



THE ADVOCACY BULLETIN

The Nigerian Physicians Advocacy Group



NPAG ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR....

IYORE JAMES MD/MALD, FACS

The Nigerian Physicians Advocacy Group is a non-partisan 501c4 affiliate of ANPA whose vision is to promote good governance to achieve the mission of a healthier Nigeria. We were incorporated on October 4th, 2019, with full ratification of NPAG bylaws by ANPA membership on July 18th, 2020. To fulfill our vision to promote good governance our priorities include:

1. Advocating for electoral reforms that will lead to the election of credible leaders.
2. Voter education and engagement
3. Dealing with stomach infrastructure
4. Fighting voter suppression.

ANPA CONVENTION SPECIAL EDITION

Here is what we have accomplished:

1. Advocating for electoral reform

- We collaborated with a local NGO, ReadytoleadAfrica, that served as our foot on the ground advocating for the passage of an Amended Electoral Reform Bill. This organization is based in Abuja and served in an intelligence capacity that informed NPAG's strategy
- When it appeared that the Electoral Bill was not going to be signed, I was honored to represent NPAG in a high-level conversation with Dana Banks, Special Assistant to President Biden, and National Security Council Senior Director for Africa on February 10th, 2022. I presented the relevance of a new Electoral Bill to Nigeria's democracy and sent a direct message to President Biden on behalf of his Nigerian-American Healthcare Professionals constituency to strongly encourage President Mohammadu Buhari to sign the Amended Electoral Reform Bill.

- President Buhari signed the Electoral Bill into law on February 25th, 2022.

- Clearly, the success was not only in the NPAG effort but a collaboration of like-minded organizations both in Nigeria and the diaspora. To learn more visit: <https://www.npagroup.org>

2. Voter Registration

- In an effort led by African Primary Health Care Foundation, NPAG participated in a pilot voter registration drive in Abia state, Nigeria between February - May 2022. This effort is a collaborative effort between Nigerians in Nigeria and the diaspora.

Our mission is to encourage voters to use their right to vote for the greater good. We combined a convenient opportunity for voters to register and learn about the voting process while providing health screening and education. NPAG specifically funded the healthcare portion of the voter registration drive. In total, 70,000+ new voters were registered to vote in Abia state. NPAG's nursing volunteers performed 51,203 health screenings. We found a 44.8% incidence of high blood pressure amongst those screened (22,950 people). Unfortunately, we were only able to refer 13% (3,000 people) for treatment. We are now in collaboration with the National Voters Drive Coalition (NVDC) to:

- a. Ensure registered voters get their PVC
- b. Get Nigerians out to vote on election day
- c. Hold INEC accountable

Learn more: <http://www.nvdcng.com>



3. Dealing with stomach infrastructure

- Access to clean water and most basic amenities remains a challenge in most of Nigeria, especially in rural areas where voting irregularities run wild. We are trying to change the narrative through our Clean Water Initiative- a community-led sustainable project that is providing clean water while raising transformative leaders at the local level.

This venture is conducted in partnership with SHIFT Nigeria. We started work in the Aliade community in 2020. We have now:

- Built two borehole systems
- Registered over 1,000 new voters and
- Continuing with civic education
- We are expanding our presence to other communities in Benue, Edo, Kaduna, and Lagos states

Whether you agree or not, we are all affected by decisions made by our leaders locally and globally. This statement is ever so relevant now. We all agree that leadership failure accounts for most of Nigeria's system failures. We are exploring ways to fight voter suppression. We are advocating for an electoral process that works! We all have a role to play in the decisions that affect our lives daily.

The time for action is now! Join the movement! Visit <https://www.npagroup.org> Become a paying member!