REPORT 2024**



African Health & Medical Service Awards Nigeria

...Who Gets What And Why



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The AfricanStride International Magazine has again shown her remarkable qualities and expertise in what it knows best to do through this unique edition of our growing and well sought after title, which is organizing events aimed at celebrating Africa's bests in every facets of life's endeavors. Thus, this exceptional edition is dedicated to the recipients of the maiden African Health and Medical Service Awards Nigeria, AHMSAN 2024. Being the growing hallmark of journalistic excellence in Africa and many aspects of journalism rolled into one unique and exciting platform; as a celebrity magazine, a facts-finding title with no holds barred reporting as well as an African brand focused on telling the African story from the standpoint and perception of the African, this edition lives to its billing as a celebrity title by fishing out the golden fishes in the African health sector of Nigeria.

The African Health and Medical Service Awards Nigeria, AHMSAN, was conceived as an event intended to tell the story of Africa's navigation and continued strives at ensuring quality, sustainable and affordable healthcare for her teeming population across the continent from the perception of health leaders and administrators, innovators, pacesetters, change makers and icons leading the frontiers of renaissance in the sector either in public or private endeavors with commitment, passion, zeal, patriotism and leadership that are extra-ordinary, exemplary, praiseworthy, novel and historic. The outcome of its first adventurous pursuit of this purpose has resulted in the icons, leaders and leading organizations unveiled in this special edition as well as the various categories of awards bestowed on each and why.

Also contained in this unique edition is a highlight on the one-year administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the critical; albeit highly demanding policy reforms he has audaciously embarked upon since becoming the latest tenant of Nigeria's home of power, the Aso-Rock in Abuja, the nation's Federal Capital Territory. This is therefore one fulfilling and exciting read encompassing inspiring biographies, profiles and stories of successes and unique achievements vis-à-vis one of Africa's most stormy narratives on political economy in recent times.

You are therefore welcome to another well-seasoned, informative and exciting special edition of your AfricanStride International Magazine for your reading delight.



Henry O. Adesola,
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SYNLAB:

NIGERIA'S TRAILBLAZING PRIVATE MEDICAL LABORATORY WHERE EXCELLENCE MEETS INNOVATION IN MEDICAL DIAGNOSTICS

A Global Network Providing First-Hand Local Access to World-Class Diagnostics Services.

By: Judith Austin

Touted as Nigeria's preferred private medical laboratory, Synlab Nigeria Limited is a testament of the growing importance of the Nigerian market, especially in its demand for quality and affordable healthcare products and services both within the African region and the globe at large. Without mincing words, Synlab Nigeria is the epicenter of

excellence in medical diagnostics, offering diverse tests of over 5,000 variants to a solid customer cum patients' base of more than 15,000 and growing, across Nigeria. With a network of over 1,000 seasoned specialists and professionals in core medical diagnostics and general scientific test services, the organization boasts of an annual average analyses of approximately 500 million test results.

First registered in Nigeria as PathCare Laboratories in 2004, it

PROFILE

left no one in doubt as to its mission of creating excellence and setting the pace in medical laboratory diagnostics in terms of quality, delivery and affordability to its Nigerian populace. In a short while, the company grew into a bastion of medical support, offering reliable diagnostic care to families and supporting medical professionals with specialized expertise thereby earning the trusts of many Nigerians to provide quality medical testing and to deliver timely and accurate results.

To prove its mettle as a dedicated team of fast-rising professionals eager to compete on the global stage, notwithstanding the dire circumstances of its immediate operating environment, the organization landed its first major feat in 2006 by becoming the first organization of its kind in West Africa to attain the ISO 15189, thus setting the benchmark for quality diagnostics services in Nigeria.

In swift progression, it metamorphosed into Synlab Nigeria and became a member of the global Synlab Group brand in August, 2021. Synlab Group is reputed as the peerless and uncontested leader in the European Market for medical diagnostics services. This global network, with presence in over 35 countries and 4 continents and, with a total workforce of approximately 20,000 employees, offers synergies in laboratory services for patients, practicing doctors, the pharmaceutical, food and related industries.

Being part of the growing global Synlab Group network therefore, Synlab Nigeria has risen to the template of providing extensive range of reliable and innovative diagnostic tests locally by tapping into the benefits of up-to-date European-wide network and advancement to leverage excellent local delivery of cutting-edge diagnostic services. It suffices therefore to describe Synlab Nigeria as a global network providing first-hand local access to world-class diagnostics services, offering professional personal counsel to its diverse customer base while drawing from the breadth and depth of Synlab international expertise.

Synlab Nigeria's core service offers entail deploying a multidisciplinary approach for fast, high-quality, efficient and accurate diagnostics in human medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmaceutical and environmental analysis. In human medicine, it provides complete clinical laboratory services (CLS) to laboratories, practitioners, hospitals and patients, covering all areas of medical diagnostics. The company attaches great importance to the advancement of medical diagnostics and as such, it is a driving force for medical progress and advancement through its ceaseless pursuit of growth, research and innovation.

In vet medicine, Synlab Nigeria is the unbeatable provider of



Kenneth Okolie
CEO SYNLAB Nigeria

comprehensive diagnostics services to veterinarians, domestic animals, livestock health, farm and exotic animals and laboratory rodents as well as veterinary services to universities, research institutes, pharmaceutical and food industries, stud farms and animal breeders. Also, in its network of European medical experts, Synlab Nigeria has developed excellent relationship with the pharma industry and leading universities, thus providing sound expert testing services for drug formulation for the entire lifecycle from drug development through clinical trials to safety and response. For environmental analysis, Synlab Nigeria holds the ace as a provider of comprehensive diagnostics services in the areas of environmental and food safety. Its services include soil (or ground), air and water analysis, industrial analysis, ecotoxicology, compositional food analysis, food hygiene and labelling checks.

Synlab Nigeria is a dynamic fold of professional experts and specialists, and this, with its global reach, gives the organization the leading edge in the Nigerian medical diagnostics services space. From its network of competent and hands-on professionals to its state-of-the-art equipment located in 7 laboratories and 15 patient centres across Nigeria and still expanding, it offers only the best services. For Synlab, system efficiency, timely analyses and results' accuracy guarantee lie in its

PROFILE

practice's core values. Committed to upholding the standards set by its ISO accreditation, the organization offers its numerous clients the confidence of providing accurate diagnostics and efficient delivery. The full range of its diagnostics services cover the following: clinical chemistry, hematology, coagulation, microbiology, serology, immunology and genetics. Others include: pathology, liquid biopsy, cytology, companion diagnostics, endocrinology and nuclear medicine.

Synlab Nigeria's diagnostics processes cover the entire value chain, from collecting samples, delivering same fast and safely to its labs or centers of excellence across the country, analyzing, providing differential diagnosis and interpreting the results through its network of experts. One of the company's innovations is the use of its Path-Provider system, an effective electronic delivery of all patients' results in one place across all devices, making results accessible on-the-go. The Path-Provider system provides other advantages such as: real time results delivery as being verified by the laboratory, convenient access to a patient's historical records and track cumulative progression, select between traditional or the all-new graphic delivery system and; get instant notifications when results become available. Synlab Nigeria also maintains close collaboration with research centres and universities for continuous and sustained development and improvement of its capacities. The company equally emphasizes industry development through continuous exchange between healthcare professionals, diagnostic organizations and the pharma industry.

Led by Kenneth Okolie as its Chief Executive Officer, a seasoned medical diagnostic expert whose mantra "is to help improve the quality of healthcare in Nigeria and Africa as a whole", Synlab Nigeria focuses on patients' health by offering a seamlessly integrated approach, covering all stages of diseases to best serve its numerous patients. For an organization whose watch word is excellence, Synlab Nigeria will never take the shortcuts. In every deal, its focus is to deliver the best possible service to its patients. With Synlab Nigeria, patients have assurances of consistently accurate results, an uncompromising commitment to quality, excellence in service

delivery, affordable pricing and timely results delivery.

Under a management team rooted in constant innovation, business agility and forward thinking with the aim of building a trusted organization capable of delivering on the ever changing demands of healthcare and deploying global strategies to advancing diagnostic care in Nigeria, the patients are at the center of the Synlab Nigeria's works.

Perhaps her greatest strength lies in her uncanny passion for innovative solutions. From latest (or new) diagnostic test methods and technologies to companion diagnostics, otherwise known as personalized medicine and B2B solutions, Synlab Nigeria, like her global peers, is a trailblazer. Through constant research and collaboration, it is able to make new tests available to the medical community early. Focus areas of her research include: genetics, women's health, cardiology, nutrigenomics, etc. Similarly, Synlab Nigeria is ever passionate about innovating on its IT solutions and services.

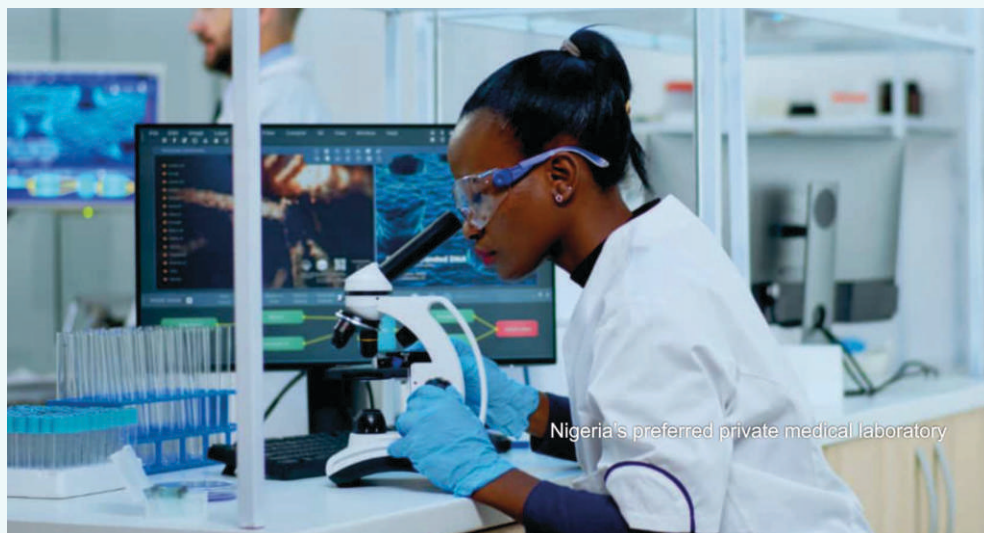
The Synlab team understands that the effectiveness of a drug highly depends on genetic variations of patients. As therapies are reaching ever more sophisticated stages, they at the same time become more individualistic. A rapidly growing field within this so called personalized medicine is referred to as companion diagnostics. Companion diagnostics is the simultaneous development of diagnostics and drugs and helps doctors make better decisions with regards to effectiveness and drugs dosage. As a pathfinder, Synlab has entered this new field of diagnostics to provide medical practitioners with the latest and most innovative services on offer.

Also, Synlab Nigeria offers B2B solutions. For hospitals, dialysis centers, polyclinics, outpatient clinics, laboratories and so on, it offers multifaceted models of integrated diagnostic solutions ranging from point of care (PoC), management and supply, outsourcing, joint ventures and consulting.

This giant global medical diagnostic power house, domiciled in Nigeria and reconfiguring perceptions and outputs in local and continental medical laboratory industry, Synlab Nigeria, adds another significant feather to its accumulating laurels of excellence and outstanding achievements as recipient of 2024 African Medical Diagnostics Service Leadership Award (As an

Outstanding Medical Laboratory Service Provider in Nigeria) under the African Health and Medical Service Awards Nigeria (AHMSAN), organized by the AfricanStride International Magazine in partnership with the Centre for Research and African Development Studies (CePRADS) and other reputable national media organizations.

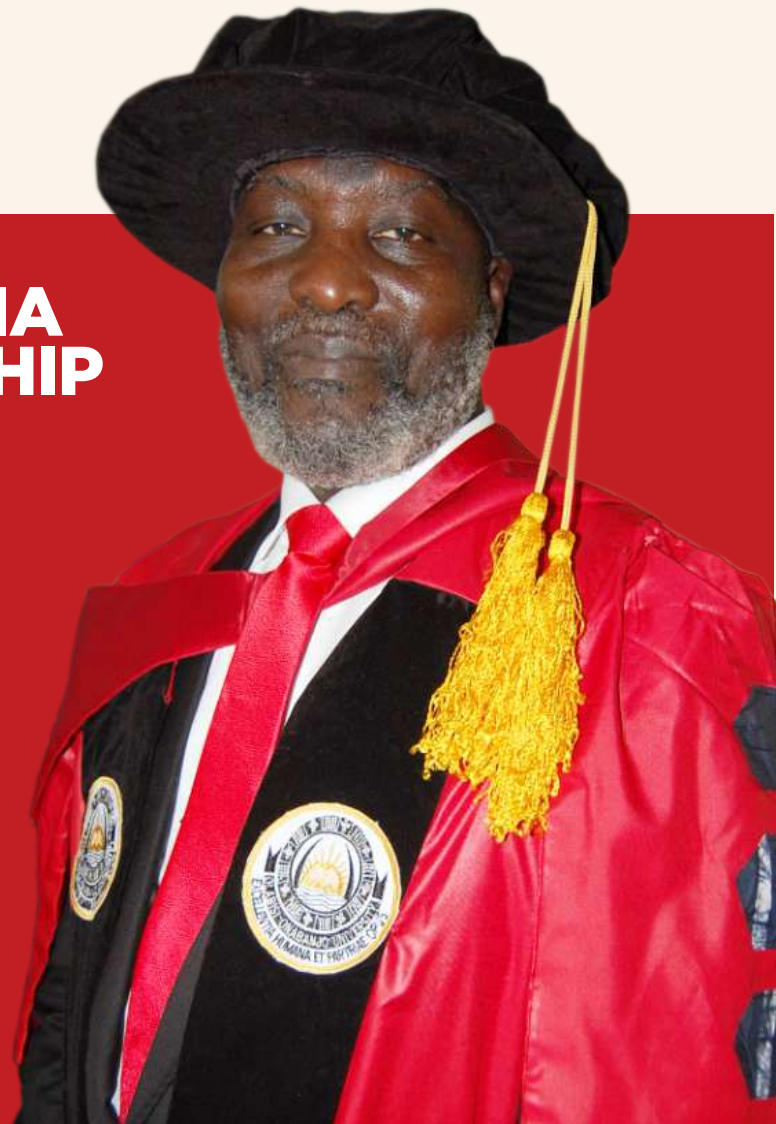
Congratulations Synlab Nigeria! And we wish your dynamic team greater heights in your chosen endeavor.



PROFESSOR ABDUS-SAMIU ADEWALE MUSA-OLOMU (MBBS, MSc, PhD, FWACS, FICS):

THE UNSUNG HERO OF MODERN NIGERIA MEDICAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

As it began to get clearer that one of Nigeria's renowned Professors of Surgery, Abdus-Samiu Adewale Musa-Olomu, would be a recipient of the 2024 African Medical Leadership Award category of the African Health and Medical Service Awards Nigeria (AHMSAN) for his outstanding displays as Medical Director of one of the country's Federal Medical Centres situated at Idi-Aba, Abeokuta, Ogun State, South-West Nigeria, I decided to take a tour of various online platforms to run a background check on this academic giant and medical icon. The stories I read online about him, from his enviable academic credentials, uncommon capacity for leadership and passion for service and mankind, to the unsavory media disparagement and criticisms on pent up allegations of the absurd, quietly whispered to me that despite his many achievements, academic and social laurels, Professor Musa-Olomu remains an unsung hero and it steeled my resolve to have him decorated as an African Medical Leader of uncommon pedigree.



By: Henry Adesola

According to a scientific literature published on the database of the U.S National Library of Medicine (NLM) on the subject of Medical Leadership, “Good medical leadership is the key to building high quality

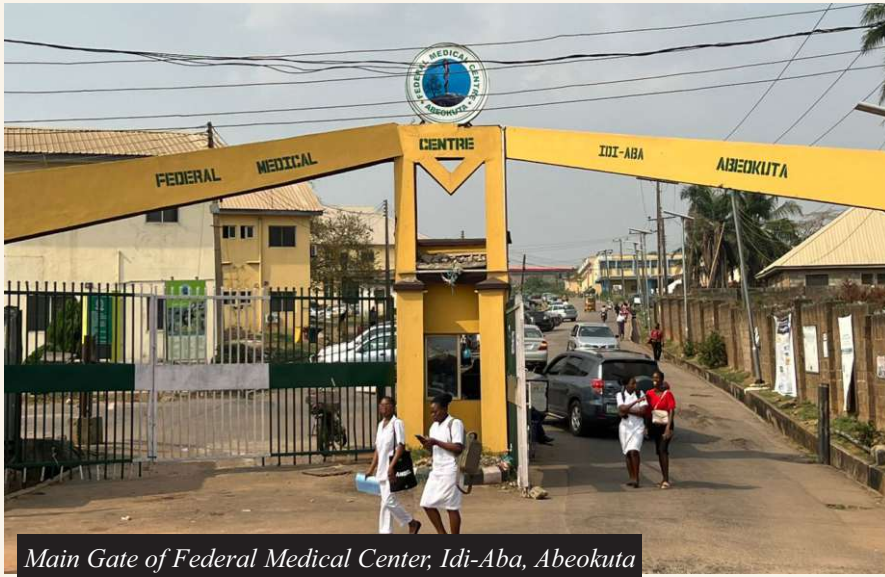
healthcare.” However, in the development of medical careers, the teaching of leadership has traditionally not equaled that of technical and academic competencies. As a result of changes in personal standards, the quality of medical leadership has led to variations between different organizations, as well as occasional catastrophic failure in the standard of care provided for patients.



The Hon. Minister of State for Health, Dr. Tunji Alausa Commissioning a project at the Centre in March, 2024



Professor Musa-Olomu in a discussion with the Hon. Minister of State for Health during the Visit to the Centre for Project Commissioning



Main Gate of Federal Medical Center, Idi-Aba, Abeokuta



The new Medical Director's Office Complex Built by Professor Musa-Olomu



Association of Resident Doctors Call Building

Thus, leaders in the medical profession have called for reforms in healthcare in response to challenges in the system and improvements in public health. Furthermore, there has been an increased drive to see leadership education for doctors starting earlier, and continuing throughout their careers so that they can take in more important leadership roles throughout the healthcare systems. Being a physician requires not only management and leadership but also the need to transfer competencies to communication and critical thinking.

In Nigeria, or Africa as a whole, the subject of medical leadership is at its infant stage and it is responsible for significant proportions of the challenges of the health system on the continent.

Hence, part of the efforts at confronting these challenges may lay in identifying core competencies, capacities, in-born or acquired, drawn from the legacies, achievements, experiences

and footprints of modern day medical professionals and leaders who walked these paths and excelled, if by their noble achievements, the baton of excellent medical leadership can be passed on from generation to generation. Undoubtedly, the Abeokuta born Professor Abdus-Samiu Adewale Musa-Olomu leads in this league. Being born of Abeokuta extraction, the heartland of the Yorubas, which include the egbas, egbados, Onipopos, Onisabes, Ijebus, Ijeshas, Ifes and so on, the native intelligence and superb natural leadership capacity mixed with trado-cultural initiative and wisdom of the tribe, believed to have evolved from a superior stock and order of life which derived from Oduduwa as the famous progenitor, may have rubbed off on Professor Musa-Olomu, implying that beyond his extensive academic attainments, he might have a leadership encoded DNA.

The fact that from the same Abeokuta and various Yoruba sub-



Muhammadi Buhari International Conference Centre & Telemedicine Hall



Pharmacy Complex



The New Finance Building Complex



180-Bedded Wards Building Complex, A Project of Senator Ibikunle Amosun, Former Governor of Ogun State



20-Bedded Intensive Care Unit Building



The new Molecular Laboratory



Hospital Equipment and wards

nationalities of Nigeria come other great Nigerian leaders like the late M.K.O Abiola, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, the present day Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (former Nigerian military and civilian leader) and of course, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, current president and commander-in-chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is a further validation of the hypothetical possibility of an in-born capacity for leadership by the Professor of Surgery, Adewale Musa-Olomu.

A quintessential African medical professional and leader with palpably strong passion for a holistic transformation and advancement of medical profession in Nigeria and beyond, Professor Musa-Olomu was born to the family of late Alhaji and Alhaja Imam Musa of Ile-Olomu compound, Ijaiye Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria, some decades ago. Young Musa-Olomu commenced a lengthy academic career at both the Nawairud-deen primary and secondary schools – the former at Oke-Ijeun and the latter at Obantoko in Odeda Local Government Area of Ogun State. Starting early as a young and precocious lad, Abdus-Samiu had loved to make his mark in the health sector, duly inspired to serve the helpless, the hopeless, the needy and the challenged.

However, providence led him first to attend the Ogun State Polytechnic, now Moshood Abiola University of Technology (MAUTECH) from where he obtained the Higher School Certificate (HSC). Armed with the HSC, the young Musa-Olomu set out for the ultimate dream and life ambition of not just becoming a medical doctor, but a maker of doctors and a leader in the entire health system both home and abroad. He therefore proceeded to the University of Ibadan; well reputed as Nigeria's premier university, to study Medicine and Surgery, obtaining the prestigious MBBS degree. He thereafter had his Residency training in general surgery at the University College

Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, thereby obtaining the fellowship certificate of West African College of Surgeons.

For a career that was to later culminate in the highest echelon of the academic and medical profession, then Dr. Musa-Olomu joined the services of Olabisi Onabanjo University/ Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital in 1999 as a lecturer I and an Honorary Consultant Surgeon. He worked in that capacity for 10 whole years before heading for the University of Ilorin in 2009 as a Senior Lecturer. He subsequently joined the services of the Ilorin Varsity Teaching Hospital as a hospital Consultant Surgeon. On 26th September, 2011 Dr. Musa-Olomu rose to an Associate Professor of Surgery and an Honorary Hospital Consultant. And, in 2014, Musa-Olomu was appointed full-fledged Professor of Surgery.

But that was not all in the academic kitty of this rare Nigerian medical expert, professor and leader. Professor Musa-Olomu is a recipient of Master of Science degree in Anatomy and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Anatomy, both obtained from the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria. A dynamic professional and academic, Professor Olomu is a member of many professional organizations, among which are: West African College of Surgeons, International College of Surgeons, Anatomical Society of Nigeria, International Brain Organization and, the Nigerian Medical Association among others.

A consummate researcher with insatiable quest for innovation, Professor Abdus-Samiu Adewale Musa-Olomu has one hundred and twenty (120) publications to his credit - wow! I'm sure you are as amazed as I am, and that was when it was last checked. He has published widely in some of the most reputable local, national and international journals.

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Professor Samiu is a winner of many grants and he currently works on breast cancer in both the Caucasian and black race. Well-travelled across the globe, highly versed and deep in faith, Professor Abdus-Samiu can be implicated for being better as a husband and father than a leader in his chosen profession and academic career. He is married to Dr. (Mrs.) Titilayo Musa-Olomu and they are well blessed with equally talented children.

There is no better way to capture the true-life reality of the exemplary leadership of Professor Adewale Musa-Olomu than his carnival-like triumphal re-entry of the Federal Medical Centre, Idi-Aba, Abeokuta on September 9, 2021, following his reappointment for a second term in office. With stupendous gale of criticisms, accusations and media attacks, which derived from the same culture of non-standard template for measuring medical leadership and achievements, hurled at him, Professor Olomu had quietly exited the stage on June 1, 2021 at the expiration of his first tenure.

However, after thorough findings and investigations revealed that he had been nothing short of light and life to the Centre for four eventful years, and that if anything, he deserves commendation, the then President Muhammadu Buhari and the Honorable Minister of Health therefore jettisoned all the allegations and reappointed Professor Olomu



for a second term. His resumption of duty at the facility on September 9, 2021 was synonymous with an event marking the opening of a new chapter in the history of the 30 years old Centre. Security agents had a tough and hectic time controlling the surging crowd who thronged the open roof car to catch a glimpse of the Medical Director whom they obviously had missed so badly.

Displaying yet his distinct sterling traits of leadership, Professor Olomu told the crowd at the capacity filled Telemedicine Hall, venue of the grand reception, that he had pushed the events of the past behind him in the overall interest of the development of the Centre. "I bear no grudges with anyone," an elated Professor Adewale Abdus-Samiu said, and sued for the collective support of all and sundry for the new administration under his watch. He therefore pledged his determination to fast-track the on-going developments in the Centre, beginning with the assurance of the completion of the new M.D's office in the next six months.

Therefore, for his many acts of leadership, services – clinical, community, teaching, research and

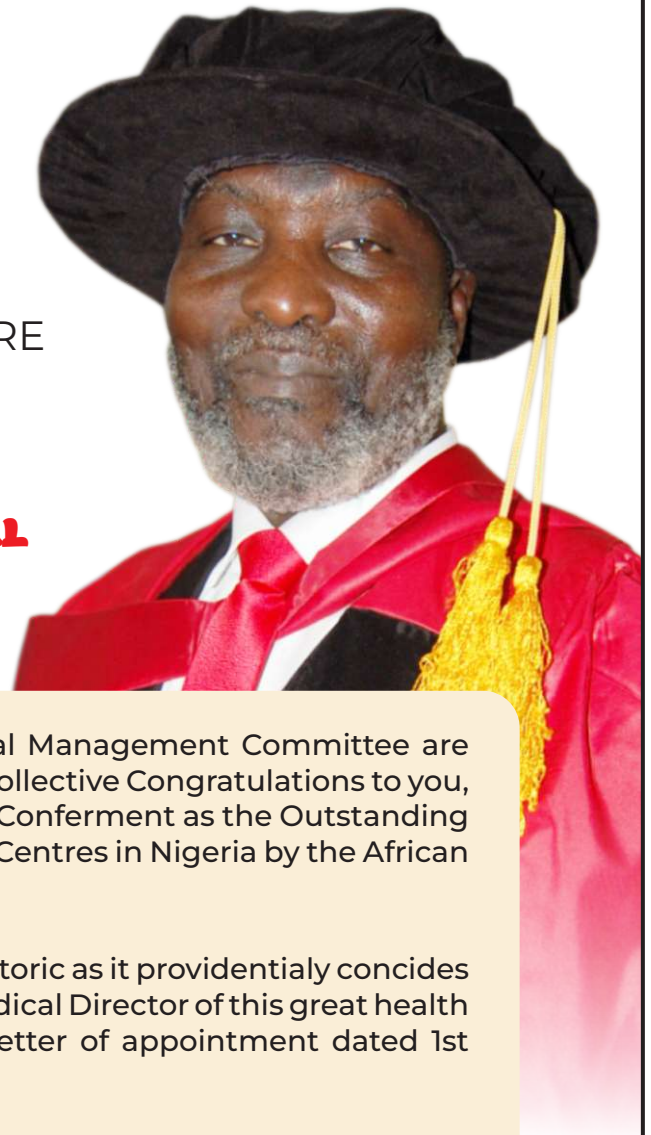
more, Professor Abdus-Samiu Adewale Musa-Olomu is recognized and awarded the 2024 African Medical Leadership Award as the Most Outstanding Medical Director of Federal Medical Centres in Nigeria.





FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE
IDI-ABA ABEOKUTA

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO A QUINTESSENTIAL
LEADER**



The entire members of the Hospital Management Committee are absolutely delighted to extend our collective Congratulations to you, Sir on the special occasion of your Conferment as the Outstanding Medical Director of Federal Medical Centres in Nigeria by the African International Magazine.

This unique award is particularly historic as it providentially coincides with your 7th year in office as the Medical Director of this great health institution, having received your letter of appointment dated 1st June, 2017.

You are a leader driven by vision, passion, commitment and courage. When you believe in a cause, you put your entire self into it, a rare virtue that had paid off in the monumental achievements of your administration in the Centre over the past seven years.

Your dedication, wisdom, focus and unwavering commitment to the overall development of this Centre have undoubtedly played significant role in the rising profile of this hospital.

Here's wishing you more fruitful years ahead in all ramifications of your endeavours and service to your fatherland.

Congratulations !!! Sir.

Segun Orisajo
*Head of Information & Public Relations
For: Hospital Management Committee.*





FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE IDI-ABA, ABEOKUTA

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO AN ACHIEVER !!!

The entire Hospital Community heartily felicitate our visionary Medical Director, Prof. Adewale Musa-Olomu **MBBS, MSc, PhD, FWACS, FICS**, on the auspicious occasion of his conferment as **Outstanding Medical Director of Federal Medical Centres** in Nigeria by African International Magazine.

No doubt, this well-deserved recognition is a testament to your exemplary leadership and result-oriented administration since your assumption of office in 2017.

Through prudent and diligent management of scarce resources, your 7 years of all-inclusive and purposeful leadership had remarkably witnessed an holistic repositioning of the Centre including equipping of virtually all the departments with essential hitherto lacking equipment.

As a peace-loving leader, it is on record that the Centre has not recorded any internal strike action nor disruption to smooth running of services which was a clear significant departure from the past.

The Centre came First in the Servicom, Presidency ranking of Federal Medical Centres in Nigeria in quality health care service delivery while Open-heart surgery had commenced in the Centre through your dynamic leadership.

Sir, your favourable disposition to staff welfarism led to the unprecedented upward career progression of some staff who were earlier stagnated.

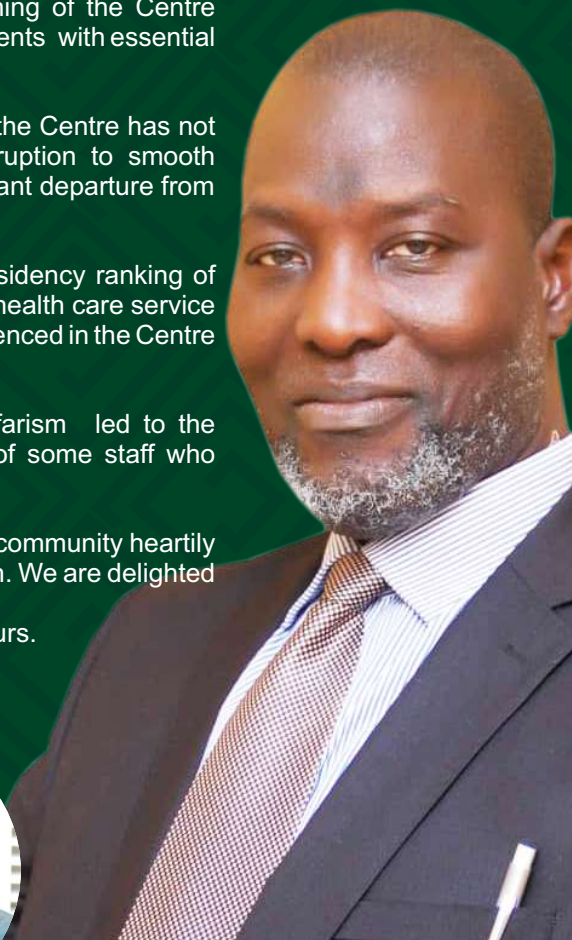
For these and many more, the entire hospital community heartily congratulates you on this memorable occasion. We are delighted to be associated with you.
Wishing you more success in all your endeavours.

Congratulations sir.



Segun Orisajo

Head of Information and Public Relations
For: The Centre



SKIPPER EYE-Q SUPER SPECIALTY EYE HOSPITAL: SKIPPING BARRIERS TO QUALITY EYE CARE IN NIGERIA AND CHANGING THE NARRATIVES

By: Olabayo Festus

A 2020 report on Nigeria says there were an estimated 24 million people living with vision loss and 1.3 million people were blind. A further 50 million people have non-vision impairing eye conditions needing basic eye care services.

However, by 2022, the number of adult Nigerians, aged 40 and above suffering from moderate to severe or acute impairment or blindness had increased to a staggering 4.25 million. Yet, in 2024, available evidence suggests that over 2.3 billion people are visually challenged; and ophthalmologists have warned that the number of people with vision loss is expected to rise from 1.1 billion in 2022 to 1.7 billion in 2050, adding that ageing populations and increased prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as diabetes, could worsen eye health issues in the coming years.

For a country like Nigeria, battling with severe shortfall in primary healthcare, the scenario enumerated above should be worrisome and potentially devastating. Beyond the crucial need to sensitize the populace on the vagaries of eye care, government at all levels have a critical responsibility to make the care of the eye available to Nigerians, majority of who cannot afford the required expenses. Reports of study conducted on eye health, poverty and accessibility also say that cataract, glaucoma and uncorrected refractive errors are the leading causes of blindness. These eye health issues are exacerbated by ageing population, rising tides of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and extensive use of electronic gadgets.

Painting the dire circumstances of eye health challenges in Nigeria, a developing and most populous country in Africa, is



with a view to understanding the monumental impacts of the Skipper Eye-Q Super Specialty Eye Hospital, an international eye care facility chain reputed for the presence of 29 Eye hospitals in India and 3 in Nigeria; having entered the shores of the African nation in less than a decade. The wave making Specialty Eye Hospital provides all types of eye surgeries such as cataract, retina, glaucoma, presbyopia, cornea, squint, refractive error and a whole range of other vision problems, having treated over 5 million patients and still counting.

The presence in Nigeria of the Super Specialty Eye Hospital has been to provide same standard of eye treatment and

surgeries as can be obtained in more advanced economies as in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and India. The phenomenal Skipper Eye-Q Hospital can be described as one of Nigerian government's tall achievements in recent years in its drive for foreign direct investments as well as the provision of quality and affordable healthcare to all classes of Nigerians with a view to reducing medical tourism abroad as well as curtailing capital flights to foreign lands.

The world class Eye Hospital hit the Nigerian skyline in March 2017. At its unveiling in the Victoria Island area of Lagos, the presence of the Nigerian crème-de-la-crème left no trace of doubt about the mission of the hospital as providing world-class diagnostic, medical, surgical and optical ophthalmic services in the most populous country in Africa. On hand to officially open the hospital for its operations was the then Governor of Cross River State, Professor Ben Ayade. Also in attendance were Africa's richest man and President of the Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote; His Royal Majesty, Oba Rilwan Akiolu, Oba of Lagos; Chairman, Eko Atlantic Group, Ronald Chagoury; then Special Adviser on Entrepreneurship to Katsina State Governor, Mr Ibrahim Jikamshi; Chairman and Founder, Skipper Eye-Q Super Specialty Eye Hospital, Dr. Ajay Sharma and; Group President, Skipper Eye-Q, Mr. Jitendra Sachdeva, among a host of other high class society personalities.

Speaking on the vision of the Hospital, its Founder, Dr. Ajay Sharma, renowned as one of India's best eye surgeons, said the hospital was established to assist Nigerians with visual impairments regain their sights and to also save them the trouble of traveling abroad for treatment. Dr. Sharma said: "In a bid to enable more people to access medical care, the JV-Skipper Eye-Q Nigeria aims to improve medical services in the region. It is committed to delivering its services using the most advanced, progressive and highest standards of quality eye care at an affordable price and we have a team of highly qualified and experienced ophthalmologists to provide the best possible service."

Dr. Sharma also said the hospital was poised to invest \$20 million dollars in eye services in Nigeria through the establishment of 30 eye centres in the next few years, with the aim of further helping the country to achieve the global eye health action plan 2014-2019, which was intended to reduce avoidable visual impairment as a global public health problem and to secure access to rehabilitation services for the visually impaired. Dr. Sharma added that the hospital will be involved in the training of Nigerian doctors with ultra modern facilities on surgeries and different eye care so as to enhance their performances and services delivery. Also, apart from offering corporate social responsibility services, Dr. Sharma noted that the hospital will be creating jobs for Nigerians.

In his speech while commissioning the state-of-the-art facility, Professor Ben Ayade said Nigerians were happy to witness the historic unveiling of the hospital as it promises to reduce medical tourism. In his remark, Africa's richest man, Aliko



Dangote expressed delight at the establishment of the hospital and pledged the readiness of his foundation to work with the hospital to provide free eye care services to the poor. He added that the foundation will also support the hospital in the training of Nigerian doctors. On his part, the Group President, Skipper Nigeria, Mr. Jitendra Sachdeva said: "with the launch of this centre, we look forward to catering for the country's population and provide best eye care facility to the people. As a community healthcare provider, our main focus will be on the primary and secondary eye care needs of local people of Lagos and its neighbourhood."

Thus, in keeping with its mandate objectives of providing extensive quality and affordable eye care services to Nigerians, the international organization made a remarkable entry into the nation's capital, Abuja, by opening the FCT branch in December 2020. This was after opening its second facility in the Ilupeju area of Lagos, bringing the total number of hospitals to 3. The Abuja branch was commissioned by former President Muhammadu Buhari who was represented by the then Minister of State for Education, Rt. Hon. Chief Goodluck Nana Opiah.

The Skipper Eye-Q Super Specialty Eye Hospital has, since its take-off, remained top of the eye care business game in Nigeria. The story of its unbeatable achievements is borne by its growing expansion and the thousands of eye surgeries it conducts on weekly basis across its 3 facilities in the country. Interestingly, since opening for business in Nigeria, the hospital has never had issues of critical cases that need to be referred abroad and it has treated high class Nigerians with serious eye defects such as cataract, glaucoma, presbyopia, cornea and so on, skipping barriers and challenges to quality eye care service delivery, using some of the best equipment and technologies on offer, thereby changing the narratives of eye health in Nigeria.

In June 2023, the hospital made national headlines for conducting a successful eye surgery on Mallam Nasir El-Rufai, few days after leaving office as Governor of Kaduna State.

It is therefore on the premises of its growing impacts, achievements, transformation and pacesetting legacies in the eye healthcare industry that the Skipper Eye-Q Super Specialty Eye Hospital is conferred with the African Optical Health Service Leadership Award (as Outstanding Eye Care Hospital/Practitioners in Nigeria) for the African Health and Medical Service Awards Nigeria (AHMSAN) 2024.



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LAGOS HOSPITAL (ILUPEJU)

Address: 34/36, Insurance House-B, Association Avenue,
Opposite Total Filling Station, Ilupeju, Lagos.

Hospital Contact: +2347057714748, 017004495, 017004496

ABUJA HOSPITAL (ASOKORO)

Address: Opposite A.A. Rano Filling Station, Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro, FCT, Abuja.

Hospital Contact: +234 818 250 0004, +234 818 199 6000

Email: eyecare@skippereyeq.com Website: www.skippereyeq.com

DR OLAYIWOLA MUDASHIR BELLO:

THE TWILIGHT TO LIMELIGHT STORY OF SUBOL HOSPITAL

The Subol Hospital is one of Nigeria's leading private hospitals located at Idimu Area of Lagos State, the commercial nerve centre of Africa's most populous nation. The hospital, which started as a small clinic in 1992, is today operating from a large facility which houses 50 patient beds with many wards and seasoned healthcare experts in various fields of medical and health services, which runs into over 10 specialties, and a recognized SafeCare Level 4 hospital which provides top-notch services to its numerous patients. Subol Hospital is founded by one of Nigeria's highly revered medical doctors with over 4 decades' experience in the health sector - Dr. Olayiwola Mudashir Bello, who epitomizes the virtues of excellence, outstanding care giving, love of country and people, leadership and deep professional core values.

By: Idris Olawale Olayinka

Born in Offa, a town that has often been regarded as the second largest metropolis in modern Kwara State, after Ilorin, the state capital, in October 1957, Dr. Layi Bello, as he is fondly called by friends and relatives, can be described as an industrious Nigerian medical veteran of the latter part of the old genre who has spent the most of the last 42 years blazing the trail in medical services to the country and fellow citizens.

It is often said that the path a people lead and the outcomes of their various historic dreams have their roots dug deep in the beginnings thereof. It is not surprising therefore that Offa, an ancient town in today's Kwara State, North Central Nigeria, is the homestead of many Nigerian icons and trends significantly in the build up to modern Nigeria. The revered, age-long panegyric of the town, "ijakadi loro offa", literally interpreted as 'wrestling is the tradition of Offa,' underscores the people's historical enterprise as great warriors, wrestlers, fighters and a force to reckon with.

However, modern day Offa indigenes are great entrepreneurs, business leaders and educationists – and it may amaze you that the town, with an estimated population of approximately 166,000 people, boasts of over a hundred professors, with one family alone said to have produced more than 10 professors. Others are statesmen and pathfinders, and due to their daring courage and fighting spirit for success, Offas are empire



builders, change makers, pioneers and founders scattered across Nigeria and the globe viz; Offatedo in Osun State, Iyana Offa in Oyo State, Offa in Cote d'Ivoire were all founded by Offa people.

It is from this great stock of the Yoruba that Dr. Olayiwola Bello is bequeathed to Nigeria, Africa and the world at large, and like his forbears and fellow Offa pathfinders, Dr. Layi Bello found his own path, first in medicine and then as a care-giver of unrivalled capacity, innovation and humility. The story of how he made his way to Idimu, a largely undeveloped and uncharted part of Lagos State way back in 1992, to establish the Subol Clinic which has today grown into a full-fledged state-of-the-art hospital, is one recurrent decimal in the path-finding and pacesetting genetic make-up of the Offas handed down to *Dokita* (the Yoruba corruption of Dr.) 'Layi.

For young Olayiwola Mudashir Bello, early education

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commenced at the Iyeru Okin Primary School, Kwara State before he proceeded to Government Secondary School, Ilorin, Kwara State. In 1977, he obtained his A' Level School of Basic Studies from the College of Technology, Kwara State after which he headed for a medical degree at the nation's premier Ivory Tower, the prestigious University of Ibadan, graduating simultaneously with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) degrees in 1982. Dr. Olayiwola's accompanying trainings for Internship/Housemanship followed immediately at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital before proceeding for the compulsory National Youth Service Corps, NYSC, program in 1983, which he observed with the National Sports Commission, Surulere, Lagos.

Thereafter, he had a stint with the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Commission, Victoria Island, as a Medical Officer. However, perhaps inspired by the close contacts and realities of everyday life of the ordinary citizens in their daily struggles, pains and battles for survival against poverty and diseases, which private practice entails, Dr. Bello left the commission to later join the medical team of R-Jolad Hospital, located in Gbagada area of Lagos in 1984.

With his passion for healthcare perpetually on the prowl and his vision for affordable and quality health services for all piercing and breaking through limits, he went for the actually downtrodden at Idimu, on the outskirts of Lagos metropolis, believing as I thought, that health truly is wealth and therefore that if quality health could be afforded the people, abundant wealth may in due time flow to them. Hence, from the start, Dr. Olayiwola had a clear vision of his mission; to providing care, comfort and compassion for all along the path of his dutiful service to mankind. He never fluttered; he kept to the mission and focused on the goal.

Over the years, Dr. Olayiwola also grew professionally through conscious investments in knowledge and expertise, increasing his number of laurels in local and international qualifications, all committed towards better service at the Subol Hospital and professional career leadership. These qualifications include: a diploma in HIV Management from Brighton West Sussex University, United Kingdom and a Post Graduate Course in Family Medicine from the Post Graduate College of Nigeria. And only recently, Dr. Bello obtained a post graduate certificate in Pediatric Nutrition in Boston, Massachusetts.

Also, for professional identity, Dr. Olayiwola Mudashir Bello is a devoted member of both the Association of General and Private Medical Practitioners of Nigeria and Guild of Medical Directors, where he is a vocal voice and team player with other channels leading the frontiers for medical excellence, professionalism and development in Nigeria.

On the whole, Subol Hospital remains the brainchild and medical brand Dr. Layi wishes to offer to Nigeria and the rest of the world, given the strides and tireless devotion he accords to doing the right, the best and the most affordable services at the hospital. The culture and tradition of excellence laid by the Subol Hospital founder, Medical Director and CEO, Dr. Olayiwola, for which the hospital has become well known, has made it a house hold name for the people of Idimu community, which has today grown into a bustling area with first class infrastructure in terms of roads network, electricity, water, urban housing, banks, schools, hotels and more, amidst a rapidly burgeoning population.

Beyond that, the award-winning hospital has also earned the recognition of local and global institutions for its many achievements and impacts. These include the JHPIEGO Best Performing Facility Award, Improved TB/HIV Prevention Care Award by KNCV/Pharmaccess, Award for the provider with the "Most Customer-Focused" Centre by Redcare Health Services Ltd and Excellent Service Award by the Association of General and Private Medical Practitioners of Nigeria (AGPMPN) among others. Perhaps the greatest achievement of the Subol hospital and its management however, is its recognition and steady rise on the ratings of SafeCare, a global standards organization whose ambition is to create an international platform of organizations and people willing to pursue innovative approaches to improve clinical quality, using transformative digital solutions to challenge the status quo and strengthen trust in the healthcare system.

Reporting on the Subol Hospital, the organization once commented:

"Subol Hospital, a private hospital in Lagos State, has been a well-known client of SafeCare as they have progressed through the quality journey since 2012. In 2013, Subol Hospital won the SafeCare Award for Excellence as they were the Most Improved Facility in 2012-2013. Over the years, Subol Hospital has done a remarkable job in improving their quality from level 1 all the way to level 4....."

On his part, Dr. Olayiwola Mudashir Bello, the MD/CEO of Subol Hospital recognizes the impacts of the SafeCare as providing a guiding beacon that has made the Subol Hospital to leap into limelight. Said he;

"The impact of implementing SafeCare standards has been very rewarding. It has provided the confidence in both clients and our staff. Plus, it has also brought recognition of private companies, who now want to partner with us."

Dr. Olayiwola Mudashir Bello is awarded the African Medical Practice and Leadership Excellence (AMPLE) Award category of the African Health and Medical Service Awards Nigeria (AHMSAN) 2024 by the AfricanStride International Magazine.



Front View of Subol Hospital



SUBOL HOSPITAL

..Care, Comfort, Compassion.

**Patients Care,
Come Firts.**



...Passion for service

DR CHRISTOPHER OTABOR, MD/CEO, ALLIANCE HOSPITAL, ABUJA: A PATRIOT IN STETHOSCOPE

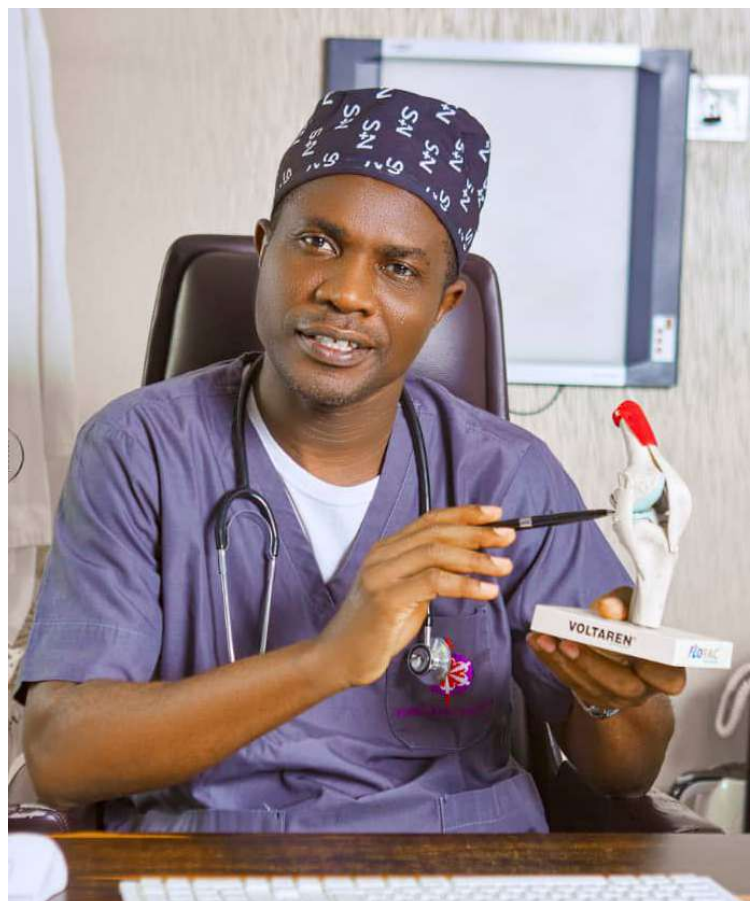
At a time when the most lucrative option for an average Nigerian core professional, and non-professionals alike, either in the health or other sectors, remains 'japaism' (a trending colloquial term for the mad rush for greener pastures abroad among Nigerians of all cadres), Dr. Christopher Otabor, Founder, Medical Director and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance Hospital, arguably the largest private hospital in Abuja, Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory, FCT, has been an ardent defender of the country against medical tourism abroad and has proven that notwithstanding the negative narratives, Nigeria, in many, if not all ramifications, is a land of diverse possibilities and a workable project. Dr. Otabor in his versatile campaigns, redefines the mythology of the voice in the wilderness christening for excellent health services and investments that meet global standards at home, he being an example himself in every sense of It going by the landmark investments and quality of experts in his Alliance Hospital, with a view to domiciling the billions of dollars that crosses the country's borders annually to Europe, America and the Indies in search of world class health services by the political and business class, the rich and foreign nationals.

By: Idris Olawale Olayinka

Wikipedia, the world's largest online information bank, defines patriotism as “the feeling of love, devotion and a sense of attachment to a country or state.” It goes further to posit that “this attachment can be a combination of different feelings for things such as the language of one's homeland, and its ethnic, cultural, political or historical aspects.” In the same vein, the Oxford Dictionary of English Language defines a patriot as “a person who vigorously support their country and is prepared to defend it against enemies or detractors.”

In describing Dr. Christopher Otabor as a patriot in the context of his professional devotion and commitment to Nigeria, the Oxford Dictionary's definition of a patriot is quite apt: “a person who VIGOROUSLY support their country and is PREPARED to DEFEND it against ENEMIES or DETRACTORS.” For wont of time and space, I am constrained to expatiate on each of the words in capital, however, the essence of their emphasis will be laid bare very succinctly, much as it is clear from this narration that a patriot is he who is prepared to take up a challenge for his or her country, determined to make a difference in the best interest of that country.

But a patriot is by his undertakings prone to occasional or sometimes constant victimization, vilification, harassments, attacks and confrontations, thus becoming a victim of his excessive love and devotion to his own country or its people. Therefore, philosophers differentiate between patriots and true patriots: whereas the ordinary patriot is discouraged and loses his fervor at the slightest challenge and opposition to his cherished love for his country, the true patriot is a die-hard and unrepentant lover of his country. The true patriot sees his victimization as distractions, stumbling blocks, oppositions and impediments woven by the



enemies of progress of the very country he so much loves and for which he is willing to lead specific or major changes.

For the true patriots, their love for the fatherland and its people is rooted in their very being and they will go the extra mile, sometimes at great risks and dangers to personal lives, in their defense, love, commitment, devotion, service and attachment to their cherished country.



Ultra-Modern Equipment at Alliance Hospital, Abuja

Dr. Christopher Otabor belongs in the pantheons of true Nigerian patriots, but a patriot more by the stethoscope and his patriotism has met with several challenges and untold victimizations. One of such, perhaps among many, was his recent accusation alongside some of his staffers, which made national headlines, as having been involved in organ harvesting at his renowned hospital, the Alliance Hospital, and was consequently detained for four days. This unfortunate clamp down on a great Nigerian medical expert who runs a world class facility in the heart of the FCT, with many Nigerians on his pay roll - which runs to several millions monthly, at a time when millions are jobless and many employers cannot meet their paltry obligations to their workers, was later discovered to be nothing but a mere cooked up story circulated on social media by the enemies of the country who wish to get the patriot out of the way.

But as the true patriot that he is, Dr. Otabor stood to fight, not particularly for himself but in defense of the country he so much loves, for its people whom he uses his enormous professional endowment to serve and for the positive campaigns he leads in the best interest of the country.

Uyinwen Christopher Otabor was born in 1972 in Benin City, capital of today's Edo State, South-South Nigeria to his parents: Mr. and Mrs. E.O Otabor. "Uyinwen" in the language of the Benin people implies "good character or behavior." Hence, it is another reaffirmation of the African trado-cultural values where names bear important connectivity with the

future causes or destinies the people carry. Upon attaining school age, young Otabor attended Isiuwa Primary School at a small town on the outskirts of Benin City, which became a settlement perhaps with the advent of the citing of the Federal Government's agency, the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR), and thereby adopts the name – NIFOR. He also attended the Niger College, Benin City for his secondary education and finished in 1990 as the best performing student in the senior school certificate examination. At the Niger College, Otabor Christopher Uyinwen, for his good character and dedication, was also appointed the Labour Prefect in his final year.

Between 1992 and 1999, the University of Benin prepared Otabor for the rigorous career he will later pursue and for which he will devote his patriotism to advancing a greater Nigeria. Thus, after his medical school in 1999, he departed for kano to attend to his house job at the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, AKTH. Dr. Otabor remained in Kano to do his mandatory one year National Youth Service Corps, NYSC, where again the marks of good character projected him as the best performed corps member and was awarded the state honour for the 2001/2002 set. His residency training programme followed, which was done at both the National Orthopaedic Hospital in Kano and at the Jos University Teaching Hospital, completing the trainings with the award of the Fellowship of West African College of Surgeons in Orthopaedic and Trauma specialty in October 2009. He also later obtained the AO Fellowship in Dubai in 2010.

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Having been well baked, Dr. Otabor set out for his career path with his first job appointment as a consultant orthopaedic surgeon with the Garki Hospital, Abuja in April 2010. After a year with the Garki Hospital, he joined the services of the Federal Capital Territory Administration, FCTA as consultant orthopaedic and trauma surgeon and served meritoriously for eleven whole years before his voluntary retirement in February 2022. While in the services of the FCTA, Dr. Otabor took leave of absence between 2011 and 2015 for an appointment in the presidency – for Dr. Otabor, it was a major historic leap. However, his commitment to the Nigerian project in character and service must have endeared him to the President Goodluck Jonathan Government, still regarded as one of the best periods in Nigeria's socio-economic and political history.

In the presidency, Dr. Otabor served in capacities which included: Special Assistant (Administration), Head of Special Projects Unit and, Head of Communications Unit – all under the supervision of the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Devoted, committed, hardworking and patriotic, Dr. Otabor's presidency assignment saw him participate in several delegations of the Federal Government, including as part of the delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, New York in 2012 and 2015; delegate to the Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Sri Lanka, 2013 and; as

Nigeria's representative to the Debt Sustainability Conference in Brussels in 2012.

Dr. Otabor was a member of the Nigerian delegation to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) conference in Geneva Switzerland in 2014; member of the federal government delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York, in March 2013 and March 2015. He was also a member of the local organizing committee of the African Union Heads of Government meeting on HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis (Abuja +12) in June 2013.

In May 2011 however, Dr. Otabor took a major dive to open a fresh new chapter in history by taking a loan of 3 million Nigerian naira, tied to his salary account, to start the Alliance Hospital - then as a Clinic. Through courage, perseverance, commitment and again, patriotism, he grew the clinic into a full fledged hospital in 2014. Today, the Alliance Hospital is a first and highly rated hospital which boasts of some of the best and most sophisticated medical equipment the world has got to offer. Its list of equipment includes, but not limited to the following: CT Scan, MRI, Digital X-Ray, Mammography machine, Echo-Cardiography machine, Kidney Dialysis Unit, Special Care Baby Unit, Intensive Care Unit, Mobile Emergency Units (fortified with standard ambulances) and more.

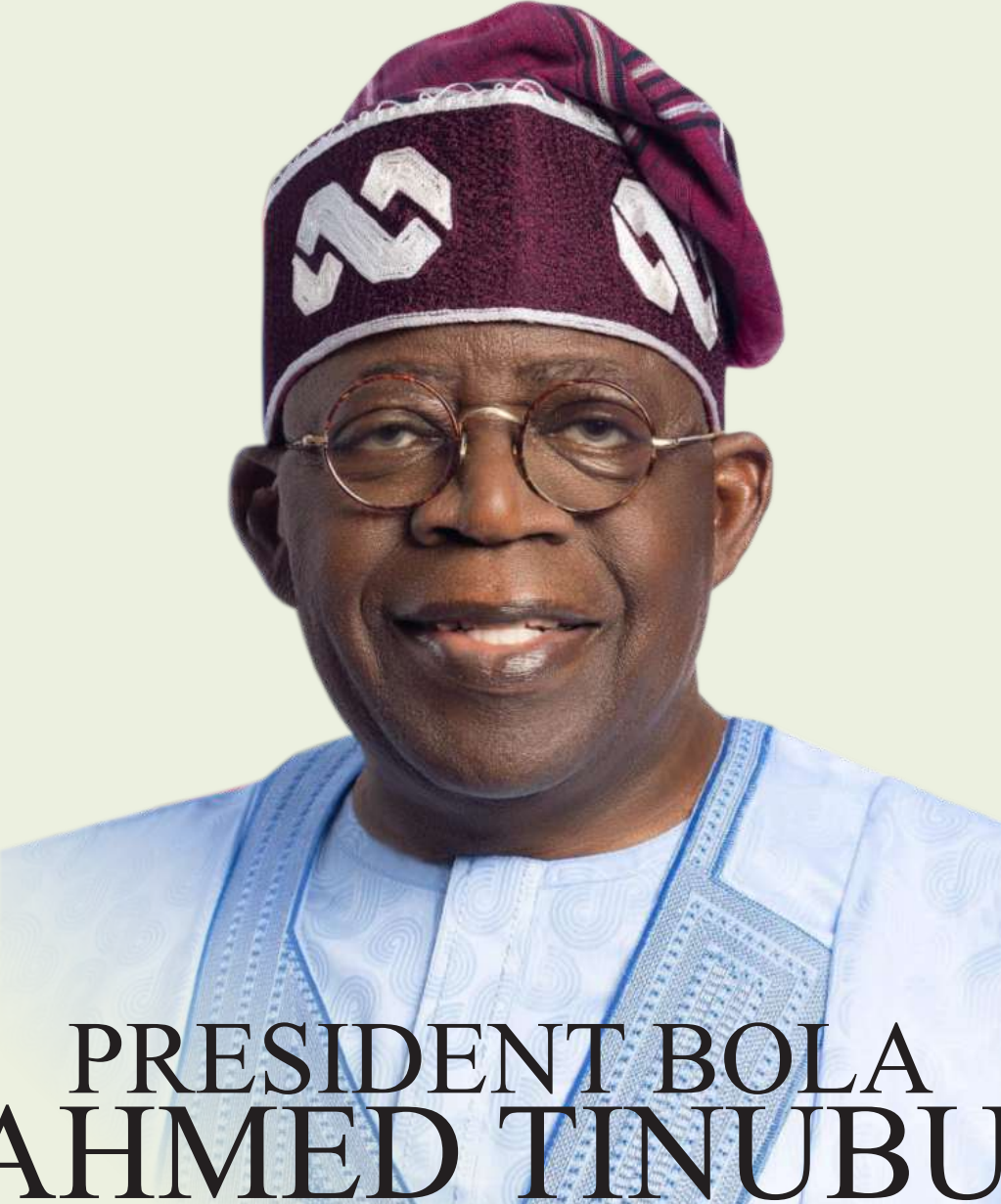
A multi-specialty Centre, which rides on the mission “to build a world-class, one stop multi-specialty hospital driven by passion and service”, the Alliance Hospital's areas of specialties include: orthopaedic and trauma care, brain and spine surgery, general surgery, urology surgery, nephrology, cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and paediatrics among others. Over the years, the hospital has proven its capacity and mettle to excel in many areas of its services, demonstrating routine landmark successes in areas hitherto regarded as complex. These include: open heart surgery, kidney transplant, joint replacement surgery, spine surgery, limb reconstruction surgery, laparoscopy surgeries and complex brain surgeries.

Mr. Patriot, Dr. Christopher Otabor, the CEO of Alliance Hospital and his team of equally dedicated experts, will like to be remembered more for using the hospital's services to prevent more and more Nigerians from seeking medical attention and services abroad. Dr. Otabor is at the forefront of this campaign. In fact, he is to speak to participants at the maiden African Health and Medical Service Awards Nigeria, AHMSAN, Colloquium on this subject.

Dr. Otabor is a very active member of the Nigerian Medical Association, NMA, and the Guild of Medical Directors of Nigeria. He is married to his beautiful jewel, Mrs. Opeyemi Otabor and they are blessed with two brilliant kids who are medical students in their teenage.

For his revolutionary strides sweeping through the health system of Nigeria and his patriotic drive to not only discourage medical tourism out of Nigeria but that Nigeria becomes a health tourist destination, Dr. Otabor is awarded the African Medical Practise and Leadership Excellence (AMPLE) Award category of the AHMSAN 2024 by the AfricanStride International Magazine.





PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU:

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ONE YEAR ADMINISTRATION AND CRITICAL REFORMS IN NIGERIA

By: Paul Agome & Henry Adesola

Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Nigeria's renowned politician who was elected in a keenly contested presidential election in March, 2023, was sworn in as the 16th President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the West African country on May 29th, 2023. Tinubu, 72, came into the saddle at a time the country of nearly 250 million inhabitants, mostly children and youths under the age of 40 were grilling under severe economic, social and political discomforts and unease thereby yearning for hopes of immediate reliefs. Tinubu's manifesto of "Renewed Hopes," even though many among the country's elites and urban dwellers had passed it off as political cajoles, gimmicks and

fallacies conjured to deceive and hoodwink unsuspecting Nigerians merely to snatch power, may have earned him the edge over his closest rivals – Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party, PDP and Peter Gregory Obi of the Labour Party, LP, who came second and third respectively after the ballots.

The journey of the last one year therefore is a milestone that evokes reflections and stocks taking. Interestingly, the Tinubu Government, realizing the significance of its first one year in office, rolled out the drums, in what it termed a low key celebration, but intended to present its one-year score card to the Nigerian masses who hired him one year ago. The Tinubu's one-year administration is without a doubt an eventful period and characterized by mixed feelings, views and opinions among Nigerians and distant observers. For one, it can be described as

perhaps the most critical times in the annals of the Nigerian economy vis-à-vis its economic and social policies' reforms.

For instance, the infamous “fuel subsidy is gone” proclamation of May 29th, 2023, at the Eagle Square, Abuja, venue of his presidential inauguration will ever remain fresh in the memories of many Nigerians. As the bleeding from the subsidy removal continued unabated from that major inaugural pronouncement, the Jagaban, as he is fondly referred, added an icing to the sweet-bitter cake already served his fellow country men and women by liberalizing the foreign exchange, called the floating of the naira. These two policies sparked a major storm in the economy and there's yet to be seen any sign of its abating. But Tinubu's die hard supporters, admirers, followers and political mentees believe these policies are bold steps by the courageous Lion of Bourdillon aimed at transforming Nigeria and finally setting the most populated blacks' country on the path to progress and prosperity. In spite of the challenges faced by many Nigerians, the pro-Tinubu apologists are unrelenting in their postulation that the administration has ushered in a new era of hope and progress by taking bold steps towards ensuring the actualization of his government's Renewed Hope Agenda.

Among other things, the protagonists of the government are quick to point at the eight-point agenda of Mr. Tinubu's administration, which include: reforming the economy for inclusive growth; strengthening national security; boosting agriculture for food security; unlocking energy and natural resources; enhancing infrastructure and transportation; boosting education, health, and social investment; accelerating diversification through industrialization, digitization, creative arts, manufacturing and innovation and; improving governance for effective service delivery.

On the economy, the Tinubu government has justified the subsidy removal as a tough decision that needed to be taken in the interest of the collective good, describing the fuel subsidy regime as a Venus flytrap which was taking a large chunk of the nation's gross domestic product, GDP, in excess of \$10 billion annually and therefore, unsustainable. The removal has therefore freed up capital which is being redirected to critical sectors like healthcare, education, infrastructure and security. More so, it says the fuel subsidy removal has led to a 50%

reduction in petrol importation and increased funds to states and local governments, this is as the administration also took steps to cushion the effects of the subsidy removal on the more vulnerable citizens through the payment of N35,000 to civil servants for six months, consideration of a new minimum wage for workers, the establishment of an infrastructure support fund for states and the launching of a N100 billion CNG-bus programme for mass transit, among others.

The naira floatation policy was also described as a necessary step to end foreign exchange subsidy and set the economy on a strong trajectory of growth. The clamp down and streamlining of Bureau de Change (BDC) operations and lifting of FOREX restrictions on certain imports were described as embedded in the comprehensive economy renewal process. Also related to this is the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN's, settling of the backlog of foreign exchange forwards worth \$7.5 billion. These, it is believed has enhanced the performance of the Nigerian

Stock Exchange, making it one of the world's best performing stocks as of April, 2024. President Tinubu has also established a Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Reform Committee aimed at reforming tax systems and reduce the tax burden on Nigerians. Also geared towards economic renewal and sustainable growth is the President's international engagements aimed at gaining foreign direct investments, partnerships and ambitious marketing of Nigeria's vast opportunities which have seen over \$30 billion worth of investments in key sectors of the



economy.

Across various other sectors covered by the 8-point agenda, from national security to agriculture and food security, energy and natural resources, infrastructure and transportation, education, health and social investments, youth empowerment, innovation to improved governance for effective service delivery, the Tinubu administration is said to have made significant changes and repositioning Nigeria for rapid growth and development. They concluded by submitting that it is only a matter of time before the Nigerian people begin to see the positive impacts of the Tinubu reforms and critical policy overhaul.

Until then, congratulations to Mr. Tinubu and his team on the successful completion of one year in office and to the surviving masses of Nigeria under the severity of these critical reforms.