

## COMBATING AND CURBING COVID-19 REQUIRE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS

### Nigerian Government Urges Compliance on Measures Provided



**T**he world is not out of the woods yet as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage, evolving dangerous variants, disrupting lives and livelihoods, ravaging economies, challenging national governance, negating norms, shifting standards, and setting new-normal across board. Even as the virus is increasingly gaining notoriety as a leading world-killer, so also are emerging and concerted human efforts geared at tackling the virus and its deadly sting and taken it down completely.

Governments of nations in collaborations with health supporters and other relevant stakeholders, (the World Health Organization leading in these engagements) are charting courses and championing causes to combat and conquer the infection and its devastations. The race to find permanent solutions to this problem have become more intense recently, as several interventions are emerging and ongoing.

Nonetheless, thanks to God for the wisdom and courage of the scientists and their enablers for curatives medications, and the invention and inoculation of COVID-19 vaccines, which have obviously changed the game becoming a life-saver. But, due to the present shortages of these vaccines in a planet now plagued by a predating pandemic, the need for pre-emptive measures and preventive practices (especially of non-pharmaceutical efforts) are still seen as the easiest, cheapest and effective way of stemming the virus spread at least for now, until vaccines and vaccination becomes a global attainment.

In this regards and rising to cancel a doomsday prediction of a deadly disease touted to almost wipe out Africa the continent leaders strove really hard to ensure this evil prophecy does not come to pass, at least as envisaged by taking determined steps. Even though Africa, due to its peculiar development challenge, has had its own fair share of losses to Covid-19, both in terms of human lives and people's livelihoods, the collective efforts and measures put in place by many African countries have ensured that the region infection and death rates are consistently minimized.

As with many other countries of the world, Nigeria too is not spared of the coronavirus catastrophes (though not on a scale that would have tilted the country over). Thanks to a responsive government committed to the nation's health safety who seems not to be leaving anything to chance in ensuring that preventive and sustained steps are regularly taken to safeguard the country from a scourge that could cause untold harm and hardship if careless with.

The promptness of the country's managers to quickly rise to address the crises especially now as worrisome dimensions of the virus in countries with high incidences is commendable. The Presidential Steering Committee (PSC) on COVID-19, tasked with this assignment has been working round the clock ever since to stem the spread and severity of the virus in the country. Experience (either personal or by proxy) sometimes could be a good teacher. Now armed with more knowledge on the virus and its operations, and learning from others mistakes and mastery (actions and/or inactions and their consequences), PSC continues to take bolder and integrated steps of national safety and sustenance.

Furtherance therefore, and in line with reducing cases of any resurgence in the country and preventing the 4<sup>th</sup> wave, PSC on behalf of the FG re-imposed the enforcement of the COVID-19 Health Protection Regulations. Effective from 12am, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, this Phase IV of the phased restriction of movement came to effect. These measures include:

- § Restrictions on mass gatherings outside workplace settings, with a maximum number of 50 people in enclosed spaces (weddings, funerals etc.)
- § Approved gatherings must be held with physical distancing measures and other Non Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) in place and enforced.
- § Enforcement of mandatory requirements for a 7-day quarantine for all international passengers arriving from all countries, while institutional quarantine for international passengers arriving from specific high burden countries.
- § Enforce temperature checks and "No-Mask, No-Entry" policy in all public settings, workplace buildings, businesses, places of worship, recreational facilities, markets and motor parks. Access to government and commercial premises should be denied for persons not wearing facemasks.
- § Maintain restriction on resumption to work of government staff from GL 12 and below; "Limit government meetings to virtual platforms as much as possible while maintaining restrictions on physical meetings including official trips, oversight visits and board meetings until further notice.
- § Event centers, bars and night clubs shall remain closed until further notice; and Restaurants to provide eat-in at 50% capacity and provide takeaways, drive throughs and home delivery.
- § Approval for State Government to set mobile courts to prosecute defaulters.
- § The nationwide curfew imposed from 12 Midnight to 04:00am remains in force.

In furtherance to the above, constant hygienic practices such as washing of our hands, wearing our masks as directed, maintaining social distance, keeping good hygiene practices, ensuring we get vaccinated when the opportunity arises are collective requirements from us. WE as good citizens and law abiding visitors friends, partners, investors and lovers of Nigeria have urgent sense of responsibility and patriotic duty to truly love and protect this country from the destructions of COVID-19. **ANIM** also uses this opportunity to offers its solidarity with India, Brazil and other high COVID-19 incidence nations in these trying times and prays that all will be well in these countries soon. **ANN**



## ENVOYS OF VISEGRAD GROUP IN NIGERIA CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF ALLIANCE

### Ambassador Tarnawska Hosts Jubilee Ceremony In Abuja



Ambassadors of the V4 in Abuja, L-R: Mr. Marek Skolil, Dr Sandor Beer, Mrs. Joana Tarnawska (host) and Mr Thomas Skolil

Being a friendly nation, a carer, burden bearer and helping hand, Nigeria is also surrounded with so many friends who continue to seek her growths and improvements despite her diverse development challenges. In Europe as in other continents, Nigeria's friends abound, and the European Union is a dependable block that can be relied on at any time.

Nigeria and many of the EU countries both share so many common grounds in political and cultural cooperation, economic partnership, collaborations in the field of science, health, education, and people-people connection, high-level governmental visitations, amongst others with many of the countries in the EU having diplomatic missions, (Embassies and Consulates) among other growth interests in the country. Nigeria thus plays hosts to numerous events organized by her foreign friends' right on her soil.

And, in this vein, another important event of global acclamation was held in the nation's capital by some of her cherished friends in Europe otherwise known as the 'European Quartet' on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The V4 member states have fostered deep friendship and good neighborly networks that are promoting positive transformations in political, economic, defence and security, democratic growth and regional integration. The alliance is also increasing in strength, speed of accomplishment and salutary strides.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of that Declaration which also

coincided with Poland's presidency of the Group from July 2020 until June 2021.

On this occasion, Ambassador Joanna Tarnawska, Polish Ambassador in Nigeria with the support of her colleagues, Ambassador Marek Skolil of The Czech Republic, Ambassador of Hungary in Nigeria, Dr Sandor Beer, and the Slovak Republic Ambassador in Nigeria, H.E. Mr. Thomas Felix organized a celebratory ceremony at her residence in Abuja.

In attendance of the event held under recommended COVID-19 protocols were distinguished guests including Diplomats from EU Member States in the country, representatives of Nigerian institutions and the federal government, friends of the Embassies, captains of industry and members of media. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Ambassador Gabriel Aduda, and former MP of Poland, John Godson also graced the event.

Delivering her welcoming remarks, Ambassador Tarnawska of the Polish Embassy in Nigeria stressed on the achievements of the V4 group, commitments of the EU in Nigeria and in the West African region and growth partnershipS with Nigeria.

Traditional music pieces from Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, were performed by a Nigerian violinist and tasty dishes and drinks from the V4 countries were also served. A photo gallery of the V4 transitions from inception to date was also showcased. Acclaim Nigeria International Magazine (ANIM) was among the invitee. **ANN.**



Cross-section of event photos (Pictures from Embassies gallery)



# 2021 WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

## U.S. Consulate-General, Lagos Hosts A Webinar For Media Professionals



Ms Amarachi Ubani, Foreign Affairs Editor, Channels Television and one of Nigeria celebrated journalists moderating the webinar

Nigeria, on her part is assiduously working towards promoting free and fair societies conducive for journalists and journalism growth. Towards complementing these efforts and in commemorating this year event in the country, the United States Government, through its Mission, the US Consulate General, Lagos, organized a webinar for practitioners and stakeholders in the media sector. The (virtual) event typical of the quality of events hosted by the Mission through its Public Affairs Section, headed by its new PAO, Mr. Stephen Ibeli, had in attendance scores of journalists and information specialists in the southern part of the country.

The theme of the webinar **"Frontiers of Health Reporting: New Insights, Fresh Perspectives,"** is to further help the global community unites in its fight against COVID-19. Declaring open the event, the US Consul General, Ms Claire Pierangelo, highlighted the relevance and role of a free and independent press especially now.

The Envoy also used the opportunity to reiterate the U.S. government commitments in building media capacity in Nigeria and for Nigerian Journalists, and in promoting healthy and sustainable democracies globally. Channels TV Foreign Affairs Editor, Ms Amarachi Ubani, a celebrated journalist in Nigeria and Africa moderated the webinar, brining her professionalism and charm to the fore again.

The event which also featured outstanding presentations and performances by the resource persons had questions and answers session that provided opportunities for deeper insights and information on the topics delivered. Mr. Abel Akeni, Head of Research and Policy Advisory at BudgIT, presentation was on 'Follow the Money: Tracking and Analyzing Public Health Budgets'; 'Data Visualization Tools for Telling Compelling Health Stories' was presented Mr. Joshua Olufemi, Executive Director at Dataphyte, while, Mr. Oluwamayowa Tijani, delivery was on 'Fact-Checking Journalist at AFP spoke on the sub-theme 'Spotting and Fact Checking Health-Related Disinformation and Misinformation'. While acclaimed and courageous investigative journalist Fisayo Soyombo, Editor-in-Chief at Foundation for Investigative Journalism inspired fellow colleague through his speech on 'Overcoming Challenges of Telling Impactful Investigative Health Stories.'

Kudos to the United States Consulate General, Lagos, for its various interventions in Nigeria, and special appreciation to Mr. Temitayo Famutimi and others colleagues at the Consulate for facilitating the virtual program. Acclaim Nigeria also participated. **ANN**

### CONSUL-GENERAL CLAIRE-PIERANGELO FORMAL REMARKS

Thank you all for honoring our invitation today.

As we celebrate World Press Freedom Day today, the role of a free and independent press is more important than ever. The theme of this webinar "Frontiers of Health Reporting: New Insights, Fresh Perspectives," sets the tone as the global community unites to fight against COVID-19.

The United States government will continue to emphasize the value of promoting and protecting a free press, because the media plays such an essential role in preserving democracy and as we can witness these days in providing information that saves lives. During this two-hour webinar, the speakers will discuss how to better incorporate data into health reporting, data visualization tools, spotting and fact checking disinformation as well as share best practices in overcoming challenges of telling impactful investigative health stories.

We all know that a free press is essential to a healthy democracy. The news media can be a powerful force for change. It can effectively fulfill the roles of watchdog, gatekeeper, and a gender-setter. It can improve governance by raising citizen awareness of social issues, enabling citizens to hold their governments to account, curbing corruption, and creating a civic forum for debate. I challenge you to continue to play an effective role in amplifying important issues that affect citizens.

As media professionals, you must continue to track political and institutional processes by which decisions are taken and implemented at the local, state, and national levels. Your reports must critically analyze the methods and the effectiveness of projects in the field.

The public depends on your reports – in print, audiovisual, and online – to assess how their elected representatives are performing. As journalists, you can assess how health budgets are managed and whether there are adequate checks and balances in place for effective governance. This is what allows citizens to know whether their local officials are fulfilling their promises and meeting their obligations.

The U.S. government is committed to initiatives that build media capacity in Nigeria. For years, the U.S. Mission has funded training programs for hundreds of Nigerian journalists on topics ranging from health reporting, defense and national security reporting, investigative journalism, election reporting, to media ethics.

Webinars, seminars, workshops, and U.S.-based training opportunities such as the International Visitor Leadership Program and Foreign Press Center International Reporting Tours demonstrate our commitment to the deep partnership that we have long enjoyed with Nigeria. We hope this webinar will help strengthen your capabilities and you will in turn provide more accurate information to Nigerians who will benefit from improved reporting on health, governance, and other crucial issues.

In closing, I want to leave you with this quote from American investor and philanthropist Warren Buffett, who once said: "The smarter the journalists are, the better off society is."

With those words in mind, I wish you an informative and productive webinar and look forward to reading and watching your implementation of the lessons you learn here.

Thank you for your attention.

Since its declaration in 1993, by the United Nations General Assembly, May 3 designation as **World Press Freedom Day** has come to stay; attracting global attention and approbation and also ensuring media stakeholders keep the torch on.

It is a day specially set aside to globally commemorate the significance, recognition, sacrifice, liberty, and continuity of the press and its practitioners. It also help in reminding governments of nations of their commitments to protect, respect and advance media independence and integrity, and helps to deepen conversations on the development of this sector by professionals and other key-players.

*"The theme of this year's World Press Freedom Day, "Information as a Public Good", underlines the indisputable importance of verified and reliable information. It calls attention to the essential role of free and professional journalists in producing and disseminating this information, by tackling misinformation and other harmful content."*

— Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day.

### Personality & Profile

## BUILDING STRONGER TIES BETWEEN POLAND AND NIGERIA



**Her Excellency (Mrs) Joana Magdalena Tarnawska**  
Polish Ambassador To Nigeria

Poland and Nigeria friendship has soared with admiration and applause over the years. With strong diplomatic ties established on May 30, 1962, both countries will be celebrating 59 years of beneficial relations as they share cooperation in critical areas including political and cultural growths, trade and economic prosperity, support for democracy, peace, defence, security pacts, educational development collaborations and social connections.

The partnership continues to play vital role for overall national growth as Envoys of both countries steadfastly ensures effective representations at strategic levels. Nigeria is blessed to have Polish diplomats who advances bilateral relations to the delights of many, and the present Ambassador, a hardworker has done commendably well in expanding efforts and strengthening the growing friendship. **Ambassador Joanna Magdalena Tarnawska** is seen and revered as a performer and goal-getter, and her capability and commitments leaves no one in doubt of her leadership skills. Under her headship, the Polish Embassy in Nigeria moves on in pride and in salutary strides.

Born 1976 in Warsaw, Joanna Tarnawska is a Polish civil servant whose appointment as Poland Ambassador to Nigeria began in September 2018. She has spent her youth in Zambia where she attended Catholic elementary and high school. She graduated from African studies, University of Warsaw, and has also worked for the Ministry of Environment. She is also accredited as an Ambassador to Benin, Cameroon, Equatorial-Guinea, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Togo as well.

An amiable, vivacious and elegant woman, Mrs Joanna Tarnawska continues to strengthen her Government development interests in Nigeria and promotes deeper friendship between Poles and Nigerians. She cuts across various diplomatic and development segments in Nigeria, and her invaluable tour of duty will obviously leave indelible marks of improvements in the years to come. Nigeria salutes her works and urges her to keep the flag of diplomacy flying. **ANN**



## ACCLAIM NIGERIA INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE (ANIM) VISITS MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

As Nigeria Ministry of Foreign Affairs the statutory organ of Government charged with the primary responsibility for the formulation, articulation, conduct and execution of the nation's foreign policy continues to advance diplomacy, bilateral and multilateral relations, the need to encourage and strengthen efforts of the institutions and drivers of these laudable pursuits becomes imperative.

Towards this, Acclaim Nigeria International Magazine, ANIM, paid a courtesy-call to the Ministry's leadership to appreciate their active commitments to national development and to seek for increased partnership and MFA's continued success and sustenance. ANIM crew led by its Editor-In-Chief, Mr. Olumide Ogunlade, were warmly received at the Headquarters, by the Ministry's representatives, led by Ambassador Mfawa O. Abam, (Chief Of Protocol) and made presentations of plaques and publications to the immediate Permanent Secretary and staff.

Ambassador Abam, trilled by the visitation called for more efforts by the nation's media to partner with Government to 'Project Nigeria' in positive terms globally, assuring of the Ministry's support on such lofty efforts. MFA spokesman, Mr Ferdinand Nwoye, who was also present at the meeting used the occasion to highlight MFA's accomplishments and on-going pursuits, and called for more development synergy.

ANIM commend the strides of the Honourable Minister and Minister of State leadership, and also congratulates the new Perm Sec. Ambassador Gabriel T. Aduda, and looks forward to increased cooperation with his leadership. **ANN**



### Recognitions Of Excellence

## AMBASSADOR SHAMEEM AHSAN ENVOY EXTRAORDINAIRE



Former High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Nigeria, H.E. Mr. Md. Shameem Ahsan (ndc) came, worked and left admirable footprints in the nation.

Through his untiring efforts and focus as an Envoy, Mr. Ahsan further brought his country to spotlight in Nigeria: engaging in high level meetings, promoting commercial and cultural ties, ensuring people-to-people interactions and facilitating visitations of Nigerians to Bangladesh and vice-versa.

He was known and applauded in the country by former staff, friends, acquaintances and investors alike as a thorough bred and experienced diplomat with enviable accomplishments on his trail. He is often called in close circle has a 'man of transformations'.

Another distinguished medal he earned in Nigeria was his 'Project-Bangladesh' pursuits, which he did with utmost love, dedication and loyalty. Now serving his country in Rome, Italy, Ambassador Ahsan marvelous works in Nigeria is fondly remembered and applauded.

True to the Bangladeshis nationalistic spirits, his successor, is rapidly expanding on the successes on ground and building newer paths for profitable bilateral relations with Nigeria and other foreign nations herein.

Acclaim Nigeria celebrates a friend, mentor and developmentalist and wishes him good success and God-speed in his present and future endeavours. **ANN**



Acclaim Nigeria crew (led by its boss Mr Olumide Ogunlade) publication presentation to Ambassador Ahsan