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SELECTED SPEECHES AND STRIDES *of the 18th NYSC DIRECTOR-GENERAL*



BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM

DSS PhD MTRCN

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**SELECTED SPEECHES AND STRIDES
OF THE
18TH NYSC DIRECTOR-GENERAL
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM *DSS PhD MTRCN***

**COMPILED MAY 2020 BY
THE SPECIAL DUTIES DEPARTMENT,
NYSC NATIONAL DIRECTORATE
HEADQUARTERS**

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FOREWORD



A new chapter was opened in the history of the National Youth Service Corps on 10th May, 2019 with the assumption of duty by Brigadier General S Ibrahim *DSS PhD MTRCN* as its 18th Chief Executive. That day, before an assemblage of Staff and Journalists, the Director-General unveiled his policy thrust, which is anchored on five cardinal points. Without further ado, he, together with the Management team and the rest of our dedicated workforce, settled down for the task of achieving his vision for the NYSC. As he marks one year in office, we make bold to state that the Director-General has made numerous accomplishments in his avowed determination to turn things around in the Scheme.

The achievements of NYSC within the last one year were outcomes of the various actions, decisions as well as in-house and public functions organized by Management. Traditionally, many of these functions involved speech-making as agenda-setting formality.

This Book, “Select Speeches and Strides of the 18th NYSC Director-General” is a documentation of the formal speeches, including policy statements, of the Chief Executive – starting with his inaugural address of 10th May, 2019. They mostly shed light on the

policy direction of the present Management as enunciated in Director-General's five-point agenda. They give further insights into his innovations and radical approaches to issues and challenges in the Scheme, which also facilitated the numerous achievements highlighted in the Book.

I, therefore, recommend the Book as a useful reference material for NYSC Staff, serving and prospective Corps members and other stakeholders, including Researchers, seeking to enrich their understanding of the policies and programmes of the Scheme.

A.J. AFOLAYAN

Director, Special Duties

NYSC NDHQ, Abuja

PREFACE



The National Youth Service Corps was established by Decree No. 24 of 22nd May, 1973 by the then General Yakubu Gowon regime in furtherance of the Federal Government's post-war policy of Reconstruction, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation. The aim was to raise a crop of disciplined, detribalized and patriotic youths that would be posted to serve in communities/locations other than theirs, and seek permanent employment outside their States of origin thereby fostering the much desired national unity and integration. To further set the Scheme on the path of goal attainment and dynamism, Decree No. 24 of 1973 was repealed and replaced with Decree No. 51 of 16th June, 1993 which is now **NYSC Act CAPN84 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.**

The objectives of the Scheme as contained in the Enabling Act are: to inculcate discipline in Nigerian youths by instilling in them a tradition of industry at work and of patriotic and loyal service to Nigeria in any situation they may find themselves; to raise the moral tone of the Nigerian youths by giving them the opportunity to learn about higher ideals of national achievements, social and cultural

improvement; to develop in Nigerian youths the attitudes of mind, acquired through shared experience and suitable training, which will make them more amenable to mobilization in the national interest; to enable Nigerian youths acquire the spirit of self-reliance by encouraging them to develop skills for self-employment; to contribute to the accelerated growth of the national economy; to develop common ties among the Nigerian youths and promote national unity and integration; to remove prejudices, eliminate ignorance and confirm at first hand the many similarities among Nigerians of all ethnic groups; and to develop a sense of corporate existence and common destiny of the people of Nigeria.

The foregoing objectives are pursued through the four Cardinal Programmes of the Scheme, namely: Orientation Course, Primary Assignment, Community Development Service and Winding-up/Passing-out Programme.

The Orientation Course is a three-week training programme, which is designed to introduce Corps members to the Scheme and prepare them for the mandatory one-year National Service. During the exercise, they are exposed to paramilitary drills to equip them with the mental and physical skills to face the task of the service year and nation building. As part of the Scheme's response to contemporary needs, the Corps members are also exposed to entrepreneurship development training in order to inculcate in them the spirit of self-reliance, and empower them for self-employment and wealth

creation. Citizenship and leadership lectures are also presented to course participants to instill in them leadership qualities for self-assertiveness and patriotism. They are put through a regimented life and also exposed to physical trainings to step up their patience and resilience, which are essential ingredients of selfless service to the fatherland. The Orientation course also provides avenue for promotion of the much desired national unity and integration through the interaction of Corps members of diverse ethnic, religious, social, cultural and economic backgrounds.

At the end of the Orientation Course, Corps members are posted to various Government Agencies and private organizations for the second phase of the National Service, i.e. Primary Assignment. It spans through a period of eleven (11) months during which they are exposed to virtues of hard work, diligence and obedience to constituted authorities by being subjected to the extant rules of the organizations they are posted to. They also gain vital first-hand exposure and on the job training in these organizations.

The third Cardinal Programme, the Community Development Service, runs alongside the Primary Assignment. It serves as a platform for Corps members to initiate and execute projects aimed at improving the living standards of their host communities. Over time, the NYSC Scheme has proved to be a catalyst for national development with the active involvement of Corps members in Community Development projects and programmes in all nooks

and crannies of the country. These include construction of culverts and bridges, tree planting, development of farms, art-works, landscaping, beautification, and campaign against HIV/AIDS amongst others. One notable Community Development Service of the Scheme is the Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD) that was introduced in 2014. It is aimed at providing easy access to quality healthcare for the rural poor through medical outreaches, especially in remote locations. There are also educational projects such as Mass Literacy Campaign, “Each one teaches one”, etc. In addition, the Scheme is into diverse forms of Community Development Service collaborations with Government, Non-Governmental organizations, International organizations, etc.

The Community Development Service of the Scheme further witnessed increased activities with the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals – now Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under this arrangement, Corps members are trained to participate actively in the SDGs Awareness Creation nationwide. Since the beginning of the programme, **1,176,957** Corps members have been sensitized on the SDGs at the NYSC Orientation Camps while **197,535** of them have so far been trained as Corps Advocates.

The Scheme also promotes unity amongst Corps members through the social interaction platform provided by the NYSC Sports and Cultural Festivals. In addition, the competitions are meant to foster

the spirit of healthy competition, self-development and expose the innate talents in the Corps members to the general public. The Scheme also encourages stakeholders in the Sports Sector and the entertainment industry to use the platform for discovery of talents among the Corps members and provide them with opportunities for post-service employment.

Winding-Up/Passing-Out Programme is the last phase of the National Service during which Corps members are reassembled to share experiences, exchange ideas and reappraise the service year with a view to making informed suggestions for the enhancement of the Scheme's operations. At the end of this exercise, Corps members, who meet the set requirements, are issued with the Certificate of National Service.

Through the implementation of the Cardinal Programmes, NYSC has been making profound impact on the socio-economic development of the country, especially in the areas of Education, Healthcare, Agriculture and Infrastructural Development amongst others.

From inception to date, the Scheme has had eighteen Chief Executives with the pioneer one being Col AA Ali. Others are Col SK Omojokun, Col PK Obasa, Brig Gen EA Akpan, Col A Braimoh, Brig Gen HB Momoh, Brig Gen SA Sofoluwe, Brig Gen SM Dule, Brig Gen KO Ogunkoya, COMPOL SI Emokaro and

Rev P. O. Okunromade. Also in the list are Brig Gen W Oki, Brig Gen Y Bomoi, Brig Gen MI Tsiga, Brig Gen NT Okore-Affia, Brig Gen JB Olawumi, Maj Gen SZ Kazaure and the incumbent, Brig Gen S Ibrahim. The Chief Executives left various legacies as they steered the affairs of the Scheme with particular focus on their respective blueprints targeted at enhancing the achievement of the NYSC mandate.

The present Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, is on a second “missionary journey” to the Scheme having previously served as Military Assistant to two former Chief Executives from 1997 to 1999. To say he is in a familiar terrain will, therefore, be an understatement. He used the occasion of the handover/takeover ceremony marking his formal assumption of duty on 10th May, 2019 to unveil his policy thrust, which is anchored on the following cardinal points:

- i. ***Sustain effective utilization of the potentials of Corps members for optimal benefits;***
- ii. ***Pursue a technologically-driven organization to deepen effective service delivery;***
- iii. ***Improve on the welfare and security of Corps members and staff;***
- iv. ***Strengthen existing collaboration with stakeholders; and***
- v. ***Reinvigorate the NYSC Ventures and Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (SAED) in line with the NYSC Act for greater impact.***

The Director-General has been working assiduously with the Management team and the rest of the committed workforce of NYSC to actualize his vision for the Scheme. Adjudged a goal-getter and inspiring team leader, he has so far made numerous innovative and far-reaching accomplishments in the implementation of the aforementioned agenda. As this focused and determined leader clocks one year in office, the Special Duties Department commemorates the anniversary with special compilation of his major speeches and achievements. This documentation will serve as a veritable reference tool for members of Staff, Corp members, researchers and other stakeholders in the Scheme.

Yunusa Tanimu

Special Assistant to the Director-General

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**PROFILE
OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PhD MTRCN**

PROFILE OF THE NYSC DIRECTOR-GENERAL BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN

BACKGROUND/EDUCATION

Brigadier General Shuaibu Ibrahim hails from Nasarawa Local Government area of Nasarawa State. He attended the University of Jos where he obtained Bachelors and Masters Degrees in History (1989 and 1992 respectively) before proceeding to bag a Post-Graduate Diploma in Education from Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijebu Ode. Driven by his insatiable thirst for knowledge, he went on to obtain a PhD in History from the University of Abuja in 2007.



MILITARY CAREER

Since his commissioning into the Nigerian Army, he has served in various capacities in Military formations across the country. His appointments and postings include:

- Institute of Army Education (Research Officer). Researched and Produced Nigerian Army Journals and Briefs for the Nigerian Army in particular and the Military in general;
- NYSC (Military Assistant to the Director-General) 1997-1999;

- Nigerian Defence Academy (Taught 100 and 200 Levels) 2000-2004;
- National Defence College (Staff Officer I Military History) 2004-2009;
- Nigerian Army School of Education (Senior Instructor) 2009-2011;
- Headquarters Nigerian Army Education Corps (Staff Officer I Books Resources Procurement) 2011-2012;
- Commandant Command Secondary School, Suleja 2012-2014;
- Nigerian Defence Academy (Head of Department, History and War Studies) 2015-2018; and
- Registrar, Nigerian Army University, Biu 2018-2019.

In line with the Armed Forces tradition of enhancing professionalism through training and retraining of officers, he attended various courses, including the Nigerian Army Education Corps (NAEC) Young Officers Course (1994), Infantry Young Officers Course (1996), Training Development Advisers Course (2004) and NAEC Officers Executive Management Course (5/2013).

STEWARSHIP AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

On 10th May, 2019, a new chapter was opened in the history of the National Youth Service Corps with the assumption of duty by Brigadier General Shuaibu Ibrahim as its 18th Director-General. He immediately unveiled his policy thrust anchored on the following

cardinal points:

- i. ***Sustain effective utilization of the potentials of Corps members for optimal benefits;***
- ii. ***Pursue a technologically-driven organization to deepen effective service delivery;***
- iii. ***Improve on the welfare and security of Corps members and staff;***
- iv. ***Strengthen existing collaboration with stakeholders; and***
- v. ***Reinvigorate the NYSC Ventures and Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (SAED) in line with the NYSC Act for greater impact.***

The Director-General has been working assiduously to actualize his vision for the Scheme. Adjudged a goal-getter and inspiring team leader, he has made numerous achievements within his one year in office.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

An academic of repute, Brigadier General S Ibrahim has authored, co-authored, edited, co-edited and contributed articles/chapters to numerous books and academic Journals including:

- *The Transformation of Afo (Eloyi) from the Pre-Colonial to the Colonial Period*, London: Bahiti and Delila Publishers, 2017;
- Shuaibu Ibrahim, OjongEchumTangban *et al* (eds.), *Defence, Security, Economy and Development in Nigeria 1*, UK: Bahiti and Delila Publishers, 2017.

- Shuaibu Ibrahim, Ojiong Echum Tangban *et al* (eds.), *Defence, Security, Economy and Development in Nigeria 11*, UK: Bahiti and Delila Publishers, 2017.
- Shuaibu Ibrahim (ed) Journal of History and Military Studies Vol 1 No 1,
- Shuaibu Ibrahim (ed) Journal of History and Military Studies Vol 1 No 2
- Shuaibu Ibrahim (ed) Journal of History and Military Studies Vol 2 No 1
- Shuaibu Ibrahim (ed) Journal of History and Military Studies Vol 2 No 2

Despite his tight schedule as NYSC Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim still devotes time to academic work, including serving as External Examiner of Master's Students at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna. He has been assessed for Promotion from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor at NDA 2017/2018.

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Brigadier General S Ibrahim is a member of various Professional Organizations including:

- Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN);
- Teachers' Registration Council of Nigeria (MTRCN);
- Exam Ethics Marshal International (Vice-President, FCT Chapter);
- Editorial Board, Ibom Journal of History, University of Uyo; and
- Editor-in-Chief, Journal of History and Military Studies, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna and Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN).

MILITARY DECORATIONS

Forces Service Star (FSS)	-	2007
Meritorious Service Star (MSS)	-	2012
Distinguished Service Star (DSS)	-	2018

AWARDS

The Director-General has been conferred with several Awards in recognition of his contributions to National Development, including:

- Chief of Army Staff Award as the Overall Best Participant for 2013 NAEC Executive Management Course;
- Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) Special Recognition Award 2014;
- Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Public Services/Fellowship (FCAI) by Institute of Corporate Administration;
- Professional National Award (Historical Society of Nigeria HSN); and
- Chief of Army Staff Commendation Letter 2018.

He is married and blessed with children. His Hobbies include Watching Football and Current Affairs.

**SELECTED SPEECHES
AND STRIDES
OF THE 18TH NYSC
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PhD MTRCN**

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN
ON THE OCCASSION OF THE HANDOVER/
TAKEOVER CEREMONY MARKING HIS
FORMAL ASSUMPTION OF DUTY ON
10TH MAY, 2019 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM
OF THE NYSC DIRECTORATE HEADQUARTERS**



The out-going Director General
Directors
Deputy Directors
Staff Members
Gentlemen of the Press
Invited Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour and privilege that I stand before you here to express my sincere and profound gratitude to, first and foremost, the Almighty God for making today possible. My ardent appreciation goes to the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR; Minister of Defence; Chief of Army Staff for finding me worthy to be appointed DG of this great scheme.

I cannot thank the outgoing DG enough. He has done extremely well to have lifted the scheme to a higher level. I want to assure him that I will strive to sustain the tremendous achievements and take the scheme to another pedestal. My vision will be to sustain effective utilization of the potentials of the Corps Members, pursue a technologically driven organization, improve on the welfare of both

Corps Members and the staff, as well as their security, strengthen the existing collaborations with stakeholders, and rejig the NYSC ventures in line with the NYSC Act.

To whom much is given, much is expected, I would want to urge the staff to be committed to work, shun malpractices and corruption. Team work and fairness to all will be my watchword.

At this juncture, I want to, once again, thank the outgoing DG for his service to the scheme and country, and wish him God's guidance and success in his future endeavours. I thank you all for witnessing this historic occasion.

Thank you and God bless.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD AT THE 2018 ICT
DESK OFFICERS' TRAINING WORKSHOP ON
THURSDAY, 16TH MAY, 2019 AT THE
CONFERENCE HALL, NYSC NATIONAL
DIRECTORATE HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA



Protocol

It is my pleasure to address you on this occasion of the 2018 ICT Desk Officers' training workshop. This programme is in furtherance of Management's commitment to building staff capacity for enhanced performance. I find the programme gratifying because it reflects one of the focal areas on my agenda for the Scheme, which is **to pursue a technologically-driven organization.**

2. The ICT Department as we are all aware, is saddled with the responsibility of digitalizing NYSC activities in order to reinforce efficiency, transparency and accountability in our operations. Management recognizes your crucial role in this regard, hence the priority on your training and capacity building. The theme of the workshop, "***Enhancing ICT Desk Officers' Operations on the NYSC Integrated System (NIS) in line with Modern Information Technology (IT) Innovations***" is therefore, apt and timely.

3. Given the fluidity of modern technology and frequency of updates on the NYSC Integrated System, there is need for your regular catch-up to ensure seamless operation of the platform. Accordingly, this workshop will expose you to some of the latest

innovations in the IT world through a lecture titled: “**New Technologies and Cyber Security Implications (Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Drones)**”. There is a constant revolutionary shift in the way the world works, especially with digital high-speed machines now performing many human functions. NYSC therefore, cannot afford to be left behind by this fast moving technology train.

4. I am happy to note that we have through the NYSC Integrated System, made giant strides in this regard. These include the introduction of the biometric verification of Corps members to curb absenteeism and fraud, online registration of prospective Corps members, verification of prospective Corps members during registration on camp, Senate upload module for Corps-Producing Institutions, automation of the printing of Certificate of National Service and the Exemption Certificate, amongst others. Without doubt, these are the result of hard work, dedication and commitment of the ICT Department as well as our Technical Partner. I urge you to work relentlessly towards the ultimate goal of perfection in the discharge of responsibilities.

5. My dear participants, while acknowledging that our ability to keep pace with the current trends has brought about improvement in the Scheme's operations, we must not lose sight of cyber security threats such as data breaches, human errors, malicious insiders' activities and account hijacking, amongst others. It is hoped that this training will equip you with the requisite knowledge for the protection of computers, networks, programmes and data from unauthorized access and attacks.

6. At this juncture, I wish to assure you of Management's support at all times for the successful discharge of your assignments. Similarly, I urge you to rededicate yourselves to duty and shun all

forms of malpractices so that our common organizational goals will be achieved.

7. Let me also seize this opportunity to appreciate our Technical Partner, SIDMACH Technologies Ltd for your commitment and readiness to provide state-of-the-art ICT solutions for the Scheme. In the same vein, I commend the Guest Lecturer for accepting to share his wealth of experience with our staff for the benefit of the Scheme. I am confident that at the end of this engagement, the participants will be better informed and more equipped for the discharge of their duties.

8. On this note, it is my pleasure to declare the 2018 ICT Desk Officers' training workshop open.

9. Thank you and God bless.

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN
AT THE 2019 BATCH 'B' PRE-MOBILIZATION
WORKSHOP HELD ON TUESDAY, 28TH MAY,
2019 AT THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL MERIT
AWARDS HOUSE, MAITAMA, ABUJA**



Protocol

It is my pleasure to formally welcome you all to Abuja, the nation's capital for the 2019 Batch 'B' Pre-Mobilization Workshop. I am particularly delighted to welcome the special guest of honour, the Honourable Minister of the FCT, Alhaji Muhammad Musa Bello, to this opening ceremony. Our special thanks go to the Honourable Minister for finding time to grace this occasion in spite of other pressing official matters.

2. Permit me to also welcome to this occasion, other State Government functionaries, our Royal Fathers, Heads of Federal Agencies, our partners in the Mobilization process, including Students' Affairs Officers (SAOs) of Corps - Producing Institutions as well as representatives of the National Universities Commission (NUC), National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB) and SIDMACH Technologies Limited.

3. The Honourable Minister, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the importance of this workshop cannot be over-emphasized given the roles expected of various stakeholders in

ensuring a seamless Mobilization process. The lessons learned from the implementation of decisions reached at previous workshops are expected to influence our deliberations towards a better performance in the next mobilization exercise.

4. While commending the efforts of all stakeholders in the achievements made so far, it is time for us to move the process to the next level. In particular, it is time to take a fuller advantage of themany ICT applicationsto drive the process to a logical conclusion. Our collective desire to do better, therefore, influenced the choice of the workshop theme, **“Achieving Greater Efficiency in the NYSC Mobilization Process: The Role of Stakeholders”**.
5. That new ICT-driven NYSC is gaining greater acceptance across the broad spectrum of stakeholders and the general public in spite of the numerous challenges, shows that we are heading in the right direction.
6. I cannot end this address without thanking the Honourable Minister once again, for his support for the NYSC, especially in the area of welfare and security of Corps members.
7. Finally, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, let me appreciate you once again for honoring our invitation, and wish you fruitful deliberations.
8. Thank you and God bless.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN
AT THE BUSINESS SESSION OF THE
2019 BATCH 'B' PRE-MOBILIZATION
WORKSHOP HELD ON TUESDAY, 28TH MAY, 2019
IN THE AUDITORIUM OF MERIT HOUSE,
MAITAMA, ABUJA



Protocol

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the business session of the 2019 Batch 'B' Pre-Mobilization Workshop. This workshop is unique in some respects. For one, it is the first of its kind that I am addressing in my capacity as the Director-General of the NYSC. It therefore, provides opportunity for me to interact and exchange ideas with you as critical stakeholders in the mobilization process.

2. Secondly, this workshop has the arduous task of proffering solutions to the numerous problems facing the mobilization process despite our continued efforts at entrenching data credibility. As we are all aware, the rising number of Corps Producing Institutions with the attendant rise in Corps population poses a great challenge which we must address.

3. The Pre-Mobilization Workshop has always served as a platform for appraising our performance in the previous mobilization exercise with a view to eliminating identified lapses and evolving workable strategies to overcome recurrent challenges. It is against this background that I consider the theme of this workshop, **"Achieving Greater Efficiency in the NYSC Mobilization"**

Process: The Role of Stakeholders” apt and timely. The task before us is to bring our wealth of experience to bear as we explore ways of improving the process. We must therefore, discharge our respective responsibilities diligently to ensure greater efficiency in the forthcoming mobilization exercise.

4. The NYSC Act provides for effective liaison with Corps Producing Institutions who are critical stakeholders in the mobilization of Corps members for national development. As head of a new administration, I have resolved to pursue with vigor, the laudable goals and objectives of the Scheme. Accordingly, I am committed to strengthening existing collaboration with all stakeholders and pursuing a technologically-driven organization to deepen effective service delivery.

5. Let me seize this opportunity to commend you for your commitment and cooperation over the years. I need not emphasize the importance of our partnership in ensuring efficiency in the mobilization process. It is my hope therefore, that we will continue to explore ways of strengthening the collaboration in order to achieve better outcomes.

6. Permit me at this juncture, to highlight a few of the key issues which will form the basis of our discussion at this forum:

a. ***Late Upload of Senate/Academic Board Approved Master List on the NYSC Portal***

It has been observed that Students' Affairs Officers do not commence early upload of their master lists despite the long period the NYSC portal is opened for this purpose. Many wait till few days to the close of the portal before rushing to meet up with the deadline, thereby making a lot of mistakes in the process. Students' Affairs Officers are therefore,

enjoined to commence early collation of the approved list of their graduates even before the NYSC portal is opened for upload.

b. *Checking Unwholesome Practices by Some Corps Producing Institutions (CPIs)*

We have observed cases of suspected connivance whereby some accredited institutions help unaccredited ones to mobilize unqualified graduates. While the Scheme will continue to sanction erring institutions, we are working on introducing a platform on the NYSC portal, where Corps Producing Institutions will be required to upload the list of their matriculated students every year. This will be used to eliminate the registration of persons whose names are presented for mobilization but are not found on the matriculation list.

c. *Ineffective Use of the Registrar's Module*

We created a module for the Registrars to confirm the data and documents uploaded by their Data Entry Officers and Students' Affairs Officers in order to stop illegal uploads. However, the full benefit of the Registrar's Module is yet to be felt as it is not effectively used by some Corps Producing Institutions. In some cases, the login access code of the Registrar is compromised. The Registrars are therefore, expected to play their role in the mobilization process by making effective use of the module and safeguarding their login access codes.

d. *Lack of Attendance to Requests for Name Correction*

Despite the introduction of the online name correction module since the 2018 Batch 'B' mobilization, it has been

observed that some Students' Affairs Officers still engage in the old practice of sending to the NYSC, offline recommendations of applications that are done online. In many cases, the SAOs do not respond to their graduates' applications for name correction on their handle. This attitude has subjected the affected graduates to a lot of difficulties during registration on camp and hardship in operating bank accounts for payment of allowances. In addition, it results in the printing of wrong names on Certificate of National Service/Exemption Certificate. Students' Affairs Officers must be alive to their responsibilities by ensuring daily check of their dashboards to clear pending cases of name correction/addition/removal.

e. *Admission of Candidates with poor Foundation Certificates for Higher National Diploma (HND) Programmes*

Our effort to ascertain the credibility of HND Certificates tendered for registration at the Orientation Camps by cross checking with the National Diploma Certificates obtained before admission to HND programmes exposed the non-adherence to admission requirements by some institutions. Many institutions were found to have admitted candidates with University Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Polytechnic Diplomas and even NCE for HND programmes as against the National Diploma Certificate. NYSC will henceforth report such erring institutions to the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) for appropriate sanctions.

f. *Age Falsification*

We have also observed that some CPIs present over aged

graduates for mobilization. Such graduates falsify their age in order to avoid appearing on the exemption list. Let me state here that such act will not be condoned, and the Scheme will not hesitate to apply appropriate sanctions on any CPI involved. As a further step towards curtailing age falsification, we have decided just as in the case of WAEC Certificate and the NYSC Exemption Certificate, to include date of birth on the Certificate of National Service and Exclusion Letter. NYSC also plans to carry out advocacy to encourage other examination bodies to adopt same approach.

5. Distinguished workshop participants, having enumerated these issues for discussion, it is my ardent hope that we shall improve performance of our roles in the mobilization process to achieve greater efficiency. While soliciting your continuous support, I urge you to use this forum to share ideas on best practices and suggest solutions to identified challenges.

7. I thank you all for your attention.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL,
NYSC BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2019
BATCH 'B' PRE-ORIENTATION COURSE WORKSHOP
HELD AT EVENT CENTRE CBD ALAUSA
IKEJA LAGOS STATE ON 10TH JUNE, 2019



Protocol

It is my pleasure to formally welcome all our distinguished guests and participants to the opening ceremony of the 2019 Batch 'B' Pre-Orientation Workshop taking place here in Lagos. I am particularly delighted to welcome the Special Guest of Honour and Governor of Lagos State, His Excellency, **Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu**. Your Excellency, I thank you most profoundly for making out time to be with us at this ceremony having just been sworn into office. Let me also on behalf of the NYSC family, congratulate you on your well-deserved election as the Governor of Lagos State. We wish you a very successful tenure of office.

2. Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the Pre-Orientation Workshop is a forum for the NYSC managers and our collaborating partners to review previous Orientation courses with a view to tackling identified challenges and mapping out new strategies for successful conduct of the forthcoming one. The choice of the theme of this workshop, "**Reinvigorating the NYSC Orientation Course for a Successful Service Year**" is informed by our desire to sustain proper induction and preparation of eligible graduates for dedicated and hitch-free service to our fatherland.

3. I am pleased to inform you that the Scheme is working tirelessly towards the successful conduct of the 2019 Batch 'B' Orientation Course nationwide. This forum will, therefore, help to fine-tune our arrangements and policy guidelines for the successful execution of the course by all stakeholders.

4. May I at this point acknowledge the remarkable contributions of the Lagos State Government towards the success of NYSC in the State. In particular we appreciate the comprehensive renovation of the Orientation Camp, augmentation of feeding of Corps members during Orientation course, support during Winding-up/Passing-out programmes, conferment of honours awards on deserving Corps members and the provision of security. We also appreciate the allocation of land for the construction of a permanent Orientation camp, hoping that work on the facility will commence and be completed in no distant time. Furthermore, the partnership of Lagos State Employment Trust Fund with NYSC aimed at providing start-up business capital for Corps members who have undergone the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development training is a welcome development.

5. Permit me to use this forum to remind stakeholders that the NYSC Act put the responsibility of provision and maintenance of Orientation camps on the State Governments. This reminder has become necessary in view of the current dilapidated condition of many Orientation camps and the inadequate facilities in others across the country. Therefore, I wish to renew our appeal to the State Governments to rise to the occasion by providing permanent camps and upgrading facilities as necessary.

6. At this juncture, I wish to express our profound gratitude to the Federal and State Governments for the provision of funds and other necessary facilities for the smooth operations of the Scheme.

These have largely accounted for the numerous achievements it recorded over the years.

7. Once again, I sincerely appreciate His Excellency, the Governor of Lagos State, other key government functionaries, our Royal fathers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen for honouring our invitation.

8. Thank you and God bless.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM
DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE 2019 BATCH 'B'
PRE-ORIENTATION COURSE WORKSHOP HELD
AT EVENT CENTRE CBD ALAUSA IKEJA
LAGOS STATE ON 10TH JUNE, 2019



Protocols

I am delighted to welcome all participants to the business session of the 2019 Batch 'B' Pre-Orientation Workshop. Although, the 2019 Batch 'A' Orientation course took place before my assumption of duty, I received report on your impressive performance during the exercise. I therefore, commend you for a job well done and encourage you not to rest on your oars as we approach the 2019 Batch 'B' edition.

2. Ladies and gentlemen, as you are all aware, this workshop is primarily convened for NYSC and our collaborating partners to rub minds and map out strategies for successful conduct of the forthcoming exercise. In this regard, you are expected to fully implement all decisions taken at this workshop in order to achieve efficiency in the conduct of the exercise nationwide.
3. The theme of the workshop, ``**Reinvigorating the NYSC Orientation Course for a Successful Service Year**,`` was chosen to emphasize our expectation of providing conducive operating environment in all states. This, we hope will redirect greater attention to the welfare and security of Corps members during and after the Orientation course.

4. You will recall that on assumption of office, I unveiled my agenda for the Scheme as follows:

- **Sustain Effective Utilization of the Potentials of Corps Members for Optimal Benefit;**
- **Pursue a Technologically Driven Organization to Deepen Effective Service Delivery;**
- **Improve on the Welfare and Security of Corps Members and Staff;**
- **Strengthen Existing Collaboration with Stakeholders; and**
- **Reinvigorate the NYSC Ventures and Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (SAED) in line with the NYSC Act for Greater Impact.**

Therefore, I expect Managers of the Scheme at all levels to strive to make sure that the 2019 Batch 'B' Orientation course reflects this focus.

5. In spite of the Scheme's modest efforts in recent times, much more needs to be done to operate optimally, especially in the face of rising Corps population and current economic realities. Accordingly, the review of the report on the 2019 Batch 'A' Orientation Course highlights the following issues requiring attention:

i. Dilapidated Condition of Orientation Camps

We shall continue discussions on the dilapidated condition of facilities in our Orientation Camps until we meet the target of standard Orientation camps with at least 5,000 capacity in each State and the FCT. To this end, Coordinators of states with

temporary camps and those with dilapidated facilities are to step up persuasion of their host State Governments to provide permanent camps or renovate/upgrade them as applicable. The outcomes of your effort in this regard will be one of the yardsticks for measuring your performance. While Management will continue its engagement with the concerned State Governments on this matter, we shall continue to make interventions where necessary. It is also expected that this workshop will come up with ideas on sustainable ways of attracting the support of non-governmental organizations in the provision of Orientation camp infrastructure and for other programmes of the Scheme.

ii. Security

Given the security challenges in parts of the country, it behoves us to take proactive measures to ensure that all our camps and Corps members are safe. Accordingly, the security arrangements in the Camps should not only be sustained but improved upon. Before the commencement of every Orientation course, State Coordinators should liaise with the appropriate security agencies to assess the security situation in our camp locations. This will enable us address any identified challenge before the take-off of the exercise.

iv. SAED Training

It is almost seven years now since the take-off of the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development training in the Orientation camps. While the Scheme has recorded tremendous success in the programme, we need to consolidate on the gains made. The in-camp and post-camp trainings should be appraised with a view to strengthening them. We also need feedback from Corps members on the relevance of the skill and the quality of training which will form the basis of our plan for the next level of the programme.

v. **Camp Clinics**

The collaboration of the Scheme with the Federal Ministry of Health has no doubt improved health care delivery in the camps. I urge State Coordinators to ensure that medical personnel from the Federal Ministry of Health man the camp clinic 24 hours as directed by Mr President. You are also to provide them with accommodation so as to encourage them to be resident on camp throughout the exercise. I wish to warn that in line with our existing policy, State Coordinators will be held accountable for the death of any Corps member on account of negligence.

vi. **Team Work**

In order to make the Orientation course very effective, team work is necessary. I therefore, implore you to emphasize the Scheme's success above individual victories. As leaders, you are to build inner team communication and encourage innovation thereby building stronger teams that will achieve better results in camp administration.

vii. **Vandalization of Camp Facilities**

Management has also noted with great concern, the high rate of vandalism and fire outbreaks resulting in the destruction of facilities at the Orientation camps. In most cases, while the fire is attributed to electrical faults, vandalization of facilities is blamed on some personnel of the security companies assigned to protect the camps. Accordingly, State Coordinators are to ensure that at the close of Orientation course, all electrical wiring and fittings are disconnected from the power sources. Furthermore, activities of the personnel of security companies assigned to secure the camps should be closely monitored. In addition, you are to ensure that only NYSC personnel with higher integrity are appointed Camp Managers.

6. Ladies and gentlemen, In order to achieve a smooth execution of the forthcoming Orientation course, all State/FCT Coordinators are to ensure strict compliance with the following:
- a) Camps must be prepared and ready for the exercise 5 days before the commencement date;
 - b) Camp environment must be clean and free of bushes/ grown grasses and cobwebs in hostels and toilets;
 - c) Pre-Orientation meeting with collaborating agencies must take place before the Orientation course;
 - d) All camp officials must work harmoniously as a team;
 - e) Good reception for Prospective Corps members must be organized by Camp officials;
 - f) The approved number of casual hands for the servicing of toilets must be on standby at the rest rooms at all times;
 - g) All hostels must have well fitted fans;
 - h) Briefing of Corps members by State Coordinators should hold before the swearing-in ceremony while debriefing should be conducted before the closing ceremony;
 - I) Quality and quantity of meals served Corps members must be of acceptable standards and the food menu must also be complied with.

I enjoin you to execute all the above directives diligently and without compromise.

7. As we discuss strategies for the smooth conduct of the forthcoming 2019 Batch 'B' Orientation course, I wish us fruitful and rewarding deliberations.

8. Thank you and God bless.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE
JAMB POLICY MEETING WITH VICE-CHANCELLORS,
RECTORS AND REGISTRARS OF CORPS
PRODUCING INSTITUTIONS HELD AT
GBONGAN, OSUN STATE ON 11TH JUNE, 2019



Protocols

I am pleased to address this august gathering of the top Management of Corps Producing Institutions in Nigeria. Let me begin by appreciating the Registrar and Chief Executive of Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Professor Is-haq Oloyede, for giving me the unique opportunity of addressing this respected assembly. It is particularly heartwarming to be with you as a member of this family, having served as the pioneer Registrar of the Nigerian Army University, Biu before my recent appointment as the NYSC Director-General.

2. Permit me to also thank JAMB for the success of our collaboration since the NYSC commenced full computerization of the mobilization process with the launch of our Online Integrated System in 2014. The collective efforts of the Registrar, Management and staff of JAMB towards eliminating malpractices during the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UMTE) as well as streamlining of admission policies for tertiary institutions also deserve commendation.

3. In the same vein, I wish to express appreciation of the support of Managements of Corps Producing Institutions (CPIs) over the years, especially through the regular attendance of your

Students' Affairs and Data Entry Officers at NYSC Pre-Mobilization Workshops. The experiences we have shared over the years have no doubt gone a long way in ensuring seamless mobilization of eligible graduates. We will, therefore, continue to count on the support of Corps Producing Institutions as critical stakeholders in the mobilization process.

4. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the National Youth Service Corps has over the years made sustained improvements in the mobilization process through adoption of global best practices. We have constantly appraised the Online Integrated System and infused a high level of transparency into it with a view to achieving foolproof mobilization. However, despite our continued deployment of ICT solutions, we are still battling with challenges in the implementation of some far-reaching decisions, which are geared towards enhancing the credibility of the process.

5. I, therefore, wish to use this unique forum to present for discussion, some of the issues and challenges in the mobilization process as follows:

i. **Assignment of Tasks to the Right Personnel**

To enhance integrity and efficiency in data management, the need to assign the task to trustworthy personnel with the right skills in ICT cannot be overemphasized. This is to ensure that the digital information captured is not corrupted, and is accessed or modified only by authorized personnel. It is in this regard that we have encouraged CPIs to appoint members of staff who are skilled in ICT as Data Entry Officers (DEOs) and to ensure that only such officers participate in the NYSC Pre-Mobilization workshops/trainings. In the same vein, Students' Affairs Officers (SAOs) should be of proven integrity.

ii. Frequent Change of Schedule Officers

We have observed the frequent change of Schedule Officers, which tends to have negative effects on the mobilization process. In many cases, the newly assigned officers complain of not receiving handover notes or proper briefing on NYSC matters from their predecessors. Although the change of Schedule Officers may be necessary in given circumstances, we plead with you to, as much as possible, allow officers who have been trained and have acquired experience to remain on the NYSC Schedule for a reasonable period before moving to other schedules. Where the change becomes inevitable, the affected officers should be mandated to properly hand over to their successors for continuity.

iii. Poor Data Capturing and Imputation by Corps Producing Institutions

The success of the mobilization process begins with the quality of data uploaded by Corps Producing Institutions (CPIs). It is worrisome that after series of workshops organized to check poor data imputation by Data Entry Officers (DEOs) and Students' Affairs Officers (SAOs), we still find unpardonable errors and even irregularities in the upload of data by CPIs. Mistakes such as omission of names, wrong Matric and JAMB numbers as well as wrong date of birth, year of graduation and course of study among others are indicative of lack of thoroughness in the compilation of data. One of the reasons for these lapses is the decision of some institutions to also saddle the same person with dual schedules of Data Entry Officer and Students' Affairs Officer. The two schedules are distinct, and should be handled by separate officers to ensure check

and balance. I wish to also appeal to you to ensure that knowledge gained from the training of DEOs and SAOs is effectively utilized in order to justify the huge investment made in such trainings.

iv. Upload of Unqualified and Non-Eligible Graduates By Corps Producing Institutions

We have observed some cases of suspected connivance whereby some approved institutions help unapproved ones to mobilize unqualified graduates. Despite series of resolutions reached on this and other related issues, some Corps Producing Institutions persistently upload names of unqualified and non-eligible graduates for mobilization. Some of the specific infractions include:

- a. Upload of names of persons who might not have gone to school at all;
- b. Mobilization of graduates of unapproved institutions;
- c. Upload of part-time graduates as full-time and vice versa;
- d. Listing of graduates of unaccredited courses under accredited courses; and
- e. Manipulation of data of some graduates to allow for double registration on the NYSC portal.

The Scheme will continue to sanction erring institutions by blocking the mobilization of their graduates for at least two consecutive batches. Furthermore, with effect from 2019 Batch 'C' mobilization, Registrars and Students' Affairs Officers of CPIs will be required to fill indemnity form accepting liability for the data and documents they upload on the NYSC portal.

v. **Ineffective Use of the Registrar's Module**

As part of measures to ensure the consistency, accuracy and integrity of data uploaded on the NYSC portal, we introduced the *Registrar's Module* to enable Registrars of CPIs to authenticate the content being uploaded by their officers before submission. However, it has been observed that some Registrars are not making effective usage of the Module, thus making attainment of the anticipated benefit difficult. In some cases, the Registrar's password is compromised thereby exposing the uploaded data to the risk of manipulation.

vi. **Admission of Candidates with Poor Foundation Certificates for Higher National Diploma (HND) Programmes**

Our effort to ascertain the credibility of HND Certificates tendered for registration at the Orientation Camps by cross checking with the National Diploma Certificates obtained before admission to HND programmes exposed cases of non-adherence to admission requirements by some institutions. Many Polytechnics admitted candidates with University Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Polytechnic Diplomas and even NCE for HND programmes as against the National Diploma Certificate. Since JAMB does not regulate admissions to Higher National Diploma programmes, NYSC will liaise with the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) to curb this trend.

v. **Disparity in Course Nomenclatures Uploaded for Graduates and the Ones on their Statements of Results/Certificates**

Management has observed the increasing use of unapproved course nomenclatures on statements of result by Corps Producing Institutions. Despite several resolutions on the stoppage of this practice, many prospective Corps members have continued to present for registration at the Orientation camps, Statements of Results/Certificates with course nomenclatures different from what is on their NYSC Call-up Letters. I have signed a letter to the Vice-Chancellors and Rectors giving a deadline for the affected Corps Producing Institutions to correct these anomalies. We are constrained to inform you that beginning with the 2019 Batch 'C' mobilization, we shall no longer register prospective Corps members with course disparity on their Call-up Letters and Statements of Result/Certificates.

vi. **The Issue of JAMB Admission Letter and Score Sheet**

The mobilization of prospective Corps members is often hampered by none printing of admission letter and score sheet from the authentic JAMB portal by prospective Corps members (PCMs). Despite our continued sensitization of Corps Producing Institutions and prospective Corps members, the problem has persisted. The consequence of this is that many of the PCMs are prevented from registering as their data always enter the error list. We, therefore, appeal to Corps Producing Institutions to continue to enlighten the PCMs to ensure printing of the admission letter and score sheet from the authentic JAMB portal.

6. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, in bringing these issues to your attention, I am encouraged by the prospect of having your support towards entrenching greater efficiency in the mobilization process. You will agree with me that this task requires collective stakeholder participation, especially through sharing of knowledge, ideas and experiences. I, therefore, enjoin you to contribute wholeheartedly towards proffering solutions to the identified problems.
7. I thank you for listening and wish you fruitful deliberations.

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
NYSC BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NYSC
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DESK OFFICERS'
WORKSHOP HELD ON FRIDAY 14TH JUNE, 2019
AT ROCKVIEW HOTEL (ROYALE) WUSE II ABUJA**



Protocol

I am delighted to address you this morning at the Freedom of Information Desk Officers' Workshop which has been institutionalized by the Scheme in order to achieve best practices in the discharge of our responsibilities. Let me first and foremost heartily welcome you all to this training which no doubt, will further equip you for better discharge of your duties in the spirit and letters of the FOI Act.

2. You will all recall that since the enactment of the Freedom of Information Act in 2011, NYSC has been at the fore-front of ensuring total compliance with the provisions of the Act. I therefore charge you to continue on this positive stead by ensuring effective record management, effective liaison as well as prompt response to enquiries in your respective Secretariats.
3. Since assumption of duty as Director-General of the NYSC, I have noted your efforts at recruiting, training and mentoring of the Corps FOIA vanguard which is laudable. I therefore urge you to deepen the activities of the vanguard, especially the routine sensitisation of the public on the Freedom of Information Act.
4. This training workshop is aimed at consolidating the

successes recorded by the scheme regarding the FOIA, updating your knowledge of the Act as well as enhancing your competence to perform even better. It is expected that you will step down the training you will receive here to other members of staff in your various Secretariats as well as the corps FOIA vanguard.

5. Let me however seize this opportunity to remind Nigerians that the NYSC has done so much for the unity of the country over the last four decades. Apart from promoting national unity, the selfless services rendered by the young men and women on national service have brought positive transformation in the socio-economic development of the Country over years.

6. However, the scheme has had to grapple with challenges, which are sometimes occasioned by apparent lack of knowledge of our policies and operations by a section of the public. I therefore urge all Nigerians to familiarize themselves with the NYSC Act so as to understand better, the operations of the scheme and its role expectations.

7. On this note, I wish to remind the distinguished participants at this workshop that with the caliber of Resource Persons gathered here, great ideas that will broaden your horizon will be imparted on you. I therefore expect that the business session will be participatory and interactive. On the part of the Management, we shall continue to provide all NYSC staff, the enabling environment for the discharge of your official responsibilities.

8. It is now my pleasure to declare the 2019 Freedom of Information Desk Officers' Workshop open.

9. Thank you and God bless.

REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN ON THE
OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT
TO CORPS MEMBERS BY THE EU ELECTION
OBSERVATION MISSION HELD AT THE NYSC
PERMANENT ORIENTATION CAMP, KUBWA, FCT
ON MONDAY, 17TH JUNE, 2019



Protocol

It is my pleasure to address this distinguished gathering on the occasion of the handover of Information Technology equipment to selected Corps members by the EU Election Observation Mission.

2. We all recall with delight, the superlative contributions of Corps members during the conduct of the 2015 General Elections, which was globally adjudged as one of the best in the history of Nigeria. The 2019 General Elections were by no means different from those of 2015 due mainly to the roles played by these great patriots. It is, therefore, not surprising that the European Union is appreciative of the enormous contributions of the Corps members to the electoral process in Nigeria.

3. Interestingly, Corps members with their intellectual capacity, resilience and malleability, have become veritable agents of promotion of national unity, cohesion and economic transformation. This is in line with the ideals of the founding fathers of the Scheme whose foresight and wisdom have continued to receive accolades. With over three hundred thousand youths

mobilized annually, NYSC, through various programmes, has been creating opportunities for Corps participants to discover and harness their potentials for personal and national development.

4. In discharging its mandate, the Scheme has overtime channeled the intellect and energies of this vibrant segment of our population to the attainment of developmental goals. It is in this regard that Management has strengthened and expanded the Scheme's collaboration with relevant agencies, particularly in the areas of civic duties. Our partnerships on entrepreneurial development are also being strengthened with a view to providing entrepreneurial skills and start-up capital to enable Corps members establish businesses for self-employment after the service year.

5. In furtherance of these efforts, we have established Mega Skill Acquisition Centres in Ekiti and Gombe States for the South West and North East geo-political zones of the country respectively through public-private-partnership. We are committed to ensuring that similar facility is provided for each of the remaining zones in the first phase of the programme. To this end, we look forward to robust collaborations and support of governmental and non-governmental organizations, including global bodies like the European Union (EU). This will go a long way in contributing to the socio-economic development of Nigeria.

6. At this juncture, Your Excellency, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to the European Union (EU) Election Observation Mission for this kind gesture to our Corps members and look forward to establishing further areas of cooperation in the future.

7. There is no gainsaying the fact that the INEC/NYSC collaboration on election duties has contributed to the enhancement of visibility of the Scheme. Let me, therefore, seize this opportunity

to thank the Independent National Electoral Commission for its commitment to the strengthening of this partnership and, especially, for reposing so much confidence in our Corps members.

8. To the Corps members, I commend you for your worthy contributions to National development, and assure you that your labour shall not be in vain.

9. Thank you and God bless you all.

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SENSITIZATION
WORKSHOP ON THE NYSC ACT HELD AT
ROCKVIEW HOTEL (ROYALE) WUSE II, ABUJA
ON 24TH JULY, 2019.**



Protocol

It is my pleasure to address this august gathering on this occasion of the sensitization workshop on the NYSC Act. Let me begin by welcoming in a very special way, the former Head of State and founding father of the National Youth Service Corps, His Excellency, General (Dr.) Yakubu Gowon GCFR. Your Excellency, sir, we thank you most sincerely for making time out of your busy schedule to grace this occasion. I also welcome our Special Guest of Honour, the Guest Speaker and other distinguished guests who came from far and near to witness this programme.

2. Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, this sensitization workshop is organized in furtherance of our commitment to the success of the NYSC mandate. We, as managers of the Scheme, recognize the importance of every stakeholder in our quest to enhance the achievements of the Scheme in line with the vision of its founding fathers. Given the current realities and the continuing relevance of the NYSC, we have recognized the need to provide avenue for enlightenment of Nigerians on the enabling Act and the various aspects of our operations. This is based on our firm belief that the roles of stakeholders are better played if the provisions of the enabling law are clearly understood.

3. The NYSC Act has spelt out in clear terms the roles of stakeholders in such areas as the provision of essential facilities as well as the security and general welfare of Corps members. In the same vein, Nigerian graduates of Universities and other tertiary institutions, both local and foreign-trained, are required to familiarize themselves with the relevant provisions of the Act so as to avoid infractions that may haunt them either on the spur of the moment or in future.

4. Since my assumption of duty as Director-General, I have noted the efforts of the Legal Unit of the Scheme at creating awareness among serving and prospective Corps Members. While I commend your commitment in this regard, I am confident that the sensitization we are launching today will not only deepen the understanding of the Act, but will also expand the scope of our target audience. Accordingly, I charge the Unit to take further action of stepping down this sensitization to the grassroots.

5. Let me seize this opportunity to remind Nigerians that the NYSC has made so much impact on the country over the past forty-six years, especially in the areas of unity and socio-economic development. Our contributions to education, healthcare delivery, agriculture, science and technology, and rural infrastructure have continued to attract accolades from different quarters. In spite of these feats, however, the Scheme still grapples with some challenges. Some of them are in the areas of stakeholders' obligations and cases of non-compliance with regulations on Mobilization and Exemption from service. May I, therefore, seize this opportunity to specifically remind States and Local Governments of their obligations to the Scheme, especially with regards to the provision and maintenance of Orientation Camps, Corps Members Lodges, other essential welfare facilities as well as Office accommodation for the Scheme. While we commend States that have shown commitment in this regard, the Scheme is passionately appealing to

others to make the necessary facilities available for the comfort of Corps Members deployed to the States.

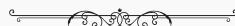
6. I consider it appropriate to also remind professional bodies who have been inundating us with requests for posting of Corps members to specific areas of endeavours for Primary Assignment that such requests are not in tandem with the provisions of the NYSC Act from which our posting policy is derived. For the avoidance of doubt, Corps members are assigned to serve in areas where their services are required in line with national needs, with priority given to rural transformation. On this premise, I call on Nigerians, including undergraduates and their parents and guardians, to familiarize themselves with the NYSC Act, for better understanding of the policies and operations of the Scheme.

7. Given the caliber of personalities gathered here today, I am confident that more ideas will be generated for sustained education of the citizenry on the Act. In particular, I enjoin all participants in this forum to help spread the message of compliance with its provisions. On our part, we shall continue to sustain the confidence of Nigerians in the Scheme by rededicating ourselves to the discharge of its mandate.

8. Once again, I appreciate His Excellency, other distinguished guests and participants for honouring our invitation.

9. Thank you and God bless.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN ON THE
OCCASION OF THE PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOP
FOR NYSC STAFF HELD AT NEW KEFFI HOTEL,
KEFFI, NASARAWA STATE ON TUESDAY,
30TH JULY, 2019



Protocol

It is my pleasure to address you on the occasion of this workshop organized preparatory to the exit of yet another group of veterans, who have contributed their quota to the progress of the NYSC and, by extension, our dear country. Events of this nature avail us the opportunity of reflecting on the grace of the Almighty God, who has seen you through a successful career in the civil service.

2. My dear participants, while we celebrate your invaluable contributions to the NYSC, the Scheme, in reciprocation, is determined to ensure that you enjoy a life consistent with or even better than what you had in service. This informed the choice of the theme of this workshop, "**Working towards a Productive and Comfortable Retirement.**" The objective is to equip you with the necessary information and skills for survival in retirement.

3. I am aware of the difficulties your predecessors encountered in accessing their retirement benefits, in the same manner experienced by next of kin of deceased staff expecting death benefits. It is worrisome to note that some officers who retired over two years ago are yet to be paid their benefits till date. This is a dangerous trend that must not be allowed to persist. This workshop

has, therefore, been carefully packaged to help assuage any premonitions you entertain about retirement while also providing you with the necessary information, including business and investment ideas, for seamless transition into the next phase of life.

4. To achieve the desired outcomes, we have invited resource persons with vast field experiences to handle various topics during this training. They include academics, private sector operators, Pension Fund Administrators, Insurance Companies and the National Pension Commission (PENCOM). This is to ensure that issues are addressed using multi-sector approaches. I enjoin you all to participate actively so as to gain the necessary ideas for a successful life in retirement.

5. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I wish to use the forum to reaffirm my commitment to the welfare of staff as enunciated in my policy thrust. We expected all members of staff to in turn rededicate themselves to their duties so that collectively, we can actualize our goal of taking the Scheme to greater heights. Let me also assure you that while we strive to better the condition of serving members of staff, we will not forget the sacrifice and commitment of those who have retired from service.

6. At this juncture, I wish to commend the Human Resource Management Department for painstakingly planning this programme for the benefit of our personnel, who are on the verge of exiting service. To our resource persons, I thank you for accepting our invitation, and urge you to bring your competencies to bear as you address issues encapsulated in the theme of the workshop.

7. Finally, while wishing you a rewarding engagement, it is now my pleasure to declare this workshop open.

8. Thank you for listening and God bless.

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE
MEDIA PARLEY WITH EDITORS, BUREAU CHIEFS
AND YOUTH CORRESPONDENTS HELD ON
THURSDAY, 15TH AUGUST, 2019 AT BARCELONA
HOTEL, ABUJA**

INTRODUCTION

1. I am delighted to welcome you all to this interaction with our esteemed friends and partners from the Fourth Estate of the Realm, my first since I assumed office as the 18th Director General of NYSC on 10th May, 2019. I wish to express our sincere gratitude for the tremendous support we are receiving from the media as exemplified by the extensive coverage and publicity accorded our programmes and activities. Your in-depth analysis, commentaries and constructive criticisms on various issues affecting the Scheme have given us further assurance that you are indeed worthy partners in our progress having enabled us to enhance our efficiency and effectiveness.

2. In recent times, key stakeholders in the Scheme and other members of the public have increasingly expressed support for our programmes and activities nationwide. We attribute this positive development to increased media visibility. We shall continue to strengthen our partnership with you as our dependable allies. Today's event affords us a veritable opportunity to share ideas and relevant information on the activities and programmes, which are

germane to the growth of the Scheme as an important national asset. I, therefore, thank you most sincerely for honouring our invitation.

3. **BRIEF HISTORY OF NYSC:**

Before delving into the nitty-gritty of today's meeting, permit me to quickly refresh your memories with a brief history of the Scheme. The National Youth Service Corps was established Forty-Six (46) years ago by Decree No 24 of 22nd May, 1973, later repealed and replaced by Decree No. 51 of June 1993, which is now known as National Youth Service Corps Act, Cap N84, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004. The establishment of the Scheme was in response to the challenges arising from the Nigerian civil war, which ended in 1970. The then Federal Government under the leadership of General Yakubu Gowon sought, among other measures, to harness the potentials of educated Nigerian youths for the implementation of its post war policy of Reconciliation, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. The NYSC is, therefore, a platform that galvanises Nigerian graduate youths of thirty years of age and below for national unity and development through its Four Cardinal Programmes for a continuous period of twelve months in line with its objectives.

4. **THE OBJECTIVES OF NYSC ARE:**

- a) To inculcate discipline in Nigerian Youths by instilling in them a tradition of industry at work, and of patriotic and loyal service to Nigeria in any situation they may find themselves;
- b) To raise the moral tone of Nigerian Youths by giving them

- the opportunity to learn about higher ideals of national achievement, social and cultural improvement;
- c) To develop in the Nigerian youths the attitude of mind, acquired through shared experience and suitable training, which will make them more amenable to mobilization in the national interest;
 - d) To enable Nigerian Youths acquire the spirit of self-reliance by encouraging them to develop skills for self-employment;
 - e) To contribute to the accelerated growth of the national economy;
 - f) To develop common ties among Nigerian Youths and promote national unity and integration;
 - g) To remove prejudices, eliminate ignorance and confirm at first hand the many similarities among Nigerians of all ethnic groups and;
 - h) To develop a sense of corporate existence and common destiny of the people of Nigeria.

To achieve the aforementioned objectives the Scheme is mandated to ensure:

- i. Equitable distribution of members of the service corps and effective utilization of their skills in areas of national needs;
- ii. That as far as possible, youths are assigned to jobs in States other than their States of origin;
- iii. That such groups of youths assigned to work together are representative of Nigeria as far as possible;
- iv. That the Nigerian youths are exposed to the modes of living of the people in different parts of Nigeria;
- v. That the Nigerian youths are encouraged to eschew religious intolerance by accommodating religious differences;
- vi. That the members of the service corps are encouraged to

- seek at the end of their one year national service career employment all over Nigeria, thus promoting free movement of labour;
- vii. That employers are induced partly through their experience with members of the service corps to employ more readily and on a permanent basis qualified Nigerians irrespective of the States of origin.

As earlier stated, the Scheme has Four Cardinal Programmes which mainstream the activities of corps members. **They include Orientation, Primary Assignment, Community Development Service and Winding-up/Passing-out activities.** Every corps member must successfully pass through the cardinal programmes to qualify for the Certificate of National Service.

5. **OVERVIEW OF THE JOURNEY SO FAR**

Since the establishment of the NYSC, successive managers of the Scheme have been committed to meeting public expectations in the pursuit of its mandate with the support of government and other stakeholders. In line with the vision of its founding fathers, deliberate steps have been taken with the aim of repositioning it for greater performance. The result indeed has been heart warming as the Scheme, over the past four and a half decades, has made invaluable contributions to the socio-economic development of the country to the admiration of all stakeholders. The following, amongst other achievements, have made the Scheme a household name:

6. GENERAL ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE INCEPTION:

- Fostering of national unity and integration through the policy of deploying Corps Members to states other than their state of origin and away from their geo-political zones has helped in giving participants in the Scheme broader understanding of the country, especially as they experience firsthand the socio-cultural peculiarities of their host communities. Over the years, inter-tribal marriages have continued to enhance understanding among youths who meet in the course of national service. Many ex-corps members have also become permanent residents and contributors to the socio-economic development of their states of deployment.

Since inception, **four million six hundred and forty-four thousand eight hundred and four (4,644,804)** Nigerians have participated in the Scheme.

- Educational development of the country has also been positively imparted through the posting of Corps Members to teach in schools at all levels. In addition the level of literacy has been improved among the populace through the activities of the Corps Mass Literacy Group, which has the mandate of reducing illiteracy especially at Adult and Non-formal level to the barest minimum in Nigeria.
- The Scheme has contributed to strengthening healthcare delivery as Corps Doctors and paramedics have continued to serve in public hospitals all over the country, especially at Primary Healthcare Centres and hard-to-reach rural locations. Furthermore, Corps Doctors have been using the platform of the Community Development Service to carry out medical outreaches in various communities.

- Value has also been added to numerous communities across the country through projects and programmes executed by Corps members under its Community Development Service. These projects include structures in schools, provisions of health facilities, water supply, culverts and many other projects that dot the entire landscape of the country.
- Corps members have also been participating in the implementation of various national programmes such as the national population census, immunization, guinea worm eradication campaign and conduct of national elections.
- Partnership with other bodies to tackle the menace of the HIV/AIDS pandemic through sensitization of the public on prevention and care.
- Active participation in the awareness creation programmes for the erstwhile Millennium Development Goals (MDGs; now re-christened Sustainable Development Goals), which attracted an Award for the Scheme from the United Nations and accolades from several Agencies. The Scheme also participated actively in the conduct of the World Survey whose outcomes inspired the ideas of the new SDGs.
- Corps members have continued to make penetrating impact on the society through activities such as Legal Aid Services, Anti-corruption Sensitization, Road Safety Awareness, and Campaign Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking amongst others.

7. RECENT INNOVATIONS IN THE SCHEME

In response to prevailing socio-economic realities, the Scheme in recent years, made the following giant strides to further consolidate its achievements:

a. **Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED)**

The Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) Department was established in 2012 with the mandate to drive the Scheme's collaboration with various stakeholders towards addressing the problem of graduate youth unemployment. The SAED programme is designed to equip Corps Members with vocational skills while also developing their business and entrepreneurial capacities. Presently, Corps Members are being trained in skill areas such as Agro-Allied, Food Preservation and Processing, Culture and Tourism, Cosmetology, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Environment, Beautification, Construction, Education, Power and Energy, Film and Photography and Automobile Technology. The Scheme is collaborating with national and international organisations towards providing material, technical and financial support for the programme. So far, over **1,132,409** Corps members have been sensitized and over **700,000** have undergone various forms of skills training.

The **BOI-NYSC** Graduate Empowerment Fund, which is a product of our partnership with the Bank of Industry (BOI), is yielding encouraging results with the sum of over **N540 million** so far disbursed as loans to 325 Corps entrepreneurs. In the same vein, the Central Bank of Nigeria in partnership with Heritage Bank has disbursed **N15, 000,000** to seven Corps Members under the **NYSC/CBN** Youth Entrepreneurship Development Programme (**YEDP**).

A number of Skill Centres have also been established across

the country for the post-camp training of Corps Members. Through our public-private-partnership drive, Access Bank has undertaken and completed the building and furnishing of a 1000-capacity mega skills training Centre for the North East zone of Nigeria located in Gombe, the Gombe State capital. In the same vein, the American multi-national, **General Electric** in conjunction with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) under the Cognity Advisory Partnership has trained 40 NYSC Staff who are now ILO certified Business Entrepreneurship Trainers. They are presently training and supporting Corps Members for effective implementation of the SAED programme.

In addition to this, a significant number of NYSC Staff have also benefitted from international capacity building training in China, America and Europe which has tremendously boosted the training and mentoring of Corps entrepreneurs. We have also successfully staged a Skills and Entrepreneurship Development Festival during which Corps Members from all States of the federation and the FCT converged on Abuja to showcase their entrepreneurial skills through competitions and products exhibition.

b.

The NYSC Ventures Initiative

The NYSC Ventures were established primarily to serve as training grounds in skills acquisition and entrepreneurship for Corps Members, in addition to meeting some of the basic needs of the Scheme such as provision of kits for the Corps Members. They include the Garment Factories located in Niger and Anambra States, Rice Mill in Ebonyi, Feed Mill in Lagos, Garri processing factory in Kwara State, and Water Bottling Plant and Bakery in Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

In line with the Federal Government's policy of diversifying the economy through harnessing the country's potentials in the non-oil sectors and our desire to contribute towards ensuring food security, the Scheme is resuscitating its farm settlements across the country. I am happy to inform you that four of our farms located in the FCT, Bauchi, Kebbi and Oyo States have been into full-scale farming activities for the past two years. The farms have been provided with modern implements and Corps Lodges as they are also serving as training grounds for Corps Members under the agricultural component of the NYSC Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme.

c. **Deployment of ICT Solutions to Enhance Operations**

The ICT Department which was established in 2012 has been anchoring the deployment of ICT solutions to drive the operations of the Scheme for greater efficiency. One of the feats achieved through the Department is the migration of the Scheme from analogue operations to an Online Integrated System. The full computerization of the mobilization process which started with 2014 Batch 'C' service year, has brought in its wake the following achievements:

- Online upload of Senate/Academic Board Approved Lists by Corps Producing Institutions (CPIs);
- Online Registration by both Local and Foreign trained Prospective Corps Members;
- Online Registration by Part-time graduates;
- Online Printing of Call-up Letters;
- Biometric Verification and Registration during Orientation programmes;

- Online Processing of Relocation of corps members;
- Automated printing of Certificate of National Service, Exemption Certificate and Exclusion Letters embossed with passport photographs;
- Real-time generation of various reports on Corps Data;
- Use of biometrics for the monthly clearance of Corps Members in all States of the federation and the FCT.
Our effort in this regard has enthroned a culture of integrity, enhanced efficiency and ease of doing business between the Scheme and its stakeholders. Happily, this has attracted the endorsement of relevant bodies as the Scheme was conferred with the Best MDA Award in the innovative application of ICT solutions at the 2016 e-Governance Award Ceremony organised by NITDA/Nihilent.

d. **Welfare of Corps Members**

The Scheme accords top priority to the security and general welfare of Corps Members, just as it remains committed to the provision of enabling environment for them to render selfless service to the nation. Over the years we have been able to secure the review of Corps Members' allowance each time there is increment in the remuneration of civil servants. The Management of NYSC has also taken other measures in pursuit of the welfare of the Corps Members, including.

e. **Liaison with Security Agencies**

We are in continuous liaison with various security agencies with a view to ensuring the safety of corps members wherever they are serving in the country. I am using this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Security Agencies and other stakeholders for their support in this regard.

- f. **Transformation of the NYSC Distress Call Centre**
The Distress Call Centre (DCC) was established in February 2012 and domiciled in the National Directorate Headquarters of the Scheme. It is equipped with communication facilities that are manned 24 hours daily to ensure timely and well-coordinated response to calls from Corps Members who find themselves in distressed situation through contact with the nearest security agencies and other relevant stakeholders. In view of the strategic importance of the facility and the desire of the Scheme to meet current challenges, we have transformed it to an information centre with five operational lines. Just last month we got additional toll-free line from 9mobile to further strengthen the operations of the centre. With this development, the Centre in addition to responding to distress calls from Corps Members, staff and members of the public, also provides information on the operations of the Scheme to the Corps Members and other stakeholders.
- g. **Security Tips Pamphlet**
As part of strategies for ensuring safety, the Scheme produces Security Tips booklets, which are issued to all Corps Members. The document contains easily digestible tips, which help to keep them off the harm's way. We are constantly reviewing the publication to take care of prevailing safety needs.
- h. **Health Insurance**
Management is in touch with the National Health Insurance Scheme with a view to working out modalities for the enrolment of Corps Members into the NHIS in line with the Federal Government's directive. In the meantime, the Scheme is still paying Corps Members' medical bills.

8. STAFF WELFARE

Management has made enhancement of staff welfare a part of its guiding principles given that loyalty, hard work and commitment by the workforce are crucial to the success of the Scheme. In this vein, we have and will continue to pursue initiatives geared towards motivating staff of the Scheme. Among other steps, we are ensuring that staff entitlements are paid as and when due while also increasing the tempo of capacity building for improved productivity. Management is equally working hard to tackle the problem of staff stagnation in the Scheme through liaison with relevant government agencies to create more vacancies.

9. NYSC PROGRAMMES AND COLLABORATIONS

Efforts by successive administrations to reposition the Scheme and make it more responsive to prevailing national needs gave birth to various programmes and collaborations.

a. PROGRAMMES

i. The President's NYSC Honours Award

The President's NYSC Honours Award Ceremony is a flagship programme of the Scheme, which was instituted in 1974 to reward hard work among Corps Members. Criteria for the selection of awardees are predicated on outstanding performance in the four cardinal programme of the Scheme namely; Orientation Course, Primary Assignment, Community Development Service and Winding-Up/Passing-Out activities. Potential awardees are also assessed on personal qualities such as character, sense of duty, drive and determination, reliability, initiative and resourcefulness, command and leadership, team work, special contributions, self-confidence and emotional poise. The process of selecting winners is rigorous and is usually

entrusted to a National Selection Committee of eminent Nigerians representing various agencies of government and interest groups. A total of **1,264** ex-Corps Members have so far been conferred with the award since its inception. The last edition, during which 168 awardees of the 2015, 2016 and 2017 service years were honoured, took place in April this year.

ii. NYSC Sports and Cultural Festivals

The NYSC Sports and Cultural Festivals are Annual Events staged to showcase the talents of Corps Members as potential agents for the advancement of national unity, sports development and the promotion of our cultural heritage. Events in the sports segment are football (males), volley ball (females), **4 x 100** metres relay (male and female categories) and **100** metres dash (male and female categories). The cultural segment features drama, cultural dance and stand-up comedy competitions. Preparation for this year's fiesta is on-going.

iii. Annual Management Conference

The Annual Management Conference is a forum, which brings together key officials of Scheme for the review of its programmes, successes and challenges. Participants, including members of the Top Management, State Coordinators, Deputy and Assistant Directors, engage in thorough policy analysis and evolve strategies for enhanced performance in the discharge of the NYSC mandate. Preparations are on for the hosting of this year's edition of the conference.

iv. Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers

The Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD) was

launched in 2014 and gives the Scheme a veritable platform to contribute its quota in addressing the health challenges of rural dwellers who experience difficulty accessing regular health centres across the country. Under the programme, an annual nationwide medical outreach is carried out, and usually lasts one week. From the inception of the programme to date, over 500,000 rural dwellers have been treated by the NYSC medical teams. Apart from the centrally coordinated outreaches conducted simultaneously nationwide, each NYSC State Secretariat also mobilizes Corps Medical Teams to conduct health missions to various communities on quarterly basis. Part of this intervention is the donation, by the NYSC in conjunction with Grace Projects International, of over 300 wheelchairs to the less privileged/physically challenged members of the public across the country.

b. **COLLABORATIONS**

i. **NYSC/INEC Collaboration**

Our collaboration with the Independent National Electoral Commission began in 2008 with the engagement of Corps Members in the conduct of re-run elections in several States across the country. The success of that experiment led to the permanent arrangement of assigning Corps Members to administer all INEC-organized elections. The Scheme takes great pride in the sense of patriotism, commitment and neutrality exhibited by the Corps Members in the course of discharging the election duties, especially during the 2011, 2015 and 2019 general elections, as well as the Anambra, Ekiti and Osun Governorship elections. Indeed, the partnership between the electoral umpire and the NYSC has become a huge success, as the participation of Corps Members as ad hoc election officials has contributed

immensely to the enhancement of the credibility of the elections. Only recently, the European Union, through its Election Observation Mission, poured accolades on NYSC at a ceremony organized by the body to honour and distribute Information Technology equipment to seventy-five Corps members selected from across the country for their outstanding performance during the 2019 General Elections.

ii. **Partnership with Mercy Corps**

The NYSC is in partnership with Mercy Corps, an international humanitarian organisation, on a programme tagged: “Engaging Nigerian Girls in New Enterprise (ENGINE)”. The programme provides after-school tutorials and Skills empowerment for girls in secondary schools. Following its successful piloting in Kaduna, Kano and FCT, the programme has since been extended to Lagos, Plateau, Nasarawa, Benue, Kebbi, Sokoto, Adamawa, Borno, and Gombe States.

iii. **NYSC/SDGs Project**

The NYSC/SDGs Project is aimed at creating public awareness on policies and programmes of Government in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with trained Corps Volunteers playing active roles as Development Knowledge Facilitators. The ultimate goal is to ensure that Nigerians become informed participants in the process of attaining sustainable National development in line with the global agenda for development.

**iv. NYSC/Voluntary Services Overseas Collaboration
On the Nigerian Graduate Volunteer Programme
(NGVP)**

The Scheme has been collaborating with the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) on the Nigerian Graduate Volunteer programme (NGVP) since 2009. Initially designed to provide manpower for teaching of English and Mathematics in the rural schools in Nasarawa, Kwara and Kano States, the programme has since been expanded in scope as volunteers now also serve as Community Agricultural Extension Volunteers (CAEV), providing technical support to farmers in rural areas.

v. NYSC/COGNITY ADVISORY Partnership

In furtherance of our commitment to the effective implementation of the NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme, the Scheme is partnering with Cognity Advisory, which is coordinating a group of telecom, banking and other multi-national giants to enhance entrepreneurship training, mentorship and funding options for aspiring Corps entrepreneurs. They include Sterling Bank, Fidelity Bank, First Bank, Samsung, Globacom, Airtel, Kwese/Lflixi Nigeria. They are also to undertake capacity building, career guidance, job search, basic entrepreneurship and employability training, geared towards reducing youth unemployment.

vi. Other Collaborations

In addition to the aforementioned, the Scheme also collaborates with several other organisations and agencies to execute specific programmes geared towards the development of the country and to empower Corps

Members. These collaborating agencies include:

- National Directorate of Employment (NDE)
- Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)
- Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM)
- Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC)
- Legal Aid Council
- Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)
- Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)
- National Programme on Immunization (NPI)
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
- National Agency for Foods and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
- National Population Commission (NPC)
- Pan African Institute for Global Affairs and Strategy (PAIGAS)

10. ENROLMENT OF UNQUALIFIED PERSONS FOR MOBILISATION BY CORPS PRODUCING INSTITUTIONS AND SUNDAY ISSUES

The deployment of ICT solutions in the NYSC Mobilisation process and existing collaboration with WAEC and JAMB in this regard have enhanced the integrity of the process and reduced incidences of fake Corps Members. However, these gains are currently being threatened by the presentation of unqualified persons for mobilization by some Corps Producing Institutions for mobilisation into the Scheme. We have already informed all the Corps Producing Institutions (CPIs) of our intention to blacklist any of them that engages in this act. I was also opportunely to address Vice-Chancellors, Provosts and Registrars of the Corps Producing Institutions (CPIs) at a meeting convened by the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) at Gbongan, Osun State during which

I made further appeal for their support towards safeguarding the integrity of the mobilization process.

11. PRESENTATION OF FAKE MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

In the course of verifying documents presented by Corps Members for registration at the Orientation Camps, we have discovered that many of them present fake medical/fitness certificates. We wish to state clearly, that requesting for a Certificate of fitness at the point of registration at the Orientation Camp is not meant to deny anybody with medical condition registration, but to enable us identify and give the needed attention to those who have health challenges. We are, therefore, appealing to parents and guardians to guide and advise their wards against this unwholesome practice, which in the past led to unfair vilification of NYSC for alleged negligence in the handling of Corps Members with poor medical conditions.

12. POLICY DIRECTION OF MY ADMINISTRATION

It is my desire to build on the achievements of my predecessors as NYSC administration is a continuum. For those of you who were present on the day I assumed duty, you may recall that I used the occasion to unveil the policy thrust of my administration, which is focused on the following priorities:

- ✓ **Sustain effective utilisation of the potentials of Corps Members for optimal benefit.**
- ✓ **Pursue a technologically-driven organisation to deepen effective service delivery.**
- ✓ **Improvement of the welfare and security of Corps Members and staff.**

- ✓ **Strengthening existing collaboration with stakeholders.**
- ✓ **Reinvigorating NYSC Ventures and Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme in line with NYSC Act for greater impact.**

13. LATEST STRIDES/ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we are already striving to accomplish the priorities set in my policy thrust. The following are some of the feats we have achieved so far:

- a) **Advocacy Visits to Stakeholders:** On assumption of office, I commenced advocacy visits to critical stakeholders in furtherance of our commitment to the success of the NYSC mandate. Some of the stakeholders visited include the Chief of Army Staff, the Inspector-General of Police and Heads of other Security Agencies, several State Governors, the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Heads of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC). Also visited were National Universities Commission, the Country Office of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and several others. We shall continue to interface with all relevant stakeholders for the benefit of the Scheme and our dear country.
- b) **Reinvigoration of NYSC Ventures and SAED Programme:** In line with one of the cardinal points of my policy thrust, we have set up committees to work out strategies for the reinvigoration of the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme. We

are working vigorously to ensure that our ventures, especially the Farms and Garment Factories, are more functional and able to produce reasonable quantities of products needed by the Scheme. Also, in line with our commitment to the sustenance of laudable initiatives of previous administrations, we have commenced steps towards the completion of the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Centre for the South West at Iyin Ekiti, Ekiti State. Arrangements are also on for the construction of similar centres for the North West and North Central in Jigawa and Nasarawa States respectively through public-private-partnership. In furtherance of our resolve to empower Corps members for self-employment, we have begun formalizing a partnership agreement with British America Tobacco Foundation to support entrepreneurship training for Corps members.

- c) **Welfare of Corps Members:** Since my assumption of duty, we have made several strides towards enhancing the welfare of Corps members. I have paid advocacy visits to the Inspector-General of Police and Heads of other security agencies in a bid to enhance the safety of Corps members in all service locations in the country. I have also paid personal visits to Corps members who were on admission at different hospitals following their involvement in road traffic accidents. Among the States visited was Taraba State where some Corps members were involved in a road traffic accident on their way to report for Primary Assignment after the 2019 Batch 'B' Stream I Orientation Course. We have commenced moves to procure artificial limbs for one of them, Nurudeen Tahir, who having previously lost an arm, also lost the second one in the accident. I was also in Uromi, Edo State to reassure the family of Value Eromosele Akhigbe, who has been missing,

of the Scheme's commitment to ensuring that he returns unhurt to the family as another Corps member that got missing in Jigawa State was found two weeks ago. May I use this opportunity to appeal to the general public to assist with information that will facilitate the return of Eromosele to his family. The unfortunate loss of Precious Owolabi who was shot in the line of duty recently was a shocking one for the NYSC family. As we share in the grief of his immediate family, I undertook a trip to them in Zaria to express our heart-felt condolences. Also comforting was the gesture of His Excellency, Mr. President who was represented by His Excellency, the Vice President accompanied by the Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai on a condolence visit to the bereaved family. We thank the Federal Government for standing by the family in their moment of grief.

- d) Sensitization of Nigerians on the NYSC Act:** We recently hosted a national sensitization programme on the NYSC Act with the aim of getting Nigerians, including Prospective Corps Members and other stakeholders, to understand better and discharge their obligations to the Scheme while also avoiding infractions. For the avoidance of doubt, participation in the Scheme is mandatory for Nigerian graduates of regular Degree and HND programmes, both foreign and locally trained, who are aged 30 years and below. Also among those targeted by the sensitization are many employers, who are unaware of their statutory responsibilities to Corps Members serving with them. From the feedback received, the programme has made the significant impact regarding awareness of the provisions of the Act by our audience. We shall continue to use available avenues for the sensitization, especially among undergraduate students and other stakeholders.

- e) **Inclusion of NYSC among vetting Agencies for Government Appointees:** The issue of whether or not some public office holders who are graduates that have complied with the provisions of the NYSC Act came to the front burner in recent times. In order to avoid controversies in this regard, we have recommended to the appropriate quarters that the Scheme be contacted for the necessary checks regarding the service status of prospective appointees in both public and private sectors.
- f) **Approval for the Establishment of Area Offices:** I am pleased to inform you that we have secured approval for the expansion of our administrative structure from the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation. The new structure, whose proposal was presented by the previous administration, has brought about the establishment of six Area Offices – one to be located in each geo-political zones as well as additional Divisions and Branches at the National Directorate Headquarters. With this development, the Scheme has now been positioned for better response to emerging challenges, including those occasioned by the continuous rise in Corps population.
- g) **Meeting with the Administrators of Foreign Universities:** We have discovered in recent times that unscrupulous individuals now present fake results sourced mostly from foreign institutions, particularly in West Africa, for mobilisation into the Scheme. Consequently, we convened an interactive meeting with Registrars of foreign institutions to address this and other issues bordering on the integrity of the mobilisation process. Let me reiterate our warning that any person who presents fake certificate in an attempt to get mobilised for service will be handed over to

security agencies for prosecution. Similar fate awaits any unauthorised person caught wearing NYSC uniform, especially to mislead or defraud unsuspecting members of the public.

h) Approval for the Establishment of NYSC Radio:

As announced earlier this year, the Scheme has commenced the process of establishing NYSC Radio. I am pleased to inform you that we have received the green light from the relevant regulatory authorities. Accordingly, we are working towards fulfilling the necessary requirements for actualization of the project.

- I) Orientation Course:** We have successfully conducted the 2019 Batch B Stream I orientation course. The 2019 Batch B Stream II will hold from 20th August to 9th September, 2019. Details will soon be published in the national dailies.

14. RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN THE SUSTENANCE OF NYSC

Gentlemen of the press, permit me to also leverage on this auspicious moment to review the roles of various tiers of Governments in the sustenance of the NYSC. Over the years, stakeholder-attitude to role expectations has become one of the major challenges faced by the Scheme. As we have always pointed out at various fora, the NYSC Act clearly spelt out the responsibilities of each of the three tiers of government in the operations of the Scheme. While the Federal Government shoulders the largest part of the Scheme's needs, the provision of Orientation Camp facilities, NYSC Secretariats, post-camp accommodation and transportation for Corps Members, logistics support for inspection of Corps locations, material support for Community

Development Service and security of Corps Members are the responsibilities of the State and Local Governments.

However, the level of response of many States and Local Governments to these responsibilities leaves much to be desired. The consequence of this attitude is most glaring in the limited capacity and quality of facilities in many Orientation Camps across the country and the inability of the Scheme to accommodate more than seventy-eight thousand (78,000) prospective Corps members in one Orientation course. We have embarked on advocacy visits to State Governments to appeal for the renovation and upgrade of Orientation Camp facilities, but the level of response is still not encouraging in many states. I, therefore, use this medium to renew our appeal to the State and Local Governments, which are not discharging their statutory responsibilities, to reconsider their stance and support the Scheme.

May I at this point express our profound gratitude to Mr. President for the Federal Government's unwavering support to the Scheme. We are greatly pleased by the gesture of the President in warmly hosting Corps members at his residence in Daura, Katsina State during the just concluded Eid-ul-Kabir festival as done during previous Eid festivals. No doubt, His Excellency's gesture serves as a morale booster for all Corps members and managers of the Scheme. In the same vein, we appreciate the National Assembly, the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development and the NYSC National Governing Board for their support. Our gratitude also goes to the State and Local Governments for being alive to their responsibilities, as well as partner-agencies for their abiding faith in the Scheme.

15. CONCLUSION

The contemporary challenges of the Scheme notwithstanding, the prospects of the Scheme are, no doubt, reassuring. Through the SAED initiative, the Scheme hopes to extensively empower Corps participants with a view to substantially contributing to government's effort in tackling unemployment among the youths, in addition to its core mandate of deepening national cohesion. It is worthy of note, that the scope and capacity of the Scheme will continue to expand to accommodate national and international issues of interest to Nigeria as it discharges its traditional role of a leading National Service organization in Africa. As an endorsement of the significance and uncommon contribution of the Scheme to the development of Nigeria as a nation-state, some African countries have in the past requested the Scheme to assist in replicating the NYSC model in their respective countries. This eloquently testifies that the Scheme certainly is on the right track to accomplish its mission statement of being the leading light of youth organisations in Africa.

I wish to use this auspicious moment to pay tribute to the founding fathers of the Scheme who bequeathed this enduring platform for the promotion of national development, unity and integration. I also salute all Nigerians who have served in the Scheme at various times since its establishment, as well as its past and present managers for the show of patriotism, dedication and selflessness that have kept the vision of the founding fathers alive.

Before I end my address, permit me to appeal to you, our media partners, to be circumspect in publishing stories taken from the social media about the Scheme. There is the need to always conduct proper investigation in order to avoid fake news reportage. Recently, there was a story published online with the gory picture of an individual purported to be a tortured Corps Member. We have

already debunked the story as a mischievous concoction for which the author had made a public apology since 2017. Our doors are always wide open for you to make clarifications on any issue to enable you balance your stories.

Finally, I once again thank you for your support over the years. It is our hope that you will not relent as we continue to strengthen our relationship as partners-in-progress for national development and integration.

Thank you and God bless.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE
BRIEFING OF TOURING AND RESIDENT
OFFICERS FOR 2019 BATCH 'B' STREAM II
ORIENTATION COURSE HELD IN THE
CONFERENCE HALL OF NYSC NDHQ, ABUJA
ON FRIDAY, 16TH AUGUST, 2019



Protocol

I am delighted to address you today as part of our preparations for the smooth conduct of the 2019 Batch 'B' Stream II Orientation Course. Let me begin by commending you and other officers of the Scheme nationwide for your commitment and hard work, which led to the success of Stream I Edition of the Course.

2. As we set out to execute the Stream II Orientation Course scheduled to commence on Tuesday, 20th August, 2019, I urge you to remain diligent in the performance of your assigned duties in order to ensure a hitch-free exercise. In particular, I expect Touring and Resident Officers to support other camp officials in the implementation of guidelines issued by Management so as to achieve the desired outcomes.

3. As officers entrusted with the assessment of policy implementation, you are also expected to provide honest feedback so as to assist Management in the planning of future exercises. During the Stream I Edition of the exercise, I personally paid oversight visits to Orientation Camps in eighteen states across the country. On the whole, I observed a generally impressive performance by State Secretariats in the administration of the

Camps. However, there are few shortcomings in some camps, including poor sanitation, especially in toilets/bathrooms; broken doors; and failure to provide ceiling fans in some hostels. Therefore, all hands must be on deck to urgently address these shortcomings so as to enhance the overall success of the Orientation Course.

4. While conducting registration/verification of Prospective Corps Members, you are expected to be vigilant and ensure that no unqualified person is registered in any Orientation Camp. Details of such persons should also be gathered for further actions, including possible prosecution. Let me also reiterate my appeal to all camp officials to imbibe good work ethics, especially in dealing with Corps members. Your conduct throughout the exercise should be geared towards upholding the integrity of the Scheme.

5. At this juncture, I wish to reiterate Management's commitment to the welfare of both staff and Corps members in line with one of the outlined priorities of my policy thrust. I am already studying the report of the committee on staff welfare with a view to implementing recommendations that will put smiles on your faces. It is my hope that you will demonstrate appreciation of this move by rededicating yourselves to your duties regarding the conduct of the Orientation Course and other operations of the Scheme.

6. In conclusion, while praying for the success of the Orientation course, I wish every one of us journey mercies as we travel to various locations for this important assignment.

7. Thank you and God bless

GOODWILL MESSAGE DELIVERED BY THE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM
DSS, PHD MTRCN, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
COMMEMORATION OF THE 2019 INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH DAY HELD AT THE SYMPOSIUM I HALL,
NIGERIA NATIONAL MERIT AWARD HOUSE,
MAITAMA, ABUJA, ON THURSDAY,
22ND AUGUST, 2019



Protocol

I am delighted to be here today for the commemoration of the 2019 International Youth Day.

2. The youth of any nation is its strength. A well-educated and informed youth population is a catalyst for positive change and a prosperous future for the nation. There is no doubt that quality education is vital in shaping the youth and ultimately the future of the nation. Therefore, the theme of this year's International Youth Day celebration which is "**transforming education**" could not have been more appropriate at any other time than now. With the complexities of today's world and the numerous challenges confronting humanity worldwide, it is essential to seek ways to educate and groom our youths to stand on their own and meet our needs in the area of Agriculture, Science, Technology, Economy, Socio-political advancement, Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development to ameliorate growing unemployment, ensure food security and other social needs of the citizens.

3. This informed the decision of the NYSC Management to secure the future of our youths by introducing and vigorously pursuing the Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development

(SAED) programmeas one of the major components of not only the NYSC orientation course, but also the entire service year. Under the SAED programme, Corps members are trained in twelve diverse skill sets. Since inception in 2012, over 1,132,409 Corps members have been sensitized out of which over 700,000 have successfully undergone various forms of skills acquisitionand entrepreneurial training.

4. The NYSC is in collaboration with funding partners such as Bank of Industry (BOI), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), NYSC Foundation etc, to empower budding Corps entrepreneurs with various forms of loans to enable them start their own businesses at the end of the service year. Furthermore as leaders of tomorrow, Corps members are given opportunity through the Community Development Service programme to contribute their quota to national development and build their zeal in the fatherland.

5. In conclusion, for us to have a country of our dreams, that we all can be proud of in the comity of nations, I hereby enjoin the Nigerian Youths to shun corruption, be more patriotic, do away with drug abuse and associated vices and above all be committed to acquiring quality education as provided at all levels of our educational system. The Nigerian Youths must always be a shining example to all youths worldwide not only in learning, but in good character, conduct, talent and skills.

6. Finally, I wish to appreciate the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development and other stakeholders for the painstaking effort in organizing this year's International Youth Day celebration. While once again expressing my gratitude for the honour to address this gathering, I wish us all a successful International Youth Day celebration.

7. Thank you and God bless.

NYSC IN THE SERVICE OF PROMOTING BEST PRACTICES IN BASIC AND SECONDARY EDUCATION: CURRENT REALITIES, PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES: A PAPER PRESENTED BY BRIGADIER GENERAL S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS, AT THE 23RD EXAM ETHICS MARSHALS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD IN ABUJA ON 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2019



Protocol

INTRODUCTION

It is my pleasure to address this august gathering on the occasion of the 23rd Exam Ethics Marshals International Conference. Let me begin by thanking the organizers for according me the privilege of contributing to the discourse on the promotion of best practices in our education system. This conference is a well thought out initiative, which will go a long way in enhancing the quality of education. NYSC is well placed to contribute to this subject given our peculiar mandate of mentoring youths for unity and national development. Corps members as young persons are engaged as Peer Educator Trainers. Although the event is focused on improving the education system, **I hasten to state that mine is not an academic presentation**, but an overview of the intervention of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in the sector over the years. It is my hope that stakeholders gathered here will not only appreciate the role being played by NYSC, but also provide the necessary encouragement and support for even greater contributions to the advancement of our education system.

Definition of terms:

Basic Education

Whole range of educational activities, taking place in various settings that, aim to meet basic learning needs. (UNESCO 1990)

Secondary Education

The second stage traditionally found in formal education, beginning about age 11 to 13 and ending usually at age 15 to 18. (Encyclopedia Britannica).

Exam

An exam is a formal test that you take to show your knowledge or ability in a particular subject, or to obtain a qualification. (Collins Dictionary).

Ethics

Moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conduct of an activity (Lexico.com)

2. THE NYSC MANDATE

The National Youth Service Corps was established by the Federal Military Government headed by General Yakubu Gowon in 1973. The enabling law was Decree No. 24 of 22nd May, 1973 now NYSC Act Cap N84 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004. The Scheme was established as part of strategies for the success of the Government's post-civil war policy on Reconciliation, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. In conceiving the idea of NYSC, the Government considered it as a veritable platform for harnessing the potentials of educated youths for the promotion of national unity and integration as well as the actualization of our quest for accelerated development. The objectives of the Scheme

are spelt out in Section 1 (3) of the NYSC Act as follows:

- To inculcate discipline in Nigerian youths by instilling in them a tradition of industry at work and of patriotic and loyal service to Nigeria in any situation they may find themselves;
- To raise the moral tone of the Nigerian youths by giving them the opportunity to learn about higher ideals of national achievements, social and cultural improvement;
- To develop in Nigerian youths the attitudes of mind, acquired through shared experience and suitable training, which will make them more amenable to mobilization in the national interest;
- To enable Nigerian youths acquire the spirit of self-reliance by encouraging them to develop skills for self-employment;
- To contribute to the accelerated growth of the national economy;
- To develop common ties among the Nigerian youths and promote national unity and integration;
- To remove prejudices, eliminate ignorance and confirm at first hand the many similarities among Nigerians of all ethnic groups; and
- To develop a sense of corporate existence and common destiny of the people of Nigeria.

3. EDUCATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Education, as we all know, plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic progress of any society, hence it is expected to be taken to

the front burner in any development agenda. Just as countries around the world tailor their educational policies towards actualization of their developmental aspirations, educational development occupies an important place in Nigeria's National Development Plan. Accordingly, successive Administrations in the country have formulated policies aimed at making the education system more functional. Other stakeholders' contributions are also important as to enable the system work and yield the desired outcomes. While I commend the huge public and private investments in the sector, it will not be out of place to advocate increase in the tempo of such investments in order to further enhance quality and access while making the much needed impact on our overall national development.

4. EXAMINATION AND ETHICS

The conduct of examination is an age-long routine in the education system, which partly helps to determine the success or otherwise of the teaching-learning process. Though it is sometimes argued that performance in examination is not necessarily a true test of one's learning success, the universal practice is to issue certificate only to candidates who pass prescribed examinations. Consequently, the effort of some learners is focused mainly on passing tests rather than on achieving the intrinsic value of education. In some instances, the individual may get desperate when the issue at stake is acquiring a certificate, which is a pre-requisite for getting a dream job or meeting parents and peer group's expectations regarding examination grades. This desperation can in turn result in temptation to cheat in examinations. The problem of malpractice has, therefore, become a great source of concern with some parents and schools even conniving to aid the perpetration of this ugly act. This is where the issue of ethics comes in. One would have expected both parents and the school to jointly work towards the moral

training of children. Cheating in examination by whatever means is a reflection of the erosion of values in the society, and therefore needs to be checked urgently.

The situation has assumed a more worrisome dimension now with the discovery by the National Youth Service Corps that Nigerian youths now go to neighbouring African countries to buy Degree Certificates in courses they never attended. Such corrupt individuals return to the country claiming to be foreign graduates and making attempts to get enlisted for National Service and subsequently seek job opportunities. This represents a clear danger to our country. Conscious of the need to eradicate this menace, NYSC has intensified its internal processes of blocking attempts to present from any quarters, unqualified persons for mobilization. As you may have read in national newspapers, many of such unqualified persons were apprehended during the 2019 Batch 'B' Stream II Orientation Course and have since been handed over to security agencies for prosecution.

In view of the foregoing facts, there is need for concerted efforts by various stakeholders, including examination bodies, to encourage our children and youths to imbibe the virtues of discipline, honesty and hard work. With moral principles instilled in both the youths and other actors, the craze for cutting corners will be reduced to the barest minimum. In this regard, I wish to commend the Exam Ethics Marshal International and its partners for the sustained efforts towards promoting best practices in the education system. It is my hope that more stakeholders will join this crusade for the benefit of our society.

5. **NYSC AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Since the establishment of the National Youth Service Corps, the Scheme has remained visible in virtually all spheres of our socio-

economic life. Apart from its much celebrated role in the promotion of National unity and integration, the contributions of the Scheme in other specific areas such as education, health, agriculture and infrastructural development are remarkable.

Over the last four and a half decades, successive batches of Corps members have been deployed to serve in the school system. This is in line with the provisions of **Section 9 Sub-Section 2 (a - n) of the NYSC Act Cap N 84 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004**. The posting of Corps members on teaching assignment has continued to help in bridging huge manpower gaps in the education sector in states across the country. I make bold to state that, but for the intervention of NYSC, the education system in many states would have been in serious jeopardy. This is because lack of qualified manpower remains a major challenge which several states are still battling to address amidst other highly competing needs. The posting of Corps members to teach in schools, therefore, remains one of the greatest achievements of the Scheme. This we shall continue to do in order to compliment the efforts of Governments at all levels towards advancing the cause of education. A total of three hundred and twenty-six thousand two hundred and fifty-four (326,254) Corps members were posted to serve in Primary and Secondary schools from 2015 to 2019. The statistical presentation on Corps Teachers' deployment for the period is shown as follows:

SERVICE YEAR	NO. POSTED TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS	NO. POSTED TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS	TOTAL
2015 SERVICE YEAR	8378	57248	65626
2016 SERVICE YEAR	10710	67095	77805
2017 SERVICE YEAR	8940	54199	63139
2018 SERVICE YEAR	10838	63617	74455
2019 SERVICE YEAR	6813	38416	45229
TOTAL	45679	280575	326254

In addition to their deployment to regular schools, Corps members have over the years conducted teaching sessions for adults and others using the platform of the NYSC Mass Literacy Community Development Service Group. This programme was coordinated by the Scheme in collaboration with the National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education. Corps members have equally volunteered to renovate classrooms; establish school libraries and mobilized resources for scholarship grants to indigent students as their Community Development Projects.

6. PROMOTION OF BEST PRACTICES

As a popular saying goes, no nation can rise above the quality of its education system. Accordingly, conscious efforts must be made to constantly improve the system, especially through the provision of the necessary infrastructure and modern instructional materials. Also of paramount importance is the quality of teachers, hence the issues of welfare and training must be taken to the front burner. The quality of education can be of acceptable standard only if all stakeholders strive to entrench best practices. In this regard, the National Youth Service Corps is making conscious efforts to ensure that its contributions to the development of education meet the basic standards. We consider the following, especially, as deserving our attention:

- **Pedagogical Competence**

As educationists have always averred, the Teacher is a principal factor in the education process. For effective learning to take place, the quality of the teacher needs to, among other things, meet at least the minimum acceptable standard. Therefore, issues such as mastery of subject matter and appropriate delivery methods should be taken care of through empowerment of the teacher with basic

skills. In NYSC, we are conscious of the need to put round pegs in round holes. Accordingly, posting of Corps members to schools is made based on specific subject areas requested by schools.

- **Ethical issues**

As we are all aware, education is a total package for all round development of the individual. Apart from the acquisition of knowledge in specific areas, the learner is also expected to be taken through physical and moral trainings. This of course explains the phrase, "found worthy in character and learning," popularly used in reference to persons who are considered fit for conferment of academic certificates.

The Scheme places premium on ethical conduct of Corps members on teaching assignment. This is based on the need for them to not only safeguard the standard and integrity of the education system, but also to serve as role models for their students. The following are some of the provisions of the NYSC Bye-Laws on the Conduct of Corps members on teaching assignment:

SN	CONDUCT/OFFENCE	PENALTY
1.	Failure to report for duty/punctuality	Query by Employer and report to State Coordinator.
2.	Engaging in immoral practice, especially with students	Extension of service for a period of not less than 90 days.
3.	Leaking examination questions	Extension of service for a period of not less than 2 months on half pay.
4.	Absence from duty post	Forfeiture of allowance for the days absent and extension of service for a period double the number of days absent.

Source: NYSC Bye-Laws

I am proud to report that the number of Corps members found and

sanctioned annually for committing infractions is very negligible. This is based on the fact that discipline, honesty, integrity and respect for the rule of law are some of the hallmarks of the Service Year.

7. CHALLENGES

- **Teaching Qualification**

While the NYSC has continued to make appreciable impact on the education sector, an identified challenge is the fact that a good number of the Corps members are not trained Teachers. In response, the Scheme is adopting measures to help in bridging the gaps. Just like other professionals such as Medical Doctors and Pharmacists do, State Ministries of Education also send professional teachers to help equip Corps members with basic teaching skills. This is in addition to an NYSC publication titled "Handbook for Corps Members on Teaching Assignment." These are making the desired impact as the Corps members have continued to contribute to the success of their students at National Examinations. I want to use this medium to advocate more commitment by States and Local Governments, through their Education Departments, to the conduct of induction courses for the Corps members posted to schools before they commence work in the institutions.

- **Harassment of Corps members**

Cases of negative interference of some parents and guardians in the running of schools, though not widespread, sometimes pose a challenge to the performance of duties of Corps members on teaching assignment. In some cases, they get harassed by parents for enforcing discipline in the school, especially through application of reasonable sanctions. Such

unwarranted acts can be demoralizing for an otherwise committed and hardworking Corps member. As a way out, we demand the protection of Corps members by all employers, failing which an employer will be blacklisted by the Scheme.

8. PROSPECTS

The foregoing challenges notwithstanding, the contributions of the National Youth Service Corps to the development of education have been attracting accolades from various stakeholders. With appropriate level of support, the Scheme will be in good stead to sustain its relevance in the education sector as with other areas of national development. Corps members have, and will continue to contribute to the sector through teaching and other functions such as enlisting and guiding of students for participation in activities like literary and debate clubs, drama clubs and sports as well as the performance of roles as class and discipline masters amongst others. Another significance of Corps Teachers' engagement is their availability for deployment to rural schools, which are sometimes dreaded by permanent staff. To further encourage acceptance of rural posting by Corps members, I wish to renew our call on States and Local Governments to prioritize the provision of standard facilities, including befitting Corps Lodges, in the rural schools and other service locations. Award for outstanding performance and, possibly, inclusion of Corps members among beneficiaries of incentives such as rural posting bonus for teachers introduced by some States and Local Governments will also go a long way in creating greater impact of Corps Teachers on our education system.

We are aware of a recent call in by the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) to the effect that NYSC should stop

posting of Corps members who do not possess professional teaching qualifications to schools. However, we are also of the strong belief that the modest steps taken by the Scheme to equip the Corps members for the task of teaching through professional induction during the Orientation Course, our Handbook and additional measures by other stakeholders, such as short induction programmes by State Ministries of Education, will go a long way in addressing this challenge. While stoppage of posting of the affected Corps members to schools does not seem to be a realistic option for now, I am confident that complimentary steps by TRCN and other relevant bodies such as the National Teachers' Institute will be helpful. This can be through implementation of short but intensive remedial programmes at the school level that may be sponsored by States, Local Governments and other employers of Corps Teachers. This will serve as a catalyst for even more qualitative intervention by NYSC in the education sector.

9. CONCLUSION

Education is a cooperative enterprise, which requires proper performance of roles by all stakeholders if the society is to derive immense benefits from the system. NYSC, like other public and private sector organizations, is paying its dues in this regard. The experiences of the Scheme as shared in this presentation should propel us and other stakeholders to seek more ways of promoting best practices in basic and secondary education. In conclusion, I wish to once again thank the organizers of this conference for providing us with the platform to contribute to this important conversation.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2019
NYSC ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
HELD AT ROCKVIEW HOTEL, ABUJA
ON TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER, 2019**



PROTOCOL

I heartily welcome you all to the 2019 NYSC Annual Management Conference (AMC) taking place here in Abuja, the Centre of Unity. In a special way, I most respectfully welcome the Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Mallam Mohammed Musa Bello, the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare and the Honourable Minister of State (FCT), Dr. Ramatu Tijjani to this opening ceremony. Honourable Ministers, we are sincerely grateful for the love and support the NYSC enjoys from your Ministries over the years.

2. In the same vein, I warmly welcome the Chairman and other members of the NYSC National Governing Board, who are working tirelessly for the success of the Scheme. I equally appreciate Heads of Federal Parastatals here present, Royal fathers, Corps Employers, other distinguished guests and members of the press for honoring our invitation.

3. Honourable Ministers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the NYSC Annual Management Conference is a platform for top managers of the Scheme to critically review our

policies and operations with a view to evolving strategies for enhanced performance. Our determination to be optimal in meeting public expectations on the NYSC mandate informed the choice of the theme, "**Optimizing the Operational Efficiency of the NYSC for Effective Service Delivery.**"

4. In addition to brainstorming on various issues, major highlights of the Conference will include lectures by well experienced Resource Persons on the topics "**Exploring the NYSC Act for the Enhancement of the Scheme's Operations**" and "**The Role of Effective Leadership in Building a Committed and Dynamic Workforce for the Promotion of Operational Efficiency in the NYSC.**"

5. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to report that in its 46 Years of existence, the NYSC has recorded tremendous successes in the areas of national unity and integration, health, education, rural infrastructure, free movement of labour, inter-ethnic marriages and free legal aid services to indigent persons among others. The participation of the Scheme in national assignments, including the 2019 General Elections and the Bye-elections conducted in some States did not only contribute to the credibility of the process but also facilitated the acceptance of the outcome.

6. Despite these laudable accomplishments, the Scheme is facing some operational challenges occasioned by non-discharge of statutory responsibilities by some critical stakeholders and other dynamics of the operating environment. In specific terms, the Scheme presently grapples with problems such as dilapidated conditions of the NYSC Orientation Camps in some States, inadequate Corps Lodges and lack of befitting office accommodation.

7. As we strive to surmount these challenges, it is instructive to acknowledge the consistent support of the Federal Government, especially through prompt release of funds and provision of security amongst others. Therefore, I seize this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to Mr. President for his abiding faith in the Scheme and the sustained encouragement given to us. I equally thank State Governments for the discharge their statutory responsibilities to the Scheme as enshrined in the NYSC Enabling Act. However, like Oliver Twist, we are constrained to ask for more, especially in the provision of Permanent Orientation Camps or upgrade of facilities in existing ones, adequate and secured accommodation for Corps members and other forms of intervention spelt out in the Act.
8. At this juncture, I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to the Honourable Minister of the FCT for the attention and support always given the Scheme. This is clearly demonstrated through the upgrade of facilities at the NYSC Orientation Camp, Kubwa, and augmentation of Corps Members' feeding during Orientation Course amongst others.
9. We equally appreciate the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, who, since assumption of duty, has always demonstrated genuine interest in the success of the Scheme. To the Chairman and Members of the NYSC National Governing Board, I thank you most sincerely for your continued support.
10. My appreciation also goes to members of the press for adequate coverage of the Scheme's activities, and to other stakeholders for sparing time to attend this event.
11. Finally, my dear Corps Members, I appreciate you for your commitment and patriotism in the service to the nation.
12. Thank you and God bless.

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM
DSS PhD MTRCN AT THE 2019 ANNUAL
MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE (AMC) HELD FROM
MONDAY 14TH TO THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER,
2019 AT ROCKVIEW HOTEL, ABUJA**



It is with utmost pleasure that I welcome all participants to the business session of the 2019 Annual Management Conference. Let me sincerely appreciate you all for the successes recorded by the NYSC in the last one year. Since my assumption of office, our focus has been on consolidating the gains of the past administration and enhancing the effectiveness of the Scheme in all areas of operations.

2. The dedication, loyalty, hard work and commitment I observed in the workforce are highly commendable. While we applaud our past efforts, there is the need to increase the tempo so as to sustain the visibility and relevance of the Scheme at all times.
3. In its over four decades of existence, the Scheme has been discharging its mandate creditably. However, the challenges and other realities of the operating environment necessitate continuous design of potent policies aimed at sustaining its relevance. Therefore, the Annual Management Conference was instituted as a platform for the rejuvenation of our cardinal programmes and policies with a view of improving the general operations of the Scheme.
4. After the 2018 edition of the conference, an overview of our activities show that the Scheme has recorded notable progress in the implementation of its cardinal programmes. Equally, the success of

our participation in ad-hoc national assignments, especially the 2019 General Elections and the Bye-Elections conducted in some States is heartwarming. The participation of Corps members in the elections has not only added credibility to the process but also influenced its acceptance by the international community.

5. The NYSC as an organization that mobilizes our vibrant youth for National development has over the years grappled with the attendant effects of socio-economic challenges of our growth as a Nation. Therefore, I consider the theme of this year's Conference, "**Optimizing The Operational Efficiency of The NYSC For Effective Service Delivery**", as most timely and appropriate. As part of strategies to enhance the understanding of the theme, and thereby optimizing the operations of the Scheme, two eminent Resource Persons have been invited to deliver lectures on the following topics:

- (a) "***Exploring the NYSC Act for the Enhancement of the Scheme's Operations***"; and
- (b) "***The Role of Effective Leadership in Building a Committed and Dynamic Workforce for the promotion of Operational Efficiency in the NYSC.***"

At the end of these presentations, it is expected that our capacity and competence to run the Scheme as a world class organization would have been enhanced. I, therefore enjoin all participants to pay rapt attention and internalize the ideas that will be gained from the lectures for the upliftment of the Scheme.

6. As we are all aware, NYSC has been in existence for Forty-Six years, hence the need to continuously inject new ideas and strive to entrench best practices in order to sustain the impact and relevance of the Scheme. On assumption of duty, I enumerated the following five point Agenda as my policy thrust:

- a) *Sustain effective utilization of the potentials of Corps members for optimal benefit;*
- b) *Pursue technologically driven organization to deepen effective service delivery;*
- c) *Improve on the welfare and security of Corps members and Staff;*
- d) *Strengthen existing collaboration with stakeholders; and*
- e) *Reinvigorate the NYSC Ventures and Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme in line with NYSC Act for greater impact.*

The above agenda are geared towards accelerating the achievement of the lofty objectives of this noble Scheme, hence I urge you to take active part in their implementation.

7. My dear participants, while we celebrate the remarkable achievements recorded by the Scheme in the areas of **national unity, integration and development**, I wish to emphasize the need to regularly re-appraise our performances with a view to bringing about innovations that will improve our operations. Accordingly, I task the conference to critically evaluate our operations in the following areas:

- a) **NYSC ENABLING ACT AND BYE LAWS:** The NYSC was established by **Decree No 24 of 22nd May, 1973** which was repealed and replaced by **Decree No 51 of 16th June, 1993**. It has now become an Act of National Assembly and cited as the **NYSC Act CAP N84 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004**. As we are all aware, all operations of the Scheme are guided by the **NYSC Act**. Since my assumption of office, I have noticed that Managers

of the Scheme at all levels need to make concerted effort at internalizing the letter and spirit of the Act. This informed our choice of the Act as one of the issues for deliberation. It is important to also note that some provisions of the Act have become obsolete and hardly address present day realities. Similarly, key provisions of the **NYSC Bye-Laws**, which should regulate the daily activities of Corps members need to be reviewed and made to conform with present socio-political and economic realities. Although the amendment of the NYSC Act is a rigorous process, the Scheme has no option than to face it head on. I, therefore, charge the conference to identify areas of amendment/review and come up with concise details for presentation to the appropriate authorities.

- b) **SUSTAINING THE RELEVANCE OF THE SCHEME:** The NYSC has made immense contributions to the socio-cultural and economic development of the country through its cardinal programmes. However, as a dynamic organization, there is need to align our activities and policies with the demands of the operating environment. Accordingly, State Coordinators are to ensure that Corps members are well integrated into their host communities. In particular, Corps Projects should address the felt needs of the host communities to engender community participation in their execution thereby giving them a sense of ownership. In addition, there is the need to heighten the tempo of the Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD) and expand its reach to more indigent people in our host communities. Therefore, all states must ensure the conduct of medical outreach under the HIRD at least twice a year for maximum impact. Equally, aggressive publicity should be given to Corps programmes/activities.

The Press and Public Relations Unit is hereby mandated to ensure adequate coverage of all our programmes in the print and electronic media. The Unit is to also monitor and ensure compliance by all State Secretariats. This will not only create awareness but also encourage Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations to partner with the Scheme.

- c) **ESTABLISHMENT OF NYSC RADIO:** I am pleased to inform you that Management is pursuing the process of establishing the NYSC Radio. When it eventually comes on air, the station will not only add a boost to the publicity drive of the Scheme, but will also enable us tell the NYSC story from our own perspective. In addition, the outfit will serve as a training platform for Corps members who have interest in media practice. While we have since received green light from the National Broadcasting Commission to advance the process, I wish to reaffirm Management's commitment to the actualization of the Radio project during my tenure. Therefore, suggestions that will help accelerate the process are always welcome.

- d) **WELFARE AND SECURITY OF CORPS MEMBERS AND STAFF:** Security and general welfare of Corps members and staff are among the key areas of focus of this administration especially because Corps members are given to us on trust by the Nation. It is, therefore, our responsibility to ensure their well-being during Orientation course and the rest of the service year. All welfare provisions for Corps members must be implemented as and when due except where the Scheme is not in direct control of such as is the case with the anticipated increment on Allowances. Our relationship with Corps members must be cordial at all times

as we are expected to mentor them for future leadership roles. Corps security should also be our primary concern. Although, Corps members are well protected during Orientation Courses, State Coordinators and other officers should ensure proper liaison with appropriate Security Agencies, Traditional Rulers and Community Leaders for the safety of the Corps members and their lodges during the rest of the service year. On staff welfare, my administration will sustain all the existing staff welfare packages. Indeed, Management's commitment in this regard has just been demonstrated through the prompt release of the results of the 2019 promotion exercise. While I congratulate those who are successful this time, I also enjoin those who could not make it not to be discouraged. It is also gladdening to note that Management's effort to strengthen the field operations of the Scheme is yielding results. As you are aware, the office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation (HOCSF) has approved the establishment of six Area Offices of the Scheme while Area Coordinators have been appointed to kick start their operations. Necessary staff complement will also be posted to these offices, hence the prospect of more vacancies for promotion of Staff is bright. I also enjoin this forum to come up with additional suggestions that will make the operations of the Area Offices seamless. In addition, we are looking at other areas of welfare that will put smiles on your faces within the limit of our resources. While Management is doing its best to motivate staff, you are expected to reciprocate this gesture through hardwork, dedication and increased productivity. It should also be noted that the NYSC Scheme operates as one big family. Therefore, I expect this conference to identify realistic areas of additional welfare for both serving and retired officers. Necessary improvements to the Conditions

of Service of the Scheme should also be brought up for discussion at this forum. I must also mention that there are incidences which point to the declining level of staff discipline, especially in the field offices. State Coordinators are hereby directed to caution officers in their Secretariats to ensure that the core values of the Scheme are effectively maintained while performing their duties. Accordingly, the provisions of the Public Service Rules (PSR) will be applied appropriately in handling cases of Staff that excel in their jobs as well as those that run foul of extant rules.

- e) **DEPLOYMENT OF ICT SOLUTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY:** It is an incontrovertible fact that since the deployment of ICT solutions to the handling of some of our key operations, there has been tremendous leap in the efficiency of service delivery by the Scheme. Given the successes recorded in this regard, deliberate efforts will be made to fast track the process of ICT application to all the other aspects of our operations. To this end, the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with our major ICT consultant will be reviewed to enable us take full ownership of the initiative. Consequently, training and retraining of ICT Officers and other members of staff will be vigorously pursued to enhance their capacities to drive the existing online operations and new ones to be introduced. I therefore, charge this conference to come up with practicable recommendations that will enhance our ICT operations and ownership. Meanwhile, you will agree with me that the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure of any organization achieves its objectives only if operated with utmost integrity by the schedule officers. Therefore, I urge you to protect the platform from

negative manipulations. As end users, you are also expected to draw our attention to observed inadequacies so as to enable the ICT Department take appropriate actions.

- f) **RE-INVIGRATION OF NYSC VENTURES:** The NYSC Ventures were designed to serve as training centres for Corps members and avenues for internal revenue generation among others. However, the laudable objectives for the establishment of these ventures have not been fully realized as some of them are either closed down or not functioning optimally. Management is poised to resuscitate the NYSC Farms, Garment Factories, Feed mills and Rice Mills while making moves to establish new ones such as Printing Press with a view to making them SAED training centres, source of food items supply for Corps Members during Orientation courses, production of kit items, and generation of revenues. In this regard, I enjoin State Coordinators to explore possibilities of setting up bakeries and other ventures to train Corps members and complement their feeding during Orientation exercises.
- g) **SKILL ACQUISITION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:** A key component of my policy thrust is the implementation of the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme with renewed vigour. Although enormous success has been recorded in this regard, there is still a long way to go. Our ultimate goal is to see Corps members as wealth creators and employers of labour. We must, therefore, continue to appraise our processes, identify our strengths, weaknesses, and generate policies that will enhance the gains of the programme. In this wise, Management is working towards establishing additional

SAED Centres and complete work on the existing ones to make them functional. We must also pay special attention to the in-camp training by making it more functional while also re-jigging the post camp component for greater impact. In particular, the conference has to come up with solutions to enable the Scheme address the dearth of Skilled Artisans and Master Trainers in the rural areas, which makes it difficult for Corps members posted to such locations transit from the In-camp to Post-camp training without challenges. As funding is key to the establishment of any business, we must make deliberate efforts to ease Corps members' access to start up funds. In addition, we need to come up with strategies, including Risk Management ideas, that will embolden them to access these funds as some of them shy away from taking loans due to fear of investment failure. We should equally develop tracking mechanism to keep close contact with successful entrepreneurs among the ex-Corps members. By so doing, the Scheme can maintain verifiable data on the successes recorded in its drive to promote entrepreneurship and self-reliance among Corps members.

- h) **CONDITION OF OUR ORIENTATION CAMPS:** The provision and maintenance of Orientation camps are part of the statutory responsibilities of State Governments as enshrined in the NYSC Act. As we are all aware, the first impression of Corps members about the Scheme and their States of deployment starts with the Orientation camp, which is the first point of contact. Unfortunately however, most of the facilities in the Orientation camps are dilapidated. Despite the fact that the Scheme has existed for over four decades, some States still conduct Orientation programme in Temporary Camps and schools where in some instances we co-habit with students. There is urgent

need to reverse this trend. Therefore, State Coordinators should intensify the persuasion of their various State Governments for the provision, renovation or upgrading of facilities in the camps. Coordinators of States with ongoing efforts at constructing Permanent Camps, should also follow up closely to facilitate speedy completion of the project. Meanwhile, Management will continue to interface with the various tiers of Government and explore other viable avenues for the development of our camps. I charge this conference to come up with options, including Public-Private Partnership, to achieve these objectives.

I) **ISSUE OF UNQUALIFIED PERSONS ATTEMPTING TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL SERVICE:**

Management has observed the recent upsurge in the attempts by unqualified persons, including those who falsely claim to be graduates of foreign tertiary institutions, to participate in the National Service. Some of the fake graduates apprehended confessed to paying various sums of money to buy fake Degree and HND Certificates of local and foreign institutions. You may recall that we recently informed the public of the arrest of **sixty-five (65) fake graduates** of one of the Nigerian Universities in Orientation Camps across the country during the 2019 Batch 'B' Stream II Orientation course. This followed the receipt of an alert that **ninety-nine (99) unqualified persons** had been smuggled into the uploaded Senate approved list of the affected Institution for the 2019 Batch 'B' Stream II Mobilization. The relevant security agencies are already investigating the case with a view to prosecuting all those that are complicit in the fraud.

Therefore, I wish to once again declare that under my watch,

no unqualified person will be allowed to participate in the National Service. Accordingly, I hereby mandate Area and State Coordinators to compliment Management's efforts in this regard by carrying out aggressive sensitization of Corps Producing Institutions, parents, students' bodies and other stakeholders on the need to be wary of the activities of fraudsters who may want to interfere with our Mobilization process for corrupt gains. Parents and guardians in particular, should be informed of the need to closely monitor the progress of their wards enrolled for academic programmes of tertiary institutions both at home and abroad.

Let me also emphasize the need for all relevant schedule officers in the Scheme to be very vigilant as they perform duties relating to the mobilization process, including the evaluation of foreign graduates as well as the verification/registration of all Prospective Corps members on camp. They are to report any suspicious persons or documents for immediate actions. May I also warn that any schedule officer whose negligence leads to the mobilization of unqualified persons will be appropriately sanctioned.

j)

MEETING WITH THE ADMINISTRATORS OF FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES: Following our discovery of the presentation of fake results sourced mostly from foreign institutions, especially in West Africa, for mobilization into the Scheme, we commenced immediate measures to nip the problem in the bud. One of the steps taken so far was the convening of an interactive meeting with Registrars of foreign Tertiary Institutions to address this and other issues bordering on the integrity of the mobilization process. The meeting served as an avenue to enlighten them on established procedures and to also warn that any of them

found to be aiding the presentation of fake graduates to NYSC would be blacklisted. In addition, persons presenting fake certificate from those Institutions will be handed over to the Police for prosecution.

k) **INCLUSION OF DATE OF BIRTH ON CERTIFICATE OF NATIONAL SERVICE:**

Management has observed the increasing presentation of request for change of date of birth by prospective Corps members. We have reasons to believe that such requests are usually part of manipulations by overage persons seeking mobilization for service. In order to curtail such manipulations, Management has decided to reflect date of birth on the Certificate of National Service beginning with the 2019 Batch 'A' Corps members. The date of birth will also be reflected in the Exclusion Letters commencing from the 2019 Batch 'C' Service year.

l) **REMOBILIZATION ISSUES:** The rate of abscondment and evasion of service is alarming. More disturbing is the fact that Corps members who abscond from service and are consequently remobilized choose when and how to serve. This is because there is no deadline within which remobilized Corps members should report for recommencement of service. This has, therefore, made it an open-ended issue. The implication of this is that remobilized Corps members can walk in any time to commence the repeat of the service year. Consequently, several Corps members have not been honouring the Disciplinary Committee's decision in this regard. Therefore, the Conference has to examine this issue critically and fix specific period that should be given as deadline for Corps members who are remobilized to serve the punishment.

Also, decisions have to be taken on the prosecution of those who refuse to honour the timeline.

- m) **ISSUE OF INCLUSION OF NYSC AMONG THE VETTING AGENCIES:** The advent of democracy has further entrenched the culture of accountability, transparency and probity in the process of either electing or appointing persons to public offices. The private sector is not left out too as some of them observe due process and diligence in the conduct of their operations. This new trend has resulted in a deluge of requests for verification of service status of persons seeking elected offices or nomination to sensitive offices in both public and private sectors. It is based on this scenario that Management has written a proposal to relevant quarters for the inclusion of the Scheme among the vetting agencies. To effectively handle the verification task, the Scheme must have correct and well preserved records of those who underwent National Service since 1973. While Management has issued directive to all State Secretariats on collation of records of those who served in their States, there is need for extensive discussion on the matter at this forum in order to generate ideas on how best to approach issues of preservation of records, vital documents and other materials of the Scheme.
- n) **PROPOSAL FOR EXEMPTION FROM NATIONAL SERVICE ON HEALTH GROUND:** It has been noted that a lot of Corps members report for service with various forms of illness. Most of the time, these illnesses have serious debilitating effects on the Corps members concerned to the extent that some just put in few days of service to the nation. At the same time, the Scheme is made to defray the cost of treatment of these Corps members to

the tune of millions in Naira. The situation is imposing financial strain on the Scheme as the sums expended far outweigh budgetary provision on Corps health matters. In addition, affected persons are also put under stress as they feel traumatised for not being able to perform active duties expected of them during national service. To address this issue comprehensively, the Conference has to critically examine the matter and come up with realistic proposal on Exemption from Service on Health Ground that Management can forward to the appropriate quarters for approval.

- o) **COLLABORATIONS:** No organization can succeed in isolation. To this end, Management places high premium on collaboration and networking with relevant stakeholders on matters relating to various components of its operations to enhance performance. Accordingly there is need to periodically review the MoUs with our partners to ensure that the Scheme's interests are adequately protected. In addition to the existing collaboration, this forum should explore avenues for more collaboration with multinational companies, other corporate organizations and individuals with genuine concerns for youth development. This will no doubt, assist in the development/upgrading of our camps and improvement of other operations of the Scheme.
- p) **INCLUSION OF NATIONAL SERVICE MATTERS IN THE CURRICULUM OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS:** The issue of participation in compulsory National Service is very critical to every Nigerian Graduate youth that is within the age of eligibility. Therefore, there is need for them to be conversant with relevant issues affecting the Service. On this premise, Management is liaising with the Federal Ministry of

Education and the National Universities Commission for inclusion of National Service as one of the topics to be taught in the “General Studies” Courses of Corps Producing Institutions. This will help to prepare the Prospective Corps members adequately for effective participation in the service.

- q) **PRESIDENT'SNYSC HONOURS AWARD:** As we are aware, the Honours Award is an avenue to project and acknowledge the enormous contributions of Corps members to national development, especially in their host communities. However, recent developments tend to misrepresent the good intentions of the Scheme in this regard as some Corps members believe it is their right to be conferred with the Award. Recently, a plethora of petitions were received from ex-Corps members who feel they have been unjustifiably denied the Award. Therefore, all State Secretariats must work very hard to adequately sensitize Corps members on the criteria for selection of Honours Award Winners so as to avoid complaints. Meanwhile, I observe that the quality of the projects presented for the Award are declining, hence, State Coordinators, CDS schedule officers as well as Zonal and Local Government Inspectors must appropriately guide and encourage Corps members to execute quality projects that will address the felt needs of their host communities.
- r) **HOPE ALIVE PROGRAMME (HAP):** The Hope Alive Programme is one of the most recent welfare programmes introduced by the NYSC. The initiative which is aimed at giving hope and succour to Corps members who suffer permanent disability on account of accidents or ailments that are incidental to the service year is commendable. While we pray to Almighty God to avert incapacitating and

other injuries on our Corps members, it is incumbent on State Coordinators to promptly report cases of serious accidents and injuries suffered by Corps members. Efforts should also be made to avoid omission of names when details of such Corps members are requested for necessary action. Furthermore, we should constantly advise Corps member to desist from embarking on unnecessary journeys and avoid other hazardous/risky engagements. We have also observed that most of the Road Traffic Accidents involving Corps members are as a result of unauthorized journeys. State Coordinators are, therefore, mandated to convey Management's warning that henceforth, any Corps member involved in accident during a journey undertaken without permission will not benefit from any welfare provision meant for injured Corps members.

- s) **SOME KEY OPERATIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES:** It is heartwarming to note that NYSC has recorded laudable achievements in its decades of existence. However, in spite of these accomplishments, there are some operational and administrative challenges that keep resurfacing despite several efforts to nip them in the bud. In the course of this conference, we need to generate recommendations that will assist us tackle these issues head-on. They are:

- Failure of some State/Local Governments to sufficiently discharge their statutory responsibilities to the Scheme;
- Dwindling support for Corps Community Development activities by stakeholders;
- Rejection of Corps members;
- Pressure on Management for concessional deployment of prospective Corps members and relocation;

- Stagnation of staff due to non-availability of vacancies;
- Rising cases of fake foreign-trained graduates and other unqualified persons attempting to participate in National Service.

8. My dear participants, the contributions made by the Scheme in national development cannot be quantified. It is our duty to sustain the relevance of the Scheme by redoubling our commitment, hard-work, loyalty and dedication. We should utilize this forum to initiate policies and inject new ideas that will optimize the operations of the Scheme for better and more efficient service delivery.
9. On this note, I wish us all fruitful and rewarding deliberation.
10. Thank you and God bless.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE
SEND-OFF CEREMONY HELD IN HONOUR OF
THE IMMEDIATE PAST DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
FORMER MEMBERS OF THE NYSC NATIONAL
GOVERNING BOARD AND RETIRED DIRECTORS
ON 6TH OCTOBER, 2019 AT ROCKVIEW HOTEL,
ABUJA



Protocol

It is with immense delight that I welcome you all on this auspicious occasion of the formal send-off ceremony in honour of my immediate predecessor, Major General Suleiman Zakari Kazaure *DSS PhD FCSN*, former Members of the NYSC National Governing Board and retired Directors who have contributed greatly towards taking NYSC to its enviable status. I thank you most sincerely for honouring our invitation to this event at short notice. Indeed, this is another eloquent testimony of your love for the Scheme and further justifies our decision to celebrate you today.

2. Permit me to once again pay tribute to my predecessor, Major General Suleiman Kazaure, a worthy leader, an astute administrator and one of Nigeria's finest officers, whose tenure has left indelible marks in the Scheme. Sir, I stand here today to say I am proud of the laudable achievements you have recorded as our 17th Chief Executive while also restating my commitment to building on them in our collective quest to achieve the NYSC mandate.

3. May I also use this opportunity to thank the Chairman and Members of the NYSC National Governing Board for your continued support for the Management's efforts to enhance the

success of the Scheme. In particular, I wish to place on record our profound appreciation of the commitment of the former Members of the Board that are also being celebrated today. Your immense contributions to the Scheme will remain indelible in our minds. On behalf of the Management, I wish you success in your future endeavours.

4. To our retired Directors, I congratulate you on your successful retirement in good health after putting in decades of selfless and dedicated service to our dear country through the NYSC. Today, I recall with nostalgia, my pleasant and rewarding working relationship with some of you during my previous engagement in the Scheme and since my present appointment. For those I have not had the privilege of working with, I consider as heartwarming the way other members of this great family have been extolling your virtues. We the present Managers of NYSC and indeed the rest of the nation will continue to appreciate you for your meritorious service to our dear country. May I use this occasion to implore you and other retired NYSC Directors to continue to support us by sharing your wealth of experience for the advancement of the Scheme.

5. As senior citizens with decades of experience in the business of mentoring youths for leadership, patriotic service, self-reliance, and respect for the dignity of labour, I am sure you share our concern about some of the current challenges facing the country, including the tendency of youths to take to criminality due to the get-rich-quick syndrome. A particularly worrisome development, which you are probably aware of, is the growing trend of presenting fake academic certificates by youths in their attempt to illegally participate in the National Service and subsequently find their way to permanent employment in various sectors of our economy. This presents clear danger to our country, hence the need to quickly arrest the situation. While Management remains resolute in blocking attempts from any quarter to undermine the credibility of our mobilization process, I wish to use this opportunity to plead for

your support in this regard. In particular, we request that you deploy your experience with the Scheme to join other stakeholders, including Corps Producing Institutions, religious and traditional rulers, and security agencies amongst other to sensitize and redirect the mindset of the youths with such negative tendencies to that of honesty, hard work and zeal for the service of God and our fatherland.

6. Once again, I sincerely thank Members of the National Governing Board and the 17th Director-General of the Scheme, Major General SZ Kazaure for setting aside other important schedules to honour our invitation. I equally appreciate all the retired Directors for being source of inspiration to us in our quest to take NYSC to higher pedestals. Let me also commend the serving Directors, especially that of Human Resource Management who lead his committed his staff to organize this event.

7. Finally, I wish you safe journey to your various destinations at the end of this engagement.

8. Thank you and God bless.

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
NYSC MANAGEMENT'S MEETING WITH
REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
HELD ON TUESDAY, 29TH OCTOBER,
2019 AT SANDRALIA HOTEL, ABUJA**



Protocol

I heartily welcome you all to this meeting of Management of the National Youth Service Corps with representatives of State Governments. I am elated by the esteemed presence of the Chairman of the Occasion, Executive Governor of Ekiti State and Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum, His Excellency, Dr. Kayode Fayemi as well as the Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Mallam Muhammad Musa Bello and the Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare at this opening ceremony. Your Excellency and Honourable Ministers, I thank you most profoundly for setting aside other equally important commitments to be with us at this event. This is yet another demonstration of your love for the Scheme.

2. Let me also recognize the Chairman and other members of the NYSC National Governing Board who are working tirelessly for the success of the Scheme. In the same vein, I warmly welcome representatives of the Governments of the thirty-six States of the Federation and the FCT as well as the President of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON), who are the key participants at the meeting. To other

personalities here present, including Heads of Federal Parastatals, Corps Employers, other distinguished guests and members of the press, I thank you for honoring our invitation to this opening ceremony.

3. Your Excellency, Honourable Ministers, other distinguished guests, this meeting is convened by Management in furtherance of our commitment to the success of the NYSC mandate. It is particularly in line with one of the cardinal points of my policy thrust, which is to **strengthen existing collaboration with critical stakeholders**. Suffice it to note that foremost among our stakeholders are States and Local Governments whose roles are critical to the smooth operations of the Scheme. This is due to the fact that most of the NYSC activities through which it contributes to national development are undertaken at the grassroots.

4. Stakeholders at different forums have always commented glowingly about the Scheme's achievements in the areas of education, healthcare delivery, agriculture, rural infrastructure, science and technology amongst others. To sustain these feats and reposition the Scheme for even greater impact, it has become expedient to make a critical appraisal of the performance of stakeholders as spelt out in the **NYSC Act Cap N84 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004**. This informs the choice of the theme of this meeting, "***Optimizing the Potentials of Corps Members for National Unity and Development: the Role of State Governments as Stakeholders***." May I remind all and sundry that the Act saddles State and Local Governments with specific responsibilities, especially in the provision of facilities that are essential for the welfare of the Corps members and smooth operations of the Scheme. It is

important to note that while NYSC deploys Corps members to, amongst other things, participate in the development efforts of the various tiers of Government, the level and success of their performance will depend on the condition of the operating environment.

5. Key among the responsibilities of States and Local Governments as spelt out in **Section 7 Sub-Sections 3 and 4 as well as Section 8 of the NYSC Act** are the provision of befitting Orientation camps, accommodation for Corps members, office accommodation for the NYSC Area Offices and State Secretariats as well as Zonal and Local Government Offices, land for agriculture, release of State Subventions, security of Corps members and support for the Scheme's Community Development Service. These roles are complimentary to those of the Federal Government, which bears the heavier cost of running the Scheme through feeding and medical services for Corps members and course officials during Orientation course, provision of other logistics for Orientation and post-Orientation operations, payment of monthly Personal Allowances, payment of Transport Allowances, provision of Corps members kit items, and Insurance of Corps members amongst others.

6. Today, I am pleased to report that a good number of State Governments and the FCT Administration have been above board in the discharge of their obligations to the Scheme. The standard of facilities at Orientation camps, quality of accommodation for Corps members and other forms of intervention in the affected States are encouraging. The conducive environment they are creating have not only enhanced the smooth operations of the Scheme, but also deepened Corps

members' belief in the essence of patriotic service.

7. On the other hand, I am constrained to also report that the operating environment in some other States leaves much to be desired. Here, the Scheme contends with problems such as lack of Permanent Orientation Camps, obsolete or inadequate facilities in the camps, lack or shortage of Corps Lodges, inadequate office accommodation and non-release of the statutory state subvention to the NYSC Secretariats. These problems are, without doubt, impeding the success of the Scheme in the affected States, hence the need to reverse the trend. Accordingly, this meeting will provide opportunity for peer review among States as way of encouraging replication of best practices and ensuring effective response to identified challenges.

8. Let me use this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to the Federal Government for its abiding faith in NYSC. This has been demonstrated by way of sustained encouragement and support, especially through the prompt release of funds for the smooth operations of the Scheme. I equally appreciate States and Local Governments for their support in the provision of essential facilities. May I use this opportunity to appeal to the Nigerian Governors Forum and the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) to support our advocacy for adequate discharge of the statutory obligations of States and Local Government Councils to NYSC. This will enable the Scheme to prepare and deploy Corps members in support of your various activities aimed at delivering democracy dividends to Nigerians.

9. At this juncture, I wish to once again extend our sincere gratitude to His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Ekiti State and Chairman Nigeria Governors Forum and the

Honourable Ministers of the FCT and Youth and Sports for gracing the opening ceremony. I equally appreciate the Chairman of the NYSC National Governing Board and all Stakeholders here present for adding colour to this event.

10. Thank you and God bless.

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PHOTOSPEAK

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Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, receiving the NYSC Flag from his predecessor, Major General SZ Kazaure, symbolizing the transfer of authority at the handover/takeover ceremony held at the NYSC NDHQ



Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, and his predecessor, Major General SZ Kazaure, signing the handover notes at the handover/takeover ceremony



The Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, with the President, His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, when a high-powered delegation from Nasarawa State paid a thank-you to the President over the appointment of some indigenes of the State into public offices – among them the NYSC Chief Executive



The President, His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari GCFR (3rd right), with the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare (2nd right); the Honourable Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami (1st left); NYSC Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim (1st right); and representatives of Corps members during a thank-you visit to the President over the increase in the Personal Allowance of Corps Allowance from Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred Naira to Thirty-three Thousand Naira



The Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, presenting a plaque to His Excellency, the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo GCON SAN, during an official visit to the latter at the Presidential Villa, Abuja



The Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim presenting a souvenir to the Nasarawa State Governor, Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule, when the latter led a high-powered delegation from the State on a congratulatory visit to him at NYSC National Directorate Headquarters, Abuja



Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim (2nd right), joins other guests at the former Head of State and founder of NYSC, General Yakubu Gowon's 85th Birthday celebration held at NICON Luxury Hotel, Abuja



Brigadier General Shuaibu Ibrahim with some Nasarawa State traditional rulers, who paid him a congratulatory visit following his appointment as Director-General at the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters



The Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Mohammed Adamu, presenting a plaque to the Director-General, Brigadier General Shuaibu Ibrahim, during the latter's visit to the Force Headquarters, Abuja



Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim; Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Dr. Boboye Oyeyemi; members of the FRSC Management; and leaders of major Transport Unions in Nigeria during an advocacy visit by the Director-General, which gave birth to a tripartite partnership aimed at ensuring the safety of Corps members during journeys

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

National Directorate Headquarters, Maitama, Abuja

2019 BATCH 'B' PRE-MOBILIZATION WORKSHOP

ACHIEVING GREATER EFFICIENCY IN THE NYSC MOBILIZATION PROCESS: THE ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS



From left: Representative of Sidmach Technologies Ltd. Mr. Hassan Alao; representative of the FCT Minister, Hajiya Safiya Umar; Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim; the then Director of Corps Mobilization, Mrs. Nnenna Ukonu and erstwhile Director (Procurement) Mr. Yakubu Jok at 2019 Batch 'B' Pre-Mobilization Workshop in Abuja



Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, speaking at the JAMB Policy Meeting with Vice-Chancellors, Provosts, Rectors and Registrars of Corps Producing Institutions, which took place at Gbongan, Osun State



From left: Retired NYSC Director, Alhaji Habibu Kurawa; Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim; Head of European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ambassador Ketil Karlsen; and the INEC Chairman, Professor Mahmood Yakubu at the Handover of ICT Equipment to Corps members by the EU in Abuja



Representative of the former Head of State General Yakubu Gowon and pioneer Chief Executive of NYSC, Colonel Ahmadu Ali (Rtd. – middle); Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim; and other dignitaries at National Sensitization Workshop on the NYSC Act in Abuja



Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, and some members of the NYSC Top Management at his maiden parley with Editors, Bureau Chiefs and Youth Correspondents of Media Houses in Abuja



Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, with a cross-section of members of the Top Management and participants at the 2019 NYSC Annual Management Conference

National Youth Service Corps

Meeting of NYS Top Management
with representatives of State Governments

From left: Representative of the Chairman, NYSC National Governing Board, Hajjya Binta Mu'azu; Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare; representative of the FCT Minister, Dr. Ibrahim Abubakar; Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim; and the Ag. Director, Special Duties, Mr. James Afolayan at the opening ceremony of the meeting of the NYSC Top Management with representatives of State Governments in Abuja

Welcome you to the
SENDFORTH CEREMONY

Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, with retired Directors during the send-off ceremony hosted in their honour in Abuja





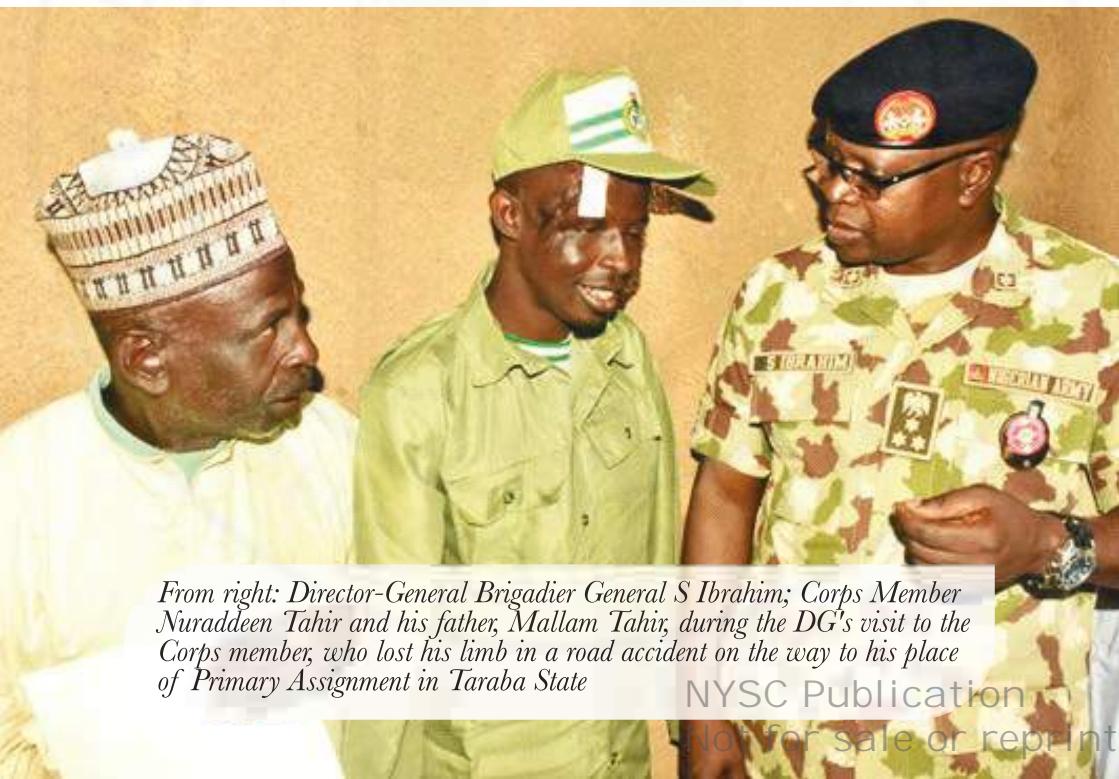
His Excellency, the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo GCON SAN (first right) and the Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, with Mr. and Mrs. Ayo Owolabi during a condolence visit to them in Zaria, Kaduna State, over the death of their son, Corps member Precious Owolabi, who was hit by a stray bullet during coverage of a Shi'ites' protest with other Reporters of Channel TV, his employers in Abuja.



His Excellency, the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo GCON SAN (middle) and His Excellency, the Governor of Kaduna State, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai (right) with Mr. Ayo Owolabi, father of late Corps member Precious Owolabi (left) during their condolence visit to the family

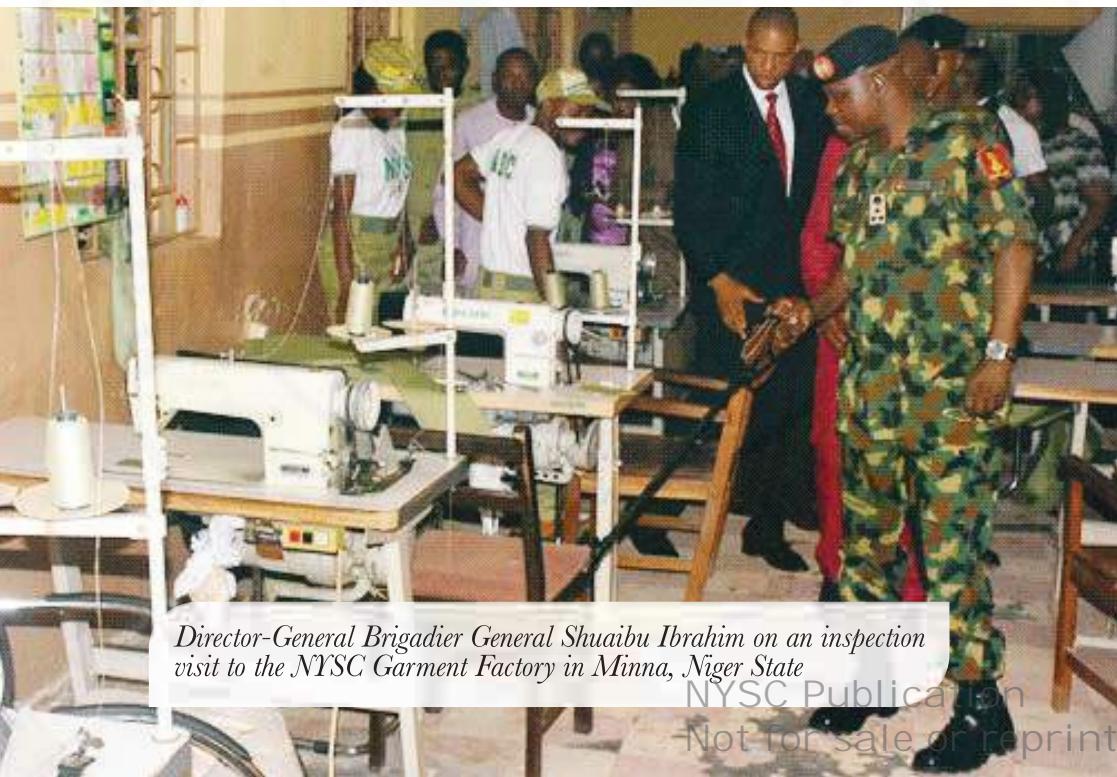


Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, with Mr. and Mrs. Ayo Owolabi during a separate condolence visit he paid to them earlier over the death of Corps member Precious Owolabi



From right: Director-General Brigadier General S Ibrahim; Corps Member Nuraddeen Tahir and his father, Mallam Tahir, during the DG's visit to the Corps member, who lost his limb in a road accident on the way to his place of Primary Assignment in Taraba State









Brigadier General Shuaibu Ibrahim welcoming the Nasarawa State Deputy Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Akabe, to the Magaji Dan Y耻usa NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Keffi, for the Swearing-in Ceremony of 2019 Batch 'B' Stream II Corps members



The Director-General, Brigadier General Shuaibu Ibrahim, NYSC and EFCC Officers, Corps members and other stakeholders at the Kano segment of the nationwide anti-corruption rally tagged "Nigerian Youths Walk Against Corruption" organized by the EFCC in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports and the NYSC.



Representative of the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development and Permanent Secretary, Mr. Gabriel Aduda, presenting the golden trophy to Team Enugu, the football champions, at the closing ceremony of the 2019 NYSC Sports Festival



Director-General Brigadier General S Ibrahim presenting trophy to Team FCT, the volleyball champions at the closing ceremony of the 2019 NYSC Sports Festival



Chairman of the NYSC National Governing Board Ambassador Fatima Balla Abubakar decorating one of the winners with medals at the closing ceremony of the 2019 NYSC Cultural Festival



Director-General Brigadier General S Ibrahim presenting trophy to Plateau, first position winner of dance, at the closing ceremony of the 2019 NYSC Cultural Festival

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN
AT THE MEETING OF THE NYSC MANAGEMENT
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
HELD ON TUESDAY, 29TH OCTOBER, 2019
AT SANDRALIA HOTEL, ABUJA



Protocol

Distinguished participants, I welcome you to the Business Session of this august meeting. Let me begin by thanking you once again for your prompt response to our invitation. This is an illustration of your interest in the success of the Scheme as our partners in progress. I commend the various State Governments for the roles they have been playing towards achieving the NYSC mandate.

2. Like I said in my welcome address, NYSC Management under my leadership places high premium on stakeholder involvement in the running of the Scheme. Therefore, we have made it a deliberate policy to carry out sustained advocacy on the proper performance of roles of all key players as enshrined in the **NYSC Act Cap N84 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004**. One of the immediate steps we took on my assumption of office was to host a national sensitization programme on the Act. Apart from drawing attention to responsibilities of various stakeholders, we used the forum to enlighten participants on rules, procedures and sanctions relating to participation or exemption from the National Service. Management is determined to sustain and expand our outreach in the sensitization drive.

3. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, there is no gainsaying the fact that the roles of State Governments/FCT and Local Governments Councils are critical to the smooth operations of NYSC. This is especially so because while the Federal Government shoulders a greater part of the responsibility of running the Scheme, the Enabling Act saddles the two other tiers of Government with complimentary responsibilities. These include the provision of facilities like Orientation Camp, Corps Transit Lodge, Corps Lodges, Office Accommodation and other forms of intervention that are essential for the welfare of Corps members and the success of the Scheme. Some of the questions we will be asking ourselves at this meeting are: how well have we performed our obligations? What can we do better? How can we optimize the potentials of Corps members for the benefit of our states and the entire country? This forum will offer opportunity for peer review and sharing of best practices among all States and the FCT in our quest to further strengthen NYSC and deepen its impact on our socio-economic development.

4. Permit me at this juncture to highlight some of the key issues that will form the basis of our discussion:

a) **Establishment of State Governing Boards**

An issue that is germane to the success of NYSC is the appointment of State Governing Board in line with the provision of the Enabling Act. The Board in each State is expected to serve as a key driver of the Scheme's operations with its specific functions spelt out in **Section 6 Sub-Section 2 of the NYSC Act**. I wish to commend various States that have appointed the State Governing Boards and empowered them to function effectively. However, we have observed that some States do not have the Boards in place, hence my appeal to the affected States to correct this

omission in order to enhance the operations of the Scheme.

b) Formation of Local Government Committees

Section 8 Sub-Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the NYSC Act provides for the establishment, composition and functions of the NYSC Local Government Committee in each of the Local Government Areas of a State. Therefore, to ensure smooth operations of the Scheme at the grassroots, the Local Government Committees should not only be in place, but also empowered with the necessary resources to function effectively. However, we have observed that the committees do not exist at the Local Government level in many States of the Federation. It is our ardent hope that State Governments will help in persuading the Local Government Councils to form the committees and make them functional.

c) State of the Orientation Camps

The Orientation Camp serves as the first point of contact with NYSC for Corps members and goes a long way to influence their impression about the Scheme and the State of deployment. A camp, is therefore, expected to meet at least the minimum standards with essential facilities such as adequate hostel accommodation, conveniences, multi-purpose hall and good parade ground amongst others to make it fit for habitation. It is gratifying to note that Orientation camps in several States have met the minimum standards while general renovation and upgrade of facilities are ongoing in others. However, the conditions of some other camps across the country are appalling – making them unfit for human habitation. I therefore appeal to the State Governments to accord priority to the provision of adequate facilities in the Orientation Camps as a way of ensuring the

wellbeing of Corps members and facilitating the smooth conduct of Orientation Course. For now, an Orientation Camp considered to be of the minimum acceptable standard should have facilities that will conveniently cater for at least five thousand Corps members.

d) Accommodation for Corps Members

Part of the responsibilities of State and Local Governments as spelt out in the NYSC Act is the provision of accommodation with some basic facilities for Corps members. This is essential not only to ensure decent living for them, but also help them to focus on discharge of selfless and patriotic service. We are aware that some States and Local Governments have left many Corps members with neither accommodation nor sufficient rent subsidy in lieu of accommodation. This situation needs to be urgently addressed if we are to optimize the potentials of these young patriots.

e) Payment of State Allowance to Corps Members

Management commends the efforts of State Governments and Local Government Councils that have not only approved fair and decent Allowance for Corps members, but are also regular in effecting payment. However, the situation in some States is quite worrisome as Corps members are either paid inadequate allowances or are being owed arrears for several months. This can be demoralizing for an otherwise committed and hardworking Corps member. Therefore, State and Local Governments as well as other Corps Employers are enjoined to assist in ensuring prompt and adequate payment of Corps allowances.

f) Security of Corps Members

The issue of security is germane to the smooth operations of NYSC, hence Management has continued to emphasize the safety of Corps members in all service locations. We are in constant liaison with Security Agencies who have been very supportive in this regard. On this premise, I wish to make a passionate appeal to State and Local Governments as well as other stakeholders such as traditional rulers, religious and community leaders to compliment the efforts of the security agencies by prioritizing the security of the Corps members.

g) Other Corps Welfare Matters

The general welfare of Corps members occupies a central place in our policy thrust as Management of the Scheme. Therefore, States and Local Governments are also expected to do their utmost in catering for the welfare needs of these young patriots. In addition to the welfare matters already mentioned in my presentation, I urge States to further encourage Corps member through gestures such as defrayment of medical expenses or provision of free services at Government hospitals. I also seek your support in the integration of Corps members with the host communities and ensuring that all stakeholders, including traditional rulers, community and religious leaders accept and accord them hospitality. Furthermore, it will be appreciated if the Corps members are guided to explore and avail themselves of opportunities for employment or business in the states of deployment.

h) Rejection/Under-utilization of Corps Members by Employers

One of the current challenges NYSC is grappling with is the rejection of Corps members by some employers. Where Corps members are accepted, we have cases of some State Government Agencies who do not optimize their potentials. Such employers do not help in monitoring the Corps members but leave them redundant for most of the time or even aid them to absent themselves from duty. I am aware that, just like the Federal Government, several State Governments have issued directives to their Ministries, Departments and Agencies mandating them to accept Corps members posted to them. I wish to use this medium to call on State Governments to help in prevailing on Corps Employers not only to accept the Corps members, but also ensure effective utilization of their potentials for the socio-economic development of our dear country.

i) Provision of Office Accommodation

We have observed that the condition of some of our State offices leave much to be desired. While some of the Secretariats are housed in dilapidated structures others have inadequate office spaces thereby hindering effective performance of official duties. Even more disturbing is the lack of befitting accommodation for our Zonal and Local Government offices in many States. While we thank State and Local Governments that have provided befitting office accommodation, I appeal to others to do same so as to enhance the smooth operations of the Scheme.

j) Establishment of NYSC Area Offices

I am pleased to inform this gathering that NYSC recently secured approval of the Federal Government to establish an Area Office in each of the six geo-political zones. The offices, which have already taken off, are located in Asaba, Bauchi, Enugu, Kaduna, Minna and Osogbo. They are to coordinate NYSC activities in each of the zones and will be carrying out field Monitoring and Inspection as well as ensure effective liaison with relevant stakeholders among other functions. Therefore, I use this opportunity to appeal to State Governments to support the Area Offices in their zones for smooth operations.

k) Reward for Excellence/Post-service Employment for Corps Members

While we appreciate all State Governments for conferring Honours Awards on deserving Corps members, I wish to emphasize the need to enhance the quality of incentives given to the Award winners. In particular, the provision of automatic employment for the most outstanding Corps members will not only serve as a mark of appreciation of their contributions, but will also meet the NYSC's objectives of promoting the free movement of labour and national integration.

l) Support for Community Development Service

Community Development Service (CDS) is a Cardinal Programme of the Scheme aimed at deploying the innovativeness and creativity of Corps members for the execution of development projects in conjunction with

members of the host communities. Indeed, among the major achievements of the Scheme since inception is the array of Corps members' projects that have dotted the entire landscape of the country. However, there is the need to increase the tempo of CDS through material support from States and Local Governments as well as stakeholders in the host communities. This will go a long way in complimenting the development efforts of these two tiers of Government as well as inspire communities to embark on self-help projects.

m) Entrepreneurship Development for Self-reliance

NYSC is determined to compliment Government's efforts at curbing the rate of graduate unemployment; hence our focus on empowering Corps members with skills for self-employment and wealth creation. To achieve, this we introduced the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Programme in 2012 with two components, namely: the in-camp and post-camp training. However, one of the challenges to the implementation of the programme is the absence training centres, especially in rural areas where majority of Corps members are posted for the Primary Assignment. As a way of addressing this challenge, the Scheme planned the establishment of a mega skill acquisition centre in each of the six geo-political zones through public-private-partnership. Already that of the North East has been completed and equipped in Gombe State. The one for the South West is nearing completion in Ekiti State while work is also ongoing on that of the North West in Jigawa State. We are reaching out to more partners to actualize the provision of the skill centres for the remaining geo-political zones. Our ultimate goal is to have the skill training centres in all the States of the Federation. In the

meantime, I wish to appeal to States and Local Governments to avail Corps members of training at their Skills Acquisition Centres as well as waive or reduce the cost of training as a way of encouraging our youths to embrace the self-employment option.

5. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, these and other issues need to be accorded the deserved attention in order to put the NYSC in a good stead to achieve its mandate. I, therefore, urge every one of us to contribute actively as we deliberate on the way forward.
6. Thank you and God bless.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PhD MTRCN AT THE
2019 BATCH 'C' PRE-ORIENTATION MEETING OF
MANAGEMENT WITH AREA COORDINATORS,
STATE COORDINATORS, CAMP DIRECTORS,
CAMP COMMANDANTS AND COLLABORATING
AGENCIES HELD IN THE CONFERENCE HALL,
NYSC NDHQ, ABUJA ON THURSDAY,
31ST OCTOBER, 2019



Protocol

I am delighted to address you on this occasion of the meeting of Management with Area Coordinators, State Coordinators, Camp Directors, Camp Commandants and our collaborating partners as part of preparations for the successful conduct of the forthcoming 2019 Batch 'C' Orientation course. First and foremost, we give thanks to Almighty God for granting all participants journey mercies from your various locations.

2. Let me commend our collaborating partners and all Camp Officials for your dedication, commitment and teamwork, which led to the successes recorded during the 2019 Batch 'B' and other previous Orientation Courses. I enjoin you to sustain the level of commitment as we are set to commence another exercise.

3. I am pleased to inform you that Management has concluded all necessary arrangements for the successful conduct of the 2019 Batch 'C' Stream I Orientation Course. The exercise is scheduled to hold in all **the Orientation camps nationwide from Tuesday, 5th to Monday, 25th November, 2019**. Therefore, I call

on all camp officials to work hard and cooperate with one another for a hitch-free course. This is necessary in view of the fact that the Orientation Course is the first major point of Corps Members' contact with the Scheme, and the quality of the exercise will affect their experiences and level of commitment as well as contribute significantly to the overall success of the Service year.

4. Apart from evaluating the previous Orientation Courses, this meeting will enable us rub minds and evolve strategies for hitch-free execution of the forthcoming one. As usual, policies and operational guidelines will be issued for uniform implementation in all the Orientation camps nationwide. Participants at this forum are, therefore, mandated to convey the necessary information gathered here to other camp officials.

5. Ladies and gentlemen, in line with my administration's determination to align the Scheme's policies and operations with 21st Century best practices, there is need for radical improvement in our conduct of the Orientation Course. This has become necessary in view of the current socio-economic realities in the country, which are sharply different from what was obtainable at the inception of the Scheme. Moreover, the sophistication of the segment of the youth population that the Scheme deals with, coupled with the reality of a rapidly changing world, has prompted Management to adopt proactive measures to enable the Scheme contain all forms of challenges. Therefore, all members of Staff are enjoined to key into our vision of a Scheme that is really dynamic and to always offer useful suggestions for our collective success.

6. From my personal observations during my 2019 Batch 'B' Streams I and II tour of Orientation Camps and the reports submitted by Touring and Resident Officers, there was remarkable improvement in the general conduct of the exercise, especially

feeding of Corps Members. However, we can still do more to enhance achievement of the objectives of the Orientation Course. Accordingly, the following issues should command our attention as we deliberate on the way forward:

a) Current Condition of Our Orientation Camps:

As we are all aware, facilities in most of our Orientation camps are dilapidated and not too conducive for the conduct of Orientation course. Just yesterday, we concluded a two-day meeting with representatives of State Governments during which we sensitized them on the need to discharge their statutory responsibilities to the Scheme, including the provision of befitting Orientation Camps. Based on the submissions of parties at the meeting, we are confident that the States will demonstrate more commitment to the development of the camps as well as the discharge of other obligations to the Scheme. To this end, I hereby mandate Area and State Coordinators to follow up with the State Governments in order to get them to embark on renovation, upgrading, expansion and, where necessary, establishment of new camps. This is a task that must be accomplished. In the same vein, while Management is exploring the option of developing the Orientation Camps through Public-Private-Partnership, State Coordinators should identify public-spirited individuals and Corporate Organizations with a view to seeking their support in this regard.

b) Managements' Intervention in the Creation of Conducive Camp Environment

Management is not unaware of the difficulties faced by many Orientation Camps in the areas of water supply and procurement of diesel for their power generating plants. Accordingly, we will continue to make interventions in States having such challenges. Management will also provide

other essential facilities such as double bunk beds, mattresses and toilets amongst others when the need arises and within the limits of available resources. However, I wish to warn that failure to utilize our intervention funds for the intended purpose will attract appropriate sanctions.

c) **Corps Security**

Security is essential for the success of our operations, hence we shall continue to prioritize the safety of both Corps members and Staff. In this regard, we need to re-strategize and intensify liaison with the Security Agencies for the safety of Corps Members before, during and after the Orientation Course. All State Coordinators should ensure that the Orientation Camps are fortified while security patrols both within and around the Camps must be intensified. You are also expected to sustain the tradition of paying visits to the Heads of the communities where the Camps are located before the take-off of every Orientation Course. This will further strengthen our cordial relationship with the host communities, and elicit more support from them in the area of security.

d) **Corps Welfare**

We all owe it a duty to ensure the welfare of Corps members at all times. Therefore, State Coordinators should sensitize all Camp officials on the imperative of treating the Corps members with dignity. Though discipline remains one of the hallmarks of the Orientation course, officials are not to be hostile to Corps participants in the guise of enforcing same. I also charge you to accord feeding of Corps members the deserved priority. Ensure that the officially approved menu is adhered to at all times while the quality and quantity of the food must be of acceptable standard. I will not take it lightly with any State Coordinator in whose Camp the feeding of

Corps Members is poorly handled. I enjoin all State Coordinators to take charge and get properly acquainted with all the happenings in their Camps throughout the exercise.

e) **Violation of Dress Code by Corps Members**

NYSC uniform is a mark of identity and brand of the Scheme, which should be source of pride to all Corps members. However, Management is dismayed at the manner Corps members now violate the official dress code and even alter the design of the uniform. This is what informed the circulation of banners showing approved dress code for Corps Members in all the Orientation Camps, National Directorate Headquarters and other formations of the Scheme. State Coordinators are hereby directed to enforce compliance with the dress code both during and after the Orientation Course. Area Coordinators are also mandated to personally monitor the level of compliance.

f) **Presentation of Fake Documents by Prospective Corps Members**

As you are already aware, Management has stepped up measures to block presentation of unqualified persons for Mobilization. This led to the arrest of many fake graduates during the 2019 Batch 'B' Stream II Orientation course and a drastic reduction in the number of persons claiming to be graduates of some African institutions. In furtherance of this effort, I hereby charge State Coordinators and relevant schedule officers to be very vigilant so as to prevent any attempt by unscrupulous persons to present fake academic or medical documents at the Orientation Camps. Anyone caught presenting fake academic credentials should be handed over to the Police for prosecution. Let me also warn that any officer whose negligence leads to the admittance of

such documents would be appropriately sanctioned.

7. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are all very conversant with our routine Camp preparations and other processes that are critical to the successful execution of the Orientation Course. However, for the purpose of emphasis, all State/FCT Coordinators are to take special note of the following to facilitate the successful conduct of the 2019 Batch 'C' Stream I Orientation Course:

- a) Camps must be prepared and ready for the exercise 5 days before the commencement date;
- b) Bushes/overgrown grasses must be cleared in all camps;
- c) Pre-Orientation meeting with collaborating agencies must take place before the Orientation course;
- d) Good reception for Prospective Corps members must be organized by Camp officials;
- e) The approved number of casual hands for the servicing of toilets must be on standby at the facilities at all times;
- f) All hostels must have well fitted fans;
- g) All camp officials must work harmoniously as a team;
- h) Briefing of Corps members by State Coordinators should hold before the swearing-in ceremony while debriefing should be conducted before the closing ceremony;
- i) Quality and quantity of meals served Corps members must be of acceptable standards while the food menu must also be complied with;
- j) All Camps must ensure high level of discipline among Corps participants and officials;
- k) The Orientation time-table must be strictly adhered to;
- l) The Camp Clinics must be set up 24 hours before commencement of the Orientation course with adequate drugs. Consultants from tertiary hospitals must be on camp 24 hours;

- m) On no account should any sick Corps member be allowed to stay in the Clinic for more than 12 hours if there is no sign of improvement;
 - n) Corps members with complicated sickness should be relocated immediately or referred to Tertiary Health facilities for better management;
 - o) Drugs which are nearing expiration should not be procured for use in the camps;
 - p) State Coordinators will be held responsible for the death of any Corps member if found to be as a result of negligence.
8. I charge you to ensure strict compliance with the above guidelines and directives. In addition, you must pay special attention to the welfare of Corps members and camp officials. I wish us fruitful and rewarding deliberations.
9. Thank you and God bless.

GOODWILL MESSAGE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE INEC/STAKEHOLDERS' SENSITIZATION MEETING ON THE KOGI STATE GOVERNORSHIP AND KOGI WEST SENATORIAL ELECTIONS ON TUESDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER, 2019



I am pleased to be in your midst today for this important meeting on the Kogi State Gubernatorial Election and the Kogi West Senatorial Rerun Election scheduled for 16th November, 2019. Let me begin by congratulating INEC and other stakeholders for the progress made so far in the preparations for the elections. May I also use this occasion to thank the generality of Nigerians for the confidence reposed in our Corps members, who constitute the largest part of INEC's adhoc personnel for the conduct of elections in the country.

2. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, since the commencement of the INEC-NYSC collaboration, we have remained fully committed to the success of the partnership with a view to strengthening the confidence of Nigerians and indeed the international community in our electoral system. NYSC has consistently sensitized Corps members to uphold the virtues of honesty, patriotism, discipline and selflessness, which are some of the hallmarks of National Service. Accordingly, successive batches of Corps members have demonstrated high sense of responsibility and neutrality when engaged as election officials.

3. As we prepare for the Kogi State Governorship and the Kogi West Senatorial Rerun Elections, I wish to assure all stakeholders

that our Corps members have been trained and fully sensitized to perform the electoral assignment with honesty of purpose and the usual neutrality for which the Scheme is known. They will not only be apolitical, but also adhere to the established guidelines as they set out to conduct this important assignment.

4. At this juncture, I wish to commend the efforts of all Security Agencies towards ensuring peaceful conduct of the elections. I also appeal to the good people of Kogi State, including key stakeholders like Traditional Rulers, Religious Leaders and indeed Politicians to compliment the efforts of the Security Agencies in this regard. In particular, I urge you to help sensitize your followers on the need to protect our Corps members, who are our children on National Service, from any form of molestation before, during and after the elections.

5. Finally, I pray the almighty god to guide our efforts towards a hitch-free conduct of the elections.

6. Thank you for listening and God bless

THE QUALITY CULTURE: A NECESSITY FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – A PAPER PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC, BRIGADIER GENERAL S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE FOURTH EDITION OF QUALITY IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS (QEB-4) SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY THE INSTITUTE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE OF NIGERIA



Introduction

It is my pleasure to address this august gathering at this fourth edition of *Quality is Everybody's Business* (QEB-4) Seminar organized by the Institute of Quality Assurance of Nigeria (IQAN). Let me begin by commending IQAN for organizing this forum aimed at reawakening our consciousness to the imperative of imbibing quality culture for the success of our overall national development efforts. May I also thank the Institute for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this important discourse. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the maintenance of quality in all its ramifications in production, services and administration in this clime is arguably a difficult task. The lukewarm attitude of some stakeholders in the society to the issues of quality makes sensitization programmes of this nature a necessity. Indeed, for Nigeria to be reckoned with in the comity of nations, there must be a general re-orientation of the populace towards embracing the culture of quality and high standards in all facets of our national life.

2. Definition of Terms

To aid our appreciation of this subject, it is necessary to take a look at some key definitions of quality. Cambridge English Dictionary defines Quality as “the standard of something as

measured against other things of similar kind...” It could also be defined as the degree of excellence in a product....service or process. Quality could be seen as a distinctive attribute or characteristics possessed by someone or something”.

Quality in public/formal services, especially manufacturing goes above the dictionary definition. In manufacturing, quality refers to “a measure of excellence or a state of production without defects”. Edward Deming defines good quality as “a predictable degree of uniformity and dependability with a quality standard suitable to a customer”. The underlying philosophy of all definitions of quality is the same: “consistency of conformance and performance keeping the satisfaction of the customer in mind”.

At this point it is also important to look at culture. It has diverse definitions, but this one by Edward Burnett Tylor as quoted by CSS Forum is particularly appealing: “that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief art, morals, laws, customs, and any other capabilities acquired by man as a member of society”.

A cursory look at the foregoing definitions of quality and culture will reaffirm my opening proposition that a people and nation that want to be taken seriously must imbibe the culture of quality and high standards in all of their affairs. This implies that a people, an organization or a nation must set for themselves standards below which they cannot descend.

3. Efforts by Government to institute quality culture in our National life

In a bid to enhance the quality of services rendered by public establishments, the Federal Government in the year 2000 came up with the SERVICOM Principles, which all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) must subscribe to. A SERVICOM Office was

also established in the Presidency to monitor and rate the quality of services rendered by MDAs as well as entrench the culture of prompt and efficient service delivery to both the Nigerian people and foreigners doing business in Nigeria. The Government also established agencies such as the Bureau for Public Procurement to enhance efficiency and entrench the culture of honesty and quality in the procurement process. Furthermore, schools conduct examinations not only as a routine ritual to bring an academic exercise to a head, but also to standardize and assign quality to their product. Other agencies of Government set up to enhance values, standards and quality in the conduct of government business include:

- a) Federal Ministry of Education;
- b) Consumer Protection Council;
- c) Standard Organization of Nigeria; and
- d) Other Regulatory/Security Agencies.

4. Quality Culture and the National Youth Service Corps:

The National Youth Service Corps was established on the 22nd of May, 1973 by the then Federal Military Government under the leadership of General Yakubu Gowon to encourage and develop common ties among Nigerian youths, promote National Unity and integration as well as develop Nigeria into a great and dynamic economy. The key objectives of the NYSC include:

- To inculcate discipline in Nigerian youths by instilling in them a tradition of industry at work and of patriotic and loyal service to Nigeria in any situation they may find themselves;
- To raise the moral tone of the Nigerian youths by giving

them the opportunity to learn about higher ideals of national achievement, social and cultural improvement;

- To develop in the Nigerian youths, the attitudes of mind, acquired through shared experience and suitable training, which will make them more amenable to mobilization in the national interest;
- To enable Nigerian youths acquire the spirit of self-reliance by encouraging them to develop skills for self-employment;
- To contribute to the accelerated growth of the national economy;
- To develop common ties among Nigerian youths and promote National Unity and integration;
- To remove prejudices, eliminate ignorance and confirm at first hand the many similarities among Nigerians of all ethnic groups; and
- To develop a sense of corporate existence and common destiny of the people of Nigeria.

In order to achieve these laudable objectives, the Scheme's activities are anchored on four (4) Cardinal Programmes, namely: Orientation, Primary Assignment, Community Development Service and Winding-up and Passing-out. For any Corps member to qualify for the Certificate of National Service, usually issued at the end of the Service Year, they must have gone through these Cardinal Programmes and must have served continuously for a period not less than twelve (12) months. NYSC, through its well-articulated programmes, has continued to provide Nigerian graduates with the necessary skills, ideas and experiences that will ensure they remain responsible citizens that are set to take up leadership roles in the society. The Scheme also empowers them to be employable and in some cases become employers of labour.

Orientation Course: In all its programmes, the NYSC entrenches the quality culture. The Orientation course, for instance, is so regimented that the Corps member is quick to imbibe discipline and patriotic zeal in line with the key objectives of the Scheme. The course has both physical and intellectual components that bring out the best in each participant. During the Orientation course, both Camp Officials and Corps members must conform to established code of conduct as they engage in the scheduled activities.

Primary Assignment: At the end of the Orientation course, all Corps members are posted to places of Primary Assignment. Again, all must take part in uniformed activities working with an employer and obeying all rules that apply to employees of the host organization. Out of its determination to ensure quality output, the NYSC Management has put machinery in place for effective inspection of the Corps members in their service locations. Aside the Local Government Inspector assigned to work with the Corps member on a daily basis, there is a Zonal Inspector in charge of a cluster of Local Government Areas, who periodically visits them at their places of Primary Assignment to ensure conformity with established rules and standards. Also, Inspectors from the NYSC State Secretariat, the Area Offices and the National Directorate Headquarters visit Corps locations at intervals – and usually unannounced.

Community Development Service: Interspersed with the Primary Assignment is the Community Development Service (CDS). This programme provides the platform for Corps members to deploy their innate abilities, creativity and physical energies for contribution to the improvement of their host communities, thereby enhancing rural transformation. Projects executed by Corps members can be seen in all nooks and crannies of the country. Like the Orientation Course and Primary Assignment, all Corps

members compulsorily participate in the CDS irrespective of their areas of specialty or socio-economic backgrounds. Currently, NYSC executes the Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD), a programme through which free and quality healthcare services are taken to the rural poor. Also, Corps members' involvement in immunization and campaign against the HIV/AIDS scourge greatly enhances the success of both exercises. Other notable activities under the Community Development Service include but not limited to Mass Literacy Campaign, Road Safety, Environmental Sanitation and Tree Planting to Combat Desertification, etc. Steps that are common in all of these are thorough analysis of project proposals to ensure relevance and feasibility before approval as well as strict monitoring and evaluation through regular field inspection.

Winding-up and Passing-out programme: The last Cardinal Programme of NYSC, namely Winding-up and Passing-out exercise focuses on evaluation of the Service Year. It is a two-way process that sees the overall performances of Corps members evaluated by NYSC Inspectors and Corps Employers as well as Corps members given the opportunity to evaluate the Scheme and make suggestions for improvement. These set of activities greatly assist the Scheme in entrenching the quality culture and enhancing its operations.

5. Key quality culture and value indices

a. Peace and Security: As we are all aware, no meaningful development can take place in an atmosphere devoid of peace. Therefore, all hands must be on deck to ensure that the society enjoys peace and security. For the endeavours of any public or private organization to be effective and successful, the operating environment has to be safe for the operators. This informs the long standing policy of NYSC on safety of both Corps members and its officials. As a matter of fact, the **Improvement of the Welfare**

and Security of Corps Members and Staff is one of the cardinal points of my policy thrust. The Scheme has prioritized its partnership with security agencies in a bid to ensure that Corps members are protected wherever they are serving in the country. Among other strategies, the Scheme operates a Distress Call Centre to provide 24-hour services to Corps members in distress and facilitates contact with relevant agencies for prompt intervention. With these deliberate steps, our young men and women on National Service are able to focus on contribution to the socio-economic development of the country. They are also encouraged to foster unity and be their brother's keeper in line with their Oath of Allegiance and the objectives of the Scheme. NYSC lays the foundation for national peace and cohesion. In the same vein, I advocate public support for the on-going efforts by the Federal Government, security agencies and other stakeholders for the sustenance of peace and security in the country. This is a key factor that will promote citizens' participation in economic and general development efforts as well as enhance confidence of both local and foreign investors.

b. Innovations: The success of every organization depends amongst other things, on the efficacy of its modus operandi, innovations and strategies for the sustenance of its relevance. To ensure quality services and achievement of customer satisfaction, the organization has to embrace innovations that will bring its operations in tune with global best practices. This informs the deliberate steps, including deployment of ICT solutions, taken by NYSC to enhance operational efficiency. With effect from 2014 Batch 'C' Service Year, the Scheme's Mobilization process became fully digitalized. Before then, Prospective Corps members had to travel back to their institutions of graduation for collection of Call-up Letters. But with the computerization of the process through the NYSC Online Integrated System, a graduate can register online for the Mobilization from any part of the world, and any graduate so

mobilized can print the Call-up Letter online. This innovation has many benefits, including enhancement of the credibility of the Mobilization process by eliminating chances of sharps practices, saving of travel cost and time that would have been spent when if one were to collect Call-up Letter by hand and the attendant risks involved in traveling. Our efforts to safeguard the credibility of the process recently led to the arrest of 65 fake graduates, who attempted to register for the 2019 Batch 'B' Orientation Course in various camps across the country. They were promptly handed over to security agencies for prosecution and already, some of them have been convicted of the offence. Another innovation by the Scheme is the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme – an initiative aimed at complimenting Government's efforts at addressing the problem of graduate unemployment. The SAED is implemented through in-camp training during the Orientation course to introduce the Corps members to various skills as well as the post-camp training that enables them to perfect their skills in chosen vocations during the service year. There are twelve skills sets and several sub-skills, which Corps members can choose from. Since the introduction the SAED programme, over 1,132,409 Corps members have been sensitized, while 971,272 have successfully undergone training. More than half of these numbers are managing their own businesses today. NYSC is collaborating with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria(SMEDAN), Bank of Industry (BOI), and the NYSC Foundation amongst others to provide start-up funding for Corps members, who successfully complete their training to enable them actualize their business vision.

c. Safety of People and Infrastructure: For the much needed development to be achieved, there must be conscious efforts to safeguard public infrastructure and give sense of security to all citizens and foreigners alike. Infrastructural development remains a

key requirement for economic progress as macro, small and medium enterprises cannot thrive without basic facilities such as road, electricity and water supply amongst others. The provision of these facilities notwithstanding, their maintenance is critical to the success of our economic development drive. This again brings to the fore imperative of quality both in the provision and subsequent management of public utilities. While we optimize the use of available facilities for development, conscious effort should be made to ensure their longevity. Among the challenges facing the NYSC today are the poor State of some of our Orientation camps and inadequate Corps Lodges in some States. Our advocacy to the State and Local Governments, therefore, emphasizes quality of facilities that will be provided in the camps just as we sensitize everyone in the Scheme, including Corps members, on maintenance culture. I am pleased to inform this gathering that NYSC has a long standing tradition of contributing to the safety of public infrastructure through various Community Development projects executed by Corps members. Examples of these are reactivation of broken down boreholes and renovation of school structures. Our security tips also inculcate the culture of infrastructural protection in the Corps members, who are leaders of tomorrow. I consider it appropriate, therefore, to use this forum to appeal to all Nigerians to develop sense of ownership of public infrastructure and protect them from being vandalized. I advocate the establishment of maintenance committees by all communities that benefit from infrastructural facilities provided by Government or other bodies so as to enable them remain functional for the longest possible time.

d. Sustainable Development Goals Attainment: The attainment of the seventeen-point Sustainable Development Goals, which represent the United Nations global agenda for development, requires the support of all and sundry. Of paramount importance is the quality of interventions of various players, including Governments and development partners. As a stakeholder, NYSC

has been playing very significant roles in the attainment of the SDGs through our programmes, which are mostly executed under the Community Development Service. We contribute to the health, water and sanitation, education and poverty eradication components of the SDGs, for instance, through our Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers and Corps members' projects such as construction and reactivation of hand pumps and motorized boreholes for communities, construction of public toilets to reverse the trend of open defecation, teaching as Primary Assignment, Mass Literacy Campaign, and vocational training for members of host communities amongst other programmes of the Scheme. The Corps members are also trained to participate actively in the SDGs Awareness Creation nationwide. Since the beginning of the programme, **1,176,957** Corps members have been sensitized on the SDGs at the NYSC Orientation Camps while **197,535** of them have so far been trained as Corps Advocates.

e. Competent and Efficient Service Delivery: The quality of services rendered by public and private sector organizations has implications for overall development of any country. Every organization is expected to identify with the SERVICOM Charter and to also outline its specific Quality Assurance Mission. Imbibing the culture of self-appraisal and deliberate efforts at continuous improvements in productivity will also be necessary. That is why from the onset, NYSC has a well thought out vision of being "**a Scheme that is dynamic enough to meet new challenges and become the leading light of youth organizations in Africa.**" Our major services include, Mobilization of local and foreign trained Nigerian graduates, conduct of hitch-free Orientation course to properly induct Prospective Corps members and posting them to work with various agencies, etc. We also render other services to clients, including but not limited to the issuance of Certificate of National Service, Exemption Certificate and Exclusion Letters to deserving persons as well as verification of these

certificates for interested organizations and individuals. Over the years, the Scheme has been making effort to continually improve the quality of its services to serving and Prospective Corps members as well as other clients. Today, NYSC remains a unique organization that ensures highly efficient service delivery by promptly issuing the Certificate of National Service to all deserving Corps members on the day of their passing-out.

6. The National Youth Service Corps Scheme viewed against the background of its objectives has performed creditably over the years. Successive administrations in the Scheme have made efforts to keep alive the dreams of its founding fathers. Among our achievements are the promotion of National unity and integration, especially with inter-tribal marriages being contracted as a result of bonds established during the service. There is today higher mobility of labour as more people work in States other than their states of origin both in the public and private sectors. Since my assumption of office over six months ago, my vision has been to improve the welfare and security of both Corps members and Staff, strengthen collaboration with stakeholders, reinvigorate the NYSC Ventures and the Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development, sustain the utilization of potentials of Corps members and pursue a technologically-driven organization to deepen effective service delivery. These have been our driving force. We are also aware of the fact that remaining committed to quality culture will accelerate the achievement of these goals, and place the Scheme in a position to make greater impact in the years ahead. I strongly subscribe to the axiom “quality is not an accident; it is always the result of high intentions”.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, for any nation to stand firm in the comity of nations and for Nigeria to achieve sustainable economic and socio-political development, we must deepen our commitment to the quality culture. In this regard, there should be deliberate effort to uplift standards and quality of governance and

all other vehicles of development, especially our education system.

7. **Recommendations**

Lack of quality culture occasions collapse of buildings just as it renders our hospitals and other public institutions ineffective. Absence of quality culture also results in the disdainful reference to locally produced goods as inferior and substandard. We must, therefore, rise as a people and work with commitment to reverse the trend. In this regard, I wish to recommend that:

- i. **the Institute of Quality Assurance expands its sensitization programme through more workshops, conferences and projects;**
- ii. **more organizations in the public and private sectors should attend events of this nature organized by the Institute and other bodies with similar mandate;**
- iii. **campaigns on quality, values and standards be taken to our educational institutions at levels;**
- iv. **annual reports of Government Agencies and private sector organizations be viewed against their stated objectives with a view to identifying ones that are outstanding and designating them as role models on Quality Assurance;**
- v. **quality assurance should be incorporated into the General Studies curriculum of our tertiary institutions;**
- vi. **agencies saddled with the responsibilities of ensuring quality service delivery should live up to their assigned roles for the good of our country; and**
- vii. **the Institute of Quality Assurance can also partner with the National Youth Service Corps with a view**

to engaging Corps members as advocates of Quality Culture under one of our Community Development Service Groups.

8. Conclusion

With the Institute of Quality Assurance in place and considering its efforts such as the one that made today's event possible, I make bold to state that Nigeria is already advancing to the next level in the entrenchment of the Quality Culture. Without standards and quality assurance, all development efforts will not yield the needed outcomes. For the future of our nation and the benefit of our children, we must imbibe the quality culture. It is time to say no to heavy reliance on importation of all kinds of goods that can be produced locally and uphold the tenets of self-reliance. Indeed, this is the time to rededicate ourselves to quality service in our respective areas of endeavour. Once again, I thank the organizers for giving me the opportunity to be part of this important event. While wishing you success, I assure you of the commitment of the NYSC to working with you to entrench the quality culture in our everyday life.

9. Thank you and God bless you all.

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**LIFE WITHOUT WHITE COLLAR: IMPERATIVES
FOR VOCATIONAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL
EDUCATION: THE NYSC PERSPECTIVE – A PAPER
PRESENTED BY BRIGADIER GENERAL S IBRAHIM
DSS PHD MTRCN DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS AT THE 11TH
CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF TAI SOLARIN
UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, IJAGUN, OGUN
STATE ON THURSDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

Protocol

INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to be accorded the honour to address this august gathering on the occasion of the 11th Convocation ceremony of the Premier and Preferred University of Education in Nigeria, the Prestigious Tai Solarin University of Education. It is indeed a privilege and home coming for me as I am also an alumnus of this great Institution. Let me begin by thanking the Vice Chancellor for giving me the privilege of contributing to the discourse on the current unemployment problem bedeviling the country. The choice of the title is apt considering the current disturbing statistics on unemployment rate in the country with its resultant effect on the economy.

NYSC is in a good position to contribute to this subject given our peculiar mandate on mentoring youths for national unity, sustainable development and self-reliance. The Scheme has since inception in 1973, been making efforts to mentor graduate youths towards self-reliance through collaboration with relevant Agencies. I however hasten to point out that this paper is not an academic presentation, but an overview of the Scheme's activities towards

dissuading Nigerian graduates from pursuing the non-existing white collar jobs in the country.

It is my hope that sharing our experience at this forum will not only enable the audience appreciate the efforts of NYSC towards discouraging youths from pursuing white collar jobs, but also provide necessary encouragement, suggestions, support and avenue for more collaborations.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

For want of time, below is a summary of definition of some terms to be used in the paper.

WHITE COLLAR

Working in the office, rather than a factory. It refers to employees or professionals whose work is knowledge intensive, non-routine and unstructured. Historically, the nomenclature originated from the west, when clerical workers wore white shirt collars but manual workers wore blue. (Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary, 9th Edition; Business Dictionary)

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Training for a specific occupation in agriculture, trade or industry through a combination of theoretical teaching and practical experience (Webster Dictionary)

According to UNESCO Document (1974), Vocational Technical Education are those aspects of educational process involving, in addition to general education, the study of technologies and related sciences and the acquisition of practical skills, attitudes and

knowledge relating to occupation in various sectors of economic and social life.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The process of designing, launching and running a new business, which is often initially a small business.

The capacity and willingness to develop, organize and manage a business venture along with any of its risks to make profit.

According to European Commission (2011), Entrepreneurship Education is a process by which learners are equipped with a wide set of competencies that can bring about greater individual, social and economic benefits.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE NYSC SCHEME

To appreciate the purpose for the establishment of the NYSC Scheme, the history of Nigeria, especially the post-independence era must first be understood. Nigeria is a country whose colonial history and experience have been characterized by ethnic loyalty, mutual group suspicion and distrust which culminated into a bloody civil war from 1967 – 1970. The Scheme was therefore established as a deliberate public policy to ensure the realization of the Government's post-civil war strategy of Reconciliation, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. It aimed to raise a new crop of disciplined and detribalized Nigerians by allowing the youths to undergo a one year national service in States other than their own for the purpose of promoting national unity and development as well as actualization of the quest for accelerated development. The enabling law was Decree No. 24 of 22nd May, 1973. With the adoption of the 1999 Constitution, which ushered in democratic

rule, the enabling law establishing the NYSC is now referred to as “the NYSC Act CAP N84, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004”.

The objectives of the Scheme as spelt out in Section 1(3) of the NYSC Act are as follow:-

- To inculcate discipline in Nigerian Youth by instilling in them a tradition of industry at work and of patriotic and loyal service to Nigeria in any situation they may find themselves;
- To raise the moral tone of the Nigerian Youth by giving them the opportunity to learn about higher ideals of national achievement, social and cultural improvement;
- To develop in the Nigerian Youth, the attitudes of mind, acquired through shared experience and suitable training, which will make them more amenable to mobilization in the national interest;
- To enable Nigerian Youth acquire the spirit of self-reliance by encouraging them to develop skills for self-development;
- To contribute to the accelerated growth of the national economy;
- To develop common ties among Nigerian youths and promote National Unity and integration;
- To remove prejudices, eliminate ignorance and confirm at first hand the many similarities among Nigerians of all ethnic groups; and
- To develop a sense of corporate existence and common destiny of the people of Nigerian.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NYSC SCHEME

NYSC as an organization is strategically positioned to lead interventions in many socio-economic and poverty reduction

initiatives because of its prominent role in mobilizing youths for national development. The Scheme today commands the highest concentration of educated youth working within and for communities (rural and urban).

Since inception, it has mobilized and deployed millions of educated youths to all nooks and crannies of the country.

The following are some of the achievements attained by the Scheme from its inception to date:-

- **National Unity:** The Scheme has Corps members in all the 774 Local Government Areas of the Country promoting national unity and galvanizing grassroots development in all sectors of the economy. Inter-ethnic marriage amongst corps members which no doubt reduces prejudice amongst Nigerians is also an additional evidence of what the Scheme has achieved in promoting national integration.
- **Health Care Delivery:** The Scheme has strengthened the nation's Healthcare delivery through a number of collaborative activities with local and international agencies. NYSC is actively collaborating with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNICEF, National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) and the Federal ministry of Health on the Campaign against HIV/AIDS. Over 1, 700,000 corps members have so far been reached and provided with life skill training. These in turn have trained over 10,800,000 students of secondary school age nationwide and Peer Educators.

The Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD) is a programme used by the Scheme to fill the gaps imposed by limitations in healthcare facilities provided by government

to take care of health needs of the populace, especially in the rural communities. Under this programme, a quarterly nationwide medical outreach is carried out where rural dwellers enjoy free medical services including donation of drugs and other medical consumables. The Scheme has also donated hundreds of wheel chairs through the programme. The Scheme was also fully involved in combating the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease.

- **Participation of Corps Members in Elections:** The collaboration between NYSC and INEC for the use of Corps members in election duties was mainly aimed at improving the credibility of the process. The formal collaboration started with the use of Corps members as polling Clerks in the conduct of Kogi re-run Governorship election in 2008. The professional conduct and patriotism exhibited by Corps members involved in managing election has evolved the integrity of elections in Nigeria. Starting with a mere 5,000 participants, the collaboration is now boasting of more than a million volunteers in less than 10 years. In separate reports, domestic and international observers acknowledged that the 2011, 2015 and 2019 elections were successful mainly due to the immense contribution of the Youth Corps members. Indeed the European Union Observation Mission for 2019 General Elections specially recognized Seventy-Five (75) Corps members for their outstanding performance during the Elections.
- **Education:** the NYSC Scheme has made significant contributions to the educational development of the nation as over 70% of the total number of corps members are deployed to teach, especially in the rural areas. Indeed, in

some parts of the country, the school system would have collapsed without corps members. In some cases, corps members are used as principals in some educationally disadvantaged states. There are equally a number of states where special arrangements were made for all corps members deployed to such states, apart from Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers and Para medicals to be posted to schools.

- **Legal Aid:** The NYSC has made landmark contributions in the area of providing legal representation and services to indigent Nigerians through collaboration with the Legal Aid Council. Corps Lawyers have been rendering free legal aid to members of the society, particularly in the rural communities. They have also been sensitizing people on their rights under the constitution.
- **Prevention of Unqualified Graduates from Participating in National Service:** One of the achievements of the NYSC in recent times is the strengthening of efforts at sanitizing the mobilization process by ensuring that only qualified graduates are mobilized and deployed for National Service as prescribed by the NYSC Act. Efforts of the Scheme in this direction has resulted in the arrest and prosecution of Sixty-Five (65) unqualified graduates with fake results who attempted to participate in the National Service. Furthermore, out of over twenty thousand (20,000) Nigerian foreign trained graduates who uploaded their credentials for participation in the ongoing orientation exercise, only three thousand, five hundred of these presented themselves for verification as others stayed away for fear of being prosecuted for presenting fake/forged documents.

In addition to the above achievements, the Scheme has also been in the forefront of national response to issues/programmes that are of immense importance to the well-being of Nigerians. Thus, NYSC has played significant roles in other national programmes like Agricultural Development, Employment Generation, Fight against Polio, Malaria, Guinea Warm etc. Others include active participation of Corps members on Afforestation, promotion of Environmental Sanitation, Road Safety Campaigns, Anti-corruption campaign through collaboration with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and the Independent Corrupt Practices & Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), etc.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Unemployment occurs when people who are able to work are unable to find a suitable paid job for a tangible period of time.

Unemployment in Nigeria increased from 21.1% in 2010 to 23.9% in 2011 with youth unemployment at over 50%. From 2011 to 2013 there was an increase of 16% unemployment growth in the country. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria's unemployment rate stood at 23.1% of the workforce in the third quarter of 2018. Underemployment rate was 20.1% and the combined unemployment and underemployment rate was 43.3%. According to the NBS, four in 10 Nigerians are unemployed and underemployed. (CNBC Africa December, 2018; National Bureau of Statistics E-Library, nigerianstat.gov.ng)

Apparently appalled with the worsening unemployment situation in the country, most graduates resorted to self-help. The forces of demand far outstrip the availability of vacancies.

Graduates who hitherto scamper for white collar jobs are now

having a rethink: most of them do not mind dumping white collar jobs for blue collar jobs to eke out a living.

This poses the need for government to create labour market that works better for youth employment and having investment on education to enable youth become self-reliant instead of job seekers through skills development training. Part of the efforts put in place was the introduction of Vocational Technical Education and Entrepreneurial Education.

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (VTE)

The aim and objectives of VTE is to provide trained manpower in applied science, technology and commerce. It is also aimed at providing technical skills necessary for agriculture, industrial, commercial and economic development. It is equally aimed at producing craftsmen, technical and other skilled personnel who will be enterprising and self-reliant.

Efforts for the conduct of Technical Education started in 1946 with the establishment of Yaba Technical Institute in 1947. Some Trade Centres were also established around the country. By 1952, three Technical Institutes were established at Yaba, Enugu and Kaduna. (Okorie 2001).

ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

Entrepreneurship is not a new concept in Nigeria. It may not have been known with this name, but it was obviously practiced before colonization. Apprenticeship training during pre-colonial era involved training of young persons by master craftsmen or friends of their families. They live and learn the trade or skill with the master who would feed and cater for them while the apprentice would assist the master in household chores and farm work. The apprenticeship

system produced semi-skilled artisans in auto mechanics, electrical installation, radio and Television repairs, carpentry, tailoring and building construction amongst others.

The school curriculum and method of learning as introduced by the colonial masters de-emphasized any form of entrepreneurship. Okoli (2011) stated that the school curriculum consisted of core focus areas of Reading, Writing, Religion and Arithmetic.

After independence, Nigerian government noticed the short comings and limitations in the colonial education heritage. This led to efforts by government to come up with programmes such as Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NDAS), etc.

In 1987, National Council on Education (NCE) approved the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) which created Vocational Schools, Technical Colleges, Polytechnics, Monotechnics and Colleges of Technology. They offer courses that lead to the award of National Diploma (ND) and Higher National Diploma (HND).

To further strengthen the need to encourage educational pursuit anchored towards encouraging self-reliance, the Federal Government established a new set of Universities of Technology in the 1980s. Their mandate is to produce graduates with practical and theoretical knowledge of technologies. The Federal Government equally granted approval for the establishment of new Federal Science and Technical Colleges in 16 States of the Country. This was disclosed by the Minister of Education on 7th November, 2019 at the 64th Meeting of the National Council on Education. According to the Minister, this is towards developing a functional education

system that will make citizens self-reliant. (Leadership Newspaper, 8th November, 2019).

It is also noteworthy that the Federal Government as a measure of infusing the culture of self-reliance in young Nigerians introduced the 6-3-3-4 system of education. The main objective of the system is to promote vocational education with a view to ensuring that the youths acquire skills that will enhance their employability. All these are aimed at developing school curriculum with entrepreneurial bias to create self-reliance, employment as well as economic growth and development.

NYSC IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING

The history of entrepreneurship training in the NYSC dates as far back as the commencement of the Scheme. The mandate of the Scheme towards economic empowerment of Corps members is embedded in Section I, sub-section 3(d) of the NYSC Act, one of the objectives is “to enable Nigerian Youth acquire the spirit of self-reliance by encouraging them to develop skills for self-reliance”. To attain this objective, the Scheme came up with several policies and programmes. The service year period therefore offers a unique opportunity to empower the easily trainable corps members through capacity building and skill acquisition that will make them self-reliant and a rallying point for wealth creation.

COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF EMPLOYMENT (NDE)

Collaboration between the NYSC and the NDE is on Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP). The programme is meant to sensitize Corps members at the orientation camps on available opportunities, outside employment, train them on preparation of business plans for small business enterprises and

how they could get assistance to set up their own businesses. Corps members are counseled and sensitized on how to articulate and write bankable feasibility reports.

NYSC WAR AGAINST POVERTY PROGRAMME

The War Against Poverty (WAP) is an economic empowerment programme which focused on the then Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1 and targets the Corps members for the post service period. It sought to empower corps members with entrepreneurial and agro-enterprise skills and corresponding interest-free loans with a view to generating employment, eradicating poverty and hunger, creating wealth as well as boosting modern agricultural productivity for food security. With the roll-over of MDGs to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the programme continued as NYSC/SDGs WAP.

The WAP training is divided into two sections: The entrepreneurial development training and the specific agro enterprise (vocational) training. This strategy ensures a holistic development of participating corps members so that they can also contribute to the social requirements of Nigeria.

ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

This forms the first part of the training where general business issues are discussed. Corps members are trained to think and operate as entrepreneurs in order to enhance the sustainability of their agro business. They are equipped with requisite business skills that will enable them operate profitably and transforms their businesses into bigger entities.

SPECIFIC AGRO ENTERPRISE SKILL TRAINING

This forms the second part of the training. The agro enterprises for which the Corps members are trained include:-

- Fish Farming
- Snail Farming
- Grasscutter Farming
- Poultry Production
- Animal Husbandry
- Banana/Plantain Sucker Multiplication.

At the end of the training, Corps members are advanced interest-free revolving loans repayable over thirty months.

The Corps members are in turn expected to train and mentor at least 5 youths in the community where they establish. The programme is financially supported by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs/SDGs. Other partners in the programme are Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDAN) and National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) who provide technical support to ensure that Corps entrepreneurs make a success of the enterprises set up.

From inception of the programme in 2006 to date, a total of 3,266 Corps members were trained while 2,543 Corps members were empowered through disbursement of N628, 700,000 as loans.

SKILL ACQUISITION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) Programme is the most recent of programmes aimed at tackling youth unemployment in the NYSC Scheme. It is designed to equip

Corps members with vocational skills, while also developing their business and entrepreneurial capacities. The programme is designed for implementation through the in-camp and post-camp training components.

Three main strategies are adopted to achieve the SAED mandate:-

Capacity Building: This includes sensitization and mobilization of Corps members for enrolment into the SAED programme. Presently, Corps members are being trained in twelve skill sets as follows:-

- Agro-allied
- Automobile
- Construction
- Food Preservation and Processing
- Culture and Tourism
- Cosmetology
- ICT
- Environment
- Beautification
- Education
- Film and Photography
- Power and Energy

Capacity building starts in the camp and continues for one year after the orientation with Corps members attached to identified organizations at the state level to provide training and mentoring in their chosen skill sets.

From the inception of the programme to date, over 1,132,409 corps members have been sensitized and reached with empowerment messages while over 971,272 have completed the post-camp training. 12,061 are known to have established different types of

Small and Medium Enterprises.

Entrepreneurship education cannot succeed without infrastructure. The skills cannot be acquired theoretically. To this effect, the provision of infrastructure such as workshops, machines, as well as farmlands become very important. The NYSC has therefore established Integrated Skill Acquisition Centres in Gombe and Ekiti States with another one in Jigawa nearing completion.

The aim is to establish at least one Integrated Skill Centre in all the geo-political zones. Almost all the 37 State Secretariats of the Scheme have established mini-skill acquisition centres for the training of Corps members. NYSC has equally established Farm Settlements in States such as Bauchi, Kebbi, Oyo as well as FCT for the purpose of training of Corps members in agro-enterprises. The Scheme also has Garment Factories in Minna, Niger State and Mgbakwu in Anambra State for training Corps members that have flair for tailoring and fashion design. In addition, a Bakery and Water Factory have also been established in the FCT as part of NYSC Ventures which also train Corps members.

Broad Based Collaborations

One of the key success factors for entrepreneurship education is effective development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, in which collaboration is built with multiple stakeholders that work to create entrepreneurial ventures. In NYSC, we have two categories of collaboration: The training Partners who participate during the in-camp and post-camp training on the different skill sets and entrepreneurship development.

The second category is the Development Partners. These are the various organizations at both National and International levels,

Private Sector and International Donor Agencies that sponsor SAED in terms of manpower, infrastructure and empowerment of Corps members with start-up capital. They include the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Chinese Government, Access Bank, Sterling Bank, Bank of Industry, Cognity Advisory, Credit Direct Ltd, Central Bank of Nigeria, SMEDAN, General Electric, etc.

From the inception of the programme to date, 1,132,409 Corps members have been sensitized and reached with SAED messages. Out of the number, 764,677 successfully completed the post-camp training as earlier stated.

AMOUNT DISBURSED TO TRAINED CORPS MEMBERS

Entrepreneurial Education without startup capital to set up business is as good as not doing anything. The NYSC Scheme is therefore facilitating access to available funding opportunities to trained Corps members. Below is a table containing the number of Corps members that had access to funding opportunities, organizations that disbursed funds and amounts involved:-

S/N	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	NUMBER THAT RECEIVED LOANS	AMOUNT
1.	Bank of Industry	1077	₦540.02million
2.	Credit Direct	13,344	₦629.016million
3.	Central Bank of Nigeria	07	₦15million
TOTAL		14,428	₦1.184Billion

It is important to note that each of the direct beneficiaries of the SAED Programme in turn employs an average of four persons to run their businesses.

NYSC NATIONAL BAND

In line with the objectives of the Scheme to mentor Corps members for self-development, the Management established the NYSC National Band in 2014. Corps members with flair for any of the musical instruments are gathered and trained to form the National Band.

Members are sourced from the orientation camps where scouts sent from the NYSC Headquarters are mandated to look out for corps members that are good in singing, dancing and use of any musical instrument. Successful candidates after the screening exercise are relocated to Abuja where they received special training and form part of the National Band to gain practical experience.

The band is aimed at encouraging Corps members that have interest in singing, dancing and use of musical instrument to enable them take up career in the entertainment industry. Each Secretariat of the NYSC also has a standing Band that provides music during official and other social functions.

THE DEEL INITIATIVE

The NYSC Management along with other Stakeholders is working towards consolidating on the gains of self-development of youths through a new initiative tagged “**DEEL**” by the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare.

The full meaning of the **DEEL** initiative is as follows:-

- D -Digital literacy and digital skills acquisition delivered through 64 digital hubs in Partnership with Junior Achievement.
- E -Entrepreneurship training from 6 Enterprise Centres of the CBN and the 12–24 Regional Youth Development Centres in the Geo-Political Zones offering five different trainings under Social Investment Programmes, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy.
- E -Employment – improvement of employability through Work Experience Programme that pairs candidates with Corporate Employers to get on-the-job experience in addition to those that will become self-employed, corporate, start-ups and SMEs.
- L -Leadership – leaders of today, mentorship provided through the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre, CLTC.

The programme will expose youths to digital literacy, entrepreneurship, employment and leadership skills.

CHALLENGES

Challenges faced by Vocational Training Education (VTE) and entrepreneurial education include the following:-

- Poor perception
- Apathy
- Funding
- Inadequate equipment
- Policy Inconsistency

WAY FORWARD

- Provision of funds for vocational/entrepreneurship education for all levels.
- Provision of infrastructure such as workshops, laboratories, farmlands, machines for practical learning by students.
- Training and retraining of teachers at all levels to equip them for the task.
- Strict compliance with Vocational Training Education (VTE)/entrepreneurship education policy through regular supervision and feedback mechanism.
- Policy consistency.

CONCLUSION

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the strive to dissuade our teeming youths from pursing the illusive white collar jobs and concentrate on entrepreneurship is an on-going process that requires periodic fine-tuning. It requires the synergy of all stakeholders because it is a responsibility that no one sector can handle alone.

We in the NYSC are aware and we constantly remind ourselves of our responsibility to contribute our quota to the attainment of our national aspiration and development as enshrined in our mandate.

I therefore wish to use this medium to appeal to all stakeholders to support government at all levels and NYSC in the quest to create economically stable livelihood for our graduate youths and help build a sustainable and peaceful environment that will fast track national development.

Thank you all for listening and God bless.

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ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE
SKILL ACQUISITION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
DEVELOPMENT (SAED) STAKEHOLDERS'
MEETING/DEBRIEFING AND TRAINING OF
PROGRAMME STAFF HELD AT THE NYSC NDHQ
CONFERENCE HALL ON TUESDAY,
14TH JANUARY, 2020



Protocol

It is my pleasure to address you on this auspicious occasion of the stakeholders' meeting, debriefing and training of Schedule Officers of the NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (SAED). Let me begin by welcoming all our distinguished guests and thank you most profoundly for honouring our invitation to this forum. Your presence here today is yet another demonstration of your unparalleled commitment to supporting the National Youth Service Corps towards the successful implementation of the SAED programme. I also welcome our Schedule Officers who have traveled from all States of the Federation to attend this programme.

2. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, this event is significant in several respects. First, it is coming at a time we approach the eighth anniversary of the introduction of the Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme and the implementing Department. It is also a significant step towards actualizing my vision of reinvigorating the SAED programme as enunciated in one of the cardinal points of my administration's policy thrust. As you are already aware, the programme seeks to develop the spirit of self-reliance in our youth by equipping them

with necessary skills for self-employment and wealth creation.

3. The aims of this meeting are to evaluate our progress so far in the SAED implementation, appreciate your invaluable contributions as critical stakeholders, as well as explore greater opportunities for expansion of our partnership engagements while bringing on board more partners. Therefore, as we advance to the threshold of making the programme a veritable model for youth empowerment in Nigeria, I implore everyone gathered here to stand and be counted among pillars of support for this worthy endeavour.

4. While we get set to strategize for further improvements in the SAED implementation, I consider it appropriate to inform this meeting of some of the accomplishments made in the past seven years through our collective effort as follows:

- i. Sensitization of over **One Million Four Hundred Thousand** Corps members on entrepreneurship development with over **Six Hundred Thousand** receiving various levels of training. I am most pleased to report that a good number of them have established their own businesses and doing well as employers of labour;
- ii. Construction, equipping and handover of a mega Skills Acquisition Centre for the North East Zone in Gombe by Access Bank Plc, which is also building a similar one for the North West in Jigawa State;
- iii. Construction of the South West Skill Acquisition Centre, which is at completion stage in Ekiti State;
- iv. Ongoing collaboration with Unity Bank on funding of Business Plan Development Programmes for Corps members;

- v. Successful partnership with funding institutions such as the Bank of Industry and the Central Bank of Nigeria on provision of start-up capital for Corps Entrepreneurs;
- vi. Training of forty (40) SAED Officers on Entrepreneurship by multinationals like General Electric and Cognity Advisory using the ILO's How-to-Start-and-Improve-Your-Business-Guide curriculum. So far, the officers have in turn trained 600 Corps members on development of business plans.
- vii. ILO's sponsorship of nine (9) Schedule Officers for capacity building and technical assistance training programme in Turin to aid the implementation of the programme;
- viii. Sponsorship of eight (8) Staff by the Chinese embassy in Nigeria for various vocational education training programmes in China;
- ix. Increased interest and participation of Corps members in various entrepreneurship development programmes as a result of our sensitization strategies;
- x. Partnership with SAEDConnect to create a single window platform called SAEDCONNECT.ORG through which youths can access capacity development information, including discovery of passion as well as building of employability and entrepreneurship skills with various empowerment options to choose from.
- xi. Not unmindful of the fact that all corps members will eventually not be self-employed, we are currently working

with IT companies to perfect the NYSC CV and Job Portal (www.nysc.jobs.org) which provides interaction between job seekers and prospective employers.

5. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the foregoing achievements would not have been possible without your steadfastness in supporting and believing in us. Therefore, I wish to seize this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your unflinching support over the years. Indeed from the outset, the programme concept took into cognizance the fact that no one organization has the singular capacity and unilateral approach to achieve the SAED objectives. This informed our decision to leverage on broad-based partnership with competent organizations to facilitate delivery of high quality results. We are determined to strengthen existing collaborations and explore additional ones for maximum benefits.

6. At this juncture, I wish to appeal to our existing and prospective partners to support our renewed efforts to take the implementation of the SAED programme to the next level. This you can do through the provision of material, technical and financial resources for greater impact. We will especially appreciate your interventions towards addressing the following:

- Inadequate funding of the skill acquisition programme;
- Inadequate structure for implementation of a national skill and vocational training framework curriculum;
- Lack of technical manpower for delivery of qualitative training across the country;
- Lack of standard vocational and skill training centers across the country;
- Lack of quality business plans to attract the desired funding support for aspiring Corps entrepreneurs; and

- General lack of synergy in the implementation of entrepreneurship development programme in Nigeria.
7. Despite identified challenges, our confidence in the limitless opportunities available in the programme for our youths remains unshakable. Accordingly, we will not relent in advocacy and partnership drive of this nature as a core strategy of the programme. The outcome will surely be a stronger, more functional and enduring platform for the empowerment of the Nigerian youth with requisite skills and resources for entrepreneurial success.
8. May I also use this opportunity to advocate a stronger commitment to the inclusion of mandatory Entrepreneurship Education in the curricular of Universities and other Tertiary Institutions in the country. This will go a long way in steering the mindset of our youths from that of seeking white collar job to self-employment. I wish to also reaffirm our commitment to supporting the DEEL initiative of the Federal Ministry of Youths and Sports Development, which is geared towards exposing youths to digital literacy, entrepreneurship training, employability skills and mentorship for leadership roles. It is our ardent hope that other stakeholders will also support this initiative for the benefit of our youth, in particular, and the nation as a whole.
9. Before I end my address, I wish to remind all stakeholders that with over 350,000 graduate youths mobilized in its fold annually, NYSC remains the most critical influencer of Nigerian youths as agents of unity, peace and development. Therefore, all hands must be on deck to enhance the Scheme's mandate of preparing them for the task of driving the socio-economic development of our dear country as its emerging leaders.
10. Thank you for listening and God bless.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PhD MTRCN
AT THE PUBLIC LECTURE ORGANISED BY THE
1970 SET OF THE BAREWA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION
ON 17TH JANUARY, 2020



Courtesies

I most sincerely express our appreciation to the 1970 set of the Barewa Old Boys Association (BOBA) for the decision to bring the issue of youth development to the front burner and offering NYSC the opportunity to contribute to the discourse. Let me also commend our Guest Speaker for doing justice to the topic. Sir, I am confident that the suggestions proffered in your presentation will make profound impact on our collective efforts to advance the development of our youths for the benefit of the society. Our erudite Speaker has said a lot on youth development, therefore my brief address will be mainly on re-orientation and empowerment of the youth for self-employment drawing from the NYSC experience.

2. The stark reality of today points to the fact that White Collar jobs are no longer available, hence the need to embrace the self-employment option. Consequently, NYSC is currently implementing a Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme introduced in 2012. Under the programme, Corps members are sensitized on the importance of self-employment and thereafter, trained on entrepreneurial and vocational skills with each corps member choosing from available skill sets so far.

3. In addition, the Scheme links the Corps members with

funding sources such as the Central Bank of Nigeria, Bank of Industry and others. As at today, over 1,400,000 Corps members have undergone the SAED training out of which 971,272 have completed the post Skill Acquisition training and 12,061 of these have established their own Small and Medium Enterprises.

4. The Scheme just concluded a stakeholders' workshop on SAED, where review and re-examination of the skill acquisition programme was looked into for optimal performance. However, it should also be noted that the youths that are mobilized for national service have already acquired expertise in different fields with the minds of some of them set on taking up paid employment. This has therefore made their re-orientation to imbibe the entrepreneurship necessary in order for them to realize that entrepreneurship is the only genuine gateway to true prosperity. Accordingly, our education system needs to be made more functional to effectively address our peculiarities and current realities, including those bordering on the development of our youths. Universities and other tertiary institutions should emphasize Entrepreneurship Development training not just as another "General Studies" course that will be taught perfunctorily. To achieve results, there should be a redesign of the curriculum to provide for content ratio of 70 – 30 in favour of the original course of specialty and compulsory entrepreneurship development training respectively. However, the Entrepreneurship studies may be made optional for students studying in critical areas such as medicine.

5. To avert the difficulty in redirecting the mindset of the youths from that of seeking white collar job to that of self-employment, we need to take deliberate steps to catch them young. Emphasis must, therefore, be placed on vocational education at the Secondary level. Technical Secondary Schools should be revived, increased in number and fully equipped to make them functional.

Also changing of the curriculum ratio to 60–40 in favour of practical will enable the achievement of quick results in the fostering of entrepreneurship spirit among our youths. With this kind of provision, we should see students producing their own bunk beds and furniture, fixing faulty water and electrical appliances, etc and eventually setting up businesses.

6. In addition, there is the compelling need to instill in our youths the spirit of the dignity of labour. They need to realize that starting small will not hinder the attainment of their desired success level. As against giving in to the get-rich-quick syndrome, what they need is honesty, hard work, passion, innovativeness and belief in their ability to soar through lawful and rewarding endeavours.

7. Deliberate emphasis must also be placed on value re-orientation of our youths. More efforts need to be geared towards sensitizing them on being useful to the society and, especially, preparing for leadership roles. Those in leadership positions in the public and private sectors must serve as role models for young people. Similarly, the youths must be encouraged to be productive and to avoid vices such as:

- Cultism
- Political thuggery
- Brigandage
- Drug abuse and trafficking

8. It is also noteworthy that a problem which is rearing its ugly head now is that of fake graduates. Young people driven by laziness and criminal intent now buy fake academic Certificates, especially from some outlets claiming to be Universities and other tertiary institutions in neighbouring countries with no true training in their supposed areas of specialty. Holders of such Certificates pose serious threats to national security and our general wellbeing if

unleashed on our system through private or public sector employment. To nip the problem in the bud, we have arrested many fake graduates who attempted to enlist for National Service, and they are currently being prosecuted. We have also held meeting with representatives of tertiary institutions based in some African countries to seek their cooperation in stopping the perpetration of such fraud.

9. It is important to use this forum to advise parents to always monitor strictly, the progress of their children and wards studying in tertiary institutions both at home and abroad.

10. Once again, I appreciate the organizers for this opportunity. Thank you all for listening and God bless.

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN
AT A ONE-DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR
NYSC LEGAL OFFICERS HELD AT
ROCKVIEW HOTEL (ROYALE), ABUJA
ON TUESDAY, 21ST JANUARY, 2020**



Protocol

It is my pleasure to address you on this occasion of the Training Workshop for NYSC Legal Officers taking place here in Abuja. First and foremost, I thank Almighty God for bringing all the participants safely from their various stations. I also warmly welcome our distinguished guests, and thank you for sparing time to be with us today despite your tight schedules.

2. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the Legal Officers' Workshop is an annual event, which takes place as part of our general training schedule aimed at enhancing Staff competence for greater productivity. In particular, it is intended to broaden the horizon of the Legal Officers and equip them for more effective service delivery.

3. The decision of Management to post Legal Officers to State Secretariats was borne out of the desire to reinvigorate the Legal Units at the State level for diligent services, including handling of litigations, and more effective supervision of the Corps Legal Aid Group. Therefore, I charge you to brace up for the onerous demands of your schedule. As is customary in the Legal circle, I expect you to be abreast of developments in your profession, especially through self-development efforts.

4. Driven by our commitment to engendering satisfactory performance of stakeholder roles, Management recently conducted a national sensitization workshop on the NYSC Act in Abuja. Prior to this initiative, it was clear that many Nigerians were not aware of the provisions of the Act – a situation that had led to avoidable infractions. With the sensitization, which will be a continuous one, organizations and individuals are now having better understanding of their obligations to the Scheme. In particular, we hope to achieve drastic reduction in cases of evasion and abscondment from Service, especially by foreign-trained Nigerian graduates. Let me, therefore, use this forum to call on Legal Officers of the Scheme to get fully acquainted with the provisions of the NYSC Act and the NYSC Bye-Laws. This is because by virtue of your schedule, you are expected to play leading role in educating other members of Staff and the general public on those provisions. Suffice it to also note that sound knowledge of the Act and the Bye-Laws is critical to your successful handling of litigations for the Scheme.

5. My dear participants, this workshop will, among other things, focus on the NYSC Act and the Bye-Laws as well as other issues that will assist you to effectively attend to Legal matters in your respective Secretariats. It will also serve as avenue for appraisal of the activities of the Corps Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS) whose supervision you are saddled with. I am delighted to note that over the years, Corps Lawyers have accomplished the following in line with the CLAS objectives:

- a. Handling of litigation in Courts on behalf of indigent accused persons, who are standing trial for minor criminal offences;
- b. Payment of Court fines for some prison inmates who could not afford same;
- c. Public enlightenment programmes through

seminars/workshops, radio/television talk shows on Legal matters, prevention of malaria scourge and HIV/AIDS programme;

- d. Visitation to correctional centres, orphanages and old people's homes;
- e. Partnering with Legal Aid Council, ICPC, EFCC, Customs, Prisons, Immigration, Police and State Ministries of Justice on public enlightenment;
- f. Career talk/guidance for Secondary School students; and
- g. Production of Legal Journals to further enlighten members of the public.

6. I am confident that at the end of this workshop, your knowledge would have been further enriched to enable you effectively handle litigations for the Scheme. At the same time, we expect consolidation of the achievements of the Corps Legal Aid Scheme through the provision of more effective guidance for Corps Lawyers. Furthermore, I urge you to use this forum for critical analysis of emerging issues in the field of Law, sharing of experiences and consensus building in line with global best practices. I encourage you all to be attentive to presentations that will be made by the Resource Persons, and bare your minds on all issues. Having noted the enormous content of the training, I hereby direct that, subject to availability of resources, the business session of subsequent editions of this workshop should run for two days so as to allow for exhaustive discussions. As you go into the main business of the day, Management looks forward to receiving your resolutions and recommendations that should be beneficial to the Scheme and our dear country.

7. At this juncture, I wish to commend the efforts of the Legal Officers and the cooperation of other stakeholders, who have been instrumental to the achievements so far recorded. However, I enjoin

both the Legal Officers and Corps Lawyers not to rest on your oars, especially with regards to enlightenment of the citizenry on their rights and responsibilities under the law. To this end, I hereby charge the Legal Unit to strengthen its periodic monitoring of Corps Legal Aid activities in the 36 States and FCT. On our part, Management will continue to support the Unit for the attainment of its mandate. In the same vein, I appeal to our partners and other public-spirited Nigerians to support our Corps Members towards sustaining their good works, especially in rendering assistance to the less-privileged in our society.

8. Finally, it is my pleasure to declare the Legal Officers' Workshop open. I wish you very fruitful deliberations.
9. Thank you and God bless.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE 2020 BATCH 'A' PRE-MOBILIZATION WORKSHOP HELD AT GRAND HOTEL, ASABA, DELTA STATE ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2020



Protocol

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2020 Batch 'A' Pre-Mobilization Workshop holding here in Asaba, Delta State. Let me begin by specially recognizing the esteemed presence of the Executive Governor of Delta State, His Excellency Senator Ifeanyi Okowa on this auspicious occasion. Your Excellency, Sir, I thank you most sincerely for sparing time to be with us despite the numerous state matters competing for your attention. I also warmly welcome other key Government functionaries, our Royal Fathers and other distinguished guests for gracing this opening ceremony.

2. To the key stakeholders in the NYSC Mobilization process, including Students Affairs' Officers (SAOs) of Corps Producing Institutions, representatives of National Universities Commission (NUC), National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and the representatives of our Consultants, Sidmach Technologies Nigeria Limited, I am delighted to once again be with you in this very important forum. As critical stakeholders, we cherish your contributions to the success of the process.

3. Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the Pre-Mobilization Workshop is a platform for the NYSC Management and other stakeholders to review issues in the

Mobilization process with a view to ensuring continuous improvement. I am happy to report that the credibility of the process has improved over the years based on our collective resolve, especially with the implementation of resolutions made at previous workshops. However, due to the dynamic nature of our operations, Management has continued to secure stakeholders' involvement and cooperation as we evolve strategies to tackle emerging challenges and engender greater successes. This informed the choice of the theme of this workshop, which is "**Effective Stakeholders' Engagement for a Seamless NYSC Mobilization Process**". I am confident that given our collective will and determination, much more can be achieved in this regard. Therefore, I urge participants to share their wealth of experience and expertise to enable us have a hitch-free 2020 Batch 'A' exercise.

4. At this juncture, I wish to draw stakeholders' attention to the emerging trend among youths, who try to cut corners by going to foreign countries, especially within the West African Sub-Region to practically buy Certificates for Degree Courses they never attended. This is a worrisome development as it represents clear danger to our country. The degree of harm that can be done to our socio-economic life if these fraudulent youths are inadvertently employed in the public and private sectors is better imagined than experienced. Interestingly, some of them had been audacious enough as to attempt presenting themselves for Mobilization for National Service. However, through our strict processes of evaluating the qualifications of Prospective Corps Members, we have apprehended many, who upon interrogation confessed to securing the academic credentials fraudulently.

5. Let me assure the nation that under our watch, NYSC will not mobilize any unqualified person for National Service or, as the case may be, issue Exemption Certificate to such persons. I also wish to restate our warning that anyone caught presenting fake academic

credentials will be prosecuted. Furthermore, I wish to use this opportunity to advise parents and guardians whose children are pursuing academic programmes in tertiary institutions at home and abroad to always ensure strict monitoring of their progress so as to ensure that they are not involved in any fraudulent acts due to their desperation to acquire academic qualification at all cost.

6. Management also wishes to advise parents whose wards are studying overseas to ensure that they make themselves available for National Service immediately they complete their studies to avoid contravention of the NYSC Act. Such undergraduates are also encouraged to always visit our website www.nysc.gov.ng and our Social Media platforms to acquaint themselves with guidelines on Mobilization.

7. I consider it most appropriate to use this forum to express our immense gratitude to His Excellency Mr. President for the implementation of the new allowance for Corps members in line with the new National Minimum Wage. This gesture has elicited wide jubilation among the Corps members, who have not only expressed profound appreciation to the Federal Government, but also promised to rededicate themselves to the service of our fatherland.

8. At this juncture, I wish to sincerely thank the Executive Governor of Delta State for his continued support to NYSC, especially in the area of Corps Welfare. In particular, I wish to place on record the uncommon gestures of the State Government in providing conducive working environment for the Scheme through prompt release of State Subvention to the Secretariat and regular payment of State Allowance to Corps members. Also worthy of mention are the various intervention projects at the NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Issele-Uku. Some of the landmark projects executed in the camp include the building of a seven

hundred-capacity Corps members' hostel, eight units of three-bedroom flats for camp officials, modern camp clinic, industrial borehole and the provision of 300 KVA electricity transformer amongst others. His Excellency's approvals of office and residential accommodation for the NYSC South-South Area office and Area Coordinator respectively and immediate construction of warehouse for the Area Office will also surely go a long way in aiding the smooth operation of the Scheme. On our part, we shall continue to reciprocate your show of love, especially through continuous deployment of Corps members in support of your development programmes.

9. I also thank other stakeholders, including our Royal Fathers, Security Agencies and Corps Employers, whose continued support has made Delta State one of the most-NYSC friendly States. It is my sincere hope that you will maintain the tempo of support in order to motivate our Corps members as they render patriotic and dedicated service to our fatherland.

10. Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I thank you very much for your attention.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN
AT THE 2020 BATCH 'A' PRE-MOBILIZATION
WORKSHOP HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY, 2020
AT GRAND HOTEL, ASABA, DELTA STATE

Protocol

My dear participants, I welcome you all to the Business Session of the 2020 Batch 'A' Pre-Mobilization Workshop. Let me begin by expressing gratitude to you all for your contributions to the successes recorded in the Mobilization process over the years. We shall continue to count on your support as our reliable partners.

2. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the Pre-Mobilization Workshop is aimed at reviewing past Mobilization exercises as well as brainstorming on pathways to a more seamless process. As you are already aware, the success of the Mobilization process depends largely on the commitment of all stakeholders to our individual and collective roles, especially as defined in the decisions reached during forums of this nature. While commending our past efforts, I implore everyone to brace up for even greater achievements as we commence another round of Mobilization.

3. While we savour the gains of our partnership, especially the reinforcement of the policies and structures for efficient Mobilization of eligible graduates for National Service, there is the need for stronger synergy towards deepening effective service delivery. Therefore, I consider the theme of this workshop, which is **Effective Stakeholders' Engagement for a Seamless NYSC Mobilization Process**, timely and appropriate.

4. While expecting your quality contributions as usual, permit me to present the following specific issues for discussion:

- a) **EVASION OF SERVICE:** As part of efforts to reposition the Scheme, especially through effective discharge of stakeholders' roles, Management hosted a national sensitization workshop on the NYSC Act in 2019. Part of the focus of the programme was enlightenment on individual and organizational responsibilities in the Mobilization process and the legal implications of evading Service. Nigerian graduates who have over the years, evaded service have violated the provisions of Section 13, Sub-Section 1 (a) and (b) of the NYSC Act. Therefore, we seek your support by way of ensuring effective implementation of the sixteenth resolution of the 2019 Batch 'C' Pre-Mobilization Workshop that "**CPIs should sensitize their graduates on the penalty for evasion of service. They should be urged to make themselves available for service immediately after graduation**".
- b) **UPLOAD OF OVER-AGED GRADUATES FOR DEPLOYMENT:** Despite our previous resolutions on putting an end to the upload of names of over-aged graduates for deployment, some Corps Producing Institutions (CPIs) have continued to commit this infraction. As stakeholders not only in the NYSC Mobilization process, but also the Nigerian project, it is our responsibility to ensure that the provisions of the Laws are upheld for the benefit of our dear country. The mere fact that the remuneration of Corps members has been enhanced should not be ground for desperate ineligible graduates to deceive CPIs into submitting their names for mobilization. Let me warn that we shall not hesitate to blacklist any Institution that violates the rule on over-aged persons. For the avoidance of doubt,

such over-aged graduates will also be turned away from camp. Therefore, you are advised to save your graduates from all the trouble.

c) INCOMPLETE UPLOAD OF SENATE APPROVED LIST:

It has been observed that some CPIs do not upload the entire Senate approved list of their Institutions whenever the Portal is opened for the purpose. Such CPIs premised their action on the need to reserve some of the graduates so they would not lack names to upload for subsequent batches. I wish to unequivocally state that this act is not only illegal on the part of the CPIs, but also a great act of wrongdoing against the affected graduates as they will be deemed to have failed to make themselves available for service after graduation – an offence which makes them liable for prosecution as enshrined in the NYSC Act. Such act also impedes timely actualization of their life plans. Therefore, I call on SAOs to be conscientious in the discharge of your duties, especially by ensuring that the entire Senate approved lists of your Institutions are uploaded during every Mobilization period.

d) CONTINUOUS UPLOAD OF WRONG COURSES BY CPIs:

It is worrisome that despite several warnings, some CPIs still upload names of graduates under approved courses while their Certificates bear different courses of study. This has continued to pose challenge for us at the Orientation camps. Student Affairs' Officers are, therefore, enjoined to be meticulous in the compilation of their lists and to strictly use NUC and NBTE approved courses and their correct nomenclatures.

- e) **INCESSANT REQUEST FOR NAME CORRECTION:** The Corps Mobilization Department is always inundated with requests for name correction from Corps Producing Institutions. This has to stop forthwith. I, therefore, call on SAOs to be alive to their responsibilities by ensuring that their graduates painstakingly cross-check and confirm their names and other details before upload.
- f) **ERROR IN MATRICULATION NUMBER:** It has been observed that many Prospective Corps Members (PCMs) find it difficult to register on the NYSC Portal due to errors in their Matriculation numbers. Consequently, there has been an upsurge in the requests for correction of Matriculation numbers of PCMs by CPIs. At times, Matriculation number of one graduate is assigned to another or shared by two persons. This anomaly has to be addressed in order to end the problem it causes PCMs. I wish to once again call on SAOs to ensure the integrity of data you upload for Mobilization. Henceforth, we will not entertain requests for Matriculation Number correction where the error is discovered to have been intentionally invented for selfish reasons.
- g) **REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF GRADUATES FROM SERVICE:** Some CPIs have made it a habit to request the withdrawal of their graduates from National Service several months into the service year for one reason or the other. This is unacceptable! You are, therefore, advised to ensure proper clearance of your graduates before forwarding their names for Mobilization. As mentioned in previous workshops, we shall apply appropriate sanctions on such CPIs, which will include refund of all monies paid to the graduates being withdrawn and payment for the kit items supplied to them. In the same vein, smuggling of fake

graduates into the Senate or Academic Board-approved list of CPIs must stop forthwith. For the avoidance any CPI involved in such act will be blacklisted by the Scheme.

- h) INABILITY OF SOME GRADUATES TO DEFEND THEIR QUALIFICATIONS IN THEIR PLACES OF PRIMARY ASSIGNMENT:** I wish to inform this gathering that we have since commenced application of strict measures to authenticate the qualifications of persons that present themselves as foreign-trained graduates before Mobilization. In the same vein, if we continue to receive reports of gross unsatisfactory performance on the locally trained Corps members from Corps Employers, we shall be compelled to adopt the same measures so as to deter our youths from cutting corners while in school.
- i) ISSUANCE OF DEGREES/HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMAS TO UNQUALIFIED PERSONS:** It is quite unfortunate that some Corps Producing Institutions indulge in the issuance of Degrees and HND Certificates to unqualified persons with attendant danger to the socio-economic development of our country. Henceforth, any person caught presenting fake academic credentials in an attempt to get mobilized for National Service will be made to face the full wrath of the law.
5. Distinguished workshop participants, let me conclude by requesting all stakeholders to improve on our strategies and work together to achieve error-free Mobilization process. Again, this calls for meticulous examination of data before upload and fastidious adherence to Mobilization guidelines and procedures.
6. I thank you all for your kind attention.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN AT A
TRAINING WORKSHOP ON NYSC INTEGRATED
SYSTEM FOR NYSC STATE COORDINATORS HELD
AT TOP RANK HOTELS GALAXY, UTAKO, ABUJA
ON MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY, 2020



Protocol

It is with immense delight that I address you on this occasion of the Training Workshop for State Coordinators on effective utilization of the NYSC Integrated System (NIS), taking place here in Abuja. First and foremost, I thank Almighty God for granting all participants safe journey from your various stations.

2. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, this Workshop is significant in view of the enormous benefits of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and our continuous strides in applying it for the enhancement of NYSC operations. I also consider it as very timely because of its relevance to one of the cardinal points of my policy thrust, which is to **“pursue a technologically driven organization to deepen effective service delivery.”** Accordingly, the programme is designed to further acquaint you with the world of Information Technology and, in particular, equip you for more effective discharge of your duties on the NIS Platform.

3. It is gratifying to note that the innovative application of ICT solutions, which commenced over half a decade ago, has not only revolutionized NYSC operations, but also helped in entrenching transparency and accountability. While we relish the feats so far

achieved, Management desires to achieve further breakthroughs in the Scheme through ICT deployment. Therefore, I commend the ICT Department for this initiative aimed at empowering State Coordinators with ideas and skills for optimization of the Integrated Platform. I am confident that in line with the Workshop theme: "***Enhancing the Roles of State Coordinators on the NYSC Integrated Platform,***" participants will be able to provide appropriate leadership for effective execution of our digitalization process at the State Secretariat level.

4. Distinguished participants, let me remind you that, as in every new human endeavour, innovations involving ICT application require painstaking efforts for better understanding of the operating procedures. While acknowledging your performance so far in the usage of the NIS for the conduct of our operations, I encourage you to use this forum for deeper comprehension of the necessary procedures for more effective performance of your roles. In the meantime, it is important to note the following:

- i. The NIS design takes cognizance of your role as the overall authority in the State Secretariat. As such, actions/decisions such as Relocation, Approval of Corps member's Application for Leave and Payment of Allowances amongst others cannot be considered valid without your final approval on the platform.
- ii. Your laptops/tablet and the login details (User Name/Password) assigned to you are meant to enable you work real-time on the NIS platform regardless of your location. Please, ensure adequate protection of your login details.
- iii. Under no circumstance must you relinquish your authority on the platform to any other officer in the Secretariat.

- iv. Sound knowledge of the NIS platform is critical to your effective handling of activities in your Secretariat.
 - v. All eNYSC project equipment are under your custody and supervision, hence proper handling and safety of these equipment is mandatory.
 - vi. All State Coordinators must play their roles on the portal efficiently and effectively.
 - vii. Area Coordinators are also mandated to monitor activities of Secretariats on the portal.
5. It is my firm belief that through your efforts and dedication, we will achieve completion of the circuit of the integrated platform. As leaders, I urge you to acquaint yourselves with the new technological trends, especially as they concern data integrity and security. In addition, you are expected to deploy your leadership acumen in bringing about innovations in our operations. On our part, Management is ready to provide the enabling environment and ICT infrastructure for optimal productivity.
6. At this juncture, I urge you to use this opportunity to discuss your challenges and exchange ideas that will enhance your efficiency on the NIS platform.
7. Finally, it is my pleasure to declare the NIS Workshop for State Coordinators open. I wish you very fruitful deliberations.
8. Thank you and God bless.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM, DSS, PHD, MTRCN AT THE
PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS'
WORKSHOP ON
WEDNESDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 2020
AT REIZ CONTINENTAL HOTEL, ABUJA

Protocol

I am delighted to address you on this occasion of the opening ceremony of the Press and Public Relations Officers' Workshop. This programme is in furtherance of Management's commitment to the capacity building of Staff for enhanced performance. Management recognizes the critical role Public Relations (PR) Officers play in managing the corporate image of the Scheme, hence the emphasis on equipping you continually with the right skills for better performance. This also forms the basis for the theme of this workshop which is "**Action-centred Communications: Panacea for Top-notch Performance**"

2. My dear image and reputation managers of the Scheme, given the dynamics of the Public Relations (PR) practice and the demands of your schedule which thrust upon you the responsibility of correcting the misconception of our operations by some members of the public, the need to regularly update your knowledge and sharpen your skills becomes very germane. With the quality of Resource Persons engaged for this workshop, I have no doubt that at the end of this training, all of you would have become better Public Relations Officers.

3. Therefore, I enjoin all the participants to leverage on the opportunity provided by this training to improve your competences

for effective and efficient service delivery. You must strive at all times to sustain positive media visibility for the Scheme by facilitating adequate publicity for NYSC programmes and activities in line with our determination to enhance operational efficiency. While I urge you to endeavour to deepen and sustain the Scheme's presence in the social media, you must equally be vigilant by continuously sensitizing Corps members on the need for them to avoid inappropriate use of the news media.

4. I wish to commend you for the prompt rebuttal of false and misleading stories about the Scheme published particularly by the social media in recent times. You must be proactive and do your best to cultivate the friendship of the media through constant engagements and timely disclosure of necessary information on the activities of the Scheme as they unfold.

5. May I also use this opportunity to appeal to our friends, members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm, to always verify information about the Scheme, especially those obtained from the Social Media, before going to press. While we continue to appreciate your support to the Scheme over the years, I urge you to avail yourselves of our open door policy to enable you achieve fair and balanced reportage in line with the ethics of your profession.

6. On this premise, let me assure you that Management on its part shall continue to provide necessary materials and gadgets as well as the enabling environment for you to discharge your responsibilities optimally. Efforts to establish the NYSC Community Radio are in top gear as approval of the operational licence is being awaited. We expect a boost in the Scheme's publicity drive when the station eventually comes on stream.

7. At this juncture, may I thank our Resource Persons for availing the participants the opportunity to tap from their rich repository of knowledge.

8. Finally, while wishing you a successful and rewarding training and journey mercies back to your respective stations, I have the honour to declare the NYSC Press and Public Relations Officers' Workshop open.

9. Thank you.

**GOODWILL MESSAGE DELIVERED BY THE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM
DSS PHD MTRCN ON THE OCCASION OF THE
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MENTORING AND
LIFE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME FOR
YOUTHS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES HELD
ON MONDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY, 2020 AT
PUBLIC SERVICE INSTITUTE OF NIGERIA (PSIN)
DUTSE, FCT, ABUJA**

I am delighted to be with you on this auspicious occasion of the official opening of the Mentoring and Life Enhancement Workshop for a vital segment of our society, the Youths Living with Disabilities. I specially commend the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development for organizing this event.

2. There is no gainsaying that the youth of every society is its assets. Consequently, for the future of any nation to be truly great, the youth must be mentored for the future leadership roles they are expected to play to enable them move the nation higher.

3. As we are all aware, in every society there exist persons who differ in their physiological composition and other endowments. With this in mind, every Government puts in place policies and programmes to take care of the welfare of all segments of its citizenry. This I believe propelled the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development to embark on the initiative of bringing about this programme. The action, no doubt will create a level playing field for persons living with disabilities, thereby rescuing them from unpleasant conditions which forced some of them to be on the streets.

4. With dwindling opportunities for white collar employment, it is expedient that every youth acquire measurable skill that will aid their economic independence. Though one may be physically challenged, if given the opportunity to apply the physical disability positively, he would be able to conquer the physical odds.

5. The NYSC, while also formulating its policies and designing its programmes consciously takes care of different segment of our youths, and ensures that people with special needs are not marginalized. We have also gone another step further by employing some of these people, while also introducing easy to learn skills for them and other youths under our Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme. It is the firm conviction of the NYSC that given the necessary enabling environment, this category of people as obtained in other developed countries, will make outstanding contributions to the development of the society. In appreciation of the need to ameliorate the challenges Corps members who became disabled in the course of the service year may face, the Scheme introduced the '**Hope Alive Programme**' in 2014. In fact, during the last NYSC President's Honours Award in April, 2019, Eighteen (18) Corps members in this category were awarded automatic employment in addition to being honoured by Mr. President

6. Furthermore, during registration in the orientation camp, persons with special needs are given special concession and posted to where they can fully utilize their potentials in serving the nation. This is in addition to the creation of a Charity Community Development Service Group, whose focus is to cater for the interest of persons with special needs in the society at large. I therefore call on all stakeholders to complement the efforts of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development and the NYSC by supporting activities aimed at making life more comfortable and meaningful for people with special needs.

7. At this juncture, I wish to call on all participants to maximize every derivable opportunity of this programme by internalizing all the training.
8. Finally, I thank the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare, for his love and vision for the youth of this nation. I also thank the Management and entire Staff of the Ministry for putting this event together.
9. I wish you all a rewarding workshop.
10. Thank you and God bless.

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM, DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE
2020 BATCH 'A' PRE-ORIENTATION MEETING
OF MANAGEMENT WITH AREA COORDINATORS,
STATE COORDINATORS, CAMP DIRECTORS,
CAMP COMMANDANTS AND COLLABORATING
AGENCIES HELD IN THE CONFERENCE HALL,
NYSC NDHQ, ABUJA
ON TUESDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 2020**



I am delighted to address you on this occasion of the meeting of Management with Area Coordinators, State Coordinators, Camp Directors, Camp Commandants and Collaborating Agencies in preparation for the successful conduct of the 2020 Batch 'A' Orientation Course. We give thanks to Almighty God for granting all participants journey mercies from your various locations.

2. Let me begin by commending our collaborating Agencies and all Camp officials for your commitment and teamwork, which led to the successes recorded during the 2019 Batch 'C' (Streams I and II) Orientation Courses and other previous exercises. I enjoin you to be even more dedicated as we get set to execute the forthcoming Orientation Course.
3. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, this meeting is to enable us evaluate the previous Orientation Course, brainstorm and evolve strategies for the success of the forthcoming one. Among other things, we shall unveil policies and operational guidelines for implementation in all the Orientation Camps nationwide.

4. I am pleased to inform you that Management has concluded all necessary arrangements for the successful conduct of the 2020 Batch 'A' (Stream I) Orientation Course. The exercise is scheduled to hold in all the Orientation camps nationwide from **Tuesday, 10th March to Monday, 30th March, 2020**. Therefore, I call on all camp officials to work hard and imbibe team spirit so as to ensure a hitch-free exercise. As we are all aware, the Orientation course, as a Cardinal Programme of NYSC, is also the first point of Corps members' contact with the Scheme. Their experiences during the Orientation Course play a pivotal role in the overall success of the Service year. Therefore, we must continue to place premium on the quality of the course so as to ensure commitment of the participants to National Service.

5. During my 2019 Batch 'C' (Streams I and II) tour of Orientation Camps, and from reports submitted by Touring and Resident officers, I observed remarkable improvements in the general conduct of the exercise. However, more will have to be done to consolidate the feats achieved and enhance attainment of the entire objectives of the Orientation Course. This is especially necessary in view of the dynamics of our operating environment. Accordingly, I hereby present the following issues, which we need to tackle head-on:

- a) **Orientation Camp Facilities:** Following the meeting of Management with representatives of State Governments, I have observed remarkable improvements in camp development across the country. Reports so far received indicate that States like **Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Delta, Edo, Kaduna, Kano, Kogi, Nasarawa, Niger and Rivers** have commenced renovation of camp facilities. This is quite commendable. However, there is the need for increased focus on the upgrade and expansion of the camps

so as to make them fit in the face of the phenomenal increase in Corps population. In this regard, Area and State Coordinators are hereby mandated to step up efforts at persuading State Governments to lift our Orientation Camps to the required standard. Management is also interested in exploring the Public-Private-Partnership option. Therefore, I enjoin you to identify individuals and corporate organisations that can be approached for help in the development of the Orientation camps. In view of the steady increase in Corps population, we will soon review and redefine the clear cut requirements of an ideal camp. Furthermore, Management will in due course, sensitize State Governments on the need to upgrade the carrying capacity of all the Orientation Camps to 5,000.I am aware of subsisting reports of inadequate fans in hostels and lecture halls in some camps. As the Orientation course is scheduled to take place towards the onset of the hot season, hostels must be properly ventilated and adequate fans provided in all rooms.

- b) Corps Members' Security:** The security of lives and property of Corps members is of paramount importance to us. Accordingly, there is the compelling the need to continually strategize and effectively liaise with the Security Agencies, NYSC State Governing Boards, NYSC Local Government Committees and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the safety of the Corps members before, during and after the Orientation Course. Intensive liaison with security agencies, in particular, will help in receiving and acting on early warning signals. It is heart warming to note that the Scheme has never recorded any security breach during Orientation courses. While we thank God for this favour, we should be proactive and unrelenting in our efforts to

strengthen the security of Corps members and our facilities. Deliberate attention should be focused on effective surveillance and communication within and outside the camps.

- c) **Management's Intervention:** Management is aware of limitations in some Orientation camps regarding facilities like toilet, water supply, power, double bunk beds and mattresses. This informed our decision to make various interventions such as drilling of boreholes, installation of sound proof generating sets, procurement of double bunk beds and mattresses in States like **Bauchi, Imo, Jigawa, Kogi, Nasarawa, Rivers, Sokoto and Taraba** in 2019. Management will continue to intervene within the limits of available resources so as to make the camp environment more conducive.
- d) **Corps Welfare:** Ladies and gentlemen, let me remind you that Management places high premium on the health and general welfare of Corps members. Therefore, it behoves on all of us to ensure that issues of Corps Welfare are given priority attention at all times. State Coordinators should sensitize all camp officials to balance firmness with empathy in their dealings with the Corps members. I wish to emphasize once more that the quality and quantity of food served in all Camps must be of acceptable standards while the menu timetable must be strictly adhered to. Area Coordinators are to monitor closely and enforce compliance within their areas of jurisdiction.
- e) **Corps Members' Dress Code:** Management has observed the substantial non-compliance with the dress code for Corps members in some States. The NYSC uniform is a

mark of identity, honour, solidarity and pride of the Scheme and must, therefore, be worn with high sense of responsibility. We must do everything possible to ensure that Corps members respect the uniform and use it correctly at all times. I will continue to monitor the level of compliance during my tour of Orientation camps and on other occasions. Area Coordinators are equally enjoined to ensure that Corps members do not abuse the uniform both during and after the Orientation course. Furthermore, tailors operating in our Camps should be warned to observe prescribed limits while adjusting the uniform for Corps members or risk being decamped.

6. Ladies and gentlemen, as we get set to conduct the 2020 Batch 'A' (Stream I) exercise, the following should be specifically noted for implementation:
 - i. Camps must be prepared and ready for the exercise 5 days before the commencement date;
 - ii. Bushes/grown grasses must be cleared in all camps;
 - iii. Pre-Orientation meeting with collaborating agencies must take place before the Orientation course;
 - iv. Good reception for Prospective Corps members must be organized by Camp officials, especially for its cultural significance;
 - v. The approved number of casual hands for the servicing of toilets must be on standby at the facilities at all times;
 - vi. All hostels must have well fitted fans;
 - vii. All camp officials must work harmoniously as a team;
 - viii. Briefing of Corps members by State Coordinators should hold before the swearing-in ceremony, while debriefing should be conducted before the closing ceremony;
 - ix. Quality and quantity of meals served Corps members must be of acceptable standards;

- x. The approved menu must also be complied with. Meals not contained in the menu should not be served;
 - xi. All Camps must ensure high level of discipline amongst Corps participants and officials;
 - xii. The Orientation time-table must be strictly adhered to;
 - xiii. The Camp Clinics must be set up 24 hours before commencement of the Orientation course with adequate drugs. Consultants from tertiary hospitals must be on camp 24 hours;
 - xiv. On no account should any sick Corps member be kept in the Camp Clinic for more than 12 hours if there is no sign of improvement;
 - xv. Corps members with complicated health cases should be relocated immediately or referred to tertiary health facilities for better management;
 - xvi. Drugs which are nearing expiration should not be procured for use in the camps.
7. I urge you to treat the above guidelines and directives with high sense of responsibility. In particular, you must pay special attention to the welfare of Corps members and camp officials. As we brainstorm to evolve more strategies for the successful conduct of the 2020 Batch 'A' (Stream I) Orientation course, I wish us fruitful and rewarding deliberations.
8. Thank you and God bless.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIGADIER GENERAL S IBRAHIM
DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE MEETING OF NIGERIA
GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD
ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 2020



Your Excellencies

I feel highly honoured for the unique opportunity to address this distinguished gathering of State Chief Executives. Let me begin by expressing the profound gratitude of NYSC Management, Staff and Corps members' nationwide to Your Excellencies for your support to the Scheme, especially in the area of Corps welfare.

2. Since my assumption of duty as Director-General, one of the focal points of my policy thrust has been the strengthening of our collaboration with critical stakeholders with a view to engendering greater involvement in the running of the Scheme. As a deliberate policy, we have carried out sustained advocacy on the proper performance of roles of all key players as enshrined in the **NYSC Act Cap N84 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004**. This informed our decision to host a national sensitization programme on the Act.

3. There is no gainsaying the fact that the roles of State Governments are critical to the smooth operations of NYSC. While the Federal Government shoulders a greater part of the responsibility of running the Scheme, the Enabling Act saddles States and Local Governments with complimentary responsibilities. These include the provision of facilities like Orientation Camp,

Corps Transit Lodge, Corps Lodges, Office Accommodation and other forms of intervention that are essential for the welfare of Corps members and the general success of the Scheme. In a bid to court further support of State Governments through the performance of the aforementioned obligations, Management held a meeting with your representatives on 29th October, 2019 in Abuja. We used the occasion to highlight the various challenges facing the Scheme and how the discharge of State Governments' responsibilities would help surmount them. The forum also offered opportunity for peer review and sharing of best practices among all States and the FCT in our quest to further strengthen NYSC and deepen its impact on our socio-economic development.

4. Your Excellencies, the purpose of my appearance before you today is to thank you both individually and collectively for all your gestures in support of the NYSC. These include various intervention projects being carried out in some of our Orientation Camps, payment of State Allowance to Corps members, release of State Subvention to some of the NYSC State Secretariats, and the provision of accommodation for Corps members amongst others. However, I am constrained to most respectfully inform this Forum that more need to be done in some States so as to make the operating environment conducive for the Scheme. Permit me at this juncture to highlight some of the key issues that require your kind attention:

- a) **Establishment of State Governing Boards:** The appointment of NYSC State Governing Board is germane to the success of the Scheme. The Board in each State is expected to serve as a key driver of the Scheme's operations with its specific functions spelt out in **Section 6 Sub-Section 2 of the NYSC Act.** I wish to express our profound gratitude to States that have appointed the State Governing Boards and empowered them to function

effectively. However, we wish to appeal to States that do not have the Boards in place to do same in order to enhance the operations of the Scheme.

- b) Formation of Local Government Committees:** **Section 8 Sub-Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the NYSC Act** provides for the establishment, composition and functions of the NYSC Local Government Committee in each of the Local Government Areas of a State. Therefore, to ensure smooth operations of the Scheme at the grassroots, the Local Government Committees need to be put in place and empowered with the necessary resources to enable them function effectively. However, the committees do not exist at the Local Government level in many States of the Federation. I therefore appeal to Your Excellencies to help in persuading Local Government Councils that do not have the committees in place to establish and make them functional.
- c) State of the Orientation Camps:** The Orientation Camp serves as the first point of contact with NYSC for Corps members and goes a long way to influence their impression about the Scheme and the State of deployment. Therefore, a camp is expected to meet at least the minimum standards with essential facilities such as adequate hostel accommodation, conveniences, multi-purpose hall and good parade ground amongst others to make it fit for habitation. I am pleased to report to this distinguished Forum that Orientation camps in several States have met the minimum standards while general renovation and upgrade of facilities are ongoing in others. However, some other Camps across the country are in bad conditions and can, in all honesty, be described as unfit for human habitation. I,

therefore, wish to humbly appeal to the State Governments to accord priority to the provision of adequate facilities in the Orientation Camps as a way of ensuring the wellbeing of Corps members and facilitating the smooth conduct of Orientation Course. Furthermore, in view of the speedy rise in Corps population, I wish to also request Your Excellencies to begin to consider upgrade and expansion of facilities in all our Orientation Camps to conveniently cater for at least five thousand Corps members. This is to avert widespread overstretch of facilities in the foreseeable future.

- d) **Accommodation for Corps Members:** Part of the responsibilities of State and Local Governments as spelt out in the NYSC Act is the provision of accommodation with some basic facilities for Corps members. This is essential not only to ensure decent living for them, but also help them to focus on discharge of selfless and patriotic service. I am constrained to humbly report that some States and Local Governments have left many Corps members with neither accommodation nor sufficient rent subsidy in lieu of accommodation. I, therefore, seek the kind support of Your Excellencies in addressing the situation so as to enable us optimize the potentials of these young patriots.

- e) **Payment of State Allowance to Corps Members:** I wish to use this opportunity to express gratitude to the State Governments and Local Government Councils that have not only approved fair and decent Allowance for Corps members, but are also regular in effecting payment. However, there are also States where Corps members are either paid inadequate allowances or are being owed arrears for several months. I am confident that this distinguished Forum will help to improve the situation so as to boost the

morale of our young men and women on National Service.

- f) **Security of Corps Members:** The issue of security is germane to the smooth operations of NYSC, hence Management has continued to emphasize the safety of Corps members in all service locations. We are in constant liaison with Security Agencies who have been very supportive in this regard. On this premise, I wish to make a passionate appeal to Your Excellencies to prioritize Corps members' safety in your security agenda. May I also humbly request that you kindly use your good offices to influence Local Governments as well as other stakeholders such as traditional rulers, religious and community leaders to compliment the efforts of the security agencies in this regard.
- g) **Other Corps Welfare Matters:** The general welfare of Corps members occupies a central place in our policy thrust as Management of the Scheme. Therefore, we humbly request State Governments to do their utmost in catering for the welfare needs of these young patriots. In addition to the welfare matters already mentioned in my presentation, I most respectfully appeal to States to further encourage Corps member through gestures such as defrayment of medical expenses or provision of free services at Government hospitals. I also seek your support in the integration of Corps members with the host communities and ensuring that all stakeholders, including traditional rulers, community and religious leaders accept and accord them hospitality. Furthermore, it will be appreciated if the Corps members are guided to explore and avail themselves of opportunities for employment or business in the states of deployment.

h) Rejection/Under-utilization of Corps Members

by Employers: One of the current challenges NYSC is grappling with is the rejection of Corps members by some employers. Where Corps members are accepted, we have cases of some State Government Agencies who do not optimize their potentials. Such employers do not help in monitoring the Corps members but leave them redundant for most of the time or even aid them to absent themselves from duty. I am aware that, just like the Federal Government, several State Governments have issued directives to their Ministries, Departments and Agencies mandating them to accept Corps members posted to them. I wish to use this medium to appeal to State Governments to help in prevailing on Corps Employers not only to accept the Corps members, but also ensure effective utilization of their potentials for the socio-economic development of our dear country.

i) Provision of Office Accommodation: We have

observed that the condition of some of our State offices leave much to be desired. While some of the Secretariats are housed in dilapidated structures others have inadequate office spaces thereby hindering effective performance of official duties. Even more disturbing is the lack of befitting accommodation for our Zonal and Local Government offices in many States. While we thank State and Local Governments that have provided befitting office accommodation, I appeal to others to do same so as to enhance the smooth operations of the Scheme.

j) Establishment of NYSC Area Offices: I am pleased to

inform Your Excellencies that NYSC recently secured approval of the Federal Government to establish an Area

Office in each of the six geo-political zones. The offices, which have already taken off, are located in Asaba, Bauchi, Enugu, Kaduna, Minna and Osogbo. They are to coordinate NYSC activities in each of the zones and will be carrying out field Monitoring and Inspection as well as ensure effective liaison with relevant stakeholders among other functions. Therefore, I use this opportunity to appeal to State Governments to support the Area Offices in their zones for smooth operations.

- k) Reward for Excellence/Post-Service Employment for Corps Members:** While we appreciate all State Governments for conferring Honours Awards on deserving Corps members, I wish to emphasize the need to enhance the quality of incentives given to the Award winners. In particular, the provision of automatic employment for the most outstanding Corps members will not only serve as a mark of appreciation of their contributions, but will also meet the NYSC's objectives of promoting the free movement of labour and national integration.
- l) Support for Community Development Service:** Community Development Service (CDS) is a Cardinal Programme of the Scheme aimed at deploying the innovativeness and creativity of Corps members for the execution of development projects in conjunction with members of the host communities. Indeed, among the major achievements of the Scheme since inception is the array of Corps members' projects that have dotted the entire landscape of the country. However, there is the need to increase the tempo of CDS through material support from States and Local Governments as well as stakeholders in the host communities. This will go a long way in complimenting

the development efforts of these two tiers of Government as well as inspire communities to embark on self-help projects.

m) Entrepreneurship Development for Self-reliance: NYSC is determined to compliment Government's efforts at curbing the rate of graduate unemployment; hence our focus on empowering Corps members with skills for self-employment and wealth creation. To achieve, this we introduced the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Programme in 2012 with two components, namely: the in-camp and post-camp training. However, one of the challenges to the implementation of the programme is the absence training centres, especially in rural areas where majority of Corps members are posted for the Primary Assignment. As a way of addressing this challenge, the Scheme planned the establishment of a mega skill acquisition centre in each of the six geo-political zones through public-private-partnership. Already that of the North East has been completed and equipped in Gombe State. The one for the South West is nearing completion in Ekiti State while work is also ongoing on that of the North West in Jigawa State. We are reaching out to more partners to actualize the provision of the skill centres for the remaining geo-political zones. Our ultimate goal is to have the skill training centres in all the States of the Federation. In the meantime, I wish to appeal to Your Excellencies to avail Corps members of training at the State-owned Skill Acquisition Centres as well as waive the cost of training as a way of encouraging our youths to embrace the self-employment option.

n) Provision of Lands for Agriculture: In pursuit of one of the objectives of the Scheme, which is **to contribute to**

the accelerated growth of the national economy, NYSC has since inception been engaged in agricultural practices in our farm settlements across the country. With the current focus of the Federal and State Governments on harnessing of the nation's agricultural potentials as part of steps to diversify the economy, we are making efforts to rejuvenate our agricultural programme. Already, full scale farming activities have commenced in four NYSC Farm settlements across the country. Apart from contributing to the national efforts on food security, the farms are to serve as training grounds for our Corps members under the agricultural component of our Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Programme. On this note, I wish to make a passionate appeal to Your Excellencies to assist the Scheme through the allocation of farmlands to NYSC in all States where the Scheme does not have any. This will enable us implement our agricultural and entrepreneurship programmes seamlessly and contribute to the economic development of our host States and the country as a whole.

5. Your Excellencies, while I once again appreciate your contributions to the success of NYSC over the years, I equally seek your kind consideration of the foregoing issues in order to put the NYSC in a good stead to achieve its mandate. I am confident that given your unwavering commitment to the progress and development of the Nigerian youths, greater priority will be accorded to optimization of the potentials of our young men and women on National Service.

6. I thank you most sincerely for this unique opportunity.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2019 NYSC
ANNUAL SPORTS AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL HELD
AT THE MOSHOOD ABIOLA NATIONAL STADIUM,
ABUJA, ON TUESDAY, 3RD MARCH, 2020



Protocol

I am highly delighted to welcome you all to the opening ceremony of the 2019 NYSC Annual Sports and Cultural Festival holding here in Abuja, the Centre of Unity. Let me begin by recognizing the esteemed presence of the Special Guest of Honour and Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Alhaji Muhammad Musa Bello and the Guest of Honour and Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare. Honourable Ministers, I thank you most profoundly for sparing time to grace this occasion in spite of your tight official schedules. I also warmly welcome other key personalities including representatives of the Chief of Defence Staff, Service Chiefs, Inspector-General of Police and Heads of other Paramilitary Agencies as well as Chief Executives of other public and private sector organizations. To my dear Corps members in the various State contingents and the supervising officers, I welcome and congratulate you on making it to the finals of this fiesta.

2. Special Guest of Honour, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the NYSC Sports and Cultural Festival was introduced over thirty-five years ago with the aim of showcasing the talents of Corps members in sports and culture and to serve as an additional platform for the promotion of national unity and integration. This edition, like the previous ones, began with preliminary competitions

held at various zones across the country during which winners emerged for the finals we are flagging off today. This fiesta will feature competitions in football, volleyball and track events in the sports segment while the cultural segment will include contests in drama, cultural dance and comedy.

3. In initiating this Festival few decades ago, the NYSC sought to provide avenue for further interaction among Corps members of diverse backgrounds in addition to contributing towards the development of the Sports sector. While our youths exploit the gains of modernity, the cultural segment of the fiesta also instils in them the zeal to promote and preserve our cultural heritage. Furthermore, we are expanding the focus of the Festival to include the grooming of talented youths, who will ultimately pursue gainful careers in the sports and entertainment industry.

4. In line with the saying 'charity begins at home,' we have given opportunity to serving Corps members and others that completed the National Service recently to participate in an NYSC movie titled 'A Call to Service', which is currently under production. Apart from its entertainment function, the movie is being packaged as a tool for public sensitization on the roles of stakeholders in the Scheme, including the various tiers of Government, Corps Employers as well as serving and prospective Corps members, as spelt out in the NYSC Act. This is in addition to the provision of platform for development of talents of Corps members through the NYSC National Football Club. The club, which is presently in the National Amateur League Division Two, will compete in the FCT FA Cup at the end of this month. We are confident of winning and representing the FCT at the National Level. I wish to use this opportunity to appeal to the football and other sports federations, club owners as well as the drivers of the entertainment industries to give interested and talented Corps members the opportunity to pursue careers in their fields of endeavours.

5. My dear Corps members, as you commence contests in the various sports and cultural events, I urge you to remember that this is not a do-or-die affair. I enjoin you to consider yours as friendly contests by members of the same family. Whichever way the pendulum of success swings, let us consider the outcome as a glory to be shared by the entire NYSC family. While it is legitimate to aspire to get to the tops in these competitions, you are to be strictly guided not only by the rules, but also by consideration of the overriding goals of the Festival and the interest of this noble Scheme. I, therefore, enjoin you to exhibit maturity and high sense of discipline as well as respect all umpires and other officials for the overall success of the competitions. To the umpires for the various events, I urge you to sustain the credibility with which these contests have been handled over the years.

6. At this juncture, I wish to express our profound gratitude to the various organizations in the public and private sectors, who have contributed towards the successful organization of this Festival through sponsorship and technical support. However, I am constrained to add that the level of private sector involvement in the sponsorship still falls below our expectations. This, coupled with paucity of funds, accounted for our inability to stage the Festival in the past two years. May I, therefore, appeal for increased private sector support for the Festival for the benefit of our youths and the entire nation.

7. Once again, I appreciate our Special Guest of Honour and other distinguished guests for gracing this opening ceremony. I encourage you to make out time and visit the various competition centres to scout for talents and also get thrilled by the performance of our Corps members.

8. Thank you and God bless.

**REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE
BRIEFING OF TOURING/RESIDENT OFFICERS
AND SUPPORT STAFF FOR 2020 BATCH 'A'
ORIENTATION COURSE HELD IN THE
CONFERENCE HALL, NYSC NDHQ ABUJA,
ON THURSDAY, 5TH MARCH, 2020**



It is my pleasure to address you as we embark on final preparations for the 2020 Batch 'A' Orientation course. Let me, once again, congratulate you all on the successful conduct of the 2019 Batch 'C' (Streams I & II) Orientation course, which was held in November and December 2019. As usual, this forum is aimed at acquainting you with sundry policy issues and to further emphasize Management's expectations of your performance for a resounding success at the end of the Orientation course.

2. Recall that the Top Management had a pre-orientation meeting with Area Coordinators, State coordinators, Camp Directors, Camp Commandants, and representatives of our Collaborating Agencies on Tuesday, 18th February, 2020. During the meeting, diverse policy issues and guidelines were unveiled to participants. The resolutions made will be given to you by the Planning, Research and Statistics (PRS) Department to enable you track their level of implementation. In the course of this briefing, you will also be properly equipped with all other information required for diligent performance of your duties at the Orientation camps.

3. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, let me remind you once again of the sensitivity of the Orientation course, being the first

point of contact with the Corps members, and the need to handle it with utmost seriousness. Since the success of any service year is predicated on the value derived by the participants from the induction, our focus must be on achieving positive outcomes. You all know that the Orientation course is deliberately packaged to prepare the Corps members psychologically, mentally and physically, for the challenges of the service year, and must be sustained as such. As the guardians of these Corps members, you must justify the confidence reposed in you by guiding and protecting them.

4. During the Pre-orientation meeting, we did emphasize the importance of inter-agency synergy for the success of the Orientation course. Therefore, I urge you to be team players and encourage all other camp officials to work together and avoid conflict. It is your responsibility to assist the State Coordinators in the implementation of policy actions, necessary for the over-all success of the exercise.

5. Details of schedule of each category of officers, and the duration of the assignments are reflected in the letters to be issued to you by the PRS Department before your departure. It is expected, therefore, that you will display a high sense of probity while carrying out these schedules. As worthy officers of the Scheme, you are to employ dialogue and mutual tolerance in solving problems, whenever they occur.

6. Resident and Touring officers are enjoined to carryout routine checks on critical camp facilities to ensure that they are conducive for use by both Corps members and camp officials. The attention of the State Coordinators should be promptly drawn to any facility that is not functioning optimally. You are also expected to pay special attention to the security situation at the camps, and report all suspicious movements to the State Coordinators and the

security operatives for appropriate action. Resident officers are expected to present reports on the state of the camp to me in the course of my tour.

7. As you are already aware, the orientation course is coming at a time Nigeria and the rest of the world are taking measures to contain the outbreak of Corona Virus. Management is already in touch with the Federal Ministry of Health and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, and we shall issue guidelines on prevention and control measures in all our Orientation camps. Resident and Touring Officers are expected to monitor and ensure strict compliance with the guidelines. In the same vein, Area and State Coordinators are hereby mandated to be in constant liaison with the State Ministries of Health for technical support on the prevention and control of the virus. In particular, all prospective Corps members, camp officials and visitors to the camps must be subjected to screening before entry. In addition, Corps members and officials must observe high level of personal and environmental hygiene throughout the duration of the exercise.

8. As you get set to depart for the various Orientation camps, I charge you to pay special attention to the following instructions in the course of your assignment:

- I. Bushes/grown grasses must be cleared in all camps;
- ii. Pre-Orientation meeting with collaborating agencies must take place before the Orientation course;
- iii. Good reception for Prospective Corps members must be organized by Camp officials, with emphasis on the cultural significance;
- iv. The approved number of casual hands, for the servicing

- of toilets, must be on standby at the facilities at all times;
- v. All hostels must have well fitted fans;
 - vi. All camp officials must work harmoniously as a team;
 - vii. Briefing of Corps members by State Coordinators should hold before the swearing-in ceremony, while debriefing should be conducted before closing ceremony;
 - viii. Quality and quantity of meals served Corps members must be of acceptable standards;
 - ix. The approved menu must also be complied with Meals not contained in the menu should not be served;
 - x. All Camps must ensure high level of discipline amongst Corps participants and officials;
 - xi. The Orientation time-table must be strictly adhered to;
 - xii. The Camp Clinics must be set up 24 hours, before commencement of the Orientation course, with adequate drugs. Consultants from tertiary hospitals must be on camp 24 hours;
 - xiii. On no account should any sick Corps member be kept in the Camp Clinic for more than 12 hours, if there is no sign of improvement;
 - xiv. Corps members with complicated health cases, should be relocated immediately, or referred to tertiary health facilities for better management.

- xv. Drugs which are nearing expiration should not be procured, or accepted as donations, for use in the camps.
9. Ladies and gentlemen, it is important to note that your selection for this crucial assignment is as a result of the faith Management has in you. You are, therefore, expected to justify this confidence by being objective in your observations and suggestions to the State Coordinators and other camp officials. Your reports should be comprehensive, and reflect events as they happen in the camps so that the information can be utilized to improve future exercises.
10. I wish all of us a hitch-free Orientation course.
11. Thank you.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 2019 NYSC
CULTURAL FESTIVAL HELD IN THE NUC
AUDITORIUM, AGUIYI IRONSI WAY, MAITAMA,
ABUJA, ON THURSDAY, 5TH MARCH, 2020



Protocol

It is with immense delight that I welcome you all to the closing ceremony of the 2019 NYSC Cultural Festival. Let begin by specially recognizing the esteemed presence of the Special Guest of Honour and Honourable Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed. Honourable Minister, Sir, I thank you most profoundly for gracing this event in spite of your tight schedule. I also warmly welcome all other distinguished guests whose presence has added colour to this ceremony.

2. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the National Youth Service Corps has over the past three decades employed the Cultural Festival as a platform for the promotion of our cultural heritage. Apart from exposing the abundant talents of Corps members in acting, script-writing, directing, dancing and comedy, this fiesta has also contributed towards strengthening the unity of our dear country.

3. Gratifyingly, the performances of the past few days and those we are witnessing today are clear illustrations of the effective integration of our Corps members in their host communities. It will interest our distinguished guests to know that a good number of them do not belong to the ethnic groups or geo-political zones whose

cultural dances and songs they are performing. The lesson we can take away from this is that, irrespective of our ethnic and religious differences, we can lift Nigeria higher through our shared values, spirit of patriotism and collective will.

4. One of the objectives of the Festival is to harness the potentials of our youths for national development. I, therefore, hope that relevant stakeholders in the cultural, entertainment and tourism sectors will join hands with the Scheme in our efforts to improve the content and gains of the fiesta for the benefit of our dear country.

5. At this juncture, I commend our Corps members for the display of marvelous skills in dance, drama and stand-up comedy in the last three days. I encourage you to avail yourselves of opportunities for gainful careers in our booming entertainment industry. While congratulating the winners of the various events, I also wish to extend my profound appreciation to the panel of judges for your fairness in deciding the outcomes of the contests. As you journey back to your respective States of Service, I commit you into the hands of Almighty God for guidance and protection.

6. Once again, I wish to express gratitude to our Special Guest of Honour and other guests for honouring us with your presence. Our deep appreciation also goes to all friends and partners of the Scheme, who have contributed to the success of this Festival, especially through sponsorship and technical support.

7. Thank you and God bless

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN AT THE
CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 2019 NYSC
SPORTS FESTIVAL HELD AT
MOSHOOD ABIOLA STADIUM,
ABUJA, ON FRIDAY, 6TH MARCH, 2020



Protocol

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the closing ceremony of the 2019 NYSC Sports Festival. Let me begin by recognizing the esteemed presence of our Special Guest of Honour and Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare. I thank you most sincerely for sparing time to preside over this event in spite of other official matters competing for your attention. I also warmly welcome other distinguished guests, including the Chairman of the NYSC National Governing Board, Ambassador Fatima Balla Abubakar, other members of the Board, representatives of the Chief of Defence Staff, other Service Chiefs, Inspector-General of Police, Heads of Paramilitary Agencies and Chief Executives of other public and private agencies.

2. This Festival, which commenced over three days ago, featured competitions in football, volleyball and athletics. It served as a platform for the exposure of the talents of our Corps members in the track and field events in addition to further advancing the cause of unity and national integration through interactions of these youths of diverse socio-cultural backgrounds. This is well in line with the vision of the founding fathers of the National Youth Service Corps.

3. Special Guest of Honour, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to report that in the course of the competitions, these young men and women showed great passion not only for the purpose of winning laurels, but even more significantly, as a demonstration of their belief in our vision of a more united and prosperous Nigeria. Indeed, the coordination, team work, discipline, resilience and sportsmanship that characterized their conduct throughout the event have further raised our hopes in their leadership potentials. I am also confident that given their performances, a good number of these Corps members will achieve further feats, including successful careers in sports.

4. At this point, I congratulate the winners of the various categories of the competition and also commend all the contingents for their mature conduct, especially in adhering to the rules. My dear Corps members, I thank you for your patriotism and enjoin you to continue to be source of pride to the nation. As you return to your various States of Service, I pray the Almighty God to guide and protect you. I also wish to thank the umpires of the games for justifying the confidence reposed in them through impartial handling of the contests.

5. I wish to seize this opportunity to commend members of the Organizing Committee for their hard work and dedication. I also thank other stakeholders, including sponsors, who have contributed to the success of the Festival. I look forward to further strengthening of our partnership, especially as we work towards improvement of the fiesta. To our partners in the Fourth Estate of the Realm, I say a big thank you for your adequate coverage of this and other activities of the Scheme.

6. Before I end this address, I wish to once again express our gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare, for the continued support and encouragement given to the Scheme and, in particular, for identifying with us throughout this Festival. Our gratitude also goes to all other distinguished guests for honouring our invitation.

7. Thank you and God bless.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S ONE YEAR IN OFFICE: THE STRIDES SO FAR



On his assumption of duty as the 18th Director-General on 10th May, 2019, Brigadier General S Ibrahim unveiled his policy direction anchored on the following focal areas:

- i. *Sustain effective utilization of the potentials of Corps members for optimal benefits;*
- ii. *Pursue a technologically-driven organization to deepen effective service delivery;*
- iii. *Improve on the welfare and security of Corps members and staff;*
- iv. *Strengthen existing collaboration with stakeholders; and*
- v. *Reinvigorate the NYSC Ventures and Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (SAED) in line with the NYSC Act for greater impact.*

The Director-General immediately settled down for the day-to-day running of the Scheme with particular focus on his blueprint. Known for his foresightedness, proactive nature and passion for excellence, he has been providing the needed leadership for the rest of the Management and members of Staff as the entire team work towards actualizing his vision for the Scheme. One year into his dynamic and result-oriented administration, Brigadier General S Ibrahim has so far recorded the following achievements:

i. ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENT WITH CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

- a. Advocacy visits to critical stakeholders such as the former Head of State General Yakubu Gowon; the Governors of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Delta, Edo, Jigawa, Katsina, Kogi, Lagos, Nasarawa, Plateau, Rivers and Zamfara States; the Governor of the Central Bank; Heads of Security and Anti-Corruption Agencies, amongst others. The impact of this stride is the improvement already being achieved in stakeholders' support for the Scheme.
- b. The Director-General also addressed a meeting of the Nigeria Governors' Forum – the first such engagement by any Chief Executive of the Scheme. He used the occasion of the meeting to appreciate the State Governors for their support to the Scheme through various intervention projects in their respective States. He drew their attention to other areas that needed to be addressed being part of the obligations of the State Governments as spelt out in the NYSC Act.
- c. Hosting of meeting of NYSC Management with representatives of State Governments and the FCT

Administration aimed at strengthening collaboration towards the achievement of the Scheme's mandate with particular focus on the discharge of obligations of the States and FCT as spelt out in the NYSC Act. The impact of the meeting is profound as several State Governments have made remarkable gestures in support of the Scheme in recent times. Notable among such gestures are:

1. Completion and hand over of the new NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Umuawulu/ Mbaukwu in Awka South Local Government Area by the Anambra State Government;
2. Construction of a 500-capacity male Corps members' hostel and commencement of work on a similar hostel for female Corps members at the NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Kaduna, by the Kaduna State Government;
3. On-going construction of a 5000-capacity Auditorium and internal roads as well as provision of power transformer, 1500 double-bunk beds and 3000 mattresses at the NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp by the Rivers State Government;
4. Construction of 250-capacity hostel at the NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Ikot Itie Udung, by the Akwa Ibom State Government.
5. Construction of new Corps Lodges in all the Local Government Areas of Jigawa State and provision of land by the State Government for the expansion of the NYSC Secretariat in Dutse.

6. Construction of 700-capacity Corps members' hostels, Camp Clinic, Staff Quarters and sinking of industrial borehole at the NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Issele-Uku, by the Delta State Government.
 7. Construction of 2500-capacity multi-purpose hall and general facelift of the NYSC Orientation Camp, Paiko, by the Niger State Government.
 8. Construction of asphalted internal roads at the Magaji Dan Yامusa NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Keffi, by the Nasarawa State Government.
- d. Promotion of Media Relations: The Director-General has, since assumption of duty, strived to strengthen the cordial relationship of the Scheme with the Media. This, he kick-started with his maiden parley with Editors, Bureau Chiefs and Youth Correspondents of various Media Organizations on 15th August, 2019. Brigadier General S Ibrahim also paid courtesy visits to Media Offices in Abuja, including the Headquarters of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Media Trust Limited and Leadership Group Limited. He has consistently maintained his Media-friendly posture, thereby attracting wider publicity for the Scheme's activities.
- e. The Director-General in furtherance of his transparent, inspirational and all-inclusive style of administration, paid visits to all former Chief Executives of the Scheme. This gesture was aimed at appreciating their respective contributions to the development of Scheme, when they were in the saddle as Chief Executives. The former Chief

Executives appreciated the gesture as it was the first ever by visit paid simultaneously to them to appreciate their past services and check on their wellbeing.

ii. SENSITIZATION OF THE PUBLIC ON THE NYSC ACT

The Director-General hosted a national sensitization programme on the NYSC Act on 24th July, 2019 in Abuja. Prior to this initiative, it was clear that many Nigerians were not aware of the provisions of the Act – a situation that had led to avoidable infractions. With the sensitization, which is still on-going, organizations and individuals are now having better understanding of their obligations to the Scheme. In particular, cases of evasion and abscondment from Service, especially by foreign-trained Nigerian graduates, are expected to reduce drastically.

iii. MAIDEN MEETING WITH FOREIGN CORPS PRODUCING INSTITUTIONS

Having uncovered the fraudulent activities of some tertiary institutions in Africa issuing Academic Certificates to unqualified persons, who in turn present same in an attempt to get mobilized for National Service, the Director-General commenced an aggressive fight against the menace. In addition to hosting a meeting with Registrars of tertiary institutions from the affected countries as part of efforts to nip such sharp practices in the bud, internal mechanisms have been put in place for easier detection of unqualified persons attempting to present themselves for Mobilization. As a result of the stance of the Management, some of the foreign institutions are now volunteering to alert NYSC to

suspected fraudulent practices by their students. Interestingly, out of over twenty thousand (20,000) persons who registered online as foreign-trained Prospective Corps Members of the 2019 Batch 'C' Service Year, only three thousand four hundred and twenty (3,420) turned up for the Pre-Mobilization physical screening of credentials introduced by the Shuaibu-led Management. In order to serve as deterrent to others, sixty-five (65) fake Corps members arrested during the 2019 Batch 'B' Stream II Orientation Course in Camps across the country are being prosecuted with some convictions already secured. These steps taken by the Management have helped to create national awareness, especially on the need for parents and guardians to check the accreditation status of the institutions attended by their children and to monitor their academic progress. The bold move by the Director-General in sanitizing the mobilization process will also ensure that only well trained and competent persons occupy positions that will fast-track the future development of the country.

iv. REINVIGORATION OF THE SKILL ACQUISITION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Since his assumption of duty, the Director-General has been speaking passionately about his desire to make the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) Programme more functional. To match words with actions, the present Management has taken several steps towards reinvigorating the SAED including, but not limited, to the following:

- Renewal of commitment by NYSC and the Bank of Industry towards resuscitation of the empowerment of

- corps entrepreneurs with business loans under the BOI-NYSC Graduate Empowerment Fund;
- Intensive monitoring of GEF beneficiaries;
 - New collaboration with NIRSAL Microfinance Bank on empowerment of Corps entrepreneurs;
 - New partnership with Unity Bank Plc on a programme named 'Allawee' aimed at empowering Corps members;
 - Collaboration with British-American Tobacco Foundation on empowerment of Corps members with agricultural skills and business trainings, farm internship, mentoring and farm input supplies;
 - Hosting of 2020 NYSC SAED Stakeholders meeting aimed at reviewing the programme implementation strategies as well as strengthening of existing partnerships and exploring new ones for further technical and material support;
 - Pursuing the completion of the North West Skill Acquisition Centre in Kazaure, Jigawa State, which is now at advanced stage;
 - Commencement of work on the North Central Skill Acquisition Centre in Keffi, Nasarawa State;
 - Research-based collaboration with OAU-NACETEM sponsored by a Canadian Agency, International Development Research Centre on evaluation of the impact of SAED and reinvigorating it for greater impact.

v. REINVIGORATION OF THE NYSC VENTURES

In pursuit of one of the Director-General's Agenda, Management is reinvigorating the various NYSC Ventures. Consequently, the NYSC Water Factory and the NYSC Bakery both located at the Permanent Orientation Camp, Kubwa, FCT, are fully back on stream with their products being patronized by the public. In the same vein, the operations of the NYSC Farm Settlements across the

country are being enhanced, especially with supply of equipment and other necessary inputs. Similar steps are on for the optimization of the operations of the NYSC Garment Factories located in Minna, Niger State and Mgbaku, Anambra State as well as other ventures. These feats are already steering the NYSC towards internal revenue generation to complement the economic development and local content strides of the Federal Government.

vi. INSCRIPTION OF DATE OF BIRTH ON THE CERTIFICATE OF NATIONAL SERVICE

In a bid to check manipulation of date of birth by ineligible persons seeking mobilization for National Service, the present Management decided to inscribed date of birth on the Certificate of National Service beginning with the 2019 Batch 'A' Corps members. The date of birth will also be inscribed on Exclusion Letters commencing from the 2019 Batch 'C' Service Year.

vii. NOVEL CORPS WELFARE INITIATIVES

- a. In a rare demonstration of empathy and commitment to welfare of Corps members, the Director-General has personally visited several members of the Service Corps on admission in hospitals in Katsina, Edo, Plateau, Taraba and Kwara States following their involvement in Road Traffic Accidents. He has also paid condolence and reassuring visits to families of deceased and missing Corps members. Such gestures have increased the confidence of Corps members in the Management of the Scheme and engendered more zeal for patriotic service.

b. Procurement of prosthetic limbs for a Corps member

In furtherance of his welfare policy, the Director-General also approved the sum of Thirty-two Million Naira (N32,000,000.00) for procurement of prosthetic limbs for a Corps member, Nuraddeen Tahir, who, along with other Corps members, was involved in a road traffic accident on their way to report for Primary Assignment after the 2019 Batch 'B' Stream I Orientation Course in Taraba State. The Corps member, who lost an arm at a younger age, had the other one amputated as a result of the latest accident. The artificial limbs have already been supplied and Nuraddeen is currently undergoing training on their usage. With this development, the Corps member can now effectively perform normal tasks as done with natural limbs.

- c. The Director-General vigorously and relentlessly pursued the issue of increment of Corps Allowance in the wake of approval of the National Minimum Wage. Thankfully, the efforts paid off and the Allowance of Corps members was increased to **Thirty-three Thousand Naira (N33,000.00K)**. Following the commencement of the payment of the new rate with effect from January 2020, the Director-General along with the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development and some representatives of Corps members paid a thank-you visit to His Excellency, Mr. President, on 6th February, 2020 at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

viii. ENHANCEMENT OF STAFF WELFARE

In line with one of the cardinal points of his policy thrust, the Director-General has been pursuing policies that are geared not only towards motivating Staff, but also promoting

industrial harmony in the Scheme. This has been aptly demonstrated through prompt payment of entitlements, capacity building as well as timely and transparent conduct of Promotion Examinations. During the 2020 Promotion Exercise for instance, **one thousand seven hundred and eighteen (1718)** out of the **two thousand one hundred fifty-one (2151)** officers that participated were elevated to the next Grade Levels after meeting the requirements stipulated in the Public Service Rules. Also, in appreciation of their meritorious service to the Scheme and the nation, the Director-General hosted a send-off party in honour of retired Directors and former members of the current NYSC National Governing Board.

ix. STRENGTHENING OF THE SCHEME'S OPERATIONS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NYSC RADIO

The Director-General is pursuing with vigour, the Scheme's proposal for the establishment of NYSC Radio resulting in the green light already given by the National Broadcasting Commission that has processed necessary documents to the Presidency for approval of license. Provision has also been made for execution of the project in the 2020 Budget.

x. SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF ORIENTATION COURSES

The Director-General oversaw the successful conduct of the 2019 Batch 'B' Streams I and II as well as 2019 Batch 'C' Streams I and II Orientation Courses. Out of his foresight, Management suspended the 2020 Batch 'A' Stream 1 Orientation Course just a week into the exercise as a measure to avert the spread of COVID-19 to the Orientation Camps.

xi. SUCCESSFUL TAKE-OFF OF NEWLY ESTABLISHED AREA OFFICES

Following the Federal Government's approval of the establishment of Six Area Offices for the Scheme, the Director-General facilitated their successful take-off with the posting of Area Coordinators and other Staff.

xii. REACTIVATION OF CEREMONIAL PASSING-OUT FOR CORPS MEMBERS

Following the remarkable improvement in the security situation of the country, the Director-General sought and got the Federal Government's approval for the resumption of elaborate Winding-up and Passing-out activities for discharged Corps members after several years of suspending same. Accordingly, the Passing-out ceremony of the 2019 Batch 'A' Corps members was marked with colourful parade nationwide thereby increasing the visibility of the NYSC.

xiii. SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF THE 2019 NYSC SPORTS AND CULTURAL FESTIVALS

The NYSC Sports and Cultural Festivals serve as one of the avenues through which the Scheme promotes national unity, our cultural heritage as well as showcases the abundant talents of Corps members in the areas of sports and culture. The Festival was last held in 2018, but revived by the present Management, which hosted the grand Finale from 3rd to 6th March, 2020 in Abuja. Necessary measures have also been put in place to ensure that it is held annually.

xiv. PRODUCTION OF NYSC MOVIE

The movie titled 'A Call to Service' is currently under production. Apart from its entertainment function, the movie is being packaged as a tool for public sensitization on

the roles of stakeholders in the Scheme. These stakeholders include the various tiers of Government, Corps Employers as well as serving and prospective Corps members, as spelt out in the NYSC Act. Ultimately the film will promote better understanding by the publics of the Scheme on their role expectations.

xv. ESTABLISHMENT OF NYSC NATIONAL CULTURAL TROUPE

This initiative of the Director-General is to provide a veritable platform for Corps members to develop their talents in drama and cultural performances while also enjoying public support towards harnessing such talents through patronage. In addition, the Troupe will also shore up the revenue base of the Scheme through its activities which will be commercialized.

xvi. NYSC CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL EFFORTS ON COVID-19

Through his purposeful and dynamic leadership, Brigadier General S Ibrahim always galvanized the ingenuity and creativity of Corps members for contribution towards addressing national issues. The latest of such initiatives is the role of NYSC in the national efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic through mass production and donation of Face Masks, Antiseptic Liquid Soaps, Hand Sanitizers as well as sensitization drive by Corps members in many States across the country. Another innovative contribution of NYSC in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic is the fabrication foot-operated/automatic water, liquid soap, hand sanitizer dispensers by Corps members in several States, including: Babatunde Dolapo Dayo and Sebe Godspower, Abia;

Abdullahi Sani, Kano; Abdulsalam Abubakar and Obiefuna Ebuka, Kwara; Adeyanju Adeyemi, Afolabi Victor and Ogunmoye Victor, Oyo and Onyekwere Chiwotaoke, Zamfara. In addition, Corps members, acting on the platform of the Charity CDS/SDGs Group, have been contributing towards mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 on the grassroots populace through the donation of food and other relief items to State Governments and indigent members of the society. A number of Corps members on teaching assignment also contributed towards sustaining educational progress of their students by adopting virtual teaching approach while schools remained closed as a result of the pandemic.

xvii.DOCUMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SCHEME

On assumption of office, the Director-General observed the absence of a standard reference document on the activities and achievements of the Scheme since its establishment. Consequently, he directed mandated the Planning, Research and Statistics Department to come up with standard reference documents on the operations of the Scheme (past and present) and also liaise with the Historical Society of Nigeria with the aim of further working on a publication that will provide clear and elaborate highlights on the contribution of NYSC to National Unity and Development from inception to date. The Publication is ongoing and, when completed, it will serve as a reference tool for Researchers and other stakeholders who wish to gain clearer insights into the programmes and accomplishments of the Scheme.

xviii. PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION MARCH

In furtherance of the NYSC contribution to the fight against corruption through the activities of the Corps Anti-Corruption and Integrity CDS Group, the Director-General approved the participation of thousands of Corps members in the first ever nationwide rally organized by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on 14th February, 2020. The Director-General personally joined Corps members and officials in Kano, Kano State, for the rally, which was tagged “Nigerian Youths March Against Corruption.”

xix. PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC LECTURES

The Director-General has also publicized the activities of NYSC while contributing to discussions on important national issues through presentation of public lectures. His recent interventions were made through the following papers:

- a. ***Life without White Collar: Imperatives for Vocational and Entrepreneurial Education – the NYSC Perspective*** presented at the 11th Convocation Ceremony of Tai Solarin University of Education;
- b. ***NYSC in the Service of Promoting Best Practices in Basic and Secondary Education: Current Realities, Prospects and Challenges*** presented at the 23rd Exam Ethics Marshals International Conference; and
- c. ***Quality Culture: a Necessity for National Development*** presented at the fourth edition of *Quality is Everybody's Business* (QEB-4) Seminar organized by the Institute of Quality Assurance of Nigeria.

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