

# CAPIO Newsletter

Carmelite Prisoners' Interest Organization

APRIL—JUNE, 2014 Volume 1, Issue 1

## CAPIO, an Emerging Success Story

Carmelite Prisoners' Interest Organization (CAPIO) is a non-profit, change-development organization of the Discalced Carmelite Order with particular interest in the justice sector, genuine prison reforms and general welfare of prisoners in Nigeria.

CAPIO which began as part of the apostolate of the Discalced Carmelite

Frairs in Enugu State, has grown into a large organization with four functional units: Medical, Legal, Social Welfare and Rehabilitation.

Today, CAPIO is partnering with local and international organizations whose mission and vision are in line with our work. This has enabled us to improve and expand the scope of our services. CAPIO is currently undergoing a comprehensive capacity building programme for her staff.

A 5-year Strategic Plan has been developed to give direction to the work we do and to maximise efficiency in ensuring that the rights of prisoners are protected while attending to their needs.



A cross-section of CAPIO Staff

### OUR VISION

*A society in which unhindered access to justice and the human rights and dignity of prisoners are protected*

### OUR MISSION

*To protect the interest of prisoners in Nigeria through advocacy for a reformed judicial system and provision of compassionate, free legal, social-welfare and rehabilitation service applying international best practices.*

## OUR CORE VALUES

**SELFLESS SERVICE:** All CAPIO services are rendered out of genuine compassion without expectation for worldly rewards.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** We are accountable to God, whose injunction spurred us to action. In our dealings with our donors and supporters, we remain highly transparent.

**VOLUNTEERISM:** We are open to working with like minds towards achieving our mission

**EXCELLENCE:** We give the best of our services. At CAPIO, we never compromise quality.

**NON-DISCRIMINATORY:** We offer services in Nigerian Prisons and do not discriminate based on

religion, race, ethnic group, sex or otherwise.

**COMPREHENSIVE VIEW-POINT:** We employ a multi-dimensional approach through forming allies with local and international organizations to achieve desirable reforms.

### In this issue:

CAPIO Today: An Emerging Success Story	1
Mission and Vision	1
CAPIO Work and Achievements	2
CAPIO to Champion ACJL Advocacy in Ebonyi State	2
Capacity Building for Efficiency	3
Developing The CAPIO Strategic Plan	3
769 Inmates Awaiting Trial	4

### CAPIO at a glance

Founder: Order of Discalced Carmelites, Nigeria.

Established: 1992

Incorporated: 2003

RC No: 15750

Interests: protection of human rights of prisoners

Local Partners: NPS, ESJRT, CIDJAP, PRAWA, HRAN. Pax Christi Trust

Foreign Partners: Irish Aid/ Misean Cara

Head Office: 2 Bent Lane, GRA, Enugu

Executive Director: Friar Ambrose Ekeroku (OCD)

Cost of services: **free**



## CAPIO WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### LEGAL UNIT



CAPIO Legal Representatives in court

CAPIO Legal Unit facilitates access to justice through free legal representation and the use of ADR to reconcile parties in conflict. The Legal Unit also advocates for law reforms in order to

improve the implementation of existing human rights laws.

The Legal Unit solicits for unconditional discharge of inmates unjustly imprisoned and payment of fines unbehalf of indigent inmates convicted of minor offences with option of fine. CAPIO was part of a Jail Delivery Exercise by the Chief Judge of Enugu State in the first quarter of 2013 which resulted in the release of about 133 inmates in Enugu State:

(69 inmates), Nsukka (34 inmates) and Oji-River (30 inmates) prisons.

CAPIO is handling about 57 cases of some indigent prisoners alongside a suit filed unbehalf of 769 inmates awaiting trial in Enugu State.



Most recent inmate released by CAPIO

### SOCIAL WELFARE

The Social Welfare Unit aims at improving infrastructure and facilities in the prison and making life more meaningful for the inmates. This unit also promotes recreation and sporting skills development among prison inmates.



The Social Welfare Unit has in the past year routinely delivered relief materials to

prisoners in Abakaliki, Enugu, Nsukka, Ibite-olo and Oji River. During festive periods (Christmas and Easter), about 3000 prison inmates enjoyed cooked food, drinks and other gifts at the five prisons.

CAPIO also successfully organized prison games for inmates at Enugu prisons. The welfare Unit also takes part in providing free transport of prisoners to court, upgrade of infrastructure and advocacy.



### MEDICAL UNIT

The Medical team supports the provision of adequate medical care to inmates and works towards improving response action of government MDAs towards health care and sanitation in the prisons.



A CAPIO Medical Specialist treating a prisoner.

This unit gives medications and other clinical materials to prison

clinics, prisoners and prison officers based on their needs and prescriptions.

Within the past one year, CAPIO Medical Team has given medical attention to about 410 inmates in the prisons at Enugu, Abakaliki and Oji-River.

CAPIO has paid hospital bills for 13 inmates at Mother of Christ Specialist Hospital, Enugu. Four pregnant inmates received free maternal and child care alongside all other materials needed for safe delivery were provided. Their deliveries and other bills were taken care of free of charge.

Hygiene and sanitation advice and materials are also routinely provided.

### REHABILITATION

The Rehabilitation unit aims at producing empowered and reformed prisoners by supporting personal development of inmates in prison. This unit also advocates for support of stakeholders towards establishment and management of Half Way Home.



The Rehabilitation unit has also successfully enrolled 50 inmates into secondary school within the prison while 35 other inmates are taking courses with the National Open University of Nigeria. Internet facilities have been installed to enable the undergraduates write their examinations.

JOIN HANDS WITH CAPIO TODAY



Become a volunteer...



## CAPIO to champion ACJL Advocacy in Ebonyi State

CAPIO in her frontline role of promoting access to quick dispensation of justice by prisoners, is partnering with Human Rights Agenda Network (HRAN) to advocate for the domestication of The Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL) in Ebonyi State.

The Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL) has lots of Implications that will improve the respect for peoples' rights. For instance, that a person may not be detained for over 120 days (may vary from place to place due to decision of the stakeholders) without being charged. In such a case, the ACJL prescribes an

unconditional release of such detainee.

Thus, the ACJL will reduce to the barest minimum, incidences of long term detentions spanning from a few months to over ten years. This law could have prevented CAPIO's lawsuit on behalf of 796 inmates awaiting trial in Enugu State.

The initiative to advocate for the domestication of the ACJL in Ebonyi State demonstrates CAPIO's efforts and commitment to her mission. This is as Ebonyi State was not one of originally targeted states by the HRAN.

Already the CAPIO legal



CAPIO legal Officer, Barr. Greg Obasohan at the Legislative advocacy workshop organized by Human Rights Agenda Network (HRAN).

team's advocacy visit to relevant stakeholders have met with success. CAPIO is hopeful that a desirable reform in the Justice system may be under way.

CAPIO alongside other organizations such as the Enugu State Justice Reform Team (ESJRT) and other parallel bodies, are currently working towards domestication of the ACJL in Enugu State.

## Enhancing Organizational Development of CAPIO



CAPIO staff at the Project Design and Proposal Writing Workshop

CAPIO, with the support of Misaan Cara/Irish Aid is undergoing capacity building which involves structural upgrade to a new office space, acquisition of office equipment and relevant accessories, recruitment of competent hands as well as training and retraining of CAPIO staff. This will equip the staff and organization to be compliant with world best practices in their

various designations. Already, some of the trainings had included the Strategic Planning Workshop, Project design and proposal writing workshop, and project cycle management workshop. Others include a step-down training of Legislative advocacy training.

CAPIO also participates in other

trainings organized by parallel organizations such as the Enugu State Justice Reform Team (ESJRT) and the Human Rights Agenda Network (HRAN).

As part of the capacity building project, weekly 'Learn and Share' sessions have been introduced and sustained by CAPIO staff. This facilitates an effective information exchange network within the organization.

The importance of the Capacity building efforts of CAPIO boils down to improving the level of



CAPIO staff at the Project Cycle Management Training

knowledge, experience and confidence of the organization, thereby facilitating goal achievements.



# Developing CAPIO Strategic Plan

In order to enhance the organizational development of CAPIO, there was a need to develop a strategic plan. A strategic Plan is a document that defines an organization's strategy or direction and specifies actions, who performs the actions and for whom it is performed alongside the expected outcomes over a specific period of time.

Developing the strategic plan of CAPIO was achieved in a 5-Day Strategic Plan Workshop for Carmelite Prisoners Interest Organization (CAPIO) that held between 6th–10th January, 2014 at Zodiac Hotel, Enugu.

The workshop had the support and sponsorship of International partners (Misean Cara/Irish Aide). Features of the workshop which was facilitated by specialists from the

Management Strategy for Africa (MSA) included presentations, brain-storming and interactive sessions. Matters on Vision, Mission and core values of CAPIO were identified. Others included governance structure, Monitoring and evaluation and Human Resource needs.

The 5-year Strategic Plan that resulted from the workshop is a major achievement for CAPIO as it not only channels CAPIO's work towards a result-focused path, it also prepares CAPIO for greater local and international collaborations to achieve her objectives.



Cross-Section of Participants at the Strategic Planning

## 796 inmates awaiting trial in Enugu Prisons



Friar Ambrose and some CAPIO lawyers at the Federal High Court Enugu

CAPIO filed a Fundamental Rights application on behalf of 796 inmates at Oji-River, Nsukka and Enugu prisons on the 28th day of January, 2014.

The application filed at a Federal High Court in Enugu had prayed the court under Hon. Justice M. L. Shuaibu, to mandate the four respondents: the State Attorney General, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Comptroller of Prisons and the state commissioner of Police to produce the applicants in court for trial, or alternatively to unconditionally release them.

On the 5th of March, 2014, the case suffered a set back with the absence of the trial Judge although the respondents were

all present. Justice Shuaibu could no longer hear the case, after his elevation to the Court of Appeal was announced. The Hon. Justice received applications behind closed doors to transfer the case to another court.

Currently, the case has been moved successfully to Federal High Court II on 13th March, 2014. The matter was started de novo and was for mention. Nevertheless, a trial date has been set for the 14th day of April, 2014.

## APPRECIATION

The Board, Management and Staff of CAPIO wishes to express our profound gratitude to all members of the worshipping community at Mt. Carmel Prayer Centre and Misean cara for their continual support and encouragement.

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## PLEASE SUPPORT CAPIO PROJECTS IN PRISONS



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Account Number: 0020796511  
**OR**  
Bank: Keystone Bank  
Account Name: Carmelite Prisoners' Interest Organization (CAPIO)  
Account Number: 1006129966

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