




THE ADVOCACY BULLETIN

The Nigerian Physicians Advocacy Group



Thank you
for your donation!

NPAG IN 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

ESU GOODNESS, LAGOS NIGERIA

The year 2021 has indeed been a great and prosperous year for our organization. We touched lives, participated in various political activities in Nigeria, and took one step closer to making our nation a better place for us and the generations to come. All this was possible with the help of all of our wonderful donors. In appreciation, we are dedicating this edition of our bulletin to all our wonderful donors. We achieved a lot through our various initiatives and will like to give you a breakdown of the year 2021.

Clean Water Initiative

Our clean water initiative is one of our forerunning initiatives. Last year, we partnered with an organization known as Shift Nigeria to provide two functional boreholes in the Aliade community in Benue state. Two prevailing causes of death in this community were typhoid and malaria due to the unavailability of clean water. This year we have built one of the two estimated boreholes. We also carried out various sensitization projects in the community

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related to health and their basic rights - including voting rights. The built borehole has led to a reduction of typhoid from ten (10) patients to two (2) typhoid patients weekly. Members of the community have saved considerably on hospital bills, especially for children. This project, of course, has its sustainability aspects as the community members held a consensus to pay the sum of twenty naira (#20) per gallon. Money raised is used to provide security and care for the water facility, Routine service of the Generator, and Payment of the monthly electricity tariff.

NPAG & SHIFT Nigeria are now expanding this project to the Ogbonna community in Etsako, Edo State. We will be partnering with the community to provide clean water for their primary healthcare centre along with hospital improvements and community sensitization.



TYPHOID CASES ARE DOWN FROM 10 PATIENTS TO 2 PATIENTS WEEKLY

LEGISLATIVE REFORM

This past year we have actively supported and participated in various legislative reforms through our partner, ReadyToLeadAfrica (RTLA). Some of these reforms include:

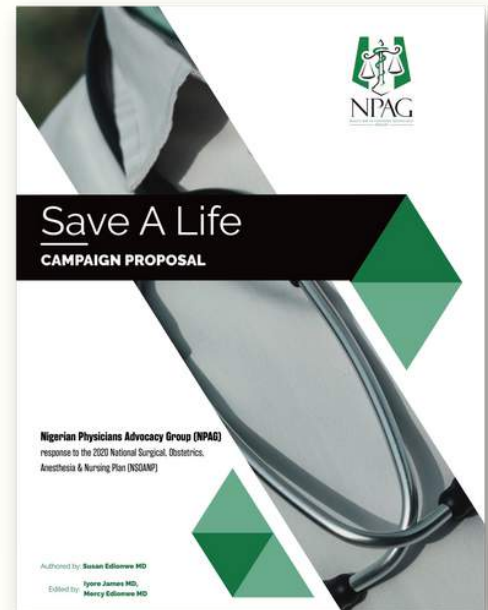
1. YouthMarchForth (YMF) for Electoral Reforms 2.0 (March 2021).
2. National Assembly Protest for Electronic Transmission of Results (July 2021).
3. #MarchForOurFuture on the Senate for the Adoption of Electronic Transmission of Results and World Press Conference on Conference Committee to Harmonize Electoral Amendment Bill for Swift Signing Into Law by the President. (October 14th 2021).
4. Youth Against Electoral Violence Accord – YAEVA (Youth Led Peace Accord & #iWillVote Campaign) Anambra Election Works October – November 2021).



SAVE A LIFE CAMPAIGN

The "Save A Life" campaign is our response to the National Surgical, Obstetric, Anesthesia and Nursing Plan (NSOANP) proposed by the Federal Minister of Health (FMoH) office in Nigeria in 2019. In 2021, NPAG successfully presented our proposal to the Minister's office and to key stakeholders of the NSOANP committee. Furthermore, NPAG has successfully drafted an MOU which is the process of presentation to the minister's office. We fully expect to be engaged with the federal minister's office and key NSOANP stakeholders to launch this project in 2022.

To learn more, Please Click [HERE](#).



IMPACT CONFERENCE-2021

Our impact conference for the year 2021 was themed "Enhancing Healthcare Through Legislative Reform." With an amazing turnout; we had exciting guest speakers like Prof. Anthony Ejiofor-Exe Chair World Igbo Congress, Dr. Nelson Aluya - NAPAC, Chikodiri Nwangwu-Dept of Pol Science University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and others who educated us on various topics like; "Can the Diaspora Affect Change in Governance?", "Enhancing Voter Participation & Electoral Reform," "Public Health Impact of ECOWAS transhumance protocol." We also heard from special appearances by two Anambra state governor candidates.

Watch the full Impact Conference video. Please Click [HERE](#)



VIRTUAL GALA-2021

We ended the year with our virtual benefit gala. It was a time of fun and laughter while raising funds for our initiatives and organization. We had a special guest speaker Banky W, talk to us about his journey in politics, challenges, and ways to effect change in the Nigerian political system.

The evening was indeed a success as we raised over \$40,000.

Thank you once more to all our Donors, volunteers, and members. to watch the full gala video, please click [HERE](#).



The LOBBY(IST)

LESSONS FROM CELEBRITY TURNED POLITICIAN, BANKY WELLINGTON

Dr. Susan Edionwe MD, Houston TX

In 2021, NPAG held a very well attended and fruitful virtual gala with headlining speaker, Mr. Olubankole Wellington (Banky W) who gave the organization some great insight into how the diaspora can engage in the political arena in Nigeria. Here are a few takeaways that has resonated well with NPAG.

1. ***We are ALL aware that NIGERIA has many problems.*** Sometimes these problems seem more steep than any solution that can be found. During our virtual gala, Mr. Banky W. emphasized a point with which NPAG wholeheartedly agrees. Simply put, ***if not us...then who?*** It is often easy to become disenfranchised by the problems that Nigeria faces. However, irrespective of all of that, the work must continue. There are many bad actors in Nigeria, likewise, there are also many good actors who are deeply invested in the betterment of the country. Seeking out good actors and organizations and political bodies that continue to act in good faith is extremely key. The disenfranchisement that is felt with "business as usual" in Nigerian politics will persist. However, our resilience and our deep belief in the vision for good governance and a better Nigeria needs to supersede those feelings if we are to succeed.

2. ***Grassroots efforts***, while not always as appealing as engaging with the major political bodies (such as at FCT or high-ranking politicians or governmental bodies higher up in the hierarchy), ***it is a very important, if not the most important strategy to change the future of Nigeria.*** Rather than the top down approach, Nigeria will benefit most from the bottom up approach. We must focus on the people. Just as we in the diaspora are disenfranchised, those in Nigeria are equally and arguably more disenfranchised as they face the struggles of living in the country day to day. Their engagement and support is crucial.



Banky Wellington (and wife right)

As we've seen with End SARS and similar protests of 2020 and 2021, not only are people growing exceedingly weary of the antics of Nigeria but people are now even more so in a state of proactive resistance. It is this energy that diaspora organizations like NPAG need to harness. Also, partnership with organizations and people on ground is so important to this regard.

3. ***The diaspora, on a larger scale, needs to know and support political candidates in Nigeria.*** Mr. Banky W. recounted his journey into politics and discussed that, even as a celebrity, navigating the political field was much more costly than he had anticipated. He spoke about the struggle many politicians face regarding insufficient funds and lack of the social support needed to win, especially those who are the proverbial "Davids" facing the "Goliaths" of the political arena. Funds, word-of-mouth and sharing of platforms are the linchpin to a successful candidacy.

NPAG appreciates the words and insight of Mr. Wellington especially as we continue to forge ahead in our quest for good governance in Nigeria.



Time to RENEW your dues for 2022!
WWW.NPAGROUP.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I choose to be optimistic as the fight for our democracy continues. We need to build strong systems that support the emergence of transformative leaders.

Iyore James MD/MALD, FACS