



THE ADVOCACY BULLETIN

The Nigerian Physicians Advocacy Group



In this edition, we will continue to share more about the Clean Water Initiative and Aliade community as we are actively fundraising for this cause.

MEET MARY, IVERENE & MAMA PATRICIA

MARY: "I'm helping my sister fetch water." ~ 5 year old. Meet Mary. Mary is 5 years old and instead of being in school, she is out helping her older sister haul water for her family. Her sister (who is no more than 13) says they live far away but they have to come every day to get water for drinking, eating, and cleaning.

IVERENE: "My business suffers because of lack of water." Meet Iveren. She is a hairdresser who owns a small salon in the community. She says she has to wake up as early as 4am to find water before she opens up her shop. On days that she finds no water, she says she does not open up the salon and her income suffers because it.

MAMA PATRICIA: Mama Patricia says her children have to walk for hours into the forest to find water for her and her family. She says they have all contracted both malaria and typhoid multiple times because they drink the water unfiltered. Mama Patricia has not been able to walk for three years because they cannot afford to go to the hospital.

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MEET IVERENE



MEET MARY

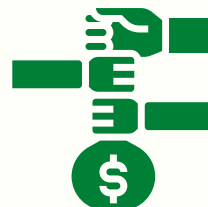


MEET MAMA PATRICIA



MEET BRIDGET

“My child currently has diarrhea because of the water.” Meet Bridget. While speaking with Bridget about the water issues in her community, we noticed that her baby was very restless and inconsolable. Bridget told us that her baby had diarrhea because of the bad water in their community. She said she has not been able to take her child to the health care center because she cannot afford to do so.



The project goal is to raise **N8.2 million (\$21,287 USD)** for the Aliade Water project.

The fundraising is in 3 stages. For the first stage, **we need to raise N2.8M before 14th February, 2021.** So far **N1.4M has been raised.**

HELP US BRING CLEAN WATER TO ALIADE & DONATE NOW

<https://www.npagroup.org/our-initiatives/clean-water-initiative/>

ALIADE SENSITIZATION PROJECT

By Dr. Susan Edionwe

NPAG is happy to announce that, through SHIFT Nigeria, we have begun to educate the community of Aliade on the health risks related to poor drinking water such as typhoid fever and its symptoms. Also, we have begun to educate the community on why it is important to advocate for better living conditions and how they can do this.

We are pleased with the turnout and engagement we have received from the Aliade community thus far. Through this community engagement and sensitization, we hope to identify leaders in Aliade whom we can educate and cultivate into transformative leaders.

As you can see, our grassroots mission of change is underway. Help us by donating now.



DOUBLE JEOPARDY IN NIGERIA

by Dr. Biodun Ogungbo

We are undergoing a double tragedy in Nigeria now.

The two freest commodities of water and air are in short supply for many. Let us start from the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic has created a shortage of air. The huge number of sick people trooping to the hospital has created a demand. Oxygen which is freely available in the air is in short supply in our hospitals. Patients are desperately panting for oxygen to stay alive. Many have died trying to catch a breath.

Recently, many friends and even government officials scrambled to send cylinders of oxygen to Abuja for Professor Odekunle. His death came 12 days after he contracted COVID-19, and friends could hear the man struggling to breathe with great difficulties and excruciating pains. Saving his life was a monumental task and family and friends would have moved mountains to find him a breath.

Who will you save?

If you can give a breath to only one member of your family, who will you save? Think about that for a while.

Water, water everywhere

People are dying due to the pandemic, but many have died due to poor water supply in Nigeria. Water is essential for life, yet it is not freely available for millions of people in Nigeria. We have not annexed the water in our major rivers and streams to give succor and life for all.

They say 'water is everywhere but there is not a drop to drink' in the Aliade community of Benue State. The Aliade community in Benue State suffers for want of water. The water reserves have dried up and you must walk hours to find water.

Not clean water, just water from any river that has not dried up. Water, any water, is apparently still essential for life.

Dehydration is lack of water in the body and it happens quickly, causing extreme thirst, fatigue, and ultimately, organ failure and death. A person may go from feeling thirsty and slightly sluggish on the first day with no water to having organ failure by the third day.

This must not happen to your family member. But what if all you have is the dirty, contaminated water from the stream. The water is not clean, but you have family members who need water. Mr. Felix gave the water to his baby boy and watched the boy die of dysentery. Tough choices that many make daily.

Who will you save?

Who will you give this water to? If you could save one of your family members with a glass of unclean water, who will you give it to? Think about this!

Your choice.

Join us!

We are raising funds for the provision of water in communities in Nigeria. The Clean Water initiative starts in the Aliade community and we need your kind assistance. If you can help, let us save this community by providing a lasting source of clean water in the village.

If they are family will you save them?

They are Nigerians.

They are family.



Join NPAG today to help us solve issues of today for a better tomorrow.

www.npagroup.org

The LOBBY(IST)

by Dr. Iyore James

The National Water Resources Bill 2020: A case of effective lobbying. . .

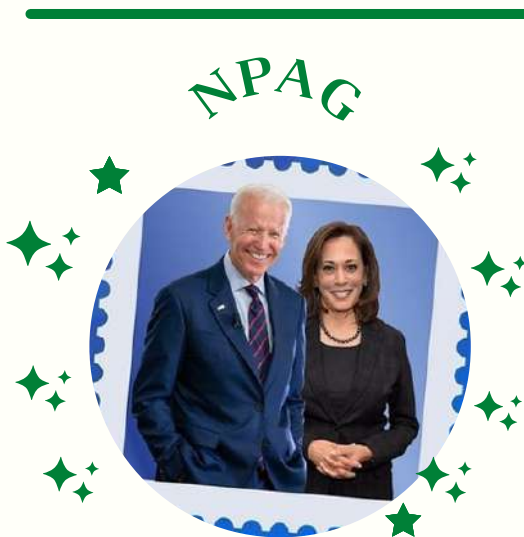
The 2016 National Water Resources Bill was introduced to the 8th National Assembly for consideration and passage by President Muhammadu Buhari. The bill was passed in the House of Representatives but suspended in the Senate demanding further legislative scrutiny from the Committee on Water Resources. The bill was re-introduced to the 9th National Assembly as "The National Water Resources Bill 2020" because the Committee report was not reconsidered prior to termination of the 8th National Assembly in 2019. The overall aim of the bill is to protect and ensure

public access to clean water and sanitation. However, the bill brings all water resources (surface and underground) as well as the banks of water resources under the control of the Federal government. The bill creates additional regulatory barriers that could potentially decrease access to water, infringe on property rights with increased potential for abuse. Furthermore, the creation of another government regulatory entity has potential to divert funds to individual pockets while increasing government spending at the expense of ordinary citizens. The National Water Resources Bill 2020 again passed

swiftly through the House on July 23, 2020 however, it was withdrawn and gazetted by a Speaker of the House Femi Gbajabimila on September 29th, 2020 after much opposition from various non-governmental sources.

Click below for full copy of the National Water Resource Bill, 2020

<https://nigerianphysiciansadvocacygroup.z2system.com/np/viewDocument?orgId=nigerianphysiciansadvocacygroup&id=4028888b7723d8a901772e842dd8014b>



**NPAG CONGRATULATES
PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AND VICE
PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS ON
THEIR INAUGURATION!!!**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The core values of a society is built on the inherent morale of its' inhabitants. By logic, a system that dampens morale is bound to yield a broken society. As immigrants, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, ... generation Nigerian-Americans, the January 6th event at the US Capitol re-demonstrated the strength of the democratic processes created by the founding fathers of the USA.

It was a reaffirmation of how one person can turn good into evil through coercion, manipulation or sheer effrontery. It also buttresses why the average majority must not be onlookers only. What is your vision for Nigeria? How is your action or inaction making a difference?

Iyore James, MD/MALD, FACS