



# THE ADVOCACY BULLETIN

*The Nigerian Physicians Advocacy Group*



## THE CORONA VIRUS VACCINE IS NOW IN NIGERIA

*By Biodun Ogungbo, MBBS, FRCS, FRCSEd, MSc  
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Oh goodness.

What a year 2021 is turning out to be?

Following the rocking and rolling, highs and lows of 2020.

Who knew we would continue such a roller coaster?

I keep a diary and it has been a trip looking through it and remembering the events and activities of the past 2 months. Starting in January, of course, full of high hopes and plans for a great New Year. All that soon turned to mush as we rushed headlong into the second wave of the pandemic.

Corona virus, Covid-19, lockdown, hand sanitizers, face masks and social distancing continues and with the added dread of the Brazilian and UK strains of the virus. The strains are more infective and a touch deadlier than the old virus, Mr. Original Corona.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

However, hope has come in the wake of the Corona virus vaccine. Many countries have started jabbing their citizens with the vaccine and Nigeria has joined, at long last. The country received its first batch of the AstraZeneca virus vaccine last week and commenced vaccination after the final quality assurance review by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC).

The active substance is manufactured and controlled by Serum Institute of India Private Limited (SIIPL). A GMP certificate and manufacturing license issued by the India National Regulatory Authority (NRA) has been approved by NAFDAC. The multidose (2 dose or 10 dose) vial is stored at 2-8C, one dose (0.5ml) contains 5 x 10<sup>10</sup> virus particle. The Vaccine has a shelf life of 6 months.

Dr Ngong Cyprian, a medical doctor at the frontline of treating victims of the virus became the first person to be vaccinated in Nigeria on the 5th March 2021. He was followed by the President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari GCFR who got his jab on the 6th March 2021. After receiving the jab, Buhari had described his decision to take the vaccine in public as “a demonstration of leadership and faith in the safety and efficacy of the vaccines”. The president recommended the vaccine to all eligible Nigerians, saying it is an effective protection against the virus. We agree!

Its time to change the narrative and start writing a positive history in 2021. The first step is the elimination of the Corona virus in our community. The best way to do that is to get everyone vaccinated and so reduce the ability of the virus to be transmitted to anybody. The government planned to do the vaccination in phases with frontline health personnel first and vulnerable people including our political leaders next.

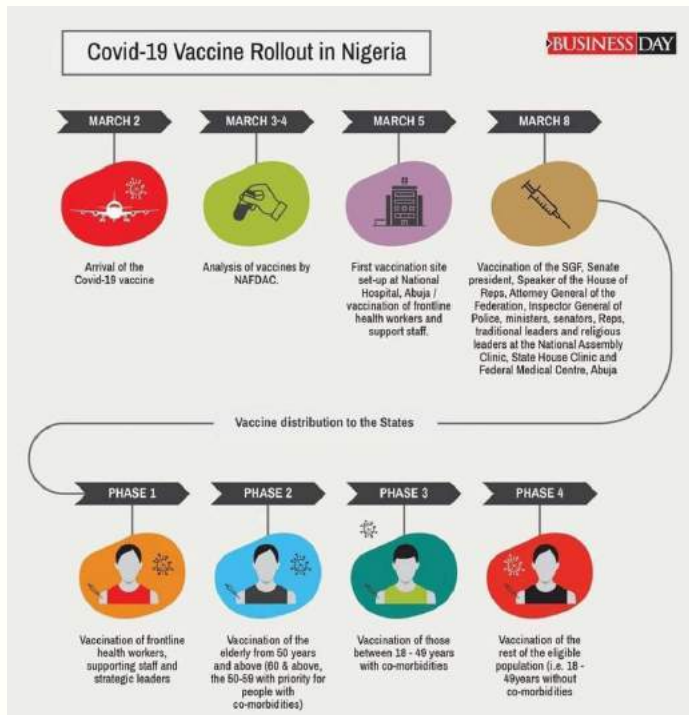


The government has set up an online system of registration for the vaccine. You can register to secure a date and time for the Covid-19 vaccination on a simple and user-friendly registration platform of the Federal Ministry of Health for Covid-19 Vaccination. Registering on the portal will make your vaccination easier and faster.

**THE PORTAL IS**  
**[HTTPS://NPHGDAICT.COM.NG/PUBLICREG](https://nphgdaict.com.ng/publicreg/)**  
**G/. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:**  
**08031230415, 08031230416.**

The vaccine is not to be hoarded and hidden, secretly for only ‘man know man’. In this specific case, we must do our best to remove the Nigerian factor. Those in charge should not create a special list for the privileged.

Every Nigerian deserves a shot!



The bill as conceived and designed will improve the acceptability quotient of election results, reduce pre and post election violence, usher the use of technology in our elections, promote youths' participation amongst many other improvements. The bill has top 10 priorities, which was noted that in their absence an agreement on the passing of the bill will not be reached.

The ten major priorities to the bill amendments are summarized below.

**1. Strengthen the Independence of the Commission Financially:** Amends Section 3 of the Electoral Act, 2010 by inserting a subsection requesting for early release of sufficient funds to the commission not later than 180 days to election dates.

**2. Publication of polling unit level results :** Amends Section 71 of the Electoral Act, 2010 to ensure that all election results including poll unit results be released on the commissions website and all publicly available avenues.

**3. Voting Rights for Nigerians in Diaspora:** Amends Section 6(1), Section 9(2), Section 9(3), Section 12(1)(c) of the Electoral Act, 2020, to allow the registration and voting of all Nigerians both at home and in the diaspora.

**4. Protecting the voting rights of Visually impaired and Incapacitated Voters:** Amends Clause 56 (2) and Section 56 (2) of the Electoral Act, 2020 to mandate provision for registration for visually impaired and voters with disabilities.

**5. Cost of Nomination Form of Candidates:** Amends Section 87 to reduce the influence of money in our elections by including clauses removing qualification/ disqualification criteria of political parties and also reducing the total charges imposed on aspirants to as low as hundred thousand Naira (N100,000) naira for a Ward Councilorship aspirant in the FCT to Five Million Naira (N5,000,000) for a Presidential aspirant.

**HAVE YOU  
RENEWED YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP?**  
[www.NPAGroup.org](http://www.NPAGroup.org)



## ELECTION REFORM DEMANDS: RTLA & CCND PRESS RELEASE

By Goodness Esau, Lagos, Nigeria

ReadyToLeadAfrica Movement (Nigeria) in collaboration with ReadyToLeadAfrica Global HQ TBAN and CCND published a press release on electoral reform which was addressed to the president and the 9th assembly. The main focus of the press release was:

***"An act to repeal the Electoral Act No. 6, 2010 (As Amended) and Enact the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Act 2020, to regulate the conduct of Federal, State and Area Council Elections and for Related Matters, 2020 Sponsored by Hon. Aishatu Dukku"***



**6. Promoting the inclusion of women, youth, and persons living with disability in politics:**

Section 31(1), Section 87, section 100 and section 104 of the Electoral Act, 2010 will be amended to ensure political parties include the above listed persons in their list of candidates to be sponsored and also a reduction in advert rates for the above individuals. Political parties are also to reduce the permitted age to be a chairman to 25 and ensure that chairman and vice are not of the same gender.

**7. Legitimize the use of Technology in the electoral process through: Electronic Accreditation of voters:**

Amends Section 49 (2), Section 52 (2) and section 65 of the Electoral Act, 2010 to allow and encourage electronic registration of voters, electronic voting and electronic collation of results by INEC to prevent double voting and increase transparency in elections.



Above: Nigeria's first ever electronic voting exercise in Kaduna State

**8. Electoral Offences:** Section 124 of the Electoral Act, 2010 should be amended to impose stiffer sanctions for bribery and vote-buying. This imposes strict punishment such as a fine of 1million naira and imprisonment as long as 12 months for those who are found guilty of the above stated crime.

**9. Conduct of Security Personnel on Election Duty:** seeks to Amend Section 29 (3) of the Electoral Act, 2010 to ensure that all security personnel deployed to election units act according to the code of conduct listed and failure to do so attracts a punishment such as fine, demotion and even imprisonment.

**10. Early voting for Nigerians on essential election duty :** this priority seeks to amend Section 25 of the Electoral Act, 2010 to allow early voting of all parties involved in elections.

**TO READ THE FULL PRESS RELEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW.  
[PRESS RELEASE ON ELECTORAL REFORM](#)**

# The LOBBY(IST)

by Dr. Susan Edionwe

## Electoral Reform: Lobbying in ACTION

What does it take to lobby? It is the daily grind. Getting up everyday and interfacing with the politicians and congressmen, such as at the capital, all in the name of visibility and influence. What is *successful* lobbying? It is somewhere where the art of persuasion, fierce tenacity, and patience meet.

When NPAG embarked on supporting electoral reform in Nigeria, we quickly identified that we would need the manpower of people on ground to carry this baton & to push this agenda. Ready To Lead Africa has stepped up to the plate and continues to show that it is capable of successful lobbying.

If you ask RTLA founder, Godbless Otubure, he will say "The work never stops". And it truly does not. Regularly, NPAG receives reports from RTLA founder, Godbless Otubure, as he and his team lobby at the FCT. He says "the work to deliver electoral reforms is serious business and it is one that we are committed to and we will try to get it done. So we got to keep doing the work because if we don't our country will not be better for it. So [we'll] keep doing the work".

We believe that as NPAG and Nigerians in the diaspora, it is up to us to identify and support those on ground who are doing the work for our interests and our cause in any way we can. So, we too, will keep doing the work.



Our work to influence @nassnigeria to deliver a much improved Electoral ACT to Nigerians continued today as I met with Hon Onofiok at the NASS.

For Democracy to survive, electoral integrity is CRUCIAL.

#AllowDiasporaVoting  
#TransmitResultsElectronically  
#NoMoreVoteBuying



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we position ourselves within the political landscape in the USA; we must remember Nigeria. Current events present prime opportunity to affect change. We must seize the opportunity! Be action-oriented! We, the Diasporans must join our country men and women save Nigeria from total failure!

February 18th, 2023 is election day! Nigerian Diasporans must fuel the momentum for change. Yes, you have been burnt before but hope cannot be lost!

We must build on the momentum of #endsars which further killed the notion that Nigerians cannot unite beyond ethnic, religious or socioeconomic lines. We must apply the same principles of the civil rights movement that gives us the privileges we currently enjoy in the USA.

Let's make history together!

Iyore James MD/MALD, FACS