It is a CRIMINAL OFFENCE to

DESTROY

or Vandalize Public Assets and

INFRASTRUCTURE

STOP THE DESTRUCTION OF

- Electrical Installations, (Armored Cables, Transformers, Poles, etc)
- Petroleum & Products Pipelines
- Railway Tracks
- Bridges and Pedestrian Rails
- Traffic Lights/Solar Panels
- Communication Installations

CHANGE BEGINS WITH ME:

Protect and Preserve our critical Assets and Infrastructure so that we can enjoy:

- Steady power supply
- Stable economy
- Improved information and communication services
- Good roads and physical infrastructure
- Improved general living condition

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NOA NEWS

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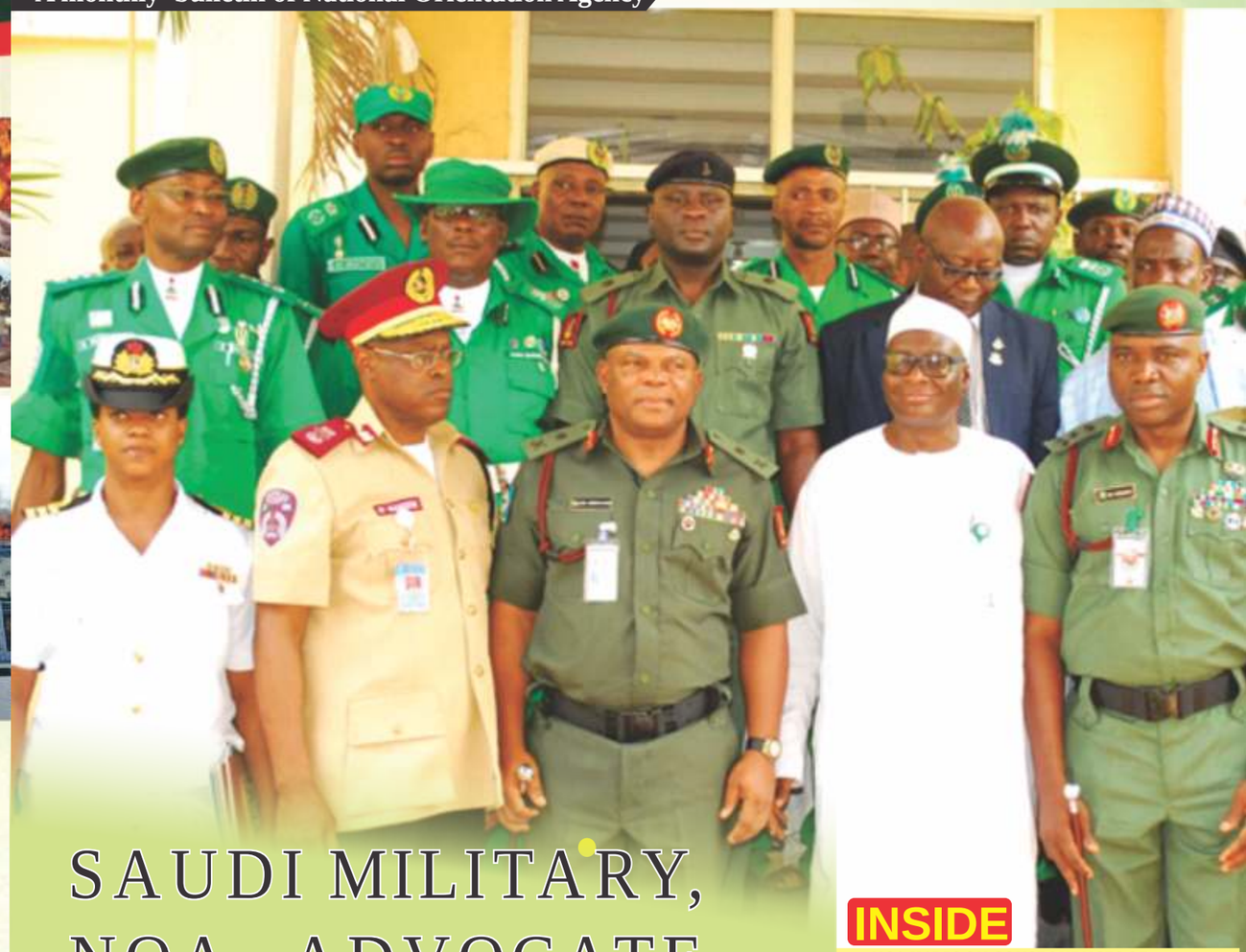

SAUDI MILITARY, NOA ADVOCATE ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVE ON TERRORISM

INSIDE

- NOA HARPS ON CONSEQUENCES OF DRUG ABUSE AND POLITICAL THUGGERY
- YOUTHS ARE MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION – DG NOA
- SOCIAL VICES: THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY – ABARI
- HATE SPEECH BILL NOT TO SILENCE CRITICISM- LAI MOHAMMED
- SAUDI MILITARY, NOA ADVOCATE ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVE ON TERRORISM.

NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY

ADVOCATES

- Peaceful Co-existence
- Do not take the life of another person
- Be tolerant of other peoples' religion
- Love your neighbour, love your country
- Respect each others' views
- Let the cattle herder & the farmer live in peace
- No peace, no national development & progress
- In peace and unity lies our strength
- Stop the killing, do not take life, life is sacred
- You have a stake in building a peaceful virile and strong nation
- Embrace dialogue
- Lets build a people of peace

...change begins with me

NOA HARPS ON CONSEQUENCES OF DRUG ABUSE AND POLITICAL THUGGERY

By Bamun Nii-Veror

In line with the security agenda of the Federal Government, the National Orientation Agency (NOA) has organized a One – Day Interactive Forum aimed at educating Nigerians on the consequences of drug abuse and political thuggery.

The program which was titled: "One - day Interactive Forum on Security Sensitization and Re-Orientation Against Political Thuggery, Kidnapping and Drug Addiction" had stakeholders and participants drawn from National Agency For Food Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Public Complaints Commission (PCC), National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and Ministry of Education. Others include, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC), Media, Prisons Service, Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, Federal Ministry of Labour (FML), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Women Affairs, political class, the Civil Society and youth groups.

Speaking at the event, the Director General, Dr. Garba Abari explained that, the forum was set to achieve the following; Create awareness on the need for Nigerians to be security conscious, reduce the incidence of violent extremism and radicalization, strengthen and sustain democracy in order to promote good governance and reduce the incidence of kidnapping in the country. Abari, who was also represented by the Director, General Services, Mr.Samuel Soughul noted that, the mandate and mission of the Agency is geared towards moulding attitudes and instilling the right behaviour in citizens.

Mr. Soughul who further stated that, the sensitization of the general public on security tips remains sacrosanct, adding that the essence of the programme cannot be over emphasized. He however enjoined parents to teach their children good morals and help our youths to channel their energy into positive things for a better society.

Earlier in his welcome address, Delta State NOA Acting Director, Mr. J. I. B. Okoro stated that, the forum was at the instance of the social vices in the society such as political thuggery, kidnapping, senseless killings, assassinations, drug addiction, etc. Mr. Okoro maintained that, paradigm shift remains expedient in order to move the country forward.

HATE SPEECH BILL NOT TO SILENCE CRITICISM- LAI MOHAMMED

By Ronke Egbuwalo

Contrary to the opinion of some persons in the country, the Honourable Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed has explained that the proposed hate speech bill which is before the National Assembly is not meant to punish Nigerians or witch-hunt any group of persons when it is eventually passed.

He made this known in Abuja while delivering an address at a dialogue conference on Freedom of Expression, Peace and Human Rights in Democratic Nigeria organised by Global Village Development Initiative (GLOVID) with the theme: Repositioning the Media for Democratic Sustainability

Represented by the Director, Documentation, Publication and Translation (DTP) of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Davidson Aminu, the Information Minister said that the aim of the bill is to promote unity, peaceful coexistence and political stability among Nigerians

Davidson Aminu, Director, Documentation, Translation and Publication (DTP) of the NOA, representative of the Hon. Minister of Information and Culture at the conference.

Alhaji Mohammed also stated that apart from ensuring justice, the bill seeks to protect innocent and ordinary citizens in the country, eliminate harassment on the ground of ethnicity, religion, race and gender through the prescription of stiff penalty for offences such as ethnic hatred, stressing that this would discourage Nigerians from promoting discrimination through the use of hate speeches and that it would also stimulate all ethnic groups to appreciate the beauty in our diversity

He also clarified that the bill is not aimed at targeting opposition or to end criticisms of government officials by the people, which he said has been alleged by certain individual members of the public. He said "democracy cannot grow to a level of maturity without constructive criticism either by the people or opposition political parties. The bill is therefore not to silence criticism and buy immunity".

In his keynote address, the Director – General of National Orientation Agency (NOA), Dr. Garba Abari who was represented by the Director, Planning, Research and Strategy (PRS) of the Agency, Bonat Tagwai submitted that the time to tame hate speech is now, noting that hate pronouncements being spread across the nation have become a threat to democracy and national unity.

KANO LAUNCHES CHANGE BEGINS WITH ME CAMPAIGN

By Ozeh Linda Nneoma

The Kano State Government has keyed into the Change Begins with Me Campaign of the Federal Government through the launching of the domestication of the Kano State Societal Re-Orientation Programme.

The "Change Begins with Me" campaign which was launched on the September 8, 2016 by the President Muhammadu Buhari was about the need for us to see change not merely in terms of our economic and social progress but in terms of personal behaviours on how we conduct ourselves, engage our neighbours, friends and generally, how we relate with the larger society in a positive way that promotes our common good.

Contd. on page 5....

YOUTHS ARE MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION – DG NOA

By Ronke Egbuwalo

The Director-General, National Orientation Agency (NOA), Dr. Garba Abari has stated that youths in the country are critical stakeholders in the fight towards achieving a corrupt free society.

He made this statement while delivering a paper at the Nigerian Youth Leaders Campaign Against Corruption organized by Vision One Leadership Development Initiative (VOLDI).

The campaign with the theme "Restructuring the Youth Mindset for Integrity, Moral Values and Social Engineering in Nigeria" took place at the Nigerian Army Resource Center in Abuja.

Speaking further at the forum, the Director General said: "although every citizen has a responsibility to play an effective role in the fight against corruption, the youth by virtue of their very nature and their own self - interest should go the extra mile in the war against the menace". He therefore appealed to every young Nigerian to join hands, using all available means including the social media, to support government's efforts at curbing corruption in the country.

Also, speaking at the event, the representative of Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Marshall Boboye Oyeyemi urged the youth to set aside sentiments such as religious or tribal differences, and that they should discourage and expose any observed corrupt practice in their respective place of assignment.

In his welcome address, the National Coordinator of VOLDI, Comrade Emmanuel Jonny challenged participants to take up the responsibility of fighting corruption now, noting that this would secure a better tomorrow for them and the unborn generation. He however implored government to put in place policies and strategies that will galvanise citizens towards the anti-corruption crusade.

Present at the event were participants drawn from various youth organisations and the general public.

SAUDI MILITARY, NOA ADVOCATE ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVE ON TERRORISM.

By Aisha Ali

The National Orientation Agency (NOA) has advocated for an alternative narrative to counter the spread of hate and violence which the sponsors of terrorism around the world preach as religious ideologies.

The Director General of the Agency, Dr. Garba Abari made this call when a delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (MCTC) led by Brigadier-General Abdullah Al-Fehaid visited the NOA headquarters in Abuja.

The four man military delegation is in Nigeria to meet with relevant agencies to discuss specific collaboration opportunities across areas of interest in counter Terrorism in Nigeria.

Dr. Abari said the two major sects in Islam namely Sunnis and Shiites need to work together on a scholarly response to the Boko Haram ideology relying mainly on the Quran and the Hadith. According to him, the Agency has a robust network of platforms to spread the new narrative across the country in a bid to achieve peace and development in Nigeria.

The Director General who identified extremism to be of two types said the planned narrative will be very successful in dealing with religious extremism while criminal elements can be dealt with in accordance with the law of the land. He called on the stakeholders especially those in countries where religious extremism is undermining peace and progress to work together to fight and counter the blight of terrorism around the world.Explaining the work of the Agency in the fight against terrorism, Dr Abari said it has been engaging with Islamic Clerics (Ulamas) Christian church leaders, traditional rulers, opinion leaders, schools, Civil Society organizations and security agencies on intelligence gathering and peace building processes to develop alternative orientation that will curb the spread of radical ideology around the world.

In his remark, the team leader of the Saudi delegation, Brigadier Al Fehaid said that the team was in the country to strategise and unite with members of the coalition countries and complement the efforts made by these countries to eradicate violent and radical ideologies in these countries.

Al-Fehaid said the 2018 work plan is to leverage and enhance coalition engagement and communication, seek impactful initiative and strengthen institutional capacity among member countries. He said the terrorism coalition which Nigeria is a member is also in partnership with non-members countries particularly, the United Kingdom, France and United States for information gathering, finance restriction and review of media narrative on counter terrorism.

KANO LAUNCHES CHANGE BEGINS WITH ME CAMPAIGN

...Contd. from page 3

In his address at the programme, Mr. Jubril Salihu, Director of Reform Coordination and Service Improvement (RCSI) NOA who represented the Honourable Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed commended the Kano State Governor, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje and the people of Kano State for embracing the campaign.

In his words, "the Change" is a Pan Nigeria campaign that has no colouration whatsoever, whether it is political, religious or ethnic. It is a campaign for all Nigerians with sole objective of achieving a paradigm shift in the way we do things". He further pointed out that the principle of the campaign is for each one of us to be the change we want to see in our society and reorder our value system which has been badly eroded over the years.

The event which took place at the Coronation Hall, Government House , Kano had in attendance dignitaries such as Emir of Kano, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, etc

SEE YOURSELF AS CONTRIBUTING TO THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY – NOA BOARD CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, Board of National Orientation Agency (NOA), Mr. Khaleel Bolaji has urged management and staff of the Agency to continue to be dedicated to their duties as part of effort to contribute to the service of humanity.

He gave the advice during his official visit to the Lagos State Directorate Headquarters office in Ikeja.

Addressing management and staff of the Headquarters, the Chairman emphasized that it pays to be committed and dedicated to duty. He commended Lagos NOA Directorate for its discipline, hard work, commitment and patriotism as he re-echoed adherence to the Civil Service rules for optimal performance. Mr. Khaleel Bolaji urged staff and management of NOA not to relent in their resilience, but to continue to effectively develop robust programmes that will drive home the message of change, trust and patriotism.

Alh. Khaleel Bolaji, Chairman NOA Board

Earlier in his welcome address, the State Director, National Orientation Agency (NOA), Lagos State, Mr. Waheed Ishola, informed the Chairman that Lagos State has the largest number of staff in the Agency (207), and the most vibrant in terms of projecting the activities of the Agency. He assured him of greater and continuous performance.

Meanwhile, the newly constituted Board members of the NOA had held their inaugural meeting. The meeting which took place at the Agency's Board room had in attendance the following members;

1. Alh. Khaleel Bolaji – Chairman
2. Hon. Mustapha Tajudeen Asunnara
3. Aminu Liman Bodinga
4. Olumuyiwa Adegoke Coker
5. Barr. Agbo Anselm Ugochukwu
6. Usman Salisu Uzuru
7. Mrs. Modupe Oyekunle
8. Chief Adebayo Kadiri Jimoh
9. Dr. Musbau K. Kayode

ABUSE OF NATIONAL SYMBOLS TO ATTRACT HIGHER PENALTY

By Bamun Nii-Veror

If the submission by the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to the National Assembly Committee on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values is anything to go by, abuse of the National Anthem and unauthorised usage of the Nigerian Flag will attract a penalty of fifty thousand Naira (N50,000).

This was contained in a Memorandum on the Bill for an Act to Amend the Flag and Coat-of-Arms Act Cap. F30 law of the Federation, 2004 to regulate the display and use of the National Flag, certain other related matters, presented by the NOA Director-General Dr. Garba Abari to the National Assembly.

According to Abari, a penalty of Twenty Thousand (N20,000) should also be imposed on those who print, design and display the Coat-of-Arms wrongly especially the white horses which are widely abused in Yellow, brown or red colours. Also, abuse of these symbols with the National flag will also attract a penalty of Twenty Thousand Naira (N20,000).

The Director, General Services, Mr. Samuel Soughul who represented the Director General maintained that, the agency in carrying out its mandate of enlightenment, sensitization, orientation and education of citizens on the proper use, protocol and display of the National Flag and other National Symbols as well as making them available in standardized form at all time, has observed that most citizens do not show honour and respect to the National Symbols. Accordingly to Mr. Soughul, enabling instrument setting up the Agency provides for the establishment of Orientation Brigade which is the War Against Indiscipline (WAI) Brigade. "Members of the outfit who are our 'foot soldiers' should be permitted by law to remove from the poles National Flags considers to be abused". The National Orientation Agency, he continued, "wishes to use this medium to thank the National Assembly especially the House Committee on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values for this public hearing which is aimed at injecting sanity in the handling and display of our Nation Symbols", he posited.

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Pix **1**: (Centre) The Director - General, NOA, Dr. Garba Abari and Alh. Khaleel Bolaji, Chairman, NOA Board with board members of the Agency during their inaugural meeting at the NOA Headquarters in Abuja

Pix **2**: (Centre) The Director - General, NOA, Dr. Garba Abari with dignitaries and members of the War Against Indiscipline (WAI) during a One-day Workshop on Early Warning Signals and Response - The Role of War Against Indiscipline Brigade organised by the Agency at its Headquarters in Abuja.

Pix **3**: The Director - General, NOA, Dr. Garba Abari, former Director - General of the Agency, Dr. Tonnie Iredia (centre) with management team of the NOA and members of the Local Organising Committee for the International Press Institute's Congress during a courtesy call of the latter to the NOA National Headquarters in Abuja.

Pix **4**: (Centre) Representative of the Kaduna State Governor, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai; Director, Political, Civics Ethics and Values (PCEV) Mrs Ngozi Ekeoba *mni*, Directror, Legal, Hajia Amina Elelu-Ahmed; and Kaduna State Director of the NOA, Alh. Zuba Galadima during a One-day Interactive Forum on Campaign Against Political Thuggery, Kidnapping and Drug Abuse in Kaduna State

Pix **5**: Cross section of participants at a One-day Interactive Forum on Campaign Against Political Thuggery, Kidnapping and Drug Abuse in Kaduna State

Pix **6**: The Director - General, NOA flanked by former Directors -General; Dr. Tonnie Iredia, Alh. Idi Farouk, Dr. Mike Omeri with former Directors; Messrs. Wulma Damlong, Cyprian Ikyor and Ado Solomon during a One-day Stakeholders Conference on Preservation, Protection and Community Ownership of Public Assets and Critical Infrastructure held at the Conference Hall of the Agency in Abuja.

Pix **7**: Cross section of participants at a One-day Workshop on Early Warning Signals and Response - The Role of War Against Indiscipline Brigade organised by the Agency at its Headquarters in Abuja.

SOCIAL VICES, THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY – ABARI

By Bamun Nii-Veror & Ronke Egbuwalo

As efforts continue towards curbing the recurring violent clashes in some parts of the country, the Director General of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Garba Abari has urged all Nigerians to shun violence, social vices and to embrace peace in their respective communities.

Abari made the appeal in Ado-Ekiti at a one-day sensitization campaign against drug addiction, political thuggery, kidnapping, and violent extremism recently organized by the Ekiti State Directorate of the Agency.

Represented by the Director, Documentation Translation and Publication(DTP), Davidson Aminu, the NOA boss also called on parents, religious and traditional leaders and other stakeholders to lend their support through vigilance and inculcation of positive values thereby providing good guidance for the youths, adding that the programme was aimed at mobilizing the citizenry against bad behaviours which "constitute threats to national security".

The Director General implored youths and social media users to reject all forms of political manipulations and avoid making statements that can instigate violence, while assuring that government will continue to ensure safety of lives and property in the country.

In a goodwill message, the Elemure of Emure, HRM, Oba Emmanuel Adebayo commended NOA for coming up with the programme, at a time when security is not just a common interest among Nigerians but a global phenomenon. He urged the Agency to do more in creating security awareness by replicating such programme across all parts of the country, especially at the grassroots, stressing that an enlightened people will easily cooperate with security agents.

The royal father also charged government to restructure and equip security agencies with qualified and well trained officers who will discharge their duties responsibly, noting that this would enhance the confidence and support of the people towards the fight against insecurity.

In his earlier address, the Director, NOA Ekiti State, Dayo Famosaya lamented the alarming rate of substance abuse among the youths, pointing out that all vices in society are linked to drug addiction. He maintained that all hands must be on deck to save the nation from the consequences of youth restiveness.

Participants at the event included youths, politicians, parents, traditional rulers, religious and educational leaders. Also present were members of Market Women Association, members of the press and Civil Society Organizations.

At a similar event tagged: "One-day Interactive Forum on Security Sensitization and Re-Orientation Against Political Thuggery, Kidnapping and Drug Addiction" the Director General, Dr. Garba Abari had explained that, the forum was necessary to create awareness on the need for Nigerians to be security conscious, reduce the incidence of

extremism and radicalization, and to strengthen and sustain democracy in order to promote good governance and reduce the incidence of kidnapping in the country. Abari, who was also represented by the Director, General Services, Mr.Samuel Soughul noted that, the mandate and mission of the Agency is greared towards moulding attitudes and instilling the right behavior in citizens.

Mr. Soughul who further stated that, the sensitization of the general public on security tips remains sacrosanct", adding that the essence of the programme cannot be over emphasized. While enjoining parents to teach their children good morals and help our youths to channel their energy into positive things for a better society.

Earlier in his welcome address, the NOA State Director, Mr. JIB Okoro stated that, the forum was at the instance of the social vices in the society such as political thuggery, kidnapping, senseless killings, assassinations, drug addiction, etc. Mr. Okoro maintained that, paradigm shift remains expedient in order to move the country forward.

IPI WORLD CONGRESS: NOA SEEKS NEW IMAGE FOR NIGERIA

As Nigeria prepares to host the 2018 world Congress of the International Press Institute (IPI), the National Orientation Agency (NOA) has called on citizens to join hands with government institutions to build a new image and reputation for the country.

The Director General of the Agency Dr. Garba Abari made this appeal when he received in audience some members of the local planning committee of the Congress led by former Director General of Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Dr. Tonnie Iredia, saying a new narrative that will encourage investment and boost its image among foreign countries need to be designed and implemented.

He regretted that despite the effort of Agencies like the NOA, some Nigerians still give foreigners the impression that all is not well in Nigeria. For him, the single narrative of Nigeria as a place of poverty, insecurity, hunger, sickness and corruption has misled undiscerning members of the world community on the numerous potentials and universal values for which the country is known for.

The Director General acknowledged the salutary benefits of receiving delegates from several countries, especially journalists, pointing out that delegates will become the mouthpieces of the country when they return to their countries.

On the request by the team for NOA to intensify public enlightenment around the country on the stable of improved security, law and order, sanitation and good attitudes towards visitors, Dr Abari said the Agency will boost its campaigns using its wide spread presence and platforms.

Dr. Iredia who is chairman of the media and publicity sub-committee of the LOC said the visit was to encourage the agency to do more in public enlightenment and awareness about the aim of bringing the congress to the country which is to build a new image for Nigeria.

The team also wants the NOA to lead the media and other opinion moulders to stress more on development issues rather than politics and insecurity.

The World Congress of IPI will hold in Abuja in June and is expected to be attended by 350 delegates including five African Heads of Governments.

TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE E-GOVERNMENT MASTER PLAN IN NIGERIA

By Henry Obisesan

As the saying goes that when the world moves we are expected to move along with it, if not, we become obsolete. The world is going digital and smart, internet of things (IoT) has become the order of the day. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Super-intelligent robots are being used to handle human functions while cloud computing has become a system for storage of large data. These are new trends in IT. Government all over the world are using these new trends in their system of governance, and Nigeria as giant of Africa should not lag behind. To this end, a master plan for e-government implementation in realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nation was developed for the country in 2015. Since then, the process of making it a policy commenced by training civil servants and amending existing laws for its successful implementation. However, emergence of new trends in its technical subsystem and social subsystem such as integration of existing data, designing its interoperability framework and lack of political will have hindered its implementation. E-Government refers to the use of ICT to improve and/or enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery in the public sector through exchange of information, communication transactions, integration of various stand-alone systems and services between government to citizens (G2C), government to businesses (G2B) and government to government (G2G).

According to the UN e-Government Survey Reports, South Korea had led the rest of the world three consecutive times in the implementation of e-Government. However in 2016, the country came 4th while Nigeria is ranked 141 out of 196 countries. United Kingdom was number 1 in the ranking. Nigeria did not make the top ten list in Africa. This, necessitated the need for the country to have a comprehensive and implementable master plan in line with the SDG. The overall purpose and rationale of the master plan for e-government in Nigeria is to strengthen the transparency, efficiency and the quality of public administration service in line with Nigeria Vision 20: 2020.

In June 2017, Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) announced that the number of internet users in Nigeria's telecommunication network has increased to 91.6million. This ranked the country as number 1 in Africa and 96 in the world with the highest number of internet users. The country is said to have 237.5 million lines. 78% of its population is on Facebook which is the most used social media in the country. Twitter is ranked second with 14%. There are estimated 18 million smartphones users in Nigeria. It is ironical that with these facts, the country is still struggling to implement e-government. This is associated majorly with lack of political will on the part of the leadership of the country.

The major objectives of the plan are to build an informed society, increase government and citizen participation, bring transparency and accountability to government as well as reducing the cost and reaction time of government. It is observed that while the country awaits its approval, MDAs have started implementing it in fragments. The Nigerian Customs has started e-auction policy. Corporate Affairs Commission has started e-company registration on its platform. Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) operates e-taxation. The Ministry of Finance has introduced e-finance through Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) to track salary as well as disbursement of funds to MDAs. Integrated Payment Payroll System (IPPIS) is the identity database for the civil servants. NAFDAC, SON and Nigerian Customs have integrated their data through Open Data System to prevent importation of substandard and ban products from entering the country, and in line with the presidential directive on Ease-of-doing-business, NAFDAC has started e-license portal which is to ease the process of permit to import chemicals, narcotics and psychotropic substances into Nigeria. The solution is integrated with Nigerian Customs platform, Central Bank Form M and others that are involved in trade facilitation in the country.

Recently, the Nigerian Immigration Service announced that as from 2018 there will be no issuance of International Passport without National Identity Number. These are fragmental implementation of e-government master plan in the country. When the master plan comes into full implementation, all these will be harmonized. The emergence of new trends in IT has made it mandatory for Nigeria government to begin to review the traditional method of governance to e-government.

The National Orientation Agency as an Agency of government that is saddled with the responsibility of educating Nigerians on government policies, programmes and activities has a big role to play in the implementation of the master plan. It is expected to conduct publicity campaign for e-government and develop information access centre when the Master plan is given approval by the Federal Executive Council. It is believed that successful implementation of the master plan will bring about transparency in government, promotes citizens engagement, it will equally strengthen our democracy by ensuring that our institutions are strong and viable while reducing corruption drastically.

LASSA FEVER, MEASLES: NOA URGES NIGERIAN TO IMBIBE RIGHT HEALTHY ATTITUDE.

As part of efforts to sensitize Nigerians on the increasing incidence of Lassa fever in the country, the National Orientation Agency (NOA) has called on the citizenry to cultivate healthy attitude to our environment to avoid the disease and build a healthy society.

The Director-General of the Agency, Dr. Garba Abari, represented by the Director, Public Enlightenment and Mass Mobilization (PEMM), Mrs. Ruth Ogun made this call at Garki Health Centre, Abuja during a sensitization campaign programme on Lassa fever. He pointed out that it is the duty of every citizen to build a healthy society in the face of contagious and infectious diseases like Lassa fever therefore, all Nigerians should ensure that their environment are safe and clean.

Abari called on every Nigerian to imbibe environmental cleanliness and right attitude to food storage and personal hygiene. He decried the act of open defecation and other poor sanitary conditions. He believed that these behaviours can be prevented by individuals imbibing positive attitudes and promoting good hygiene around their environment.

"With the recent rise in the spread of Lassa fever to 16 states across the country, it has become pertinent for all and sundry to practice good hygiene to curtail further spread of the disease" he said. He equally urged citizens to be security conscious and endeavor to report strange persons and unattended objects to security Agents and also be their brother's keeper at all times, irrespective of religious, ethnic and political affiliations.

As part of the sensitization campaign, the Agency handed over Information, Educational and Communication (IEC) materials to officials of the health centre. The sensitization will take the Agency to all the government health centers in Maitama and Wuse Districts of Abuja.

Meanwhile, in another event, the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency and the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Anambra State Directorate were collaborating to enhance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals on effective healthcare delivery in communities across the State.

The Coordinator of the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency in the State, Mrs. Scholar Okoli, made this known at a one-day sensitization programme organized by the Agency on the importance of vaccination against measles for stakeholders in the Health Sector in the State.

In a goodwill message, the State Director, National Orientation Agency (NOA), Awka, Barrister Charles Nwoji, thanked the management of the Agency for deeming the programme necessary at this point in time, pointing out that the programme will no doubt deepen the orientation of Ndi-Anambra on the need for the measles immunization programme and charged the parents to avail their children and their wards the opportunity of benefiting optimally from the immunization exercise.

The NOA Director, who noted that the Agency will apply both of its human and other resources in making the campaign against measles in the State a huge success, underscored the importance of the programme in building a healthy society.

The programme which was well attended by stakeholders in the health sector, featured comments, observations and questions by the participants.

BEING AN ADDRESS BY DR. GARBA ABARI, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY (NOA) AT A ONE-DAY STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE ON OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC ASSETS AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ON THURSDAY, MAY 3RD 2018 AT THE NOA CONFERENCE CENTRE

Protocol!

Infrastructure development, preservation and protection is a critical element in measuring the level of development of a nation. If we accept this as a fact, it then stands to reason that no nation can be said to be truly developed, unless it continues to invest not only in the development of new infrastructure but also in the protection and preservation of existing infrastructure.

It is in the light of this realization that infrastructure development is critical to overall national development, that Nigerian government over the years has continued to invest huge resources in building, constructing and maintaining public infrastructure such as ; bridges, roads, electricity installations, rail tracks, gas and petroleum pipelines, buildings, etc.

It is an established fact that in Nigeria most of these infrastructure run through various communities across the country. The expectation has always been that these communities where such infrastructure are sited or run through, understand the critical importance of such infrastructure to our national interest and take responsibility for their protection. Has this expectation been met? Have stakeholders in Nigeria's infrastructure investment done enough to sensitize members of various communities across which these infrastructure are sited? Is there a sustainable long term strategic plan to get community members to understand why they should take ownership and protect these infrastructure? Why is it that Nigerians feel that government property is nobody's property? Is there synergy between stakeholders in Nigeria's infrastructure and the National Orientation Agency, a government agency with footprint in the 774 Local Government and 36 States as well as FCT, with a clear mandate to get public buy-in for government policies, programmes and activities? Why are we unfortunately, still witnessing increasing tendencies towards vandalization of public infrastructure notably; electricity installations/equipment, oil and gas pipelines, public and government buildings, traffic lights, bridge railings, street lights, roads, telecom equipment and installations?

I have asked these questions to agitate our minds and give critical angle to our discussions at this stakeholder's conference.

Presently, we live in an era where huge resources are being invested in rebuilding vandalized infrastructure, resource that otherwise should have been invested in building new infrastructure. This no doubt has negative impact on our development trajectory.

As part of the change agenda of the present administration, we are witnessing increased investments in infrastructure development in various sectors of the economy, for instance we are witnessing encouraging developments in rail and power infrastructure. It must be noted that unless these infrastructure are protected and communities are encouraged to take ownership, the goals intended to be achieved through the current hard work and investments in these infrastructure may be short-lived.

It has therefore become a matter of critical importance to pay attention to the need for sensitization and awareness in various communities across the country for the public to realize their civic responsibility in the protection and preservation of national infrastructure that run through their communities. This is indeed critical to the success of our national development goals and aspiration.

As part of its mandate and specifically giving commitment to the protection and public ownership of national infrastructure, the National Orientation Agency is prepared to synergize with stakeholders in our offices and messaging platforms in the 774 LGs and the 36 states and FCT to carry out sustained sensitization campaigns to take ownership for the protection of public infrastructure.

In conclusion, I want to thank you for honouring our invitation even as I hope that this event would provide that critical stepping stone towards achieving attitudinal change in public perception of government property and stimulating communities towards taking ownership of public infrastructure in our various communities.