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

Volume 2



BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF DSS MTRCN

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**SELECTED SPEECHES AND STRIDES
OF THE
18TH NYSC DIRECTOR-GENERAL
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN**
Volume 2

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FOREWORD

The Director-General of the National Youth Service Corps, Brigadier General S Ibrahim *Assoc. Prof. DSS MTRCN*, is exactly two years in office. Since assuming duty on 10th May, 2019, he has left no one in doubt of his commitment to turning things around in the Scheme. Indeed, the past twenty-four months have been marked by visionary and dynamic administration with assiduous pursuit of his policy thrust. As we mark the second anniversary of the administration, stakeholders in NYSC have enough reasons to roll out the drums in celebration of his numerous achievements, which have been acknowledged through various Awards.

Within the last two years, NYSC has organized many in-house and public functions in the continued pursuit of its mandate. Such events usually featured formal speeches by the Director-General, mainly for the purpose of agenda-setting as well as announcement or clarification of policies.

This Book, “Selected Speeches and Strides of the 18th NYSC Director-General Volume 2” is the second documentation of the formal speeches and achievements of the Chief Executive. As in Volume 1, the contents of this publication give further insights into his innovations and radical approaches to issues and challenges in the Scheme.

NYSC Staff, serving and prospective Corps members and other stakeholders, including researchers, will find this publication useful as it will further enrich their grasp of 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 CAP N84 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: 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, citizenship and leadership lectures as well as entrepreneurship development training, amongst others. The Orientation Course also serves as 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 public and private organizations for Primary Assignment, which spans through a period of eleven (11) months. Here, they gain vital first-hand experience and on the job training, in addition to being exposed to the virtues of hard work, diligence and obedience to constituted authorities.

The third Cardinal Programme, the Community Development Service (CDS), runs alongside the Primary Assignment. It is a platform for Corps members to initiate and execute projects aimed at improving the living standards of their host communities. In nearly five decades of the Scheme's existence, Corps members have used this platform to add value to the society through construction of culverts and bridges, tree planting, development of farms, art-works, landscaping, beautification, and campaign against HIV/AIDS. Other notable CDS programmes are the Health

Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD), Mass Literacy Campaign, and Advocacy on the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Scheme also promotes unity, spirit of healthy competition and self-development amongst Corps members through the NYSC Sports and Cultural Festivals. During the fiesta, stakeholders in the sports sector and the entertainment industry are encouraged 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, infrastructural development amongst others.

A new chapter was opened in the history of the Scheme on 10th May, 2019 with Brigadier General S Ibrahim assuming duty as its Director-General. He is in the saddle after seventeen previous Chief Executives, including Col AA Ali, Col SK Omojokun, Col PK Obasa, Brig Gen EA Akpan, Col A Braimoh, Brig Gen HB Momoh, Brig Gen SA Sofoluwe and Brig Gen SM Dule. Others are Brig Gen KO Ogunkoya, COMPOL SI Emokaro, Rev. P. O. Okunromade, Brig Gen W Oki, Brig Gen Y Bomoi, Brig Gen MI Tsiga, Brig Gen NT Okore-Affia, Brig Gen JB Olawumi and Maj Gen SZ Kazaure.

Driven by his determination to leave lasting legacies, the incumbent has remained focused on actualizing his vision for the Scheme based on 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. Reinforce the NYSC Ventures and Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (SAED) in line with the NYSC Act for greater impact.*

With his experience as Military Assistant to two former NYSC Chief Executives coming handy, coupled with a supportive Management team and a committed workforce, the Director-General is breaking new grounds as he sails through the administration of the Scheme. His achievements so far have been legendary. Not only has the present Management increased the visibility of the Scheme, it has also made it more impactful. Brigadier General Ibrahim, who has earned reputation as a proactive, goal-getting and inspiring leader, also makes sustained stakeholder engagement a part his strategies for achieving success.

It is gratifying to note that NYSC has recorded numerous innovative and far-reaching accomplishments under his watch. When he clocked one year in office in May 2020, the Special Duties Department commemorated the anniversary

with the first volume of this Book, which is a special compilation of some of his landmark speeches and achievements. As we mark the second anniversary of his administration, this second volume is compiled as yet another reference material for members of Staff, 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 ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN**

PROFILE OF THE NYSC DIRECTOR-GENERAL

BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS 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 Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in History (1989 and 1992 respectively) before proceeding to bag a Post-Graduate Diploma in Education of the 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).

STEWARDSHIP 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 two years 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, Ojong Echum Tangban *et al* (eds.), *Defence, Security, Economy and Development in Nigeria* 1, UK: Bahiti and Delila Publishers, 2017.
- Shuaibu Ibrahim, Ojong Echum Tangban *et al* (eds.), *Defence, Security, Economy and Development in Nigeria* 1I, 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, he still devotes time to academic work, including supervision of students' theses and dissertations, serving as Internal and External Examiner of Master's Students at the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), Kaduna, and the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. In recognition of his contributions to knowledge, the Nigerian Defence Academy elevated him to the rank of Associate Professor in 2020.

M E M B E R S H I P O F P R O F E S S I O N A L O R G A N I Z A T I O N S

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 by the 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.

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BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN

VOLUME 2

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION/INDUCTION
OF NYSC ANTI-CORRUPTION AND
TRANSPARENCY UNIT (ACTU) ON WEDNESDAY,
2ND SEPTEMBER, 2020 AT THE NYSC NDHQ
CONFERENCE HALL**



PROTOCOL

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all on this auspicious occasion of the formal inauguration and induction of new members of the NYSC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU). During my courtesy visit to the Honourable Chairman, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) last year, I specifically requested the re-inauguration of the NYSC Chapter of ACTU since the tenure of the previous committee had elapsed.

2. I am, therefore, glad that this inauguration is taking place today. I must say that the large number of membership is indicative of the interest of the Scheme in ensuring that all its Departments and Units play significant roles in the anti-corruption drive.

3. Corruption, as we know, manifests in different facets of our public and social lives in very negative ways and, oftentimes, causing pains and untold hardship to the citizens. It goes beyond the issues of misappropriation, bribery in work places, embezzlement of funds, nepotism, amongst others, and slows

down the realization of government objectives of providing all the basic necessities of life for the citizens.

4. It has, therefore, become necessary for all hands to be on deck in the fight against this scourge. It is not a war that should be left only in the hands of the statutory bodies set up by government to prosecute the anti-corruption war. The conceptualization of ACTU as a unit in every government organization by the ICPC is, therefore, a laudable step aimed at involving other stakeholders in the performance of this onerous task. The National Youth Service Corps started collaboration with ICPC in the year 2002. Arising from this, the NYSC/ICPC Anti-Corruption Vanguard was formed with a view to engaging Corps members as foot soldiers for the fight against corruption. It is heartwarming to note that these young and energetic youths have, through their spread and academic attainment, helped in sensitizing the public in all nooks and crannies of the country.

5. Furthermore, the Management of the Scheme has intensified efforts at ensuring that any form of infringement on the provisions of its Enabling Laws is prevented through the enforcement of its operational guidelines. Therefore, those who attempt to illegally participate in the programme of the Scheme or had participated in the past through fraudulent means will be prosecuted when discovered. It must also be noted that the Scheme will not entertain any request for pardon by those who deliberately participate illegally in its programme and are seeking restitution for their past fraudulent acts. We will always allow the law to take its course on such matters through the prosecution of such persons and organizations/institutions, who aided and abetted the fraudulent acts.

6. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, today's inauguration of the NYSC ACTU is, therefore, timely as it reinforces our

resolve to build a corrupt-free nation for us and the future generations. The Scheme will continue to harness its advantage of nationwide spread and strategic position to sustain its collaboration with the ICPC for greater success in the anti-corruption war.

7. Let me call on members of the reconstituted ACTU to note that your selection is on merit and you are, therefore, expected to discharge your duties with fairness while maintaining the standards laid down by the Commission. Indeed, with your inauguration today, NYSC has taken another giant step towards ensuring that we bequeath a corruption-free society that our children will be proud of.

8. While urging you to shun acts that may compromise your position, let me assure that our door will always remain open for opinions and suggestions that can help Management to take right decisions. In similar manner, I will expect the reconstitution of the State Chapters to ensure free flow of information.

9. Finally, I wish to appreciate the Honourable Chairman of ICPC and the entire Commission for their continued interest in the activities of the Scheme leading to the actualization of this programme. We assure you of our unalloyed commitment to evolving a corrupt-free society in the interest of the Nigerian populace and the international community.

10. Thank you.

**GOODWILL MESSAGE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN, AT THE
INEC/STAKEHOLDERS' SENSITIZATION MEETING ON
THE EDO STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION ON
MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2020**



PROTOCOL

I am pleased to be part of this crucial meeting on the Edo State Gubernatorial Election scheduled for 19th September, 2020. I wish to, first and foremost, congratulate INEC and other stakeholders on the preparations made so far towards the successful conduct of the elections. It is noteworthy that as part of the Scheme's preparation for a successful election, I was here last week to meet our Royal Father, His Royal Majesty the Oba of Benin, Security Agencies, and Corps Members to ensure that we have transparent, peaceful and credible elections. I am happy that the visit was very fruitful as I had a reassuring commitment to a peaceful election from all the stakeholders visited.

2. Let me also place on record, our appreciation of the confidence the nation reposes in our Corps members, who have over the years been engaged as INEC's ad hoc personnel for the conduct of elections.

3. May I also use this occasion to reaffirm our commitment to the success of the INEC-NYSC collaboration, which has earned the growing confidence of Nigerians and, indeed, the international community for our electoral system. Accordingly, the NYSC Management will continue to sensitize Corps

members to the need to demonstrate high sense of responsibility when engaged as election officials. As we prepare for the Edo State Governorship Election, I wish to assure all stakeholders that Corps members will perform the electoral assignment with honesty of purpose and the usual neutrality for which the Scheme is known.

4. At this juncture, I wish to commend all Security Agencies for their efforts towards ensuring peaceful conduct of the elections. I also appeal to the good people of Edo State, including key stakeholders like the 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 from any form of violence or molestation before, during and after the elections.

5. In conclusion, I pray the Almighty God to guide our efforts towards the conduct of a hitch-free election.

6. Thank you for listening and God bless.

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN,
AT THE LAUNCH OF A BOOK AND POST-HUMOUS
BIRTHDAY IN HONOUR OF LATE CORPS MEMBER
PRECIOUS OWOLABI HELD ON 16TH SEPTEMBER,
2020 AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CENTRE, RADIO
HOUSE, ABUJA**



I am delighted to be part of this event organized in honour of our departed compatriot, Precious Ayoola Owolabi, who made the supreme sacrifice a little over one year ago in the course of the National Service. First, I commend the Owolabi family for not only remaining strong in the face of the loss of a precious family member, but also having the foresight of packaging this book launch and post-humous birthday to keep alive his memory.

2. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, when Precious Owolabi answered the clarion call for National Service, he had no inkling that his mission would be terminated mid-way. He was so focused that he performed his duties with utmost diligence at his place of primary assignment. His passion for hard work coupled with his commendable interpersonal relations marked him out as a Corps member, who truly believed in the essence of Service. Testimonies by his NYSC field supervisors, employers and fellow Corps members are descriptive of a promising young man, who was committed to excellence and determined to leave indelible footprints during his service year.

3. However, the loss of this young man in his prime came as

a great shock to his family, the NYSC, and the entire nation. While we mourned the irreparable loss, we have continued to take solace in the fact that he died while giving his best to a country he so much loved. Indeed, he will continue to be remembered for his patriotic zeal, loyalty, dedication and selflessness.

4. Let me seize this opportunity to assure you that the National Youth Service Corps will continue to keep alive the dreams of departed heroes like Precious by rededicating ourselves to effective mentoring of youths mobilized for National Service as they prepare for future leadership roles. Accordingly, we remain resolute on instilling in the youths the virtues of honesty, hard work as well as the spirit of love and respect for one another among other hallmarks of the Service. Furthermore, we will continue to work with Security Agencies and other relevant stakeholders in order to ensure that Corps members are safe wherever they are serving in the country.

5. At this juncture, I wish to express our profound gratitude to His Excellency, Mr. President for standing by the bereaved family in their moment of grief. I must also place on record our appreciation of the kind gesture of His Excellency, the Vice President, who personally paid a condolence visit to the Owolabis at their Zaria residence on behalf of Mr. President. In the same vein, we thank His Excellency the Governor of Kaduna State, who accompanied the Vice President on the condolence visit. Our appreciation also goes to the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, the Zaria Local Government Council, Precious' employers, the Channels Television, and other sympathizers, who stood in solidarity with the bereaved family and NYSC during our trying moment. Indeed, your condolence visits, prayers and other forms of support went a long way in strengthening us as we mourned this hero.

6. Once again, I commend the Owolabi family for taking this giant step towards ensuring that the memory of Precious remains evergreen through this post-humous birthday and the launch of the book "**3 Minutes to Midnight and other Plays.**" I am confident that readers, especially youths, will draw lots of inspirations from this intellectual work. We stand by you in prayer that the Almighty God continues to strengthen, protect and make this family to prosper.

7. Thank you and God bless.

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN,
ON THE OCCASION OF A LUNCHEON FOR
CORPS MEMBERS HOSTED BY THE FIRST LADY OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, HER EXCELLENCY,
DR. AISHA MUHAMMADU BUHARI IN THE
BANQUET HALL OF THE PRESIDENTIAL VILLA,
ABUJA, ON SUNDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 2020**

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## **PROTOCOL**

**I**t is with immense delight that I stand before this august gathering on this auspicious event organized by Her Excellency, the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Aisha Muhammadu Buhari for Corps members in commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our nation's independence. Let me begin by expressing our profound gratitude to Her Excellency for sparing time to host this luncheon despite your tight schedule. This is a further demonstration of the nation's appreciation of the selfless and dedicated services rendered by our graduate youths on the platform of the National Youth Service Corps. Indeed, the gesture will go a long way in boosting the morale of Corps members nationwide, who are being represented here today.

2. Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to report that successive batches of Corps members have been contributing immensely to the socio-economic development of our dear country, especially in key sectors such as education, health, agriculture and infrastructural development. They have also been adding further values to their host communities through the Community Development Service,

which is one of the Cardinal Programmes of the Scheme. Today, there is hardly any community in Nigeria that has not felt the impact of these young men and women through some development projects or services. These include construction or renovation of structures in schools, hospitals and other public institutions as well as provision of potable water amongst others. The Corps members, who are being trained for self-employment and wealth creation under the NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme, have also stepped down the trainings to women and youths in many communities, thereby complimenting government efforts at reducing unemployment.

3. Out of patriotic zeal, the Corps members have also been contributing to successful execution of strategic national programmes such as election, immunization, population census, advocacy programme on Sustainable Development Goals and the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign. They are also the drivers of the NYSC Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers, which is aimed at providing access to free and qualitative health services through medical outreaches conducted in rural communities.

4. I am also pleased to report the Corps members' contribution to the fight against COVID-19. Her Excellency may wish to know that since Nigeria joined the global efforts to contain the pandemic, NYSC has been harnessing the enormous potentials of Corps members towards complementing the efforts of the Federal Government in this regard. While Corps Doctors and paramedics participate actively in the provision of care for persons infected with the virus, other Corps members have made impact all over the country through non-pharmaceutical interventions such as production and donation of facemasks, hand sanitizers, liquid soaps, as well as fabrication of foot-operated and automatic soap, sanitizer and water dispensers.

Others include fabrication of walk-in disinfection chambers, sample collection booths and a highly accurate digital thermometer. They have also carried out decontamination of public premises, sensitization of the public on prevention and control measures, donation of palliative items such as food stuff and toiletries as well as conduct of virtual (online) lessons for school pupils.

5. Let me stress without equivocation that the aforementioned feats would not have been possible without the encouragement and support of the Federal Government, especially through timely provision of funds and other necessary resources for the smooth operations of the Scheme. Therefore, I wish to use this opportunity to express our profound appreciation to His Excellency Mr. President for according priority to matters of youth development generally, and the National Youth Service Corps in particular. I reaffirm the commitment of the NYSC Management, Staff and Corps members to justifying government's huge investment in the Scheme by rededicating ourselves to the service of our fatherland. The recent increment in the allowance of Corps Members was highly appreciation by all.

6. Once again, I thank Her Excellency for her interest in the success of the Scheme, especially through gestures geared towards motivating Corps members to further imbibe the ideals of patriotism, loyalty and commitment to the unity and development of our dear country. On our part, we shall continue to support your efforts towards empowering Nigerian women, youth and children through your globally applauded programme, the **Future Assured**.

7. Thank you for listening 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 Ondo STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION ON  
MONDAY, 5TH OCTOBER, 2020**



### **PROTOCOL**

**I**t is my pleasure to address this important meeting on the Ondo State Gubernatorial Election, which will take place on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2020. Let me begin by commending INEC and other stakeholders for the painstaking measures put in place so far in preparation for the successful conduct of the election. I am pleased to inform you that as part of the Scheme's preparation for a hitch-free exercise, I paid advocacy visits to Royal Fathers and Security Agencies in the State few days ago, during which they gave their commitment to peaceful and credible elections. I have also addressed Corps members enlisted as INEC ad hoc personnel, and reiterated the need for them to abide by the provisions of the Electoral Laws while performing this important National assignment.

2. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I consider it appropriate to use this forum to express our appreciation to the relevant authorities and, indeed, the generality of Nigerians for the confidence reposed in the Corps members, who have over the years been engaged for electoral duties. The encomiums that usually follow their performance in exercises such as voter registration and the administration of elections have strengthened our resolve to continue to give our best in the service

of our dear country. Recently, NYSC has also made a novel contribution to voter education through the production of a movie clip titled "**The Return**". The film, whose cast are mainly serving Corps members, sensitizes Nigerians on the need to shun violence during elections.

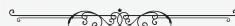
3. I wish to also use this occasion to reaffirm our commitment to the success of the INEC-NYSC collaboration, which has earned for our electoral system, the growing confidence of Nigerians and the international community. In this regard, we will remain unrelenting in encouraging our youths on National Service to perform election duties with high sense of responsibility. As we round off preparations for the Ondo State Governorship Election, I wish to assure all stakeholders that the Corps members will be guided by the relevant laws and demonstrate honesty and the usual neutrality for which they are known.

4. At this juncture, I wish to once again commend all Security Agencies for their efforts towards ensuring peaceful conduct of elections, including the recent one held in Edo State. I also appeal to the good people of Ondo State, including key stakeholders like our Royal Fathers, 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 from any form of violence or molestation before, during and after the elections.

5. In conclusion, I wish the good people of Ondo State a hitch-free election.

6. Thank you for listening and God bless.

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,  
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS PHD MTRCN, AT A  
ONE-DAY WORKSHOP FOR NYSC LEGAL OFFICERS  
HELD AT GLOBAL VILLAGE HOTEL AND SUITES,  
KORODUMA, NASARAWA STATE ON TUESDAY,  
6TH OCTOBER, 2020**



## **PROTOCOL**

**I**t is my pleasure to address you on this occasion of the training Workshop for NYSC Legal Officers, taking place here in Nasarawa State. Let me begin by thanking the Almighty God for bringing all participants safely from your various stations. To our distinguished guests, I warmly welcome you and thank you for identifying with us on this auspicious occasion.

2. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the Legal Unit of the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters was established to take care of legal matters for the Scheme. As part of measures to strengthen the Unit for optimal performance, Management posted Legal Officers to States and FCT Secretariats. This has enhanced efficiency in the areas of legal advice, litigation and supervision of the Corps Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS). Furthermore, the take-off of the newly established Area Offices in January 2020 necessitated the posting of Legal Officers as part of the full complement of Staff required for smooth operations of the Scheme at the zonal level.

3. As you are already aware, the Legal Officers' Workshop is an annual event aimed at enhancing Staff competence for greater productivity. While providing a platform for sharing of ideas and

strengthening of strategies for the effective coordination and supervision of CLAS, the workshop also satisfies the requirement of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and the Legal Profession on Continuing Legal Education for Lawyers.

4. This edition of the training is unique as it is the first of its kind to be conducted since the establishment of the Area Offices. It is intended to broaden the horizon of the Legal Officers recently posted to the Area Offices and those serving in the States/FCT Secretariats, and enhance their performance. This informed the choice of the theme, **“Building Capacity of Legal Officers for Optimum Performance”**.

5. It is gratifying to note that the Legal Unit has been very diligent in handling litigations for the Scheme. Also, as a result of effective supervision by the Unit, the Corps Legal Aid Scheme has long been one of the most impactful projects under the NYSC Community Development Service. Among other remarkable achievements, CLAS complements government's efforts towards reforming our justice system, especially through enlightenment of the general public on legal matters, provision of legal services for indigent persons as well as decongestion of Custodial Centres by securing the release of inmates, who cannot afford payment of fines.

6. My dear participants, I charge you to build on the foregoing achievements by redoubling efforts in the performance of your duties. Furthermore, you are advised to be abreast of developments in your profession, especially through self-development efforts. This will stand you in good stead while responding to emerging challenges. As you are already aware, our operations are guided mainly by the **NYSC Act Cap N84 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004** and the **NYSC Bye-**

**Laws.** Let me, therefore, use this forum to reiterate the need for you to get fully acquainted with the provisions of the Act and the Bye-Laws. This is because by virtue of your schedule, you are expected to play a leading role in educating the Management, other members of Staff and the general public on these provisions. Suffice it to also stress that sound knowledge of the Act and the Bye-Laws is critical to the successful handling of litigations for the Scheme.

7. This Workshop will focus on the rudiments of legal practice and procedures, NYSC Act and Bye-Laws as well as other issues that will assist you to effectively attend to legal matters. It will also appraise the activities of CLAS whose supervision you are saddled with. Furthermore, it is an avenue for critical analysis of emerging issues in the field of Law as well as sharing of experiences in line with global best practices.

8. I am confident that at the end of the workshop, your knowledge would have been further enriched to enable you render objective legal advice to Management at the NDHQ, Area Office and State Secretariat levels in addition to more diligent handling of litigations. At the same time, we expect consolidation of the achievements of CLAS through the provision of more effective guidance for Corps Lawyers. Therefore, I enjoin you to pay adequate attention to the lectures that will be presented and put heads together to come up with recommendations that will be beneficial to the Scheme.

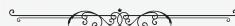
9. At this juncture, I commend all officers, who have been instrumental to the achievements so far recorded by the Scheme in the area of Legal Services. However, do not rest on your oars, especially with regards to rendering objective legal advice, litigations and enlightenment of the citizenry on legal matters. In

line with the present structure of the Scheme, you are expected to forward your reports regularly to the NDHQ through the Area Directors. On our part, Management will continue to support the Legal Unit to achieve its mandate. In line with our commitment, we will liaise with the appropriate authorities for replication of the Unit in the Area Offices while also providing the necessary work tools to aid the performance of all Legal Officers in the Scheme.

10. It is now my pleasure to declare the Legal Officers' Workshop open. I wish you a rewarding engagement.

11. Thank you and God bless.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,  
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN,  
AT THE 2019 NYSC SERVICOM COMMITTEE/  
NETWORKING MEETING OF NODAL, DESK  
AND FOCAL OFFICERS HELD IN THE NDHQ  
CONFERENCE HALL ON MONDAY,  
12TH OCTOBER, 2020



## PROTOCOL

**I**t is my pleasure to address you on this occasion of the 2019 NYSC SERVICOM Committee/networking meeting of Nodal, Desks and Focal Officers. This event is taking place in furtherance of our commitment to effective service delivery. May I, therefore, commend the Reforms Unit for the painstaking efforts put into the preparations for the programme. I am also pleased to welcome the National Coordinator and officials of the SERVICOM National Office, who are here to monitor the meeting and deliver lectures on effective and efficient service delivery.

2. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the timing of this meeting is unique as it is taking place when the nation and the rest of the world are still grappling with the challenges posed by the COVID-19, including its effects on service delivery. As you are already aware, the restrictions imposed on socio-economic activities, including scaling down of the tempo of activities; work

hours and attendance by Staff in MDAs, came with some implications for service delivery. It is our hope that the innovative approaches adopted by various agencies in a bid to keep the public service functional and efficient despite the pandemic need to be properly documented and improved for future references.

3. Let me assure you that Management is committed to sustaining the positive image of the Scheme through enhancement of customer satisfaction in the delivery of our services. As part of deliberate steps towards achieving this, one of the cardinal points of my policy thrust, which I unveiled on assumption of duty as Director-General, is to “pursue a technologically driven organization to deepen service delivery.” Therefore, the theme of this meeting, **“Erasing Hiccups in Delivering Efficient and Effective Service to our Stakeholders”** is very apt.

4. In our quest to ensure world class service delivery, we have put in place reliable mechanisms for assessment of the impact of our services. These include the use of suggestion boxes and toll-free telephone lines as well as regular meetings of our Nodal and Desk officers to review appreciations, complaints and suggestions received on the performances of our various Departments and advice to Management on ways of further satisfying our clients.

5. I am proud to say that these modest steps and our

compliance with other SERVICOM guidelines informed the positive rating we enjoyed from our clients and the SERVICOM National Office, who elevated the NYSC from a 3-Star to a 4-Star organization after their assessment in 2019. We are committed to ensuring continuous improvement through best practices and training/sensitization of our field officers on work ethics of discipline, commitment as well as timely and transparent service delivery.

6. My dear Nodal, Desk and Focal Officers, I have no doubt in my mind that you will use the opportunity of this meeting to further contribute to our service delivery efforts through effective and efficient monitoring of activities of the NDHQ Departments, Area Offices and State Secretariats. I am confident that our steadfastness in this regard will soon earn the Scheme the enviable 5-Star rating after the next assessment by the SERVICOM National Office. Therefore, I urge you to pay close attention to the lectures that will be delivered as well as other highlights of this meeting.

7. It is now my pleasure to declare the 2019 NYSC SERVICOM Committee/Networking meeting of Nodal, Desk and Focal Officers open. I wish you a rewarding engagement.

8. Thank you and God bless.

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,  
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN,  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF 2020 NYSC  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DESK OFFICERS'  
WORKSHOP ON TUESDAY, 13TH OCTOBER, 2020  
AT REIZ CONTINENTAL HOTEL,  
ABUJA**



## **PROTOCOLS**

**I** am pleased to address you on this occasion of the opening ceremony of the 2020 NYSC Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Desk Officers' Workshop. This training is in furtherance of Management's efforts at enhancing the competence of Staff for higher productivity in line with the extant provisions of the FOI Act. Let me commend the Public Relations Unit for always adhering to the requirements of the Act through capacity building trainings such as this.

2. Since 2011, The NYSC has remained committed to the successful implementation of the FOI Act in compliance with Government's directive on the domestication of the Act by all Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs). This is in addition to the prompt response to all FOI requests as well as timely rendition of annual reports to the Federal Ministry of Justice.

Management will continue to sustain this practice and ensure that our FOIA Desk Officers are adequately trained and equipped with relevant working materials to facilitate optimum discharge of their responsibilities.

3. This workshop is, therefore, organized in furtherance of our desire to promote accountability in governance through the instrument of the Freedom of Information Act. It is expected to build the capacity of the participants in the discharge of their responsibilities.

4. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentle, the NYSC has, over the years, operated an effective feedback mechanism which ensures prompt response to all enquires in line with the FOIA. All information about the operations of the NYSC and its activities are regularly publicized and updated on the Scheme's websites, social media platforms as well as the traditional media. We have also recently reintroduced the **NYSC Half Hour**, a weekly magazine programme on NTA and the Armed Forces Radio. This has projected the Scheme as one of the best performing agencies in the FOIA compliance ranking.

5. While commending the commitment and resourcefulness of our Desk Officers as well as the entire workforce, which significantly contributed to the height we have attained so far, I urge you all to redouble your efforts in the discharge of your

duties in order to realize the Scheme's target of becoming the leading agency in FOIA compliance.

6. Let me seize this opportunity to assure the general public that the lives of the Corps members are paramount to the Scheme. We are interfacing with the Presidential Task Force (PTF) for safe reopening of our Orientation Camps in compliance with COVID-19 protocols. I wish to reiterate, however, that unqualified persons will not be allowed to participate in the programme as adequate measures are already in place to arrest and prosecute individuals that may attempt to do so. It is pertinent to inform you that in spearheading the fight against fake graduates, especially foreign trained ones, we had a meeting with foreign Corps producing institutions and adopted measures to curb the trend. We also introduced physical and online verification exercises which resulted in the arrest and prosecution of culprits.

7. At this juncture, I wish to thank our Resource Persons for sharing from your wealth of experience and knowledge. I am confident that today's discourse will greatly enrich the competence of the participants. Therefore, I urge all the participants to take advantage of this opportunity to broaden your horizon so that you can apply the knowledge you will gain today in the discharge of your duties. I also urge you to step down the knowledge gained through this training to the Corps FOIA

Vanguard in your various secretariats.

8. On this note, it is my pleasure to declare the 2020 NYSC Freedom of Information Desk Officers' Workshop open.

9. Thank you and God bless.

GOODWILL MESSAGE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS,  
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE MAIDEN  
EDITION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH DAY  
CELEBRATION HELD AT THE STATE HOUSE  
CONFERENCE HALL, ASO VILLA, ABUJA ON  
1ST NOVEMBER, 2020



I am delighted to be here today as we celebrate the maiden edition of the National Youth Day. First, I most respectfully felicitate with His Excellency, Mr. President, and the teeming youths of this country on this auspicious occasion. Indeed, this event offers yet another opportunity to reflect on the important place of the youth in our collective strive for the progress and development of our dear country.

2. As the most vibrant segment of our society, the youth represent high rays of hope for the achievement of our dream of a greater Nigeria; hence the theme of this celebration "**Invest in the Youth, Secure Our future**" is apt. It is gratifying to note that the Federal Government is leaving no stone unturned in its efforts to empower our youth for self-employment and wealth creation. In particular, I wish to join other well-meaning Nigerians in thanking Mr. President for his uncommon demonstration of love through the establishment of the **Seventy-Five Billion Naira Nigerian Youth Investment Fund (NYIF)** and the launch of the **Presidential Youth Empowerment Scheme (P-YES)** amongst other youth

empowerment initiatives. Furthermore, while the NYSC is also grateful for the recent increase in the Allowance of Corps Members, we are confident that the youth will continue to avail themselves of opportunities for self-reliance as provided by the Government to enable them become successful entrepreneurs.

3. This is a moment for reaffirmation of our commitment to the optimization of the potentials of the youth for national development. In this regard, I am pleased to most humbly inform Mr. President and the rest of this distinguished audience that the first cardinal point of the policy direction of the present NYSC Management is to **“sustain effective utilization of the potentials of Corps members for optimal benefits.”** The fruits of the Policy direction were recently manifested in the contributions of the Corps Members to the national fight against COVID-19 through production of Face Masks, Liquid Soap, Hand Sanitizers, Automatic and Leg Operated Liquid Dispensers, Decontamination Chambers, Smart Thermometers, Free Online Lessons for Junior and Senior Secondary School students nationwide and distribution of palliatives. In addition, Corps Members in the Medical field were also in the frontline in the fight against COVID-19. While they have also been making regular and sustained contributions through Primary Assignment and our various platforms for Community Development Service, we are also focused on mentoring them for leadership roles as well as empowering them with vocational and entrepreneurial skills. Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed heartwarming to note the patriotic zeal and passion for excellence among the majority of the young men and women of this country, drawing from our experience as Managers of the National Youth Service Corps.

4. Let me use this occasion to reaffirm the commitment of the NYSC Management to the Scheme's mandate and our support for all youth policies of the Federal Government.
5. Once again, I congratulate Mr. President and the entire Nigerian youths on this auspicious occasion.
6. Thank you and God bless.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,  
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN,  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE  
2020 BATCH 'B' PRE-ORIENTATION COURSE  
WORKSHOP HELD AT ELIEL EVENT CENTRE  
RAYFIELD, JOS, PLATEAU STATE, ON WEDNESDAY,  
4TH NOVEMBER, 2020



### Protocol

**I**t is indeed an honour for me to welcome you all to this opening ceremony of the 2020 Batch 'B' Pre-Orientation Workshop holding here in Jos, "**Home of Peace and Tourism**". First, I give glory to the Almighty God for granting participants journey mercies, and for keeping us and the country safe in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Let me welcome in a special way, His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Plateau State, **The Right Honourable Simon Bako Lalong**. Your Excellency, I thank you most sincerely for your esteemed presence at this ceremony despite your tight schedule. I also welcome all other dignitaries who made time to attend this ceremony.

2. Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the aim of this workshop is to appraise the conduct of previous Orientation Courses, and to fashion out ways of improving our performances. As a dynamic organization, which is committed to excellence, we are especially poised to address emerging challenges in our preparations for the forthcoming exercise. This informed the choice of the theme of this workshop, "**Evolving a Dynamic Operational Strategy in the Management of Camps in the context of COVID-19.**"

3. As you are already aware, the Federal Government, through the appropriate bodies, has put in place COVID-19 prevention protocols in a bid to contain the pandemic. The NYSC Management is ensuring strict compliance with the guidelines in all our activities, including the issuance of Certificate of National Service to Corps members that have successfully completed the National Service. Furthermore, we have been interfacing with the relevant bodies such as the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 (PTF), the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and State Ministries of Health on ways of ensuring safe and efficient conduct of the Orientation Course. I am pleased to report that all our Orientation Camps have been prepared and remodeled in line with approved safety protocols. Together with our partners, we will evolve further strategies that will, amongst other things, guarantee the safety of Corps members, Camp Officials and other members of the Camp community throughout the duration of the Orientation course.

4. At this juncture, I wish to specially thank the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control for their support and guidance that led to the approval of resumption of Orientation activities. I also use this opportunity to express our immense gratitude to the NCDC for the donation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worth millions of naira for usage in the Orientation camps. Indeed, this gesture will enhance the success of our collective efforts towards ensuring the safe conduct of the Orientation Course. I assure you that the items will be judiciously utilized. We also intend to partner State Ministries of Health with a view to ensuring that all prevention and control measures are put in place for safe and hitch-free exercise nationwide. Therefore, I appeal for the support of all State Governments in this regard.

5. May I use this occasion to express our deepest gratitude to the Plateau State Government for its continued support to NYSC, especially with the recent donation of a 14-seater bus to the State Secretariat of the Scheme. Our appreciation also goes to other State Governments whose support has contributed towards enhancing the smooth conduct of our operations. It is our ardent hope that the State Governments will continue to discharge their obligations such as upgrading of Orientation Camps, office accommodation, Corps members' lodges, timely release of State Subvention to NYSC State Secretariats and payment of State Allowance to Corps members.

6. Once again, I thank His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Plateau State for demonstrating commitment to the success of the Scheme. In the same vein, I appreciate our traditional rulers for their roles, especially in the protection of Corps members posted to their domains. Our gratitude also goes to our partners in the conduct of Orientation course and Corps Employers for their contributions to the success of NYSC. To our friends in the media, we appreciate your support in the provision of publicity for our activities.

7. Thank you all for listening and God bless.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN,  
AT THE 2020 BATCH 'B' PRE-ORIENTATION WORKSHOP  
HELD AT ELIEL EVENT CENTER JOS, PLATEAU STATE,  
ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 2020



Dear participants, I warmly welcome you to the business session of the 2020 Batch 'B' Pre-Orientation Workshop. I commend you all for your contributions to the success of previous Orientation exercises. As you are already aware, the COVID-19 pandemic posed challenges to socio-economic activities in Nigeria and the rest of the world. Expectedly, the operations of NYSC were not insulated from such challenges. However, the Scheme, being a dynamic organization, remained visible, especially through Corps members' contributions to the efforts at containing the pandemic. It is a thing of joy that while making enormous impact, we earned commendations from many quarters, including the highest authorities in the country. Management also took the proactive step of liaising with the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on COVID-19 and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) on strategies for safe and efficient conduct of Orientation Course. In addition to the provisions already made, especially through customization of the Orientation Camps to conform with the guidelines on COVID-19 control, this workshop will fashion out other strategies for successful conduct of the forthcoming Orientation exercise. Indeed, the task before us is enormous, and we must get it right as we operate within the "New Normal" setting.

2. Ladies and gentlemen, the need for constant evaluation of our approaches to the conduct of Orientation Course and re-strategizing towards enhancing its success cannot be over-emphasized due to its crucial place as a launch pad for the Service Year. This is even more desirable now that we will be adopting new procedures to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, hence the choice of the theme of the Workshop, "***Evolving a Dynamic Operational Strategy in the Management of Camps in the context of COVID-19.***" In line with the current realities, our approach to the conduct of the forthcoming Orientation Course will focus on proper induction of Corps members on core ideals of the Scheme with equal attention paid to the approved safety protocols.

3. You will all recall that the 2020 Batch 'A' Stream I Orientation Course was suspended abruptly on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020, to avoid the outbreak of COVID-19 in the Orientation camps. This was a proactive step taken by Management even before the announcement of the nationwide lockdown. It is pleasant to note that since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Scheme has not recorded any case of the virus among Corps members and Staff. We are grateful to Almighty God for protecting all of us. As we prepare for the resumption of Orientation activities, Management is committed to ensuring that no Camp records outbreak of the virus. Consequently, State Coordinators are hereby directed to ensure strict compliance with all safety guidelines issued, especially as endorsed by the PTF and the NCDC.

4. Notwithstanding the Scheme's recent achievements, there are still challenges that necessitate the review of our strategies. I will, therefore, highlight some of the issues that need

to be addressed so as to make the conduct of Orientation exercise seamless:

### **i. General Condition of Orientation Camps**

There is no gainsaying the fact that an environment that is conducive is crucial to the success of the Orientation programme, and indeed the entire Service Year. Management considers as highly commendable, the improvements in camp development in some States. It is, however, a known fact that most other Orientation Camps are yet to meet acceptable standards in terms of carrying capacity and quality of facilities. Therefore, I wish to reiterate the need for State Coordinators to step up efforts in persuading host State Governments to discharge their statutory responsibilities of upgrading and expanding camp facilities to adequately serve the increasing Corps population. I also expect participants to brainstorm on other strategies that will enable us achieve the desired objectives. I am delighted to inform you that Management has secured the grant of Federal Government's Ecological Management Fund to tackle the menace of erosion in six Orientation camps. The timeline for the project execution is October 2020 to January 2021. This feat is an outcome of sustained advocacy for stakeholders' support in line with our policy direction. I hereby charge State Coordinators to embark on similar advocacy so as to secure more help in improving our camp facilities.

### **ii. Camp Clinics:**

Our collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health has improved health care delivery in the camps. It is imperative for all Orientation Camps to continue to operate with experienced Medical Consultants and ensure they stay on camp 24 hours. The prevalence of COVID-19 makes it expedient for us to be more vigilant and work closely with both the Medical Consultants and

personnel of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control. In this regard, State Coordinators must provide accommodation for them to encourage them to be resident in Camp throughout the Orientation period.

### **iii. Vandalization of Camp Facilitates:**

Management has noted with great concern, the increasing cases of vandalism, theft and fire outbreaks, resulting in the destruction and loss of facilities at the Orientation Camps. For the sake of emphasis, State Coordinators are to ensure that at the close of Orientation Course, all electrical wirings and fittings are disconnected from the power sources. You are also to ensure effective liaison with Security Agencies to enhance the security of the camps. Furthermore, any loss of property as a result of theft should be properly investigated. Where it is confirmed to be as a result of negligence of the personnel of security companies, such companies would be made to replace the lost items.

### **iv. Team Work:**

For successful conduct of the Orientation exercise, all camp officials must work as a team with State Coordinators providing appropriate leadership. You should communicate effectively with your subordinates and strive to achieve maximum results in the administration of your camps.

5. In order to achieve seamless conduct of the forthcoming Orientation course, all State Coordinators are to ensure strict compliance with the following:

- i. **Camps must be ready for the exercise 5 days to the commencement date.**
- ii. **Fumigation/decontamination of all the Orientation camps must be carried out**

- before Prospective Corps Members and officials move in.**
- iii. Prospective Corps Members are to undergo COVID-19 test before registration.**
  - iv. All camp officials must also undergo COVID-19 test before commencement of the exercise.**
  - v. There must be good reception for Prospective Corps Members.**
  - vi. Approved number of casual hands for the cleaning of toilets must be recruited and should always be on standby for the job.**
  - vii. Casual hands, including gardeners and toilet cleaners, should be trained on proper ways of decontaminating surfaces in line with NCDC guidelines.**
  - viii. Arrangement of beds in hostels and clinics should allow for 2-metre spacing as provided for in the COVID-19 Safety Protocols.**
  - ix. There must be enforcement of Temperature Test at the point of entry in all Camps and early morning before commencement of meditation.**
  - x. Camp hands and camp market operators must be fully resident in camp.**
  - xi. Movement into the Camps must be restricted to essential personnel/persons.**
  - xii. Visitors' register with names, addresses and the phone numbers of all persons coming into the camp must be kept at the**

- gate. The purpose of visit and the persons being visited must also be recorded in the register. This is for ease of contact tracing in the case of eventuality.
- xiii. Number of lectures in the Camp should be drastically scaled down to accommodate only very essential ones. Other lectures to be conducted virtually.
  - xiv. The use of face mask is mandatory for all members of the Camp Community and visitors.
  - xv. All Corps members and camp officials are to be sensitized and trained on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures as well as Risk Assessment on COVID-19.
  - xvi. All access points into the Orientation Camps other than the main gate must be blocked.
  - xvii. A Committee comprising NYSC Officials representatives of collaborating Agencies, Consultants from tertiary health institutions, NCDC Personnel and Corps members should be constituted to monitor and enforce compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols.
  - xviii. Many service points should be created for activities, where Corps members are expected to form queues, e.g. registration, issuance of kits, serving of meals and payment of allowance.
  - xix. There should be enforcement of regular hand washing and use of alcohol-based sanitizers by all course participants.

- xx. **Physical distancing must be observed in all camp activities.**
- xxi. **Prospective Corps Members must stick to their appointed dates of reporting to the camps. Appointment slips will be generated by ICT Department.**
- xxii. **Duration of registration is extended to four (4) days to accommodate a maximum of two hundred (200) Corps members per day.**
- xxiii. **The Orientation timetable must be strictly adhered to.**
- xxiv. **Camp Clinics must be set up 24 hours before the commencement of the Orientation course with adequate drugs.**
- xxv. **On no account should any sick Corps member be kept in the clinic for more than 12 hours if there is no sign of improvement.**
- xxvi. **Corps members with complicated sickness should be relocated immediately or referred to tertiary healthcare facilities for better management.**
- xxvii. **Hostel Governors (Corps members) should be appointed on the first day of the exercise.**
- xxviii. **Hostel supervisors (NYSC Staff) must closely monitor the activities of Corps members in the hostels.**
- xxix. **Register should be open for Corps members in each hostel. Such register should contain Corps members' names, State Code and phone numbers.**

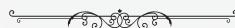
- xxx. On no account should Corps members be allowed to change hostels allocated to them officially.**
- xxxi. Drugs which are nearing expiration should not be purchased or accepted as donation to the clinics.**

I enjoin you to follow the foregoing guidelines religiously. I equally urge you to pay attention to discussions in this workshop and implement decisions made for the effective running of the camps.

6. As we brainstorm for seamless conduct of the forthcoming 2020 Batch 'B' Orientation Course, I wish us fruitful deliberations and a very successful Orientation programme.

7. Thank you and God bless.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN,  
AT THE BRIEFING OF TOURING AND RESIDENT  
OFFICERS FOR THE 2020 BATCH 'B' ORIENTATION  
COURSE HELD AT THE CONFERENCE HALL, NYSC  
NDHQ, ABUJA, ON SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER,  
2020



### Protocol

**I**t is with great pleasure that I address you today as part of our preparations for the successful conduct of the forthcoming 2020 Batch 'B' Orientation course.

2. As you are aware, the Scheme has concluded arrangements for the take-off of the Orientation course from **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 in all the 36 States and FCT.**

3. Earlier in the week, we had a Pre-Orientation workshop, where the Top Management met with all the State Coordinators, Camp Directors, Commandants-designate and other Collaborating partners. During the Workshop, Management's Orientation policy guidelines were unveiled for all the participants. The resolutions made at the workshop will be given to you by Planning, Research and Statistics (PRS) Department to track their implementation.

4. You will recall that the 2020 Batch 'A' Orientation exercise had to be suspended mid-way on account of the advent of COVID-19 Pandemic. This Orientation exercise is, therefore, very unique as it will be conducted in strict compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols. Accordingly, new procedures and settings have been put in place for a safe and hitch-free exercise. All hands must be on deck to ensure the success of the exercise as Management will not entertain any form of excuse for lapses. Details will be spelt out to you in the PRS and other Departmental briefs.

5. Therefore, as Monitoring Officers, you are to ensure that all guidelines enumerated are painstakingly executed. For the avoidance of doubt, you will be held responsible for any incident recorded in any of the camps as a result of your failure to promptly report breach of procedures to the appropriate quarters. State Coordinators have equally been cautioned not to take things for granted considering the situation under which the exercise will be conducted.

6. You are to note that, in addition to your respective camp assignments, it is also your responsibility to assist the State Coordinators in the implementation of Orientation policies as spelt out by Management for the successful conduct of the exercise.

7. Details of the Orientation work schedule of each category of officers and the duration of the assignment will be contained in the letters to be issued to you by the PRS Department before your departure. It is expected, therefore, that you will carry-out these responsibilities effectively. I charge all of you to be very good ambassadors of the Scheme at the Orientation camps. Always

remember that, in addition to your individual responsibilities at the Camp, all your actions should focus on projecting the image of the Scheme in a positive light.

8. Resident and all other Touring officers are charged to carry-out routine checks on critical camp facilities to make sure they are conducive for usage by both Corps Members and Camp Officials. Also, the attention of the State Coordinators should be drawn to all issues requiring attention for a seamless conduct of the exercise.

9. In the same vein, I charge you to be security conscious at all times. All suspicious movements should be promptly reported to the State Coordinators and the security operatives in the camps for appropriate action.

10. In the course of my tour of Orientation camps, Resident officers should present a brief on the State of the camp to me.

11. Ladies and gentlemen, I call on you to take note of the under listed items in the course of your camp assignment. While you are expected to advise the State Coordinators and other camp officials accordingly, your reports should reflect your observations on the following:

- i. **Camps must be ready for the exercise 5 days before the commencement date.**
- ii. **Fumigation/Decontamination of all the orientation camps (nationwide) before occupation.**

- iii. **Corps members have been given appointment on the date to report on camp.**
- iv. **Prospective Corps Members are to undergo COVID-19 test before registration.**
- v. **All camp officials must also undergo COVID-19 test before commencement of the exercise.**
- vi. **It should be noted that test results brought in from outside by Prospective Corps Members, Officials or Camp market operator will not be accepted.**
- vii. **Good reception for Prospective Corps Members.**
- viii. **Approved number of casual hands for the servicing of toilets must be recruited and always on standby at the restroom.**
- ix. **Casual hands, Gardeners, Toilet cleaners should be trained on proper method of decontamination of surfaces in line with NCDC standards.**
- x. **Re-arrangement of beds in hostels and clinics to allow for 2-metre spacing as provided for in the COVID-19 Safety Protocol.**
- xi. **Enforcement of Temperature Testing at the point of entry in all camps.**
- xii. **Enforcement of Temperature testing every morning, before meditation.**
- xiii. **Restriction of movement into the camps.**

- xiv. **Visitors' register with names, address and the phone number of all persons coming into the camp must be kept at the gate. The purpose of visit and who they came to see must also be reflected in the register. This is for ease of contact tracing in case of emergency.**
- xv. **Number of lectures in the camp to be drastically scaled down to accommodate only very essential ones. Other lectures to be conducted virtually.**
- xvi. **Mandatory use of face mask by all members of the camp community.**
- xvii. **All corps members and camp officials are to be sensitized/trained on Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) measures as well as Risk Assessment on COVID-19.**
- xviii. **All other access points into the orientation camps must be consciously blocked.**
- xix. **An Enforcement/Monitoring Committee, comprising of NYSC Officials, representatives of Collaborating Agencies in camp, Consultants from Tertiary Health Institutions, Personnel from NCDC and Corps members should be constituted, to monitor and enforce compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols. The Committee is expected to review its activities at the end of each day.**
- xx. **Many service points should be created for activities, where corps members are expected to queue up, eg. Registration, Issuance of kits,**

**Collection of meals, Payment of allowance,  
etc.**

- xxi. Regular hand washing by all the course participants, and use of alcohol-based sanitizers.**
- xxii. Physical distancing must be observed in ALL camp activities.**
- xxiii. Prospective Corps Members must stick to their appointed date of reporting to the camp. Appointment slip will be generated by ICT Department.**
- xxiv. Duration of registration is extended to four (4) days to accommodate a maximum of two hundred (200) corps members per day.**
- xxv. The Camp food menu and other activities on the timetable must be strictly adhered to;**
- xxvi. Camp clinics must be set up 24 hours before the commencement of the orientation course with adequate drugs;**
- xxvii. On no account should any sick corps member be kept in the clinic for more than 12 hours, if there is no sign of improvement;**
- xxviii. Corps members with complicated sickness should be relocated immediately or referred to tertiary healthcare facilities for better management;**

- xxix. Hostel Governors (Corps members) should be appointed on the first day of the exercise;**
- xxx. Hostel supervisors (NYSC Staff) must closely monitor the activities of corps members in hostels under their jurisdiction;**
- xxxi. Register should be opened for corps members in each hostel. Such register should contain corps members' names, state code and phone number;**
- xxxii. On no account should corps members be allowed to change hostels allocated to them officially. Hostel supervisors must monitor this closely;**
- xxxiii. Drugs which are nearing expiration should not be purchased or accepted in the clinics as donation.**
- xxxiv. Married Corps Members/Nursing Mothers and others with life threatening ailments should be given instant relocation.**
- xxxv. All Camps must ensure that fake prospective corps members are detected and handed over to security Agencies for prosecution.**
- xxxvi. The use of social media should be regulated on camp. Therefore, Camp Officials and Corps Members are to be thoroughly sensitized on this. This will allow for effective information management, especially on COVID-19 and other sensitive matters.**

**xxxvii. All Medical Consultants must be resident on camp. Any breach of this directive should be brought to the attention of Director (PRS) immediately.**

12. On this note, I urge you all to be sincere and objective in your observations and suggestions to the State Coordinators and other camp officials. Your reports should comprehensively reflect events in the camps so that the Scheme can use the information to improve on its operations and record more successes.

13. In view of the COVID-19 safety protocols enforced, the capacities in camps have drastically reduced. For now, we are operating in a “New Normal” setting that requires readjusting our approaches towards our programme implementation. We must balance this with ensuring that Corps members are well inducted on core ideals of the Scheme. This, therefore, calls for rededication, sacrifice and renewed commitment in all our endeavours.

14. I wish all of us journey mercies and a hitch-free Orientation course.

15. Thank you and God bless.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,  
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF.  
DSS MTRCN, AT A NEWS CONFERENCE  
HELD ON MONDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER, 2020  
AT REIZ CONTINENTAL HOTEL, ABUJA



## PROTOCOLS

I am pleased to welcome you to yet another interaction with our esteemed friends and partners in the media. Let me begin by acknowledging the critical roles the media has continued to play in the operations of the NYSC since its inception. Indeed, our partnership with the Fourth Estate of the realm has been fruitful in the light of the extensive coverage and publicity accorded the programmes of the Scheme over the years. I, therefore, use this occasion to once again express our profound gratitude over the unquantifiable support we are receiving from you.

2. Today's event is in line with my administration's policy of sharing with you relevant information that will enable you get the correct perspectives on issues affecting the Service Corps. I thank you most sincerely for honouring our invitation.

3. In its over four decades of existence, the NYSC has been discharging its mandate creditably despite the challenges of the operating environment. As with other Agencies of Government, the activities of the Scheme were affected by the COVID-19

pandemic. However, the situation also presented opportunity to once again assert the continued relevance of the Scheme and the critical role of our youths in driving national development, especially with proper harnessing of their knowledge, skills and talents.

4. It is pertinent to remind all and sundry that the NYSC, in partnership with other bodies, played significant role in controlling the spread of the HIV/AIDS and combating the Ebola Virus Disease. The responsiveness of the Scheme to prevailing national needs has been brought to light again with our role in the current battle to contain the Coronavirus pandemic. Driven by the high premium we place on the welfare of Corps members and our Staff, we took the proactive step of suspending the 2020 Batch 'A' Stream One Orientation Course to avert the spread of the virus to our Orientation Camps. The camps were also prepared for use as Isolation Centres in furtherance of our contributions to the overall efforts to control the pandemic.

5. It would also be recalled that while the nation was on lockdown, the Scheme remained very visible as we harnessed the talents of Corps members for various interventions. Apart from the Corps Medical Teams that provided health care services in various health facilities, other Corps members made their impact felt through mass production and donation of face masks, antiseptic liquid soaps and hand sanitizers through the FCT Administration and State Governments all over the Federation. They equally fabricated and donated automatic and foot-operated water, liquid soap, hand sanitizer dispensers and disinfection chambers in several States. Their interventions also included donation of food and other palliative items to indigent persons, sensitization of the public on infection prevention and control measures, decontamination of public premises and the

conduct of free virtual teaching lessons nationwide for students in exit classes of JSS3 and SS3.

6. The Scheme is pursuing its mandate under the “new normal” imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, Corps members have continued to carry out their responsibilities in their places of Primary Assignment and through community service. They have also been participating in the execution of important national programmes. I am proud to report that they gave a good account of themselves as INEC ad hoc personnel during the recent governorship elections in Edo and Ondo States. It is pertinent to point out that in conducting all our operations, we have always ensured strict compliance with the COVID-19 prevention protocols.

7. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, following the ease of the COVID-19 lockdown and the green light from the Presidential Task Force for NYSC to make preparations for safe resumption of our Orientation Course, the Scheme has been working in liaison with the NCDC to achieve the desired outcomes. As you are already aware, the Orientation exercises will resume on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, starting with the 2020 Batch 'B' Stream 1A. As at Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, a total of sixty-six thousand (66,000) eligible graduates had been mobilized for the 2020 Batch 'B' Service Year. They will all participate in the Orientation exercise, which has been planned to take place in three streams for ease of compliance with the COVID-19 protocols. The dates for the three Streams are as follows:

- i. Stream 1A Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> to Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2020;
- ii. Stream 1B Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> to Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020; and
- iii. Stream 2 Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> to Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.

Already, we have put in place essential measures in all Orientation Camps nationwide in line with the protocols for the safety of Corps members and other members of the camp community. The measures, which have been endorsed by the NCDC during its inspection of the Camps, include:

- (a) Testing of Prospective Corps Members (PCMs) and Course officials for COVID-19 by NCDC Officials before admission into the Orientation Camps;
- (b) Provision of hand washing points with adequate supply of water, liquid soap and sanitizer at strategic locations in all the camps;
- (c) Limiting to a manageable size, the population of participants of each stream of the Orientation exercise;
- (d) Spacing of hostel beds in line with the prescribed physical distancing rule, and for improved ventilation;
- (e) Arrangement for staggered reporting of prospective Corps members to camp and increase in the number of registration points;
- (f) Compulsory usage of face masks by all persons in the Orientation camps;
- (g) Strict observance of COVID-19 protocols in all camp activities;
- (h) Strengthening of the Camp Clinics to ensure sustained monitoring of body temperature of all course participants;

- (i) Fumigation and decontamination of the camps; and
- (j) Assigning of cleaning teams to carry out continuous cleaning of toilets and decontamination of frequently touched surfaces such as door and tap handles.

8. Given the importance of adequate enlightenment, a strategy for sensitization of the camp community on COVID-19 protocols has been developed in conjunction with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). Information Officers of the Scheme have also been trained to ensure its proper implementation. The communication strategies include:

- (i) Face-to-face sensitisation of Corps members, course officials and camp market vendors;
- (ii) Sending of bulk SMS to Corps members;
- (iii) Airing of jingles at the Camp Broadcasting Stations;
- (iv) Display of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and banners; and
- (v) Establishment of COVID-19 and other Infectious Diseases Awareness Vanguard and training of volunteers.

We are committed to ensuring that these measures are strictly implemented with all members of the camp community complying with the established guidelines.

9. I wish to use this opportunity to thank the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control for their support and guidance that led to the approval of resumption of Orientation activities. I also appreciate the NCDC for donating Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worth millions of Naira for usage in all our Orientation Camps, training of Staff and Corps Members on COVID-19 safety protocols as well as organising a Webiner interactive session with prospective corps

members. This gesture will go a long way in enhancing the success of our efforts towards safe conduct of the Orientation Course. Our gratitude also goes to the Victims Support Fund for the donation of sixty thousand (60,000) PPE and other materials to the Scheme. I want to assure you that all the items donated will be utilized for the intended purpose.

10. At this juncture, I wish to assure Nigerians that all our children, who will participate in the forthcoming Orientation exercises, will be adequately protected from the Coronavirus. I enjoin both serving and prospective Corps members to avoid the use of the Social Media for misrepresentation of facts on issues concerning the Scheme. Please, do not hesitate to communicate your concerns on any issue to the camp administrators, using the channels made available for such.

11. I consider it appropriate to also remind all and sundry that, while we are focusing on safe conduct of the Orientation Course, we equally remain unwavering in our resolve to preserve the credibility of the Mobilization process. In this regard, our fool-proof measures are still in place to ensure that only qualified persons participate in the Orientation Course. I, therefore, wish to warn unqualified persons who are contemplating appearance in our camps to have a rethink in their own interest as we are poised to apprehend and hand them over to the appropriate agencies for prosecution.

12. The recent attacks on some of our camps by some disgruntled elements, who carted away valuable items, were condemnable. Let me, therefore, appeal to the general public to support the Scheme by protecting its facilities against vandalism.

13. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am glad to inform you that despite the prevailing challenges, we have remained focused on actualizing the vision of the present Management. To this end, we are taking innovative approaches that will promote the success of the Scheme and enhance our relevance, including but not limited to the following:

#### **a. Welfare and Security of Corps members**

Like I have assured at various forums, the welfare of Corps members remains a top priority of my administration. Amongst other measures to ensure their general wellbeing, we have intensified liaison with Security Agencies to ensure their safety wherever they are serving in the country. Our advocacy visits to the Police high command, Military authorities, the Department of State Services and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps ensured that no Corps member was harmed during the Governorship elections in Bayelsa, Kogi, Edo and Ondo States. I use this opportunity to again express our gratitude to the Security Agencies and other stakeholders for their support. Furthermore, the Scheme has concluded arrangement with the National Health Insurance Scheme for the enrolment of Corps Members into the NHIS in line with a Presidential directive. We have also expended huge resources on critical health needs of Corps members, including footing of medical bills.

As part of the outcomes of our welfare initiatives, Nurudeen Tahir, the Corps member who lost his arm in a road traffic accident in Taraba State, has been discharged after a successful clinical procedure on the usage of the smart prosthetic arms procured for him by the Scheme. He has since been formally handed over to the Kano State Government and his parents after successful completion of the National Service. May I use this

opportunity to thank the State Government for giving him automatic employment, and for formally affirming its commitment to following up on his welfare, including the servicing and maintenance requirements of the prosthetic limbs.

### **b. Reinvigoration of the NYSC Ventures**

We are working towards harnessing our revenue generation potential through the reinvigoration of 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. The farms, including the mega ones located in the FCT, Bauchi, Kebbi, and Oyo States, will contribute to the Federal Government's effort towards ensuring food security as well as serve as grounds for training of Corps members. Presently, we are harvesting rice in our sixty hectare rice farm in Saminaka, Shanga Local Government Area of Kebbi State.

We are also determined to optimize the operations of the NYSC Garment Factories located in Minna, Niger State and Mgbaku, Anambra State. Our plan is to also intensify the training of Corps members at the factories and to ultimately produce the required quantities of all NYSC kits there. The garment production will also be an avenue for contribution to the local content strides of the Federal Government.

### **c. Revitalization of the SAED programme**

On my assumption of duty, I affirmed my commitment to making the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development

(SAED) Programme more functional. To match words with actions, 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 (GEF). Intensive monitoring of the GEF beneficiaries is also being carried so as to achieve the desired outcomes;
- New collaboration with NIRSALE Microfinance Bank on empowerment of Corps entrepreneurs;
- 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;
- Commitment to ensuring that construction of the North Central Skill Acquisition Centre in Keffi, Nasarawa State is executed within reasonable time; and
- Research-based collaboration with Obafemi Awolowo University and National Centre for Technology Management (OAU-NACETEM) sponsored by a Canadian Agency, International Development Research Centre on evaluation of the impact of SAED and reinvigorating it for greater impact.

#### **d. Contribution to the implementation of the SDGs**

The Scheme is playing a prominent role in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the

NYSC/SGDs Project, which is aimed at creating public awareness on policies and programmes of Government in relation to the SDGs. With trained Corps members volunteering as Development Knowledge Facilitators, the ultimate goal is to ensure that Nigerians become informed participants in the process of attaining the SGDs in line with the global agenda for development. Following, a Presidential pronouncement affirming the Federal Government's determination to further engage the Scheme in the SDGs implementation, we are more than ever before ready to give our best in this regard.

#### **e. Role of the NYSC in the implementation of the Mambilla Power Project**

I am pleased to inform you that the NYSC is part of the Technical Working Group saddled with securing local content workforce for the Mambilla Hydro-Electric Power Project. While appreciating the Federal Government and the Senate Committee on Local Content for the confidence reposed in the Scheme, I want to assure of our commitment to contributing towards achieving the desired outcomes, including harnessing the abundant skills of Corps members for effective implementation of various aspects of the project.

#### **f. Production of NYSC Movies (NYSCwood)**

In furtherance of our policy on harnessing their potentials, Corps members have been engaged as the main cast in our 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. 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. Recently, NYSC also made contribution to voter education through the production of another movie clip titled "**The Return**". The movie sensitizes Nigerians on the need to shun violence during elections.

#### **g. Establishment of NYSC National Cultural Troupe**

The establishment of NYSC National Cultural Troupe is another initiative that will 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. We are also proud of the growing popularity of the NYSC National Band, especially with its performance at important national events. I use this opportunity to call on members of the general public to patronize the NYSC Band and Cultural Troupe to add colour to their ceremonial events.

#### **h. Reactivation of Ceremonial Passing-out for Corps Members**

Following the remarkable improvement in the security situation of the country, Management 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. However, the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated a return to the conduct of low-keyed passing-out activities. We shall resume the ceremonial

conduct of programme as soon as the appropriate authorities give the nod for same.

### i. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 in Abuja. Necessary measures have also been put in place to ensure that it is held annually so as to sustain Management's efforts at showcasing the talents of our youths and provide them opportunities for employment in the sports and entertainment industries.

14. I wish to use this opportunity to thank the Federal Government for its support to the Scheme, especially through provision of resources for the smooth conduct of our operations. In particular, we appreciate the gesture of Mr. President in approving the increase of Corps members' allowance to thirty-three thousand Naira in line with the new National Minimum Wage. This is a morale booster for the Corps members, and they will continue to do their best in the service of our fatherland. Our appreciation also goes to the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, NYSC National Governing Board, Chief of Army Staff, other Heads of Security Agencies and our other numerous stakeholders for their unwavering support.

15. In conclusion, I wish to remind all that with the annual mobilisation of over 300,000 Corps members, NYSC no doubt remains most critical platform for mentoring Nigerian youths as

drivers of national unity and development. Therefore, I solicit the continued support of all stakeholders for success of the Scheme's mandate of preparing them for this all important national assignment. The manpower needs served by the Scheme through deployment of Corps members is very critical to national development. While thanking Corps Employers for their support, I equally appeal to them make maximum utilization of their potentials.

16. Once again, I thank the media for the support given to the Scheme over the years. It is our hope that you will not relent as we continue to take our partnership to greater heights for the good of our country.
17. Thank you and God bless.

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,  
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM DSS ASSOC. PROF.  
MTRCN, ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER  
OF A CLINIC DONATED TO THE OYO STATE  
ORIENTATION CAMP, ISEYIN, BY THE FEDERAL  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH ON MONDAY,  
7TH DECEMBER, 2020**



## **PROTOCOL**

**I**t is my pleasure to address you on this occasion of the formal handover of this Medical Centre built, equipped and donated to the NYSC Oyo State Orientation Camp, Iseyin, by the Federal Ministry of Health through the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan.

2. It would be recalled that the Ministry, under its immediate past Minister Professor Isaac Adewole, conceptualized the idea of this facility for our camps with plan to site one in each of the six geopolitical zones. We are filled with joy that this one for the South West has been completed and is now ready to be put to use. I am also happy to hear that the UCH, through which the project was funded, has further made commitment to provide personnel to man the clinic.

3. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, this project is yet another demonstration of the Federal Government's commitment to the success of NYSC. Indeed, the facility will go a long way in boosting our healthcare services for Corps members, Staff and members of the host community. I, therefore, express

our deepest gratitude to the Government, the Federal Ministry of Health and the University College Hospital for this uncommon gesture.

4. Given the importance of quality healthcare as one of the key welfare provisions for Corps members, we have remained committed to ensuring that our camp clinics are of acceptable standard. To this end, Management has continued to invest in equipping the clinics within the limits of available resources while also reaching out to host State Governments as well as public-spirited individuals and corporate bodies for support. This gesture by the Federal Ministry of Health is not only heartwarming, but should also spur other stakeholders to action in providing similar facilities for other camps.

5. Permit me to use this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the provision of health services to our communities across the country through the NYSC Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers and the regular outreaches of our Corps Medical Teams. We are already reaching out to some stakeholders for support in making our health interventions more impactful through the donation of Mobile Clinics. I am pleased to also inform you that over the years, Corps members have been using the platform of NYSC Community Development Service to build, renovate and equip hospitals in communities across the country. Only recently, our youths on National Service rekindled the nation's confidence in the continued relevance of the Scheme through their contributions to the fight against COVID-19. Communities across the States of the Federation and the FCT benefited from items such as face masks, hand sanitizer, liquid soap and machines for dispensing them, which were produced and donated by Corps members. We will continue to encourage them to add value to their host communities through these and other impactful projects.

6. I consider it appropriate to also use this occasion to thank the Federal Government, the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 (PTF) and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) for their support leading to the safe resumption of our Orientation course. The guidance received from these authorities as well as donation of test kits and Personal Protective Equipment worth millions of Naira by the NCDC have gone a long way in ensuring seamless screening of Prospective Corps Members and observance of safety protocols in all our Orientation camps.

7. Once again, I thank the Federal ministry of Health and UCH for donating this clinic, and assure that it will be judiciously utilized. We also look forward to the provision of similar Medical Centres in the remaining geopolitical zones as planned. I congratulate the NYSC State Coordinator, members of Staff and Corps members in Oyo State on the commissioning of this facility. I am confident that you will reciprocate the gesture by rededicating yourselves to your duties.

8. Thank you all for listening and God bless.

**INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS BY THE  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM  
ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN, ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE 2018 AND 2019 PRESIDENT'S NYSC HONOURS  
AWARD CEREMONY HELD IN THE BANQUET HALL  
OF THE PRESIDENTIAL VILLA, ABUJA, ON  
THURSDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 2021**



## **PROTOCOL**

**I**t is my pleasure to welcome His Excellency, Mr. President, and other distinguished guests to the combined 2018 and 2019 Edition of the President's NYSC Honours Award ceremony. The founding fathers of the Scheme instituted this Award in 1974 to reward outstanding Corps members. In nearly five decades, it has engendered deeper commitment and patriotism among members of the Service Corps as demonstrated through selfless and dedicated service to the fatherland. In selecting the Award winners, due considerations are always given to the value they add to their host communities through the NYSC Community Development Service as well as the qualities of loyalty, honesty, commitment, team work, devotion to duty, and creativity demonstrated during the Primary Assignment amongst other criteria.

2. Your Excellency, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, today, I have the honour and privilege of presenting to you, **One hundred and ten (110)** Ex-Corps members who, through a painstaking selection process, emerged the best during their service years. They are drawn from the **2018** and **2019** service years as well as backlog of the previous years. Let me add that the selection exercise was carried out by a panel of distinguished Nigerians with proven integrity.

3. Though we have sustained this age long tradition of rewarding the best of the Corps participants in each service year, permit me to point out that all Corps members deployed in the batches from which these awardees emerged generally made invaluable contributions to the socio-economic development of our dear country. They have built on the performances of their predecessors in key sectors such as education, health, agriculture and infrastructure. Through the Community Development Service, Corps members have over the years, added value to their communities by executing various projects, including construction and renovation of schools and hospitals, repair of roads and provision of potable water amongst others.

4. In further demonstration of their commitment to the progress of the country, successive batches of Corps members also participated actively in the implementation of national programmes such as election, immunization, population census

and the conduct of the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examinations. They also carry out advocacy activities on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the Scheme's partnership with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the SDGs. Furthermore, the Scheme is making great impact in the area of health through the Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD) and the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign.

5. I am also confident that the contributions of NYSC to Government's efforts at containing the COVID-19 will continue to be appreciated by all and sundry. It would be recalled that while the nation was on lockdown as a result of the pandemic, the Scheme remained very visible as we harnessed the talents of Corps members for various interventions. While the Corps Medical Teams joined other health professionals in the frontline, providing services in various health facilities, other Corps members made impact through mass production and donation of face masks, antiseptic liquid soaps and hand sanitizers and equally fabricated and donated automatic and foot-operated water, liquid soap and hand sanitizer dispensers as well as disinfection chambers in several States. Other interventions included donation of food and other palliative items to indigent persons, sensitization of the public on prevention of infection and control measures, decontamination of public premises and the conduct of free virtual teaching lessons for students in exit classes of Secondary Schools across the country.

6. I consider it appropriate, at this point, to express our gratitude to the Federal Government for approving the resumption of NYSC Orientation activities, which was earlier suspended in response to the COVID-19 challenge. May I also appreciate the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 (PTF) and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) for providing the support and guidance that led to the approval of the resumption of the Orientation programme. I equally thank the NCDC for donating Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Rapid Test Kits worth millions of naira for usage in all our Orientation Camps. It is also worth noting that the strict implementation of COVID-19 testing as a pre-requisite for admitting both Corps members and officials to all the Orientation Camps nationwide has assisted the NCDC on data analysis, management and national survey on the trend of transmission of the virus.

7. Permit me, Your Excellency, to use this opportunity to highlight some of our modest efforts targeted at enhancing the relevance of the Scheme in contemporary times:

i. **Rejuvenation of the NYSC Farm Operations**

In line with the Federal Government's policy on food security, we are making strides towards optimizing the operation of the NYSC Farm Settlements across the country. To this end, we have formally launched separate partnerships with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), National Agricultural

Land Development Authority (NALDA) Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute (ARMTI) and the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM) on the training of Corps members and Staff as well as deployment of modern farming techniques and equipment. I wish to use this opportunity to thank the Ebonyi State Government for returning the one hundred and fifty-hectare farmland at Ezillo, which was temporarily retrieved from the Scheme. Let me also appeal to other State Governments to support our agricultural initiatives by providing farmlands for the Scheme.

**ii. Harnessing the Revenue Generation Potentials of the Scheme:**

I am also pleased to report that we are working towards improving our revenue generation potentials through the reinvigoration of the 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. Our Garment Factories located in Minna, Niger State, and Mgbaku, Anambra State, are also being re-energized.

**iii. Reinvigoration of the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme:**

The Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme of the Scheme, which is geared towards empowering

Corps members for self-employment and wealth creation, is also being reinvigorated to deepen its impact. In this regard, we are increasing the tempo of engagement with critical stakeholders in the public and private sectors for technical and material support.

#### **iv. Production of NYSC Movies (NYSCwood)**

In a bid to further harness their potentials, Corps members have been engaged as the main cast in an NYSC movie titled '**A Call to Service**', which is currently under production. Apart from its entertainment function, the movie will serve as a tool for public sensitization on the roles of stakeholders in the Scheme. Recently, NYSC also made a novel contribution to voter education through the production of a movie clip titled "**The Return**". The clip sensitizes Nigerians on the need to shun violence during elections.

#### **v. Establishment of NYSC National Cultural Troupe**

Management has also established the NYSC National Cultural Troupe to serve as a platform for Corps members to develop their talents in drama and cultural performances that will be opened for public patronage. It is expected that the Troupe will also shore up the revenue base of the Scheme as its activities will be commercialized. We are proud of the growing popularity of the NYSC National Band, especially with its sterling performance at important national events. I use this opportunity to call on

members of the general public to patronize the NYSC Band and Cultural Troupe to add colour to their ceremonies.

8. At this juncture, I wish to express our profound appreciation to Mr. President for his abiding faith in the National Youth Service Corps, as clearly demonstrated through sustained provision of the required resources for the mobilization of all eligible graduates. We also owe His Excellency a huge debt of gratitude for approving the increase of Corps members' Personal Allowance **from nineteen thousand eight hundred naira to thirty-three thousand naira** in line with the new National Minimum Wage. Indeed, this has gone a long way in boosting the morale of Corps members. I wish to assure that NYSC Management and Corps members will continue to justify government's huge investment through greater commitment to the service of our fatherland.

9. Let me also use this occasion to appreciate the Federal Government for its various initiatives geared towards the development of the Nigerian youth, including empowerment programmes such as the Seventy-Five Billion Naira Nigerian Youth Investment Fund (NYIF), the Presidential Youth Empowerment Scheme (P-YES), and the National Young Farmers' Scheme (NYFS). We will continue to sensitize Corps members on the need to avail themselves of the opportunities provided through these programmes to enable them develop

economic skills, become self-employed and contribute their quota to the overall development of the country.

10. Your Excellency, Sir, I wish to also thank the Federal Government for appointing NYSC to the Technical Working Group on the Mambilla Hydro-Electric Power Project as well as the Presidential Steering Committee on Alternate School Programme. Let me assure that we shall justify the confidence reposed in the Scheme by giving our best towards the achievement of the desired outcomes.

11. Permit me on behalf of the NYSC National Governing Board, to once again acknowledge the support given to the Scheme by the Honourable Minister and the entire Ministry of Youth and Sports Development. We thank you most sincerely for your commitment to the mentoring and empowerment of youths in line with Mr. President's vision.

12. Finally, I thank all our invited guests and numerous other stakeholders in the Scheme, especially those who have joined this programme virtually, for their support, which is the tonic that spurs the Scheme to its various successes.

13. It is now my honour to invite the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare, to deliver his welcome address.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,  
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF.  
DSS MTRCN, AT THE 2021 NYSC SAED  
STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING AND TRAINING OF  
DESK OFFICERS HELD IN THE NYSC NDHQ  
CONFERENCE ROOM ON 1ST AND  
2ND MARCH, 2021



### **Protocol**

**I** am delighted to welcome you all to this important meeting of stakeholders in the NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme. Let me begin by expressing my deepest appreciation to you for attending this meeting despite your tight schedules. Indeed, this serves as another morale booster for us in our continued stride towards taking the SAED to higher levels.

2. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, you would recall that during a similar meeting last year, we resolved to work together to address some identified challenges. You will also agree with me that from the score-card presented by the Director SAED, we have made significant progress in the implementation of the programme. Despite the unusual situation occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic and the attendant dislocation of many

businesses in 2020, it is gratifying that so much has been achieved. Therefore, I thank you once again for partnering with us and, in the process, deploying your expertise and resources in support of our efforts to empower Corps members for self-employment and for the economic development of our dear country. However, we must not rest on our oars if we are to sustain and build on the accomplishments made within the last one year.

3. Let me restate, for the sake of emphasis, that the major challenges of the SAED programme are inadequate finance for Corps empowerment, which includes skill and entrepreneurial training facilities; business start-up capital; access to mentorship as well as insufficient bilateral and multilateral collaborations to bridge the shortfall in all of the above. It is my hope that deliberations at this forum would lead to the expansion of the existing collaborations as well as development of new ones. This is especially so as I have observed the preponderance of some States in every emerging programme of Corps empowerment to the inadvertent exclusion of many others.

4. I clearly understand that it makes good business sense to pitch your empowerment programmes as Corporate Social Responsibility in specific States, but in the context of NYSC, all Corps members are equal and laden with the same potentials, irrespective of State of deployment. It is my honest plea that you spread the opportunities of empowerment fairly and evenly

across the country. Let me assure you that irrespective of where your programme will be launched, the Management of the Scheme will attend and bring it to the attention of the general public.

5. On the strength of these remarks and words of encouragement, let me welcome you once again as we look forward to the next one year when the landmark achievements emerging from this meeting would be widely celebrated.
6. It is my pleasure to declare the 2021 NYSC SAED Stakeholders Meeting and Training of Desk Officers open.
7. Thank you and God bless.

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM  
ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN, AT THE OPENING  
CEREMONY OF THE 2021 BATCH 'A'  
PRE-MOBILIZATION WORKSHOP HELD ON  
TUESDAY, 2ND MARCH, 2021 AT GLOBAL VILLAGE  
SUITES, ONE-MAN VILLAGE, ABUJA-KEFFI ROAD,  
NASARAWA STATE**



## **PROTOCOL**

**I** am delighted to welcome you all to the opening ceremony of the 2021 Batch 'A' Pre-Mobilisation Workshop. Let me begin by recognizing the esteemed presence of His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State, Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule. Your Excellency, Sir, I thank you most profoundly for sparing time to preside over this ceremony despite your tight schedule. To all other distinguished personalities, I appreciate your presence and continued support for NYSC.

2. Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, this workshop is convened to, among other things, strengthen inter-agency collaborations for the success of the NYSC Mobilization Process. While we unveil policy guidelines for the 2021 Mobilization, stakeholders gathered here will review issues in past exercises with a view to addressing identified challenges, and evolving strategies for improvement. Management is more than

ever before committed to tackling issues that tend to have adverse effects on the Mobilization exercise, hence the choice of the theme of this workshop, "**Enhancing the NYSC Mobilisation Process in the face of Contemporary Challenges.**" On this premise, I call on all stakeholders to play their roles with greater commitment so as to achieve the desired outcomes.

3. As you are all aware, academic and other socio-economic activities were slowed down by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in 2020. It would also be recalled that the NYSC Management took the proactive step of suspending the 2020 Batch 'A' Orientation Course to avert the outbreak of the virus in our camps. Happily, the Federal Government, having been satisfied with the safety measures we put in place with the guidance and support of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, approved the conduct of the 2020 Batch 'B' Orientation Course. The course, which was held in three streams, helped to reduce the backlog of Prospective Corps Members awaiting Mobilization. With the commencement of activities for the 2021 Mobilization, I assure you that many more qualified graduates will be brought on board.

4. At this juncture, I wish to reaffirm the commitment of Management to enhancing the credibility of the Mobilization process. We will continue to apply fool-proof measures to ensure

that only qualified graduates are enlisted for National Service. Let me, therefore, restate our warning that unqualified persons attempting to present themselves for Mobilization will be apprehended and handed over to law enforcement agencies for prosecution.

5. Let me use this opportunity to once again thank His Excellency, the Executive Governor, and the good people of Nasarawa State for their unwavering support for NYSC, especially in the area of security and general welfare of Corps members.

6. In conclusion, I thank our partners, including the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), the National Universities Commission (NUC), the Corps Producing Institutions and SIDMACH Technologies for your support over the years. It is my ardent hope that we will continue to work together for the success of the Mobilization process and good of our dear country.

7. Thank you all and God bless.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM  
ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN, DURING THE BUSINESS  
SESSION OF THE 2021 BATCH 'A' PRE-MOBILIZATION  
WORKSHOP HELD ON TUESDAY, 2ND MARCH,  
2021 AT GLOBAL VILLAGE SUITES, ONE-MAN  
VILLAGE, ABUJA-KEFFI ROAD, NASARAWA STATE



Distinguished participants, you are welcome to the Business Session of the 2021 Batch 'A' Pre-Mobilisation Workshop. As you are all aware, this workshop has over the years served as veritable avenue for discussion on the roles of key stakeholders in the NYSC Mobilization process with emphasis on strengths, challenges and prospects. As was the case with the previous engagements, this session is expected to result in more gains as we seek continuous improvements in our operations.

2. The theme of this workshop, "**Enhancing the NYSC Mobilisation Process in the face of Contemporary Challenges,**" was chosen to reflect our quest for greater stakeholder commitment to the success of the process, especially through correction of identified anomalies. As a popular saying goes, understanding one's problem is the first step towards solving it. Therefore, I will begin by highlighting some of the problems that have continued to constitute clogs in the wheels of our Mobilization process:

**A. CONTINUED PRESENTATION OF OVER-AGED GRADUATES FOR MOBILIZATION:** A rather disturbing development during the 2020 Batches 'A' and

'B' Orientation Courses was the large turnout over-aged graduates in our Camps nationwide. However, through our fool-proof measures, they were identified and denied registration. Upon interrogation, some of them agreed to supply their real dates of birth, which were collated for the processing of Exemption from Service. This problem could have been averted or greatly minimized if Students' Affairs Officers (SAOs) had spared quality time to sensitize their students against age manipulations. Therefore, I wish to reiterate our appeal to Corps Producing Institutions to mount adequate enlightenment on the implications of this fraudulent act. The students should be made to understand that both Exemption Certificate and the Certificate of National Service have the same value. Let me also warn that we will not hesitate to take appropriate actions against those aiding and abetting this wrongdoing.

**B. INCESSANT REQUESTS FOR CHANGE OF DATE OF BIRTH AFTER ISSUANCE OF THE CERTIFICATE OF NATIONAL SERVICE:**

Management is increasingly concerned about the ripple effect of the innovative inscription of date of birth on the Certificate of National Service (CNS), which commenced with the 2019 Batch 'A' service year. We have received numerous complaints of wrong age entries from discharged Corps members. Curiously, ninety-nine per cent (99%) of the supposed mistakes do not occur on dates or months, but only on the years of birth, thereby pointing to deliberate act of dishonesty. Our decision to inscribe dates of birth on the CNS is part of measures to control manipulation of information on age by unqualified persons seeking to present themselves for enlistment into

the Service. The SAOs have role to play in addressing this through aggressive enlightenment of their students before graduation. On our part, we have resolved not to entertain further complaints on date of birth after a Prospective Corps member registers in Camp. Already, Management has placed a message on Prospective Corps members' dashboards informing them that all corrections must be made during registration. Genuine complaints are expected to be collated by CPIs and submitted to NYSC for necessary action before commencement of Camp registration.

### C. UNENDING CLAMOUR FOR CHANGE OF NAME:

It is observed that requests for change of name have continued unabated despite the clear guidance we have provided on avoidance of entry of wrong names. Recall that we have severally stressed the need for SAOs to sensitize married women against allowing cyber café operators to handle registration on the NYSC platform for them in their absence. This act of negligence by this category of Prospective Corps members often leads to wrong entries. Unfortunately, many of the affected women do not stay long enough on Camp to exploit the window for correction of errors due to pregnancies, lactation or other peculiar reasons, thus the avoidable mistakes in names remained unresolved only to be brought up as complaint after getting reflected on their Certificate. It is also observed that some Prospective Corps members wait endlessly on Camp for SAOs to attend to their applications and effect name corrections on their handles. Therefore, I wish to once again call on SAOs to be more dedicated to the performance of your roles so as to eliminate these flaws. Apart from taking

timely action on cases, you are also expected to adequately brief officers taking over from you for effective and efficient performance.

#### **D. FRAUDULENT ADJUSTMENT OF YEAR OF GRADUATION AND MATRICULATION NUMBERS:**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**NUMBERS:** Confessional statements made by some Prospective Corps members revealed that in some Corps Producing Institutions, there exist syndicates, who engage in backdating years of graduation for persons that would have been above the age of thirty at the time of graduation if the correct information were to be inputted. Also, some fraudulent officials deliberately assign matriculation numbers of qualified graduates to unqualified ones to enable the latter scale through, only for them to turn round and present same as errors cases. Management has decided to henceforth make deeper investigation of every anomaly with a view to sanctioning those perpetrating the heinous acts.

#### **E. CONTINUED UPLOAD OF DATA OF PART-TIME GRADUATES FOR MOBILIZATION:**

**DESPITE**  
**WARNINGS**  
**TO**  
**CORPS**  
**PRODUCING**  
**INSTITUTIONS**  
**AGAINST**  
**THE**  
**UPLOAD**  
**OF**  
**PART-TIME**  
**GRADUATES**  
**FOR**  
**MOBILIZATION:**

Despite several warnings to Corps Producing Institutions against the upload of part-time graduates for Mobilization, the practice is even taking a worsening dimension. Already, Management has commenced the application of sanctions against erring CPIs and, very soon, we will be taking a further step of naming and shaming the perpetrators through media publications. In addition to targeting the CPIs, we are determined to go after individual officials and graduates involved in such fraud and ensure their prosecution in line with the provisions of the NYSC Act.

**F. UPLOAD OF GRADUATES OF UNACCREDITED AFFILIATE SCHOOLS:** Recently, the attention of Management was drawn to the unholy alliance of some Corps Producing Institutions and other schools not accredited by the appropriate regulatory authorities whereby the CPIs help to include graduates of such schools on their Mobilization lists. This has led to the injection of so many unqualified persons into the lists with some of them hardly able to write anything readable. The practice is also bloating up the population of graduates for NYSC enrolment at this critical time of dwindling resources. Management has put some machinery in place to ensure that uploads from schools tally with the approved carrying capacity of each academic programme. Investigative feedbacks will also help to deal with these corrupt practices that are undermining the standard of education to ridiculous level in the country.

**G. DECLINING QUALITY OF GRADUATES PRESENTED FOR MOBILIZATION:** We have achieved impressive results in the efforts to tackle the menace of fake and half-baked foreign graduates through the mechanisms put in place by the Scheme to check eligibility. However, it is unfortunate that the number of locally-trained graduates who are unable to defend their qualifications is equally on the increase. Since the Scheme is empowered by law to mobilise only eligible graduates, we are beginning to explore ways of assessing local graduates even after registration on Camps. Three CPIs are currently being investigated with regards to the appalling performance of their graduates. On this

premise, I wish to repeat our warning to those uploading unqualified persons for Mobilization to desist forthwith or face the wrath of the law. For the avoidance of doubt, we will not hesitate to also report erring CPIs to regulatory authorities such as the Federal Ministry of Education, the National Universities Commission and the National Board for Technical Education. Let me also remind all concerned that each academic field is relevant to the overall development of the country, hence the need to focus on the quality of all courses, their handlers and the students being trained.

3. Ladies and gentlemen, ordinarily, one would have expected some of these challenges to have long been overcome in view of our persistent engagement with stakeholders, especially through this forum. However, we understand that some participants are attending the workshop for the first time due to recent accreditation of their institutions while others, who are newly appointed to the schedule, were not adequately briefed by their predecessors. We expect those in this category to get resolutions of the workshops held in the previous years so as to familiarise themselves with guidelines on all relevant matters. This step is necessary as ignorance of the law is not accepted as an excuse, and the Scheme has shown enough leniencies in handling case of deliberate defaults by schools.

4. As a follow-up to our previous discussions and as part of efforts to address some of the challenges from the top echelon of the school Managements, I recently had audience with Vice-Chancellors of Universities. The meeting was very rewarding as they made commitments on issues, which some of you earlier presented as being beyond your control. Some of them claimed ignorance, maintaining that they were not properly briefed by

your offices. Nevertheless, given the fruitfulness of our discussions, I have no doubt in my mind that they will address the debilitating issues frontally. It is hoped that the meeting will be regular, while similar ones will be held with Rectors of Polytechnics and Monotechnics. On your part, do not hesitate to connect with them anytime you encounter hurdles in the performance of your duties. Many of you are doing well and we commend and encourage you to continue with the good works.

5. As we address the foregoing issues and brainstorm for a seamless 2021 Batch 'A' Mobilization, I urge everyone to make useful contributions to enable us achieve the desired outcomes.
6. Thank you all and God Bless.

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**PHOTOSPEAK**

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*The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, delivers his address virtually at the 2018 and 2019 President's NYSC Honours Award Ceremony held on 11th February, 2021*



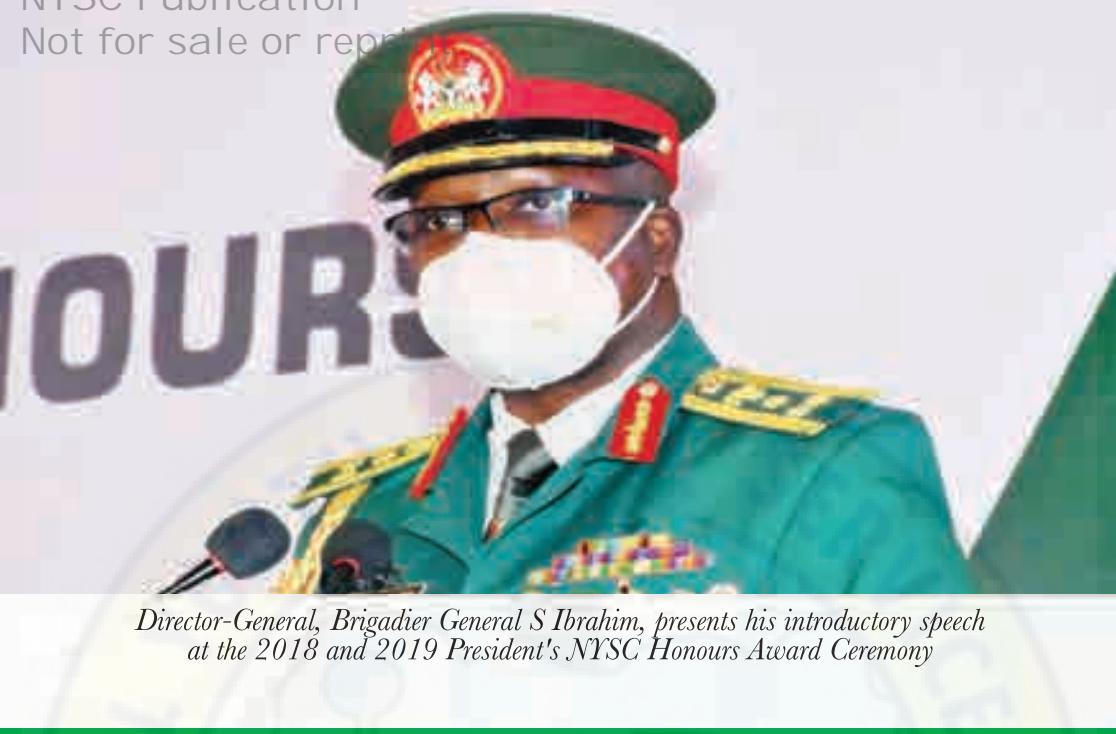
*From left: The Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare; NYSC Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim and the Chairman, NYSC National Governing Board, Ambassador Fatima Balla Abubakar, at the Banquet Hall of the State House, Abuja, during the President's NYSC Honours Award Ceremony.*



*From left: Director, Special Duties, NYSC, Mr. James Afolayan; Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Nebeolisa Anako and the Secretary FCT Social Development Secretariat, Dr. Kevin Ogbonna Ike at the Award ceremony*



*Some of the Award recipients*



*Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, presents his introductory speech at the 2018 and 2019 President's NYSC Honours Award Ceremony*



*The Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare presenting his address*



*The Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare presenting plaque to the overall best awardee for the 2018 set, Anyaogu Onyeirichi Rejoice (TR/16B/1350) on behalf of His Excellency Mr. President*



*From 2nd left: Secretary FCT Social Development Secretariat, Dr. Kevin Ogbonna Ike; Chairman, NYSC National Governing Board, Ambassador Fatima Balla Abubakar; Director-General, Brig Gen S Ibrahim; the Hon. Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare and the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Nebeolisa Anako with some of the Award recipients*



*Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, presenting a plaque to the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Her Excellency Dr. (Mrs.) Aisha Muhammadu Buhari, when she hosted a luncheon for Corps members at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, in commemoration of the nation's 60th Independence Anniversary*



*1st row (L-R): Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen; the First Lady, Her Excellency Dr. (Mrs.) Aisha Muhammadu Buhari; and the NYSC Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim. 2nd row (L-R): Member, NYSC National Governing Board, Mrs. Binta Mu'azt and the Board Chairman, Ambassador Fatima Balla Abubakar at the luncheon organized for Corps members*



*Her Excellency Dr. (Mrs.) Aisha Muhammadu Buhari; the NYSC Director-General,  
Brigadier General S Ibrahim and some of the Corps members hosted by the  
First Lady*



*A cross-section of Corps members at the luncheon hosted by the  
First Lady*



From left: Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum; Senate President, Dr. Ahmed Lawan; NYSC Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim; and the Executive Secretary of the National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), Prince Paul Ikonne, at the graduation ceremony of Soil Doctors and Extension Service Workers trained by NALDA in collaboration with the Borno State Government held at the Government House, Maiduguri



Senate President, Dr. Ahmed Lawan, presenting Certificate to one of the sixty-eight Corps members trained as Soil Doctors and Extension Service Workers along with two hundred and one other youths



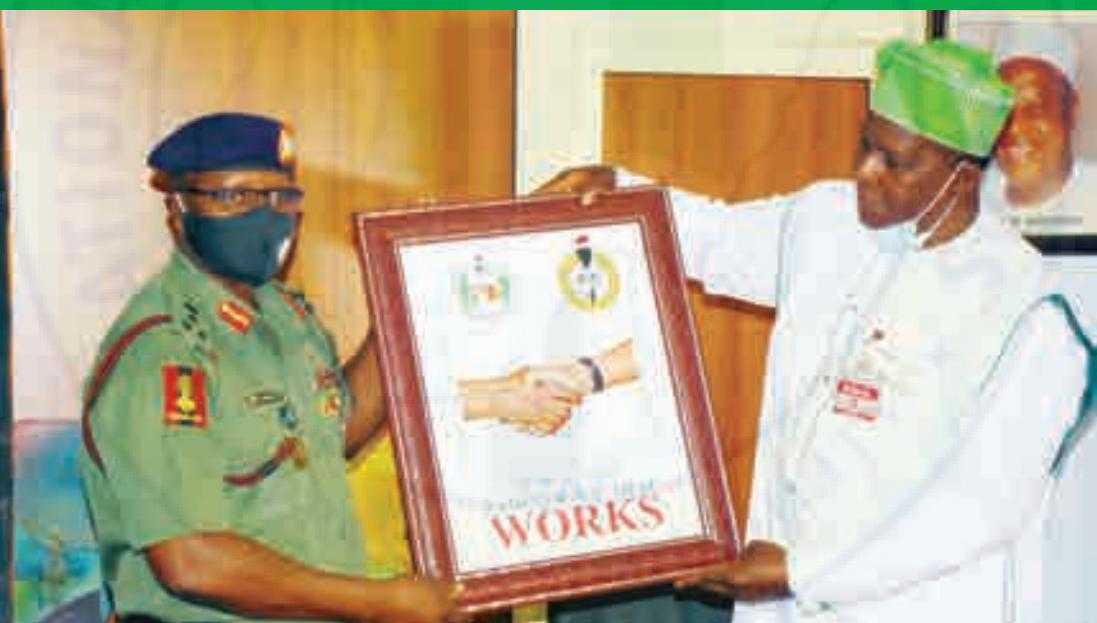
*Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, with two of the Corps members, who graduated at the ceremony*



*Brigadier General S Ibrahim, presenting a goodwill message at the graduation ceremony of Soil Doctors and Extension Service Workers*



*Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, with the former Head of State and founder of the NYSC, General Yakubu Gowon, during his courtesy visit to the elder statesman*



*Brigadier General S Ibrahim on a visit to the Director-General of the National Council for Arts and Culture, Otunba Olusegun Runsewe, to discuss areas of collaboration with the agency*



*Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim; Immediate past Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Mohammed Adamu; and the erstwhile NYSC FCT Coordinator, Hajjiya Walida Siddique, during the Police Chief's visit to the NYSC FCT Orientation Camp in the wake of an attack on the facility by hoodlums*



*Man O' War Special Squad welcoming the Director-General, when he arrived at the Magaji Dan Yamusa NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Keffi, Nasarawa State, for the Swearing-in Ceremony of the 2021 Batch 'A' Stream 1 Corps members*



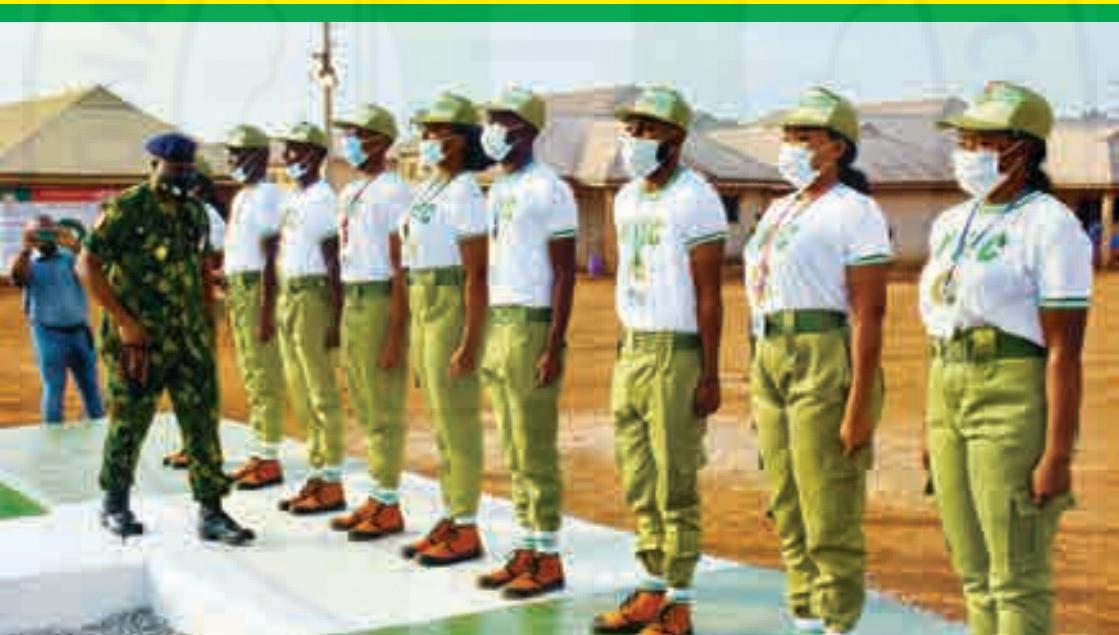
*The Director-General presenting a plaque to the National President of the Actors Guild of Nigeria, Emeka Rollas, during the latter's visit to the NYSC Headquarters*



*The Director-General with the Director Special Duties, Mr. James Afolayan (right) and the Benue State Coordinator Mr. Shisha Joshua (left) after inspecting a new multi-purpose hall being constructed by the Benue State Government at the Permanent Orientation Camp, Wanufe*



*The Director-General undergoing COVID-19 test on arrival at the NYSC FCT Orientation Camp during the 2020 Batch 'B' Stream II Orientation Course*



*The Director-General at the new Permanent Orientation Camp, Okada, Edo State, for the Swearing-in Ceremony of the 2020 Batch 'B' Stream II Corps members*



*Brigadier General S Ibrahim on a courtesy visit to the Executive Governor of Ekiti State, His Excellency Dr. Kayode Fayemi*



*Director-General making presentation to the Oba of Benin, His Royal Majesty Omo N' Oba N' Edo Uku Apkolopkolo, Oba Ewuare II during a courtesy visit to the monarch*



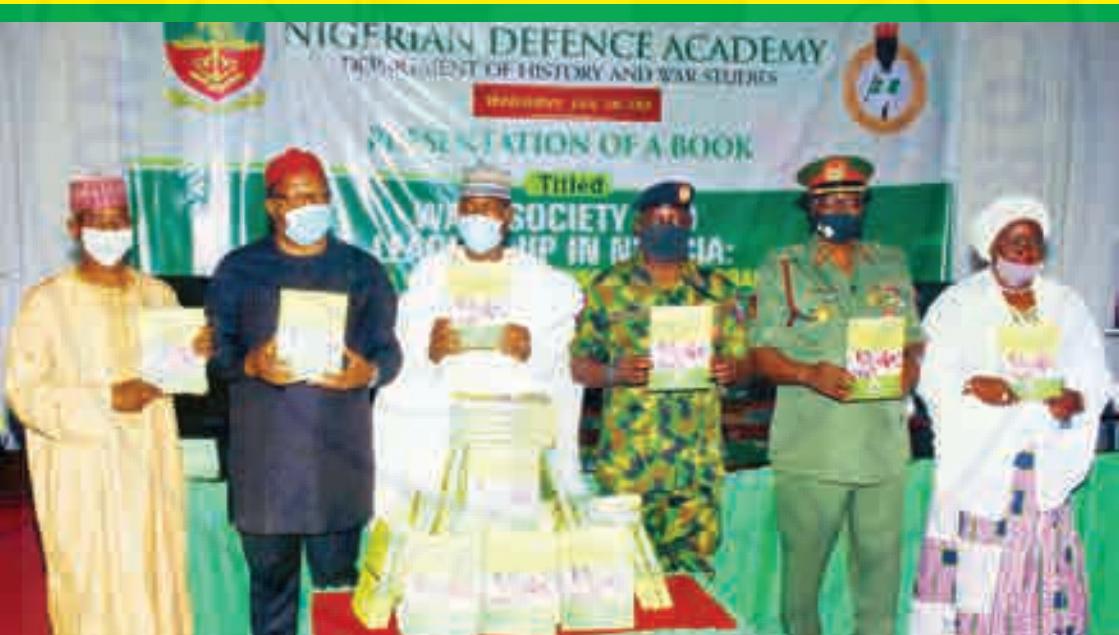
From left – State Governors: Engr. Abdullahi Sule, Nasarawa; Malam Nasir El-Rufa'i, Kaduna; Rt. Hon. Aminu Tambuwal, Sokoto; Dr. Kayode Fayemi, Ekiti; Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, Kebbi; and Alhaji Yahaya Bello, Kogi at the meeting of the Nigeria Governors' Forum addressed by the NYSC Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim



From left: Military Assistant to the DG, Major R Aliyu; Special Assistant to the DG, Yunusa Tanimu; Director, Special Duties, Mr. James Afolayan; and the Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim at the meeting of the Nigeria Governors' Forum in Abuja



*Brigadier General S Ibrahim speaking during a courtesy visit to the Adamawa State Governor, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri (1st left). With them are the NYSC Adamawa State Coordinator Alhaji Ibrahim Tukur (3rd left) and the Director Special Duties, Mr. James Afolayan (1st right)*



*The Director-General and other dignitaries at the launch of a Book, **War, Society and Leadership in Nigeria: Essays in Honour of Brigadier General Shuaibu Ibrahim** held in the Conference Hall of the NYSC Headquarters, Abuja*



Brigadier General S Ibrahim in the first ever live broadcast by an NYSC Chief Executive to Corps members in all Orientation Camps nationwide. They were undergoing the 2021 Batch 'A' Stream 1 Orientation Course at the time of the address, which was presented via zoom



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



Plateau State Governor, His Excellency The Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, and the Director-General at the opening ceremony of the 2020 Batch 'B' Pre-Orientation Course Workshop, which took place in Jos



The Director-General and some members of the NYSC Top Management during the business session of the Batch 'B' Pre-Orientation Course Workshop



*Some of the participants at the 2020 Batch 'B' Pre-Orientation Course Workshop*



*The NYSC Plateau State Cultural Troupe performing at the opening ceremony of the 2020 Batch 'B' Pre-Orientation Course Workshop*



*Brigadier General S Ibrahim with the Deputy Director-General (Partnership and Delivery) of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Mr. Kenton Dashiell, at the signing of MoU between NYSC and IITA on a partnership aimed at boosting the Scheme's agricultural activities*



*Director-General and the Executive Director of the Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute (ARMTI), Dr. Olufemi Oladunni, signing a Memorandum of Understanding on the training of Corps members and NYSC Agric. Officers on modern farming techniques at the ARMTI office, Ilorin, Kwara State*



*Brigadier General S Ibrahim inspecting one of the machines fabricated by the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization during an official visit to the agency in Ilorin*



*The Director-General, the Andoma of Doma, His Royal Highness, Alhaji Aliyu O. Ogah, and other dignitaries at the flag-off of the 2021 farming season by the NYSC in Nasarawa State following the allocation of a 16-hactre farmland at the Lower Benue River Basin to the Scheme by the monarch*



*Brigadier General S Ibrahim on a courtesy visit to the Taraba State Governor,  
His Excellency, Arch. Darius Dickson Ishaku, at the Government House,  
Jalingo*



*The Director-General receiving the **Africa Meritorious Service Award**  
conferred by the International Free Media Organization from its Board of  
Trustees' Chairman, Mr. A. O. Malik, at the NYSC Headquarters, Abuja*



*From left: Chairman, Board of Directors of Leventis Foundation Nigeria, Alhaji Ahmed Manley; NYSC Director-General Brigadier General S Ibrahim; and the Director, Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development, Mr. Hilary Nasamu at the signing of MoU on Youth Empowerment in Sustainable Agriculture between NYSC and the Foundation*



*NYSC FCT Coordinator, Alhaji Suleiman Abdul, conducting the Director-General round when the latter paid an inspection visit to the NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Kubwa, during the 2021 Batch 'A' Stream One Orientation Course*



From left: The Registrar/CEO of JAMB, Prof. Ishag Oloyede; representative of Nasarawa State Governor, Alhaji Othman Bala Adam; Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim; Director Corps Mobilization, Mrs. Victoria Ango and the Director, ICT, Mrs. Christy Uba at the opening ceremony of the 2021 Batch 'A' Pre-Mobilization Workshop, which took place at Mararaba, Nasarawa State



Some members of the NYSC Top Management at the opening ceremony of the 2021 Batch 'A' Pre-Mobilization Workshop, which took place at Mararaba, Nasarawa State



*Participants at the NYSC Top Management Retreat held in April 2021 at the Zuma Rock Resort, Suleja, Niger State*



*From left: Director (ICT), Mrs. Christy Uba; Director-General Brigadier General S Ibrahim and the Director, Special Duties, Mr. James Afolayan at the Top Management Retreat*

# ing of NYSC Top Management representatives of State Governments



From left: Representative of the Honourable Minister of the FCT and Acting Secretary Area Council, Secretariat Services, Mrs. Omolola Olajipekun; Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim; and the Director, Special Duties, Mr. James Afolayan, at the 2nd meeting of the NYSC Top Management with Representatives of State Governments, which took place in Abuja



Brigadier General S Ibrahim addressing the meeting with representatives of State Governments. Seated are some members of the NYSC Top Management

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*A cross-section of State representatives at the meeting convened by the  
NYSC Management*



*Some State representatives at the Meeting with the NYSC Top  
Management*



From left: Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development Mr. Sunday Dare; Director-General Brigadier General S Ibrahim; and the representative of the FCT Minister, the Acting Secretary of Social Development Secretariat, Mr. Kelvin Ike at the formal launch of the 2021 Community Development Service (CDS) activities and conferment of maiden Director-General's CDS Award



Director, Community Development Service and Special Projects, Mr. AbdulRazak Salawu, presents introductory address at the launch of the 2021 CDS activities and conferment of Awards



From left: NYSC FCT Coordinator Mr. Suleiman Abdul, whose Secretariat won the 3rd Best Group CDS Award; the Director-General; Akwa Ibom State Coordinator Mrs. Chiinyere Ekwe, who received the 2nd Best Group CDS Award for her Secretariat; and Alhaji Ibrahim Tukur, Coordinator of Adamawa State Secretariat, winners of 1st position in Group CDS.



NYSC Directors (from left): Mr. Leke Abiodun (Audit), Mrs. Habiba Bappah (HRM) and Mrs. Christy Uba (ICT) at the launch of CDS activities and Award Ceremony



*Director-General presenting the Award for the Best Collaborative Partner, UNICEF, to its representative, Mr. Kola Lade Jobe at the launch of CDS activities and Award Ceremony*



*Oduma Fidelis Mbam receiving the Director-General's Award for the Best Individual CDS*

# NYSC Publications

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*Mrs. Rita Alo of the NYSC FCT Secretariat receiving the Director-General's Award for the Best CDS Officer*



*NYSC National Cultural Troupe in action at the launch of CDS activities and Award Ceremony*

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*Brigadier General S Ibrahim with the Chairman of Ned Nwoko Foundation, Prince Ned Nwoko, when the latter visited the NYSC Headquarters with a proposal for partnership on malaria control*



*Ultra-Modern Medical Centre at the NYSC Oyo State Permanent Orientation Camp, Iseyin, built and equipped by the Federal Government through the University College Hospital, Ibadan.*

**THE MILITARY AND SOCIETY IN AFRICA -  
BEING A LECTURE DELIVERED BY  
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN,  
TO THE NDC COURSE 29 AT THE NATIONAL  
DEFENCE COLLEGE ABUJA ON 5 MARCH  
2021**



**INTRODUCTION**

The studies of African military since the 1960s have attracted the attention of scholars in no small measure.<sup>1</sup> Much of the literature has focused on the evolution and dynamism of the military, as well as their intervention in politics. These studies appeared more prominent shortly after the decade of independence in Africa, after the first

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<sup>1</sup> A. Abdel-Malek, 1968. *Egypt, Military Society; the Army Regime and Social Change under Nasser*. New York: Random House; J.B., Adekanye, ed. 1989. Special Issue on the Military, Social Classes and Revolution. *Studies in Politics and Society* (Ibadan); J.B. Adekson, 1978. "On the Theory of the Modernizing Soldier: a Critique." *Current Research on Peace and Violence* 8/1: 28–40; J.B. Adekson, 1981. *Nigeria in Search of a Stable Civil-Military System*. Aldershot: Gower Publishing Company; A. Adepoju, 1981. "Military Rule and Population Issues in Nigeria." *African Affairs* 80/318: 29–47; P.O. Agbese, 1991. "The Political Economy of Militarization in Nigeria." *Afrika Spectrum* 25/3: 293–311; S. Andreski, 1968. *Military Organization and Society*. 2nd ed. Berkeley: University of California Press; J.F. Bayart, 1993. *The State in Africa: The Politics of the Belly*. Harlow: Longmans; S. Baynham, ed. 1986. *Military Power and Politics in Black Africa*. London and Sydney: Croom Helm; H.S. Bienen, 1982. "Military Rule and Military Order in Africa." *Orbis* 25/4: 949–65; S. Deger, 1986. *Military Expenditure in Third World Countries*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul; F. First, 1970. *The Barrel of a Gun: Political Power in Africa and the Coup d'Etat*. London: Penguin Press; R.A. Joseph, 1987. "Principles and Practice of Nigerian Military Government." In *The Military in African Politics*, edited by Harbeson; N.J. Miners, 1971. *The Nigerian Army 1956–66*. London: Methuen.

wave of coups. Three overlapping debates dominated the literature on the military and society of Africa during the 1960s and 1970s. They revolved initially around the conditions of democracy and civilian control. Attention was later shifted to the role of the military in modernization or development as the military moved into politics, then focused on political order following deep hegemonic crises in most of the societies in Africa and in their relations with the Western powers.

2. With specific regards to the place of the military in society and its role and contributions to the development process, three conceptual insights stand out for deep reflection and consideration. At the first instance, the conservative view explains the place of the military in society from its traditional purpose. It argues that the military is a professional institution and should have no role in politics, since its involvement in the political process could be retrogressive.<sup>2</sup> Scholars here argue that the military must maintain its sanctity and stay far off from the dynamics of society and its politics; and focus more on its tradition function of maintaining the territorial integrity of the nation. How society function and is governed by politicians is not the business of the military.

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<sup>2</sup> See W. Moore, *The Professions, Roles and Rules* (New York: Russell Sage, 1970); G, Mosca, *The Ruling Class* (New York McGraw-Hill, 1939); S. E. Finer, *The Man on Horse Back: The Role of the Military in Politics* (New York: Praeger, 1962); And S. P Huntington, *Changing Patterns of Military Politics* (New York: Random House, 1969).

3. Meanwhile, the Progressive view considered the military as the best-organised institution, nationalist and most reliable manager of social change.<sup>3</sup> Scholars here are of the opinion that the military by its professionalism, the values of nationalism that forms the basis of the existence and the share capacity of its members, could serve as a positive modernizing agent in society. Emphasising the positive leadership values that military training bestows, they argue that society stands a better chance of benefitting from the military as an enduring agency for social change and development.

4. However, the African perspective and the third view attempts to harmonize the first two entrenched views, emphasising the historical realities of societies particularly in Africa, where the military has been originally an integral part of the emergence and development of such societies.<sup>4</sup> The African perspective therefore justifies the place of the military in society and the salutary and positive role it has continued to play in the development process of such societies.

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<sup>3</sup> For more on this view, consult, M. Janowitz, *The Military in the Political Development of New Nations: An Essay in Comparative Analyses* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1964); S. P. Huntington, *Soldier and State: Political Order in Changing Societies* (New Haven, Conn: Yale University Press, 1969); J. J. Johnson, *Military and Society in Latin America* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press); And O. Odetola, *Military Regimes and Development: A Comparative Study Analysis in African Societies*.

<sup>4</sup> A. A. Mazrui, *Soldiers and Kinsmen: The Making of a Military Technocracy* (Beverly Hills and London: Sage Publications, 1975); O. Odetola, *Military Regimes and Development: A Comparative Study Analysis in African Societies*; M. Rupiya (ed), *Evolutions and Revolutions: A Contemporary History of Militaries in Southern Africa* (Pretoria, South Africa: Institute of Security Studies,

5. While much of this has been documented, the strategic place of the military and their contributions to the development of the African society is oftentimes neglected. Even where captured, their intervention in politics usually transcended their constitutional role in the protection of national frontiers and internal security. The purpose of this lecture is therefore to acquaint the participants with the critical issues relating to the military and society in Africa.

### **AIM**

6. The aim of this paper is to discuss the military and society in Africa with the members of NDC Course 29 with the view to making recommendations.

### **SCOPE**

7. This lecture will cover:
- a. Conceptual Clarification.
  - b. Overview of the Military and Society in Africa.
  - c. Issues and Challenges Relating to the Military and Society African.
  - d. Contribution of the Military to the Society in Africa.
  - e. Strategies that would enhance the Contributions of the Democratic Process in Africa.

- f. Lessons Learnt.
- g. Recommendations.

## **CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION**

8. Important issues that would engage our minds and needed to be conceptualised in this discourse include: society, military, military rule, military government, military regime, military intervention in politics and civil-military relations.

9. **Society.** A society is a group of individuals involved in persistent social interaction or a large social groups sharing the same spatial or social territory, typically subject to the same political authority and dominant cultural expectations. Societies are characterized by patterns of relationships (social relations) between individuals who share a distinctive culture and institutions; a given society may be described as the sum total of such relationships among its constituent of members. In the social sciences, a larger society often exhibits stratification or dominance patterns in subgroups.<sup>5</sup>

10. **Military.** The military, also known collectively as armed forces, is a heavily armed, highly organized force primarily intended for warfare. It is typically officially authorized and maintained by a sovereign state, with its members identifiable by

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<sup>5</sup> Richard Jenkins, 2002. *Foundations of Sociology*. London: Palgrave MacMillan.

their distinct military uniforms. The primary of the military is the defence of the national interest as defined by the government of the day, including, of course, the protection of frontiers and internal security.

11. **Military Rule.** The concept of military rule has often been mistaken with military government or military regime.<sup>6</sup> However, the two are not the same. Military government or regime basically is governance by the armed forces. It is reversal from civil to military rule, usually through takeover of power in a *coup d'état* with the aim of either restoring law and order, re-instituting legality within the system or eradicating any other social ills affecting the state. In other words, military rule can appropriately be defined as an act or process of administering a given polity by the Armed Forces which is often acquired via the seizure of state power through force. This implies that military power to govern is acquired not through the **ballot papers** but through the **barrel of gun**.

12. **Military Government.** A government is that agency of the ruling class that is charged with the responsibility of exercising state power on behalf of the whole classes. It can also be referred to as the institutionalized agency for the legitimate administration of the class society, in effect, translating into a

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<sup>6</sup> Herbert C. Edeh and Michael I. Ugwueze, "Military and Politics: Understanding the Theoretical Underpinnings of Military Incursion in Third World Politics". Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences Vol 5 No 20 MCSER Publishing, Rome-Italy September 2014

structured organization of power for the realization of the objectives of the ruling class, and the major instrument of its practical exercise by its governing elites within the state. Military government therefore, refers to the administrative agency managed by the Armed Forces and charged with the responsibility of exercising State power on behalf of the whole social classes in a given polity.

13. **Military Regime**. Many scholars have continued to use the term “regime” to mean a form of government or even a set of rules and basically the time or period a person rules.<sup>7</sup> Interestingly, a regime is synonymous with both the form of government and a set of rules. But in politics, a regime is a framework of social organization based on rules designed to regulate the operation of government and its interactions with the rest of the societies. By implication therefore, a military regime is a framework of social organization that is based on regimented rules designed to instill discipline and obedience from the rest of the civil societies via the promulgation of Decrees and not the constitution.

14. **Military Intervention in Politics**. The concept of military intervention appears to be clearer when compared with

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<sup>7</sup> See, for example W. Moore, *The Professions, Roles and Rules* (New York: Russell Sage, 1970); G. Mosca, *The Ruling Class* (New York McGraw-Hill, 1939); S. E. Finer, *The Man on Horse Back: The Role of the Military in Politics* (New York: Praeger, 1962); And S. P. Huntington, *Changing Patterns of Military Politics* (New York: Random House, 1969).

military rule, military government and military regime. Unfortunately, it is the most ambiguous among the rest. For the sake of clarity, the use of military intervention in this work is strictly as it affects the use of state power by the armed forces. This is because there are many forms of military intervention. When a State of Emergency is declared and troops are deployed to maintain peace, it is a military intervention. When terrorists overrun a society and troops are sent to restore constitutional order, it is a military intervention. It is a military intervention when a country is envisaged to be building nuclear weapons and others send troops to destroy them. In fact, military intervention as a political concept can be very confusing if not properly situated. Military intervention in politics, in this context, can be seen as the takeover of political power from the civilians by the armed forces with the aim of correcting ills in the system. Armed forces here include: the army, the navy, the air force.

14. **Civil–Military Relations.** Civil–military relations describes the relationship between civil society as a whole (and its civil authority) and the military organization or organizations established to protect it. Civil–military relations incorporates a diverse, often normative field, which moves within and across management, social science and policy scales.<sup>8</sup> More cited in

<sup>8</sup> J. B. Adekanye, *Nigeria in Search of a Stable Civil-Military System* (Aldershot, England: Gover and Boulder, Colorado, USA: Westview, 1981); T. R. Edward, *Command in the 21st Century: An Introduction to Civil-Military Affairs*, PDF, US Navy Postgraduate School Thesis, 2017; And G. Yoroms, "Civil - Military Relations in Democratic Nigeria", in B. A. Akinterinwa (ed.), *Nigeria and the World: A Boloji Akinyemi Revisited* (Lagos: NIA, 2012).

Huntington narrowing it, describes the relationship between the civil authority of a given society and its military authority thus; “The goal of any State is to harness military professional power to serve vital national security interests, while guarding against the misuse of power that can threaten the well-being of its people.”<sup>9</sup> Studies of civil-military relations often rest on a normative assumption that it is preferable to have the ultimate responsibility for a country's strategic decision-making to lie in the hands of the civilian political leadership (a civilian control of the military) rather than a military (a military dictatorship).

15. For C Welch “civil military relations is the interaction between the armed forces as an institution and sectors of the society in which it is embedded.”<sup>10</sup> This implies that civil military relations has to do with the society on one hand and the military as an institution on the other hand. This means that civil military relations is about the military relating to the society and both of them functioning interdependently within the society.

Civil military relations could therefore be seen as all aspects of the armed forces relations with the society in which they exist. Huntington described the difference between military and civilians as a contrast between attitudes and values held by

<sup>9</sup> S. P Huntington, *Changing Patterns of Military Politics*, 36.

<sup>10</sup> See J. B. Adekanye, *Nigeria in Search of a Stable Civil-Military System*, 10.

military personnel, mostly conservative and those held by civilians, mostly liberal.<sup>11</sup> The military and the civil populace in their relations in the society should have the right attitude and values geared towards improving civil military relations.

16. Summarily, while military rule is an act or a process of governance, military government is an institution or agency of governance and military regime is a framework of governance. It is very difficult, if at all possible, to find in a polity where there is military rule without military government and military regime; except in a diarchy where power is shared by both the military and civilian authorities. On the other hand, military intervention is also an act; though not of administering or governing, but of acquiring the political power by the armed forces. The entire process follows a concentric chain order.

### **OVERVIEW OF THE MILITARY AND SOCIETY IN AFRICA**

17. The history of military in African society is one of the oldest military history in the world. Africa is a continent of many regions with diverse populations speaking hundreds of different languages and practicing an array of cultures and religions. These differences have also been a source of conflicts. Like the

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<sup>11</sup> S. P Huntington, *Changing Patterns of Military Politics*, 36.

history of Africa, military history on the continent is often divided by region. North Africa was part of the Mediterranean cultures and was integral to the military history of classical antiquity, and East Africa has historically had various states which have often warred with some of the world's most powerful. The military history of modern Africa may be divided into three broad time periods: pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial.

18. Africa is more than just the world's second largest continent; the shared history of its billion plus citizens, living in any of its 54 states and 10 non-sovereign entities have turned it – like Europe – into a political construct, too. Over the last century alone, Africa has seen both political turmoil and unprecedented economic and human development, which have affected not only its citizens but also its neighbours and indeed the globe. Today, 23 international and regional peace missions are deployed on and offshore the continent, highlighting the enmeshment of African security with global security. The military in Africa is often at the centre of these developments in almost every society; sometimes they are seen as saviors, sometimes as a source of instability. Whether productive or destructive, no African solution can ignore the relevant military institutions involved. These are often described as a simple product of the colonial era. While partly true, this is not as simple as it is often rendered. The military in Africa is the result of several centuries of historical developments which was prior to and after colonialism and would certainly transcend it.

## **MAP 1: Showing Africa and its Nations**



**Source:** Googlemaps.com, accessed 20/2/2021

19. In the course of the pre-colonial times, warfare was far from unknown in Africa, although it was often highly ritualized, with limited objectives and comparatively few casualties. The Zulu regiments of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century were very much the exception, although many societies did have regimental structures, designed for the waging of war.<sup>12</sup> The Massai, for example, had specific terms describing various forms of combat, many of them small-scale cattle raids and quarrels. Other states had low levels of militarization and adopted alternative approaches to war. The Sokoto caliphate also developed a strong military force during the 19<sup>th</sup> century jihad.<sup>13</sup> Warfare was an occupation of young males, and in most African societies professional soldiers were unknown. Almost all combat was on foot, with the exception of the two most militarily successful states: in the Ethiopian region, where horses were used, and on Lake Victoria, where the Ganda used canoes.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> We find interesting accounts of these in the following works: M. Rupiya (ed), *Evolutions and Revolutions: A Contemporary History of Militaries in Southern Africa* (Pretoria, South Africa: Institute of Security Studies, 2005).

<sup>13</sup> See O. Akpan. "Shaka and Napolieon as Historical Parallels in Strategic Thinking and Dreams of Empire-Building", in O. E. Tangban and C.C.C. Osakwe (eds.), *Perspectives on African Studies: Essays in Honor of Chinedu Nwafor Ubah* (Kaduna: Nigeria Defense Academy Press, 2013), 72-84; R. S. Smith, *Warfare and Diplomacy in Precolonial West Africa* (Norwich: Methen, 1976); T. Falola and R. Law (eds.), *Warfare and Diplomacy in Precolonial Nigeria: Essays in Honor of Robert Smith* (Wincosin: African Studies Programme, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1992); And B. J. Audu, *Wars and Changing Patterns of Intergroup Relations in the Middle Benue Valley of Nigeria, c. 1300-1900* (Kaduna: NDA Press, 2018).

<sup>14</sup> Basil Davidson, *The Growth of African Civilization: East and Central Africa to the late Nineteenth Century* (London: Longman Publishing Company, 1972).

20. Although arms were present in northeast Africa for centuries, weapons used in Sub-Saharan Africa were much more basic, consisting of spears, swords, bows and arrows, shields and clubs: rearms did not start to appear until the 1820s and 1830s. The raising of the stakes in regional warfare can be attributed to the 'destructive modernity' of the rearm. In Eastern Africa, especially, the institutionalization of violence played a major role in state-building and the construction of identities.<sup>15</sup> War facilitated internal control and discipline, binding the governed and governing together in a social contract. This enhanced the strategic place of the military in the societies.

21. Likewise, the 'colonial' period should not be identified purely with the West, or only with the colonial conquests of the period 1880-1960. The Arabs had carved out a huge colonial empire in North Africa – extending as far as present-day Morocco – by the end of the seventh century, and Arab culture, as well as Islamic law, spread progressively south. Sudan, for example, accepted Islam by negotiation rather than conflict same as the Sokoto caliphate. Likewise, there had always been extensive trade between the states of the Gulf and East Africa, and this promoted, over time, a strong Arabic and Islamic influence that continues even today. Trade routes from West Africa across the

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<sup>15</sup> See G. T. Emeagwali (ed.), *Science and Technology in Africa with Case Studies from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and Zambia* (USA: Edwin Mezzan Press, 1992).

Sahel and the Sahara have existed since ancient times, especially for slaves. Finally, Europeans arrived on the Bight of Benin as early as the sixteenth century to take advantage of the well-developed slave markets, and on the Gold and Ivory Coasts at around the same time.

22. There was no single military model during the colonial period either. In countries where there was a sizeable European settler population, ranging from Rhodesia in the East to Senegal in the West to Sudan in the North, substantial military or paramilitary forces were often raised and led by white officers; some were incorporated into the colonial powers' own armies and fought in the wars of the twentieth century. For example, Sierra Leone's military culture is still heavily influenced by the memory of its involvement in World War II; the *Tirailleurs se ne galais* (actually Malian and Burkinabe soldiers) are a well-known Francophone equivalent. There was also the West African Frontier Force (WAFF).<sup>16</sup>

23. Such forces did not always behave well towards the population, and indeed were not expected to. In every colony there were locally recruited forces of some kind to keep order, including the notoriously brutal *Force Publique*, which enforced

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<sup>16</sup> See G. T. Emeagwali (ed.), *Science and Technology in Africa*

King Leopold II's personal rule over the Congo.<sup>17</sup> In Sierra Leone, for example, the local forces were used to repress social movements and, poorly paid when paid at all, consequently behaved badly. Senegalese and Algerian-Moroccan troops were sent by the French to brutally repress the Madagascar rebellion in 1947.<sup>18</sup> However, when African countries gained independence, most of these forces took to professionalism to depart from the colonial repressive traditions and public suspicion.

24. Independence was also a very different phenomenon in different countries. The bulk of African states achieved independence in the 1960s, but not all in the same way. In some places it came about peacefully (in most of Francophone Africa for example). In countries where the white population was small, or closely attached to the colonial power, independence was relatively unproblematic. But in countries where there was a large settler population, and sometimes a Creole population as well, violence occurred more often, albeit as a result of a broader combination of factors. Long colonial wars were fought in Algeria (1954-62), and in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea-Bissau (1960- 1974) by colonial powers wishing to keep these

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<sup>17</sup> A. A. Mazrui, *Soldiers and Kinsmen: The Making of a Military Technocracy*; And J. Bayo Adekanye, *Military Organization in Multi-Ethnically Segmented Societies: A Comparative Study* (Ibadan: Ababa Press Ltd, 2008).

<sup>18</sup> Donald O. Omagu, *Regional Peace and Security: A Historical Perspective of the Role of ECOWAS in Liberia and Sierra Leone* (Calabar: Ushie Printing and Publishing Company, 12002.)

colonies part of their own national territory (indeed white immigration there was strongly encouraged).<sup>19</sup> Settler colonies themselves rebelled against independence in what is today Zimbabwe (leading to the war of 1965-80) and in the last days of the war in Algeria. Lower-level violence was a feature of a number of transitions to independence, notably in Kenya. These independence conflicts were not necessarily the end of the matter either. In Angola, for example, Portuguese withdrawal in 1975 was followed by a civil war that lasted almost thirty years, in which different foreign governments supported different factions.<sup>20</sup>

25. Foreign involvement in African militaries since independence has been almost continuous. It has followed several models, from the lingering influence of France over most of its former colonies, to the Cold War that pitched the United States of America and the Soviet Union (and even China) against each other, up to the many interactions through peace supports operations, training teams and capacity-building initiatives carried out by the international community as a whole. These very different paths to (and experiences after) independence produced varying degrees of stability. With very few exceptions, African states were created from former colonial territories, and

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<sup>19</sup> See A. A. Mazrui, *Soldiers and Kinsmen: The Making of a Military Technocracy*; And M. Rupiya (ed), *Evolutions and Revolutions: A Contemporary History of Militaries in Southern Africa*.

<sup>20</sup> O. Odetola, *Military Regimes and Development*.

the Cairo Declaration of 1964 enshrined the resulting often arbitrary borders as necessary if conflict was to be avoided. Nonetheless, the new political classes of the independent states did not universally accept these borders, leading to conflicts of both secession and aggression. Yet for all their arbitrariness, borders in Africa have become pragmatically important, especially for economic reasons. In some countries (the Côte d'Ivoire, for example) they have contributed to a sense of national identity. Moreover, most African militaries are given the constitutional role of defending these borders, even if, for practical reasons of geography and resources.<sup>21</sup> Indeed, the actual missions of African militaries have evolved mainly to include, in different places, public order, border policing, and even development and infrastructure tasks. They have become involved in anti-terrorist operations, and control intelligence in many countries. Finally, some, like Nigeria, have taken on roles, not necessarily by design, in peace operations in Africa and elsewhere.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> We the example of such in Nigeria and its involvement in counter-insurgency operations in the Niger Delta and the Northeast to curb the activities the activities of militias and terrorists respectively, in those places. For details see H. Solomon. *Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Africa: Fighting Insurgency from Al-Shabaab, Ansar Dine, And Boko Haram* (Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015); Okpeh O. Okpeh, Jr. and Christopher S. Orngu, *The US, Oil and the Militarization of the Gulf of Guinea Coast: Implications for Regional and Continental Security* (Forthcoming); And Abiodun Alao, *Natural Resources and Conflicts in Africa: Tragedy of Resource Endowment* (University of Rochester Press, 2007).

<sup>22</sup> For a comprehensive account of Nigerian military's involvement in global peace keeping operations see Donald O. Omagu, *Regional Peace and Security*; And F. Omotoso, *Essentials of Nigeria's Peace and Security Missions in Africa* (Ibadan: Netview Books, 2009).

26. African military forces today are therefore the result of a complicated series of historical processes to which colonialism is a critical part, but not necessarily the cause. These processes have also span five to six decades since independence, and have continued to shape the African military and their roles in society. The point is, the military in Africa has remained an integral part of the society since civilizations began to evolve in the continent. In fact, the history, stability and configuration of most societies in Africa cannot be discussed and analyzed without the mention of the military.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MILITARY TO SOCIETY IN AFRICA**

27. The primary role of the military is to protect the territorial integrity of the nation. The military is also called upon to perform internal security operations. Beyond this, the military has performed other duties, thereby contributing to the development and sustenance of most nations in Africa. In this section, attempt is made to highlight some of these contributions.

28. **Nation Building.** Most of the military regimes in Africa have left landmark legacies in the area of nation building. These legacies could be seen in the political, social, economic and

industrial spheres.<sup>23</sup> For instance, the military in Nigeria, over the years, have been proactive in the provision of social amenities to the people. This development has impacted positively on livelihoods of Nigerians. It has also ensured that Nigeria remained one indivisible entity by successfully executing the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1960), and ensuring post-civil war reconciliation, reconstruction, rehabilitation in the decades following the war.<sup>24</sup> Since the 1980s and 1990s through to the decades following year 2000, the military has grappled with the challenges associated with insecurity thereby, guaranteeing the stability of the democratization process in Nigeria since 1999.

29. **Conflict Management.** Conflict management is a necessary concept in understanding the role of military institutions in Africa because most of the conflicts in Africa cannot be resolved but managed.<sup>25</sup> Though quite a number of conflicts can be solved, others require management. Conflict management underscores the aspect of limiting the negative

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<sup>23</sup> See O. Odetola, *Military Regimes and Development*; And Shaibu Ibrahim and Obeya N. Bernard, “Nigerian Military and the Challenges of Nation Building 1960-1979: Involvements, Achievements and Failures” in *Labar: Journal of Military History and Peace Studies (LJMHP)*, (Nigerian Army University, Biu, Borno Nigeria,) 1-8.

<sup>24</sup> For details of this see John W. T. Gbor (ed), *Military History: Nigeria from Pre-colonial Era to the Present* (Lagos: Longman, Nigeria, 2004); Armstrong M. Adejo (ed.), *The Nigerian Civil War: Forty Years After. What Lessons* (Historical Society of Nigeria, 2008); And Okpeh O. Okpeh, Jr. *Dimensions and Implications of Military Transition Programmes and the Democratic Question in Nigeria* (Makurdi: Book Makers, 2010).

<sup>25</sup> M. Rupiya (ed), *Evolutions and Revolutions: A Contemporary History of Militaries in Southern Africa*; And O. Odetola, *Military Regimes and Development*.

aspects of conflicts and encouraging the positive aspects of the same. Over the years, military institutions in Africa have been engineered towards inculcating conflict management ideals and skills to safeguard democracy and good governance. There is no gainsaying that the military in Africa has successfully solved or managed most of these conflicts in Africa. For instance, the Nigerian military has been at the frontiers of all internal security operations in Nigeria and peace support operations in parts of Africa and beyond.<sup>26</sup>

30. **Education and Training.** Clearly the military has made very important contributions by playing a part in raising the level of education among populations in Africa.<sup>27</sup> This has led to further development in the economic, social and political fields. This educative role has been both towards those in its ranks and towards civilians. Among less developed countries especially, with conscript armies, the military has significantly raised the standard of education among considerable sections of the population without any clearly formulated educative programme. This is so because conscripts must necessarily receive some degree of training in verbal and technical skills in order to fill military posts

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<sup>26</sup> See for example, V. A , *The Military and the Management of Civil Crises in Nigeria* (Kaduna: NDA Press, 2003); A. M Ashafa and H. Jibrin (eds.), *The Nigerian Military in a Democracy Since 1999: A Professional Demonstration of Military Subordination to Civil Authority: Essays in Honour of Lt Gen TY Buratai*, (Kaduna: Pyla-Mak Services Ltd., 2017).

<sup>27</sup> John W. T. Gbor (ed), *Military History*

competently. Thus, when they are released from the army after their period of national service, not only have they had their general educational level raised, many of them have also become qualified to perform skilled or semi-skilled civilian jobs. Beyond this, the military has also made higher education available, impacting positively on the development of their countries.<sup>28</sup>

31. **Healthcare Delivery.** Military forces world-wide have often been used to deal with crisis situations such as floods and hurricanes which affect sections of the civilian population.<sup>29</sup> They are suited to such operations because they can provide manned transport and communications equipment at short notice, and because their training has equipped them to deal with similar situations in the military context. Away from these emergencies, there are also military hospitals they provide standard healthcare services to both military personnel and civilians. Doctors and other trained medical personnel are usually used to man clinics in areas that lack adequate medical attention. In certain countries, moreover, the military have gone beyond curative medicine to play an active part in preventive medicine. In several areas they have taken part in immunisation campaigns, and in some

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<sup>28</sup> In Nigeria for example, the establishment of primary, secondary and tertiary schools have me roundly applauded for education provisioning and the development of human capacity. Today there are universities and centers of advance established research established by the military across the country.

<sup>29</sup> C A Hofmann and L. Hudson, *Military Responses to natural disasters: Last Resort or Inevitable Trend?* <https://odihpn.org/>.

countries have gone even further along these lines. At the outbreak of the Corona virus pandemic for instance, in Nigeria, the military were deeply involved in campaigns against the virus and the manufacture and distribution of hand sanitizers to prevent the spread of the virus.

32. **Economic Development.** One may classify the military's contribution in the economic sphere into two broad categories, that is; participation in the development of a country's economic infra-structure, and involvement in developing specific economic activities such as agriculture.<sup>30</sup> Often the requirements of the military overlap with those concerned with the development of a country's infrastructure. Improved roads and communications raise a country's military effectiveness as well as improving its economic potential. Armed forces are well-equipped to contribute in the sphere of infrastructure development, as certain of their personnel are trained for military purposes in the fields of engineering and communications. A number of countries have become aware of the contribution the military can make in these fields, and projects that have been proposed for the military are now being planned and assessed taking into consideration not only their value for national defence but also the contribution they can make to the development of the infrastructure.

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<sup>30</sup> In all these, the military has brought its spartan

## **ISSUES AND CHALLENGES RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND SOCIETY IN AFRICA**

33. As stated in the preceding section, the military in Africa has evolved through the years. it has been defined and redefined by both internal and external dynamics. These, in many ways, have helped shaped the character of the military. There are quite a number of challenges facing the military in Africa, but for want of space and time, we shall identify, isolate and discuss some of these challenges as follows:

- a. **Lack of Implementation of a Comprehensive Defence Sector Reform:** In most African countries, there has been a challenge and lack of total commitment to the formulation and implementation of a desired comprehensive defence sector reform targeted at initiating public and expert dialogues to analyze and agree on the security and defence challenges, that would lead to initiation of a comprehensive defence sector program in Africa.
  
- b. **Funding Challenge:** Given the level of sophistication of conflicts in Africa, most African countries, with exception of a few like Nigeria, lack the wherewithal to fund their militaries to brace up to the security challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Terrorist organizations operating in Africa like the Boko Haram, Al

Shabaab, ISWAP, Al Qaida in the Magreb and a host of others have sponsors and financiers beyond their areas of operation. They have continued engagement with these terrorists thereby weakening the capacity of smaller countries over a long period of time. Without adequate funding of the military to acquire weapons, this challenge would linger for a long time to come in most African countries.

c. **Absence of Local Defence Industrial Complexes:**

Not many countries in Africa can boast of local production of basic military items to address the security challenges facing the continent. This has not only weakened the military, but to a large extent, threatened corporate existence of many states in Africa in the face of insurrections that dot many parts of the continent.

d. **External Influences:**

Although African countries shook off the shackles of colonialism starting from 1957 with Ghana through the 1960s which was referred to as the decade of independence, most African countries are yet to be free from external interference. For instance, since the late 1980s, external donors have continued to increasingly pressure African governments to reduce funding for the security sector-particularly for the armed forces. This has been expressed in the

insistence on the so-called “three Ds”: Democratize, Demobilize, and Downsize. An objective of this pressure has been to increase the resources available for other priorities sectors in the African national development agenda. Although this may be termed positive and sometimes very appropriate; such pressure is not always wise. African development depends to a large degree on an ability to attract capital (and prevent capital flight). This, in turn, requires security from crime, insurgent groups, and environmental threats. Ironically, to provide the security necessary to attract investment—and promote sustainable economic development-African countries may need to invest more, not less, in the security sector. A good example of an African country that has done that is South Africa where arising from the ever-existing crime threat, the country now spends more on its national police than on its military.

In the specific case of defense spending, lack of material resources almost inevitably means that African military establishments are under-funded for basic military requirements such as pay and allowances, personnel services (e.g., billeting and medical treatment), training, and acquisition of necessary materiel. A significant deficiency in military funding has obvious implications for military readiness and military capability in general.

e. **Challenge of Military Education:** In Africa, by comparison, the evolution and institutionalization of military education was and still remains a high variable, depending on the particular needs of each nation and the relative influence of foreign governments within those nations. In some countries such as Nigeria and Ghana, military colleges were formed soon after national independence as part of a political emphasis on military autonomy and Africanization, whilst other countries have only recently found the capacity within their military and governmental structures to support professional military schools. It is important to note that there are many factors that influence the various insecurities in the region and, to address them all, more than one solution is needed. However, military education remains one of the most important instruments for this, as it helps provide future leaders with the personal and professional abilities required to develop solutions to these insecurities. In order to reach a point at which this can occur, military education in Africa must overcome certain shared challenges that prevent them from implementing the policies necessary to create and build military education institutions and, therefore, to provide the training required for the full spectrum of military personnel.

**STRATEGIES AT ENHANCING THE  
CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MILITARY IN A  
DEMOCRACY**

34. For democracy to thrive in Africa and given the strategic role of the military in ensuring stability, the military and democracy ought to support each other in resolving, managing, and preventing conflict and every other impediment on citizens' rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. As a result, there should be deliberate attempts to ensure that military and democracy work in harmony.

35. The standard understanding of civil-military relations entails the balance of power between the civilian political authority and the military. Democratic civil-military relations demand that the military is subordinated to a democratically elected civilian government. Additionally, various constitutional and institutional procedures are put in place and civilian oversight becomes a key feature of the ensuing relationship. This may entail two approaches; objective or subjective civilian control of the military. Objective civilian control exists where the civilian and military institutions are clearly distinct from each other. In this case, the institutional boundaries that isolate the civilian and military spheres of activities and functions are clearly delineated. To this end, the civilian authority makes policies that the military

is supposed to implement, while on the other hand, the military's contribution to policy creation is restricted to security and defence matters through civilian and not military initiatives.

36. Since civil-military relations entails the balance of power between the civilian political authority and the military, it therefore means that democratic civil-military relations demand that the military is subordinated to a democratically elected civilian government. The following are strategies through which democratic civil-military relations can be sustained:

- a. The military has its unique institutional dynamics, responsibilities, and standard procedures and undoubtedly constrained in its interactions with parliament, civil society organizations, or other civilian entities. Likewise, most African civilian officials lack a deep understanding of security issues and institutions. As a result, productive engagement, cooperation, and mutual respect are elusive and frustration is common. In order to avoid this, deliberate steps should be taken to educate civilian regimes of the dynamics of operations of the military. For instance, not every security or operational detail can be discussed on national television or on the floor of the parliament. This has remained a source of worry and concern as most politicians, civil society organizations and the media do not understand this.

b. It is plausible to assert that the major challenge towards a harmonized system lies in developing both effective civil oversight mechanisms and affordable security institutions that are fully capable of providing security for the state and its citizens within a structure of democratic governance. To this end, effective civilian control of the military requires a professional military institution, which is strong enough to avoid being embroiled in the political process of the country. It is important to note that while Nigeria maintain a highly professional military institution, some other African countries lack it.

c. Democracy should be anchored in law and protected by strong legal structures and institutions. A basic understanding of the civil-military relations emphasizes on the need for constitutional, legal and institutional structures of governance, which have the capacity to effectively manage military institutions in a democratic system. The importance of these institutions is emphasized by the fact that, democratic systems are typified by distinct institutions to provide checks and balances, with a view of deterring autocratic rule and excessive power by any arm of governance. Most of the institutions that can effectively offer the checks and balances need to be entrenched in the constitutional

dispensations in the systems they operate. To this end, equally important is the necessity to effectively counterbalance the executive's power to determine and govern the national security of a country in isolation. In this case, parliamentary oversight becomes a necessary check against monopolization of the national security and defence policies, together with the extended roles of the military.

d. The military's strategic role in any democracy is the protection of its frontiers and internal security. The military therefore has a strategic role in the security sector of any country. This role includes protecting the democratic space.

e. Regional organizations offer great impetus in building and safe guarding the democracy of a country. This is evident from the role Nigeria has played in stabilizing countries in Africa and beyond. Take for instance, Nigeria's role in Liberia and Sierra Leone through ECOMOG. Also, it is evident from the case of Burundi that the increasing role of the AU and other regional economic communities also play vital roles in improving democracy by playing an external oversight role of internal military institutions of member states. Based on the impact of military interventions carried this

far, the effectiveness and success of these organizations is largely based on their capability to act, fund, as well as efficiently cooperate and coordinate their efforts in different contexts. Practically, the capabilities of the intervening organization and the specific context of the conflict play a fundamental role in the success of the military intervention in both the short term and in the long term.

### **LESSONS LEARNT**

37. There are countries that have made deliberate attempts at developing smooth civil-military relations. This section will attempt at examining a few of these examples to draw lessons that would be beneficial to African societies.

38. There is an extensive civil-military relationship in Europe also characterised by a widespread of a somewhat democratic control of the armed forces in the regions of Europe. The antecedents of this action are the democratic management of defence, efficiency, openness, professionalism and interoperability which tends to develop trust and openness. Furthermore, establishing democratic civil-military relations in Central and Eastern Europe involves three inter-related issues: ensuring the disengagement and non-involvement of the military in domestic politics; securing democratic, civilian control of

defence policy; and limiting the military's role in foreign policy. An example of this democratic control could be seen in the British parliament, as it has the accountability of foreign, defence and security policies. Not only are they accountable, they also scrutinise these policies such as the defence policy and also the activities of the British armed forces.

39. From a constitutional perspective, the UK has both a unique and quite an effective system of parliamentary accountability, with military chief's subordinate to ministers and the government in turn accountable to Parliament. Aside the parliamentary, nonparliamentary interest and pressure groups also play a significant part in this relationship by ensuring that the government pays the proper attention to public scrutiny and accountability at its security and defence policies.

40. In Germany, the civil society also play an integral part in the military; there are three key players in the German defence planning process, the legislature (Bundestag), the Government and the Ministry of Defence. These bodies are somewhat interrelated and are widely influenced by the German society. More so, they are all involved in military planning in Germany.

41. The Bundestag is the sovereign body that determines the fundamental features of policy and passes laws. In practice, it does so through the existence of a number of parliamentary committees. Most significant of these are the Budgetary

Committee, and the Defence Committee. The Cabinet is the second key player. It discusses bills before they are submitted to the Bundestag and coordinates the fundamental features of long-term policy as well as the politics of the day. Finally, the Ministry of Defence is responsible for the implementation of military policy and the defence budget, task undertaken by a civilian defence administration.

42. The German system is characterised by political control and cooperation. This approach ensures that defence planning corresponds to political premises and does not develop into a self-contained, independent process. Additionally, through their engagement with defence planning, German parliamentarians have a deep insight into current projects, and are thus sufficiently qualified to use the powers or legislative oversight available to them.

43. In the context of some emerging democratic European countries like Romania, the level of civil-military relations such as democratic control of the defence policy is somewhat of a challenging task. The emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe do not possess the necessary civilian expertise to replace the dominance of the armed forces in the defence planning process.

44. However, this does not mean it cannot be supplemented; as seen in the case of Romania where it is being supplemented by the defence policy implemented on four levels. First, internally, by subjecting defence policy to the approval of the collective civilian leadership of the MoD. Second, externally, by incorporating entirely civilian Foreign Ministry expertise. Third, by subjecting defence policy to the approval of the Supreme Defence Council. Ultimate control is exercised by the Parliament, which has to approve core defence legislation (such as the National Security Strategy, Defence White Book, Military Strategy), as well as intermediary policy (the programs for force creation, modernisation and training), and, through the control over budgeting and implementation.

## **CONCLUSION**

45. The above analysis on the military and society in Africa has made tremendous efforts in highlighting the strategic role of the military in not just the formation of African societies like elsewhere, but also in the growth and development of the continent. The paper has highlighted the role of the military in selected areas like nation-building, conflict management, education and training, healthcare delivery and economic development. An attempt was also made to examine and analyse the strategies that could be used in enhancing the contributions of the military in a democracy setting and provide

recommendations that if implemented would go a long way in addressing issues of civil-military relations in African societies. The paper concludes that the military has remain strategic in the growth and development of societies in African and argue that definite steps should be taken by the military to help in the consolidation of African democracies. This is because the democratic landscape in Africa is still at a fragile state and needs to be defended at all times.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

46. It is based on the foregoing that the following recommendations are made:

- a. Given the fragility of democracy, structures must be put in place to defend and guard it because failure to strengthen the practice of democracy will result into future conflicts and underdevelopment. There must be efforts to ensure that adequate attention is given on the process of nurturing the countries democracy in Africa.
  
- b. The civil populace must be educated on the need to give priority to reconciliation and cohesion to ensure that issues are tackled through dialogue and diplomacy. This will ensure that the role of military in handling conflicts is reduced because of its consequences on the society in

Africa. Citizens of African countries must learn to coexist in a deliberate manner to drastically reduce conflicts. This will result in better democratic ideals in societies.

- c. Politics of self-expression ought to be encouraged in African societies as an antidote to tension in political affairs. Politicians of diverse ideology should be allowed to participate in national discourse without threats and intimidation. This will result in the full recovery and growth of the political space.
- d. The freedom of the media as an imperative pillar of the democratic space must be consolidated in as the way forward. The media should be allowed to play its role in nurturing the democratic space.
- e. Economic recovery measures should be launched and taken seriously as an antidote to poverty and despondency. This will be crucial in averting resource-based conflicts that have continued to harm most African societies social and political fabric.

**S IBRAHIM**

Brig Gen  
DG NYSC

Abuja  
Mar 21

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
NYSC, BRIG GENS IBRAHIM  
ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN, AT THE OPENING  
CEREMONY OF THE 2021 NYSC MANAGEMENT'S  
MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE  
GOVERNMENTS HELD ON WEDNESDAY,  
7TH APRIL, 2021 AT IBETO HOTEL, APO, ABUJA**



## **PROTOCOL**

**I** am highly delighted to welcome you all to the 2021 meeting of Management of the National Youth Service Corps with representatives of State Governments and Federal Capital Territory Administration. Let me begin by recognizing the esteemed presence of our Special Guest of Honour and Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Mallam Muhammad Musa Bello and the Special Guest, the Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare, at this opening ceremony. Honourable Ministers, I thank you most sincerely for sparing time to be with us at this event in spite of your very busy schedules.

2. I also recognize the Chairman of the NYSC National Governing Board, Ambassador Fatima Balla Abubakar, who has been relentless in supporting the Management for the success of the Scheme. In the same vein, I warmly welcome and thank 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) for your prompt response to our invitation. To other personalities,

including Heads of Federal Parastatals, Corps Employers, other distinguished guests, members of the press and Corps Members, I say a big thank you for gracing this opening ceremony.

3. Honourable Ministers, other distinguished guests, this meeting is a follow-up to a similar one, which took place in Abuja from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019. It is aimed at further strengthening our relationship with State Governments, the FCT Administration and Local Governments whose roles remain critical to the smooth operations of the Scheme. This forum will review decisions made at the previous meeting, provide feedbacks on implementation by all participants and further strategize on the way forward.

4. I am pleased to report that since the last meeting, a number of States have shown greater commitment to their statutory obligations to NYSC. We have witnessed increased interventions in areas such as the upgrade of facilities in Orientation Camps, establishment of NYSC State Governing Boards and Local Government Committees as well as payment of State Allowances to Corps members amongst others. Therefore, I use this opportunity to express gratitude to the affected States for their support with the hope that they will maintain the tempo. On the other hand, there are States and Local Governments whose performances leave much to be desired. 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 are still being faced in such States. I appeal to those in this category to show more commitment to providing the enabling environment for smooth conduct of our operations.

5. One of the major issues this meeting will focus on is reinvigoration of the NYSC grassroots development activities. Those familiar with our operations will attest to the fact that successive batches of Corps members have always worked with host communities to address their needs through execution of projects that have now dotted the entire landscape of the country. The intervention of NYSC in community development is deliberately designed to be participatory in nature, with the Corps members identifying felt needs, proffering solutions and mobilizing the community to provide resources for execution of planned projects. The essence of community participation is to instill in the people the culture of self-help as well as the development of sense of ownership of social amenities provided for them. However, the level of support for development activities of the Scheme, especially with regards to the Community Development Service activities and initiatives of Corps Members, is dwindling, hence the need to reawaken the consciousness of stakeholders on the need to give them the deserved support. This informed the choice of the theme of the meeting, ***"Strengthening Stakeholders' Support for NYSC Grassroots Development Initiatives for Greater Impact."***

6. At this juncture, I wish to once again express our profound gratitude to the Federal Government for its unrelenting support for NYSC, especially through the prompt provision of resources for the smooth operations of the Scheme. I also appreciate the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, the Federal Capital Territory Administration and the NYSC National Governing Board for always championing the cause of the Scheme.

7. Honourable Ministers, Chairman of the NYSC National Governing Board, other distinguished guests and participants, I am immensely grateful to you for your presence and contributions to the success of this event.

8. Thank you and God bless.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM  
ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN, AT THE 2021 MEETING  
OF THE NYSC MANAGEMENT WITH  
REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE GOVERNMENTS  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH APRIL, 2021 AT  
IBETO HOTEL, APO, ABUJA



## PROTOCOL

Distinguished participants, you are welcome to the Business Session of this important meeting. First, I wish to once again appreciate your attendance despite your tight schedules. Let me also thank the various State Governments, the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) and Local Government Councils for the support being enjoyed.

2. As you are already aware, the importance of stakeholders' roles in the success of the Scheme cannot be overemphasized. Like I outlined during the last meeting, the **NYSC Act Cap N84 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004** assigned specific roles to each of the three tiers of Government. While the Federal and some State Governments have been above board in the discharge of their statutory responsibilities, the present Management has remained consistent in reaching out to all stakeholders in order to encourage the provision and sustenance of the desired level of support for the Scheme. This position informed the theme of the meeting which is "**Strengthening Stakeholders' Support for NYSC Grassroots Development Initiatives for**

**Greater Impact.**” We have made it a point of duty to acknowledge every act of support either during visits to the Governors or at least through written communication.

3. You will recall that in our last meeting, we enumerated all the key needs that are central to the success of the Scheme, and which are within the responsibilities assigned to States, FCTA and Local Governments in the enabling Act. Among them are the provision of facilities like Orientation Camp, Corps Transit Lodge, Corps Lodges, and Office Accommodation. It will also be recalled that we made resolutions, including affirmation of the commitment of all States to the discharge of their overall responsibilities, and making urgent response to some critical needs. This forum will offer opportunity for assessment of the level of implementation of the resolutions.

4. At this juncture, I wish to highlight some of the key issues that we will focus on in the course of our discussion:

**a) Appointment of State Governing Boards**

The issue of establishment of NYSC State Governing Boards was discussed at the last meeting during which it was observed that many States did not have the Board in place. Part of the resolutions made at the forum was to address this anomaly considering the fact that the functions of the Board as spelt out in **Section 6 Sub-Section 2 of the NYSC Act** are germane to the success of the Scheme. The feedback on the implementation of our resolutions shows that some States have constituted the Board while few others are reasonably believed to be in the process of establishing same. However, there are still many States that have not commenced any process of putting the Governing Boards in place. This is a setback for our collective efforts at enhancing the success of

the Scheme. In this regard, I wish to renew our appeal for the State Governments to not only constitute the NYSC State Governing Boards, but also empower them to function effectively.

**b) Formation of Local Government Committees**

Participants would recall that we used the opportunity of the last meeting to fully sensitize you on the provisions of **Section 8 Sub-Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the NYSC Act**, regarding the establishment, composition and functions of the NYSC Local Government Committee in each of the Local Government Areas of a State. Following observation that the Committees did not exist at the Local Government level in many States of the Federation, it was agreed that any Local Government Council that did not have the Committee in place would establish one. Despite this resolution, the information gathered from our State Secretariats shows that many Local Government Councils are showing no signs of their intention to have such Committees in place. Therefore, I wish to once again appeal to the State Governments to use their influence and spirit of inter-governmental cooperation to help in persuading the Local Government Councils to form the Committees. This is very necessary in view of the fact that most of the Corps members deployed to States carry out their Primary Assignment and Community Development Service activities at the grassroots with the Local Government authorities expected to assist in creating the enabling environment.

**c) Development of Orientation Camps**

The need for the provision of conducive environment for the Orientation Course cannot be overemphasized, especially given the fact that the Orientation Camp is a Corps

member's first point of contact with both NYSC and the State of Deployment. I am happy to note that there has been significant progress in the rate of interventions by State Governments as up to twenty-four States have carried out maintenance and upgrade of Camp facilities. It is our ardent hope that this level of commitment will be sustained. May I also call on States whose Orientation Camps are still in degraded conditions to rise to the occasion and help in putting the facilities in proper shape. Let me also remind all States of our request for expansion of the carrying capacity of each Orientation Camp to at least five thousand in view of the rapid growth of the Corps population. We acknowledge the moves being made in this regard by some States, including Lagos, which has commenced work on a 14,000-capacity Camp.

#### **d) Accommodation for Corps members**

The provision of decent accommodation with some basic facilities remains essential for the welfare of Corps members. The level of performance of State and Local Governments as well as other employers in this regard is quite encouraging as reports indicate that provision of accommodation or rent subsidy is made for Corps members in many States. However, the situation in some States is still worrisome as many Corps members are left with neither accommodation nor rent subsidy, thereby resulting in hardship. It is hoped that all employers in the public and private sectors will give deserving attention to this aspect of Corps welfare so as to further motivate our young patriots to give their best in the course of the service.

**e) Payment of State Allowance to Corps members**

The level of commitment of some State Governments, Local Government Councils and other employers to the payment of monthly allowance to Corps members is commendable. However, given the prevailing economic situation, I wish to appeal to all to take a cue from the Federal Government by making fair and realistic reviews of the amounts paid. Furthermore, I call on States and Local Governments that still owe Corps members to settle arrears of unpaid allowances and henceforth ensure regularity in payment.

**f) Security of Corps members**

As we all know, security is essential for the smooth conduct of NYSC operations and a sine qua-non for meaningful development in any society, therefore, all stakeholders must continue to work together to ensure the safety of Corps members and Staff of the Scheme in all service locations. I wish to use this occasion to once again thank all the Security Agencies for giving priority to the protection of Corps members during routine programmes of the Scheme and in the course of special assignments such as the conduct of elections. May I also reiterate our appeal to State and Local Governments as well as other stakeholders such as traditional rulers, religious and community leaders to step up their support in this regard.

**g) Support for grassroots development initiatives of the Scheme**

Like I said in my welcome address, the activities of Corps members geared towards uplifting the living standard of the people, especially in the rural areas, not only promote the

visibility of the NYSC, but also endear it to all and sundry. The activities, conducted on the platform of the Community Development Service (CDS), which is one of the Cardinal Programmes of the Scheme, are designed to be participatory in nature. The Corps members identify felt needs of the host community, use their skills to proffer solutions, and work with the community members to execute planned projects. It must be emphasized again that Corps members are not expected to spend their own money on project execution, but sensitize members of the community for mobilization of resources. This approach is significant in the sense that it motivates the people towards self-help efforts which result in less dependence on the Government for their needs. It also develops in them a sense of ownership of infrastructure and other social amenities provided; hence the culture of protection and maintenance of facilities is entrenched. There is no gainsaying the fact that support for CDS will compliment and fast-track Government's efforts at rural transformation. It is, however, demoralizing to note that the level of support for the Community Development activities of the Scheme is continuously declining thereby raising concerns among stakeholders. Therefore, it is hoped that this meeting will evolve strategies for addressing the issue squarely for the benefits of our respective communities and the entire country. To maximize the potentials of the Corps members in this regard, States and Local Governments are expected to plan and budget for Corps Members' Community Development Service (CDS) groups before their arrival. Based on the projects identified, simple implements such as Diggers, Shovels, Rakes, Brooms, Head Pans and other relevant essential materials are to be provided.

5. Furthermore, the State Governments, as part of measures to address the dwindling resources available to them can set up Youth Trust Funds into which industries, business concerns, philanthropists, etc will contribute and the funds can be used to finance general and specific youth matters. This is will be especially helpful in providing Corps Lodges, improvement of Orientation Camps and regular payment of Local Allowance in view of the prominent roles Corps Members play in the implementation of government policies particularly in the areas of education, health and other critical sectors.

6. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, analyses of the general performance of States and Local Governments in handling the foregoing and other issues will be presented in this course of this programme. Once again, I thank States that are doing well in the discharge of their obligations and, in the same breath, appeal to those that are lagging behind to accord the deserved attention to all NYSC matters that are within their assigned responsibilities. This no doubt will result in appropriate utilization of Corps manpower for rural transformation programmes and other development initiatives of government particularly at States and Local Government Councils levels.

7. Finally, I urge all participants to contribute actively as we put heads together to chart a way forward for the Scheme.

8. Thank you and God bless.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM  
ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN, AT THE TOP  
MANAGEMENT RETREAT HELD ON THURSDAY,  
15TH APRIL, 2021 AT ZUMA ROCK GOLF RESORT,  
SULEJA, NIGER STATE



## PROTOCOL

**I**t is my pleasure to address you on this occasion of the NYSC Top Management retreat, an event taking place in furtherance of our commitment to the achievement of the NYSC mandate. The choice of this venue is to provide a serene atmosphere away from our normal work environment to enable us make deeper reflection on our journey together as a Management team. Suffice it to state that since my assumption of duty as Director-General, I have always emphasized both in words and practice, my interest in an all-inclusive administration. This determination to promote team spirit informs our decision to convene the meeting of the Top Management on weekly basis, which of recent has been affected by the challenges of COVID-19, the conduct of Orientation Courses and other exigencies.

2. Ladies and gentlemen, you will recall that on assumption of duty on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, I unveiled my policy thrust anchored on the following cardinal points:

- 1. 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.**

Ordinarily, I should enumerate our achievements in these focal areas when addressing a large audience, especially one that includes stakeholders from outside the Scheme. But for the purpose of this meeting, there will be no need for that as we have assiduously worked together for the achievement of our vision for the Scheme as encapsulated in the policy thrust. It is my firm belief that frank, thorough and objective assessment of issues will go a long way in determining our success level in realizing the objectives of the Scheme as well as enable a shared understanding of strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and the way forward. Indeed our efforts in this direction informed the choice of the Lecture Topic: "**Evolving Strategies for Sustaining the Relevance of the NYSC in the Face of Emerging Challenges**".

3. At this juncture, I will present some of the issues we will discuss in this forum:

- a) **Welfare and Security of Corps Members:** Since my assumption of duty, we have made the welfare of Corps members a top priority of the Management, with many steps

already taken in this regard. However, the challenges of Corps welfare are endless, hence the need for this meeting to map out more strategies that will enable us achieve the desired results.

- b) **Staff Welfare:** Management recognizes the importance of robust Staff welfare provisions as catalysts for engendering loyalty, commitment and enhanced productivity. While we have made some modest strides in this regard, I expect us to use this unique forum to work out further measures for sustained improvement.
- c) **Industrial Relations:** As you are all aware, industrial harmony is a critical factor in organizational stability and success. For this reason, Management has remained committed to promoting cordial relationship with the Staff Unions in the Scheme. On my assumption of duty, I met with the leadership of the unions during which I shared with them, my vision for the Scheme. The meeting also offered me the opportunity to receive useful suggestions from the unions. Thereafter, several meetings were held with the unions, whose outcomes were considered beneficial to the Scheme. I expect this meeting to come up with far-reaching resolutions that will further cement our relationship with the unions.
- d) **Need for Strengthening of Inter-Departmental Synergy:** At every available forum, I have always emphasized the need for team work among all Staff as unity of purpose is

essential for the progress of the Scheme. There is no better way of engendering the desired unity than having the Management team exemplifying same as we have always done. Accordingly, forum like this should be used to explore ways of further strengthening synergy among all Departments and Units in order to achieve more coordinated and speedy actualization of our vision.

- e) **COVID-19 Experience and the Future of NYSC Operations:** You will recall that at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the operations of the NYSC were slowed down as was the case with the other socio-economic activities in the country. Happily, the Scheme earned applause for our contributions towards containing the pandemic through the activities of Corps members. At the same time, we convinced the relevant authorities and got approval for the safe resumption of our Orientation Courses. Given the global experience with the COVID-19, it will be realistic to expect similar or other challenges that will hinder the conduct of socio-economic activities in the near or distant future. Therefore, it is pertinent that we begin, from this moment, to put on our thinking caps with a view to evolving strategies to keep the Scheme and its operations intact notwithstanding the prevailing circumstances.
- f) **Revenue Generation:** There is no gainsaying the fact that financing of projects and programmes is exerting pressure on the lean

resources of government. The situation has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the attendant negative effect on the global economy. Therefore, we need to design both short and long term plans for putting in place improved internal revenue generation mechanism to ensure that the Scheme also contributes to the national coffers. I, therefore, urge us to brainstorm and come up with ideas on how this can be realistically achieved.

- g) **Five-Year Development Plan for the Scheme:** Driven by our determination to ensure that the Scheme stays in tune with its core mandate and the need to flow with the current trend in global best practices, Management set up a committee to chart a developmental pathway for the Scheme in the next five years. The development plan is meant to be visionary with assessment of the Scheme's goals and objectives in the next five years. Upon submission of the Committee's report, the PRS Department was mandated to peruse and reduce it to standard planning template in line with global best practices.
4. As the concept note is presented in this retreat, I charge all participants to peruse it and make inputs that will enable us come out with a working document that will form a roadmap for the Scheme's desired future state.
5. Thank you all and God Bless.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,  
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE STORE OFFICERS'  
WORKSHOP HELD ON THURSDAY, 29TH APRIL,  
2021 AT NYSC NDHQ, MAITAMA,  
ABUJA



## PROTOCOL

I am delighted to address you on this occasion of the Store Officers' Workshop organized by the NYSC National Directorate Headquarters. This programme is taking place in furtherance of Management's commitment to empowering officers with the right knowledge and skills for better performance of their duties. In particular, it will provide opportunity for diligent appraisal and fine-tuning of our Store Management process.

2. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, this training is another modest stride in our efforts at repositioning the National Youth Service Corps Scheme and scaling up the standard of our operations in line with global best practices. As you are already aware, one of the cardinal points of my policy thrust is to **pursue a technologically driven organization to deepen effective service delivery**. To this end, Management will continue to ensure optimization of ICT application for enhancement of efficiency of our operations, including Store Management. Suffice it to note that the imperative of ICT usage in our day-to-day business has been made clearer by the current

global challenges, including those occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. With ICT solutions now rapidly adopted in store inventory management globally, NYSC cannot afford to be left behind; hence the theme of this workshop, "**promoting best practices in Store Management through the deployment of ICT**" is very apt. Therefore, I enjoin our Store Officers to take full advantage of this workshop and be prepared for the impending migration from the present analogue to digital system. This will be especially beneficial as we are set to fully decentralize the Central Store at the National Directorate Headquarters and make the Zonal Stores more functional under our Area Offices. I encourage you to remain focused on effective and efficient management of our supplies while also justifying the confidence repose in you by exhibiting high level of integrity in the performance of your duties. On our part, Management will continue to provide the enabling environment for you to perform optimally.

4. At this point, I wish to thank the Resource Persons for honouring our invitation to share your knowledge and ideas for the benefit of the Scheme. Given your level of expertise, I have no doubt that the participants will emerge from this workshop more informed and better equipped to effectively discharge their duties. In fact, I look forward to seeing new and more effective strategies that will help build on our current achievements.

5. It is now my pleasure to declare the Store Officers' Workshop open. I wish you a successful engagement and journey mercies back to your stations at the end of the programme.

6. Thank you and God bless.

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,  
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN,  
AT THE 2020 GENDER DESK OFFICERS' WORKSHOP  
HELD ON FRIDAY, 30TH APRIL, 2021 AT THE  
NYSC PERMANENT ORIENTATION CAMP, KUBWA,  
FCT**



## **PROTOCOL**

**I**t is my pleasure to address you on this occasion of the 2020 Gender Desk Officers' Workshop organised by the National Youth Service Corps in furtherance of our commitment to mainstreaming gender in our operations. Let me begin by welcoming the Resource Persons from the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and the Centre for Gender Studies. We thank you most sincerely for accepting our invitation to attend this programme and share your wealth of experience. I am also delighted to welcome all participants, and thank the Almighty God for bringing you safely from your various stations.

2. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the NYSC Management remains committed to promoting Gender Equality in our relations with various stakeholders. Accordingly, our officers are always on hand to cater speedily for gender-specific needs, especially as they concern pregnant women, nursing mothers, the critically ill and the physically challenged, who visit our offices or are participants in the Orientation Course and other activities of the Scheme. The NYSCis also in collaboration

with Government Ministries and Agencies, prominent among which is the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, and Civil Society Organizations, who provide resource materials on Gender Mainstreaming among other forms of support.

3. I am pleased to also report that NYSC has been sensitizing members of the general public on Gender Equality through the activities of the Corps Gender Vanguards. This contributes immensely to the efforts to curb gender-based violence and discrimination amongst other ills. Our commitment was further illustrated through the full participation of NYSC with a hundred (100) Corps Members in a programme organized to commemorate the 63<sup>rd</sup> International Women's Day (IWD) in Abuja in 2019.

4. At this juncture, I wish to remind you that Gender Equality is not only a human right issue, but also a key feature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) **Goal Five**, which requires the support of all and sundry, including policy makers. This is why NYSC accords priority to capacity building for its Gender Desk Officers. I implore participants in this workshop to maximize every opportunity for broadening your horizon as this will stand you in good stead for effective mentoring of Corps Members as well as sensitization of Corps Employers and members of Corps Members' host communities on gender issues. On our part, Management will continue to give you all the necessary support for the successful performance of your duties.

5. Before I conclude, I would like to extend my deep appreciation to the Resource Persons and other stakeholders for the support given to the Scheme, especially in the area of capacity building on gender management.

6. It is now my pleasure to declare the Gender Desk Officers' Workshop open. I wish you a successful engagement and journey mercies back to your stations at the end of the programme.
7. Thank you and God bless.

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN,  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2021  
BATCH 'A' PRE-ORIENTATION COURSE WORKSHOP  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 4TH MAY, 2021 AT ELIZABETH  
CENTRE, GLOBAL VILLAGE SUITES, ONE-MAN-VILLAGE,  
KARU, NASSARAWA STATE**



## **PROTOCOL**

**I**t is with immense delight that I welcome you all to this Opening Ceremony of the 2021 Batch 'A' Pre-Orientation Course Workshop holding here in Karu, Nasarawa State. First and foremost, I thank the Almighty God for His grace and guidance, which have brought us this far and for granting participants journey mercies. I wish to specially welcome His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule and members of his entourage. Your Excellency, we are most grateful for your presence at this ceremony, which is yet another testimony of your love for the Scheme. All other distinguished guests, including our Royal Fathers, are also welcomed to this ceremony.

2. Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the purpose of convening this workshop is for the NYSC Top Management, our collaborating partners and other critical stakeholders to review the previous Orientation courses with a view to improving our performance in subsequent exercises. As you may be aware, the Scheme has conducted Orientation

Courses amidst the challenges of COVID-19, through strict adherence to all the safety protocols. We worked closely with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and State Ministries of Health in this regard. As the welfare and safety of Corps members and Staff is part of the policy thrust of my administration, we shall continue to work closely with relevant stakeholders and evolve strategies for the protection of all members of the Camp community during the Orientation Course.

3. It is worthy of mention that all the Orientation Camps have been put in conditions that will allow seamless conduct of the exercise in line with the approved COVID-19 prevention guidelines. However, we would use the opportunity of this Workshop to, amongst other things, harness our experiences and explore the prospect of increased camp capacity without losing sight of the need to adhere strictly to the safety protocols as we must learn to operate optimally under the “New Normal.” The theme of the Workshop which is **“Managing Corps Population in the Orientation Camp in the Context of the New Normal”** therefore becomes apt.

4. I wish to use this medium to once again extend our gratitude to the Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19 (PSC), the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and State Ministries of Health for their support and guidance, which contributed immensely to the successful execution of the previous Orientation exercises. I equally extend our profound gratitude to the Victim Support Fund under Lt Gen TY Danjuma (Rtd) for its assistance to the Scheme, including the latest donation of sixty thousand COVID-19 Test Kits.

5. Let me equally use this occasion to express our deepest appreciation to the Government and good people of Nasarawa State for the sustained support being given to the Scheme. I sincerely appreciate His Excellency the Executive Governor, in particular, for granting approval for the renovation of Magaji Dan Yamusa Permanent Orientation Camp, Keffi, and the augmentation of feeding of Corps members and Camp officials during Orientation Course among others. Only last week, the Andoma of Doma Kingdom, Dr. Ahmadu Aliyu Onawo, allocated a 16-hectare farmland to the NYSC. This will go a long way in enhancing the success of the Scheme's agricultural programme, and further encourage Corps members to embrace farming for self-development. We are indeed grateful to His Royal Highness for the gesture.

6. I also thank other Traditional Rulers and the Security Agencies for always ensuring the safety of Corps members in the state. Similarly, our appreciation goes to our partners in the conduct of Orientation for their continuous support and cooperation. I equally thank the members of the press for always making the activities of NYSC visible to the general public.

7. Thank you and God bless.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
NYSC, BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN,  
AT THE 2021 BATCH 'A' PRE-ORIENTATION COURSE  
WORKSHOP HELD ON TUESDAY, 4TH MAY, 2021  
AT ELIZABETH CENTRE, GLOBAL VILLAGE HOTEL  
& SUITES, ONE-MAN-VILLAGE, KARU, NASARAWA  
STATE



### Protocol

**I**t is my pleasure to welcome all participants to the business session of the 2021 Batch 'A' Pre-Orientation Course Workshop. I salute you all for your numerous contributions, which assisted greatly in the successful execution of the previous Orientation Courses. This session is crucial to the success of the programme as it will address all issues that pose challenges to the achievement of a seamless Orientation Course. Indeed, it will afford us the opportunity to cross fertilize ideas so that we can replicate and even build on our previous successes during the forthcoming 2021 Batch 'A' (Stream II) Orientation Course.

2. You will recall that during the 2020 Batch 'B' Pre-Orientation Course Workshop held in Jos, Plateau State, we discussed issues affecting the conduct of Orientation Course, especially within the context of COVID-19. I am pleased to state

that our affirmed commitment, especially as demonstrated through conscientious implementation of the Workshop resolutions, contributed significantly to the huge successes recorded in the Orientation Courses that followed. Moreover, our performance attracted accolades from various quarters, including the then Presidential Task Force (now Presidential Steering Committee) on COVID-19, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and sections of the public. In fact, NYSC has become a reference point on COVID-19 prevention for other agencies, including institutions of higher learning, whose activities involve gathering of large number of people.

3. The theme of this Workshop which is “***Managing Corps Population in the Orientation Camp in the Context of the New Normal***” was carefully chosen in order to fashion out strategies for hitch-free induction of larger population of Corps Members within the context of COVID-19. Therefore, we shall fine-tune our strategies to balance vigilance with the desire to expand Camp capacity for the success of the forthcoming exercise. To this end, we will take critical look at the following issues:

- Challenges associated with increased Corps population vis-à-vis compliance with COVID-19 Safety Protocols.
- Enforcing the COVID -19 Safety Protocols in an enlarged Camp.

- Effective Risk Communication Strategy as a Solace for Increased Camp Capacity.

Lectures that will enhance our capacity to handle larger number of Corps Members without losing sight of the need to sustain the compliance with safety protocols will be presented.

4. In spite of our recent successes, there are still recurring challenges that require immediate attention in order to ensure seamless conduct of the Orientation exercise. These challenges are:

**I. Condition of Orientation Camps:** A healthy environment is crucial to the success of the Orientation programme and the entire service year. It needs no further emphasis that the provision and maintenance of Camp facilities are the responsibilities of State Governments. Therefore, they should be encouraged to live up to expectations regarding the development of Camp facilities to enable the Scheme pursue its objectives without hindrance. However, given the reluctance of some State Governments to discharge this statutory responsibility, this workshop should brainstorm on other strategies for improving the condition our Orientation Camps.

- ii. Vandalization of Camp Facilities:** Recently, some Orientation Camps were vandalized and materials carted away, leading to further deterioration of their condition. To avoid future occurrence of this criminal act, State Coordinators are to ensure proper liaison with Security Agencies. You are to equally involve local vigilante groups to complement the security structure of the Camps.
- iii. Waste Management System:** There is the need to continue to give priority to proper waste management for the safety of the Camp environment. In this regard, all State Coordinators are enjoined to devise means of ensuring proper waste disposal, including the provision of incinerators at strategic locations in our Camps.
- iv. Sustaining the Tree-Planting drive at Orientation Camps as Part of Measures to Address Ecological Problems:** As you are all aware, Management is working assiduously with the Ecological Fund Office for intervention on erosion and other ecological challenges in the camps. This initiative has been yielding positive results as the Office has made interventions in some Orientation Camps through the construction of drainages and road networks. In order to ensure that the environment of the camps are friendly, State/FCT Coordinators are to sustain efforts at planting

trees in strategic places in the Orientation Camps. The trees will not only serve as wind breakers, but also prevent environmental degradation.

5. In order to consolidate on the successes recorded during the recently conducted Orientation Courses, all State Coordinators are to ensure the implementation of the following:

- i. Camps must be ready for the exercise 5 days to the commencement date of the orientation.
- ii. Prospective Corps Members must stick to their appointed dates of reporting to the Camps. Appointment slips will be generated by ICT Department.
- iii. Prospective Corps Members are to undergo COVID-19 test before registration.
- iv. Corps Members already trained for COVID-19 data gathering and sample collection should be engaged in supporting the process.
- v. Duration of registration is extended to accommodate a maximum of two hundred and fifty (250) Corps Members per day.
- vi. All Camps must be fumigated/decontaminated before Prospective Corps Members and officials move in.

- vii. All Camp officials must undergo COVID-19 test before commencement of the exercise.
- viii. There must be good reception for Prospective Corps Members.
- ix. Approved number of casual hands must be recruited to carry out the cleaning of toilets, and should always be on standby for the job.
- x. Casual hands, including gardeners and toilet cleaners, should be trained on proper ways of decontaminating surfaces in line with NCDC guidelines.
- xi. Arrangement of beds in hostels and clinics should allow for 2-metre spacing as provided for in the COVID-19 Safety Protocols.
- xii. Thermometers must be properly calibrated before use.
- xiii. Thermometers must be properly utilized for temperature check at the point of Camp entry and before commencement of morning meditation.
- xiv. All Camp officials and Camp market operators must be fully resident on camp.
- xv. Movement into the camps must be restricted to essential personnel/persons.

- xvi. All Camps must maintain visitors' register with names, addresses and phone numbers of all visitors as well as particulars of the persons being visited.
- xvii. The number of lectures to be conducted physically should be minimized, and the option of virtual delivery adopted.
- xviii. The use of face mask remains mandatory for all Members of the Camp community and visitors.
- xix. Sensitization of Corps Members and camp Officials on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures should be sustained.
- xx. There should be restriction of entry points into the Orientation camps.
- xxi. COVID-19 Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Committee must be constituted within the first three days of the commencement of the exercise.
- xxii. Corps Members' activities such as registration, issuance of kits, serving of meals and payment of allowance should be done in many service points to avoid large gathering.
- xxiii. Regular hand washing and use of alcohol based sanitizer should be enforced on all course participants.

- xxiv. Physical distancing must be observed during all Camp activities.
- xxv. The Orientation timetable must be strictly adhered to.
- xxvi. Camp clinics must be set up 24 hours before the commencement of the Orientation Course with adequate drugs.
- xxvii. Drugs which are nearing expiration should not be purchased or accepted as donation to the clinics.
- xxviii. On no account should any sick Corps Member be kept in the clinic for more than 12 hours if there is no sign of improvement.
- xxix. Corps Members with complicated sicknesses should be relocated immediately or referred to tertiary healthcare facilities for better management.
- xxx. Hostel Governors (Corps Members) should be appointed on the first day of the exercise.
- xxxi. Hostel Supervisors (NYSC Staff) must closely monitor the activities of Corps Members in the hostels.
- xxxii. A register of all Corps Members must be maintained in each hostel, and should contain their names, State Codes and phone numbers.

xxxiii. On no account should Corps Members be allowed to change hostels allocated to them officially.

6. The issue of security of Camp Officials, Prospective Corps Members as well as Corps Members is of paramount importance to the Scheme. To complement the efforts of Management in this regard, State/FCT Coordinators are to liaise with all Heads of Security Agencies in the States/Federal Capital Territory on the security of Prospective Corps Members while travelling to the various camps, that of the camp community during the Orientation Course and when course participants are travelling to various destinations within and outside the States after the conclusion of the exercise. While the Scheme has commenced liaison with the leadership of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) at their headquarters in this regard, State/FCT Coordinators are to also adequately brief the State branches of these organizations on the assistance required by the Scheme to ensure that prospective and registered Corps Members travel to and from the Camps safely. Also, State/FCT Coordinators are to use the media to reach out to parents and guardians of Prospective Corps Members so that they can advise them against night journeys as most accidents occur at night.

7. I enjoin you to note all the issues raised for the success of the Orientation Course. As we go on with the agenda of this workshop, it is my hope that all participants will make useful contributions to enable us achieve the desired outcomes.

8. Thank you for listening and God bless.



**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC,  
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN,  
AT THE FORMAL LAUNCH OF THE 2021 COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (CDS) ACTIVITIES AND  
PRESENTATION OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S CDS  
AWARDS HELD ON THURSDAY, 6TH MAY, 2021 AT  
BOLTON WHITE APARTMENTS, WUSE ZONE 7, ABUJA**



## **PROTOCOL**

**I**t is my pleasure to welcome you all on this occasion of the formal launch of the 2021 NYSC Community Development Service (CDS) activities and presentation of Awards for outstanding performance in CDS for various categories. Let me begin by expressing our deepest appreciation to the Honourable Ministers, Senior Special Assistants to the President and Heads of Agencies for according us the honour of gracing this occasion despite your tight schedules.

2. Honourable Ministers, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the Community Development Service is one of the four Cardinal Programmes of NYSC, and is a veritable platform for Corps members to add value to their host communities. Under the programme, Corps members identify the felt needs of the communities and work with the inhabitants to mobilize resources for execution of planned projects. It is noteworthy that CDS programmes are categorized into three: the Individual, Group and Collaborative. The activities carried out in all the categories are geared towards accelerating development, especially at the grassroots. Some of the areas of focus include mentorship of pupils/students in Science, Technology, Arts and

Information Technology through guidance, conduct of quiz and extra-mural lessons; health care delivery; agricultural development and poverty alleviation.

3. I am proud to say that through the CDS, our youths on National Service have made enormous impact on communities all over the country, with their legacies further endearing NYSC to all and sundry. Indeed, their efforts have not only helped to bridge the imbalance in rural-urban development, but also reawakened stakeholders' consciousness regarding the needs of the rural dwellers.

4. Another significance of this Cardinal Programme is the fact that it serves as a platform for creative thinking towards technological development, resourcefulness, productivity and appreciation of cross-cultural similarities and differences. It is also worth mentioning that engagement in CDS activities develops in the Corps members, patriotism, good interpersonal relationship, leadership skills, team spirit, endurance, selflessness, love and charitable spirit amongst other virtues.

5. In spite of the aforementioned achievements, the usual fervour associated with CDS activities have continued to dwindle in recent years. Factors responsible for this include poor incentives for Corps members, who execute projects, lack of support from community leaders, inadequate financial and material resources, and technical challenges. In recent times, the COVID-19 pandemic also impeded the conduct of CDS activities. Our determination to address these challenges gave rise to the decision to re-organize and initiate annual launch of the activities. We are confident that this step will go a long way in improving, sustaining and making the programme more goal-oriented. Our efforts to re-invigorate the CDS are meant to bring the conduct of its activities in tandem with global best practices.

The results will not only be seen in the impact on the benefiting communities, but also the motivation of the younger generation. Today's event also provides us with a unique opportunity to rekindle the consciousness of all stakeholders on reviving community support for improved CDS activities.

6. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I have the pleasure to present to you the following that we will be formally unveiling today and other existing programmes that will be launched as part of 2021 Community Development Service (CDS) activities:

- a. NYSC Films**
- b. NYSC National Cultural Troupe**
- c. Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD)**
- d. NYSC Sports and Cultural Festival**
- e. NYSC HIV/AIDS Programme**
- f. Traditional (Group) CDS**
- g. Year Round (Personal) CDS**
- h. Collaborative CDS.**

Director-General's CDS Awards will also be presented to the following categories of winners:

- i. Best Individual CDS Projects – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, positions;**
- ii. Best CDS Groups – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, positions;**
- iii. Best CDS Schedule Officers – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, positions; and**
- iv. Best CDS Collaborators/Stakeholders.**

The idea of annual launch of CDS activities and the institution of Awards will not only give additional impetus to this cardinal programme, but also spur both the Corps members and the CDS field officers to greater performance.

7. At this juncture, I wish to thank our partners in CDS, including Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies for their support so far. However, there is need to intensify material, financial and technical support to actualize completion of projects, such as civil works and fabrications, initiated by these patriotic and energetic youths within reasonable part of the Service Year.

8. I also wish to use this medium to commend the efforts of the Community Development Service and Special Projects Department as well as the Schedule Officers and the entire Staff in all NYSC formations nationwide for your unwavering commitment to enhancing the success of CDS activities. I enjoin you to continue to liaise effectively with all critical stakeholders with a view to ensuring adequate mobilization of resources by community members for the programme. In the same vein, I commend successive batches of Corps Members who have been our foot soldiers in the implementation of the CDS programmes as today's event is in recognition and celebration of your efforts. Indeed, the Scheme will continue to build on your developmental legacies which dot the nooks and crannies of our country. I am confident that the philosophy of Community Development Service you have imbibed during the service year will be put into practice in the various leadership positions you may find yourselves.

9. While I heartily congratulate all the Award winners, it is my hope that this initiative will translate into greater results in the

implementation of the Community Development Service. We look forward to commissioning of new projects soon.

10. Once again, I thank the Honourable Ministers and other distinguished guests for gracing this occasion and for your continued support for the Scheme.

11. Thank you for listening and God bless.

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NYSC  
BRIG GEN S IBRAHIM ASSOC. PROF. DSS MTRCN,  
AT THE BRIEFING OF TOURING AND RESIDENT  
OFFICERS FOR THE 2021 BATCH 'A' STREAM II  
ORIENTATION COURSE HELD IN THE NYSC NDHQ  
CONFERENCE HALL ON MONDAY,  
10TH MAY, 2021**



**I**welcome you all to the 2021 Batch 'A' Stream II Orientation Course briefing of Touring, Resident and Assistant Resident Officers and Support Staff. I commend you all for your commitment and contributions which resulted in the success of the previous Orientation programmes. I am confident that you will discharge your duties during the upcoming exercise with greater zeal and dedication.

2. As you are all aware, this briefing session is necessary as it is meant to update officers with Management's policy direction and guidelines for a seamless conduct of the forthcoming Orientation Course.

3. The Scheme has concluded all necessary preparations for the conduct of the 2021 Batch 'A' Stream II Orientation Course in all the 36 states and the FCT from Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2021. Therefore, Touring and Resident Officers are expected to assist the State Coordinators in ensuring a hitch-free exercise.

4. It is noteworthy that the Presidential Steering Committee (PSC) on COVID-19 and the Nigeria Centre for

Disease Control (NCDC) have approved an increase in Corps Population in all Camps. You must, therefore, ensure that adequate measures are taken to enforce COVID-19 safety protocols in the enlarged Camps.

5. Although you are well acquainted with your responsibilities during the Orientation Course, it will not be out of place to reiterate to you Management's expectations of the following roles you are expected to play in the course of the exercise:

- **Deputy Directors are to carry out monitoring of Policy Implementation and Adherence to COVID-19 Safety Measures in the Orientation Camps.**
- **Assistant Directors will monitor the Orientation exercise, inspect Camp facilities, monitor Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) Programme and Relocation of Corps members.**
- **Chief and Assistant Chief Inspectors are to serve as Resident Officers, while others will be Assistant Resident Officers and Support Staff.**

It is the expectation of Management that you will carry out these responsibilities with due diligence, zeal and vigour.

6. Management has continually reviewed the Orientation Course time table to reflect policies that will improve the conduct of the exercise. Therefore, all hands must be on deck to ensure full implementation of these programmes for the overall success of

the Scheme. You are to equally ensure that all COVID-19 safety protocols are strictly adhered to.

7. Similarly, special attention must be paid to the security of the camps. All suspicious movements should be reported to the State Coordinators and the Security Agencies immediately. As usual, Resident Officers are expected to present progress reports to the Director-General during his tour of the Orientation Camps.

8. In order to have a seamless conduct of the 2021 Batch 'A' Stream II Orientation Course, all Touring and Residents Officers are to pay special attention to the following:

- i. There must be good reception for Prospective Corps Members.
- ii. Prospective Corps Members must stick to their appointed dates of reporting to the Camps. Appointment slips will be generated by the ICT Department.
- iii. Prospective Corps Members are to undergo COVID-19 test before registration.
- iv. Corps Members already trained for COVID-19 data gathering and sample collection should be engaged in supporting the process.
- v. All Camps must be fumigated/decontaminated before commencement of orientation course
- vi. All Camp officials must undergo COVID-19 test before commencement of the exercise.

- vii. Approved number of casual hands must be recruited to carry out the cleaning of toilets, and should always be on standby for the job.
- viii. Casual hands, including gardeners and toilet cleaners, should be trained on proper ways of decontaminating surfaces in line with NCDC guidelines.
- ix. Arrangement of beds in hostels and clinics should allow for 2-metre spacing as provided for in the COVID-19 Safety Protocols.
- x. Thermometers must be properly calibrated before use.
- xi. Thermometers must be properly utilized for temperature check at the point of Camp entry and before commencement of morning meditation.
- xii. All Camp officials and Camp market operators must be fully resident on camp.
- xiii. Movement into the camps must be restricted to essential personnel/persons.
- xiv. All Camps must maintain visitors' register with names, addresses and phone numbers of all visitors as well as particulars of the persons being visited.

- xv. The number of lectures to be conducted physically should be minimized and the option of virtual delivery adopted.
- xvi. The use of face masks remains mandatory for all members of the Camp community and visitors.
- xvii. Sensitization of Corps Members and Camp Officials on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures should be sustained.
- xviii. COVID-19 Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Committee must be constituted within the first three days of the commencement of the exercise.
- xix. Corps Members' activities such as registration, issuance of kits, serving of meals and payment of allowances should be done in many service points to avoid large gathering.
- xx. Regular hand washing and use of alcohol based sanitizers should be enforced on all course participants.
- xxi. Physical distancing must be observed during all Camp activities.
- xxii. The Orientation timetable must be strictly adhered to.
- xxiii. Camp clinics must be set up 24 hours before commencement of the Orientation Course with adequate drugs.

- xxiv. Drugs which are nearing expiration should not be purchased or accepted as donation to the clinics.
  - xxv. On no account should any sick Corps Member be kept in the clinic for more than 12 hours if there is no sign of improvement.
  - xxvi. Corps Members with complicated sicknesses should be relocated immediately or referred to tertiary healthcare facilities for better management.
  - xxvii. Hostel Governors (Corps Members) should be appointed on the first day of the exercise.
  - xxviii. Hostel Supervisors (NYSC Staff) must closely monitor the activities of Corps Members in the hostels.
  - xxix. A register of all Corps Members must be maintained in each hostel and should contain their names, State Codes and phone numbers.
  - xxx. On no account should Corps Members be allowed to change hostels allocated to them officially.
9. You are, therefore, enjoined to monitor implementation of the above guidelines and advise the State Coordinators accordingly. You should be objective in your observation and suggestions to the State Coordinators and other Camp Officials. Your report should also be comprehensive and reflect the true

happenings in the Camps for improvement during subsequent exercises.

10. I also wish to reiterate that the security of Corps Members and Camp Officials is of paramount importance to Management. Resident Officers are, therefore, expected to give daily report on the security situation in the Camps. The PRS Department will release modalities for this.

11. As mentioned during the Pre-Orientation Course Workshop, I will address Corps Members and Officials in the Camps simultaneously, using the virtual platform. You are, therefore, to ensure that all guidelines to be released in this regard are strictly adhered to.

12. As I clock two years in office today, I wish to note that all achievements and successes recorded are as a result of the cooperation and commitment of all members of Staff. I, therefore, appreciate you all for your support. I urge you not to rest on your oars, but remain committed and dedicated to your duties so that we can, as usual, have a successful 2021 Batch 'A' Stream II Orientation programme.

13. I wish all of us journey mercies and a successful Orientation Course.

14. Thank you and God bless.

## DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S TWO YEARS IN OFFICE: THE STRIDES SO FAR



**O**n 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. Two years 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, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Jigawa, Katsina, Kogi, Lagos, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, Rivers, Taraba, and Zamfara States; the Governor of the Central Bank; and 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, FCT and Local Governments as spelt out in the NYSC Act. The impact of the meeting, held in 2019 and 2021, 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 new NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Okada, by the Edo State Government;
3. 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;
4. 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;
5. Construction of 250-capacity hostel at the NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Ikot Itie Udung, by the Akwa Ibom State Government;
6. 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;

7. Construction of 700-capacity Corps members' hostels, Camp Clinic, Staff Quarters and provision of industrial borehole at the NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Issele-Uku, by the Delta State Government;
  8. Construction of 2500-capacity multi-purpose hall and general facelift of the NYSC Orientation Camp, Paiko, by the Niger State Government;
  9. Construction of asphalted internal roads at the Magaji Dan Yamusa NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Keffi, by the Nasarawa State Government;
  10. Commencement of work on the construction of a 14,000-capacity new NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp at Ayandelu, Agbowa – Ikorodu, by the Lagos State Government; and
  11. Constitution of functional NYSC State Governing Boards in seventeen States.
  12. Building and equipping of an ultra-modern Medical Centre at the NYSC Oyo State Permanent Orientation Camp, Iseyin, by the Federal Government through the University College Hospital, Ibadan.
- 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. Another major interaction with the same group was hosted in November 2020. 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. The Director of Press and Public Relations also led similar visits to Lagos Head Offices of The Punch, Daily Sun, and the Nation Newspapers, amongst others, on the directives of the Director-General. 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. The former Chief Executives appreciated the gesture as it was the first ever visit paid to them within the same period by an incumbent 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. MEETING WITH FOREIGN CORPS PRODUCING INSTITUTIONS**

Having uncovered the fraudulent activities of some tertiary institutions in Africa, especially issuance of 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 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 (GEF);
- Intensive monitoring of GEF beneficiaries;
- New collaboration with NIRSA Microfinance Bank on empowerment of Corps entrepreneurs;
- Development of partnership with Unity Bank Plc on a programme named 'Corpreneurship Challenge Initiative', under which Corps members that emerge winners of a business plan development competition benefit from financial grants to actualize their business dreams. The programme, which started with Corps members in FCT, Edo, Lagos and Ogun States, has now been expanded to Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Enugu, Kano, Osun and Sokoto States.

- 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 NYSC SAED Stakeholders' meetings in 2020 and 2021 during which the programme implementation strategies were reviewed. The meetings served as avenues for strengthening 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, now at advanced stage;
- Commencement of work on the North Central Skill Acquisition Centre in Keffi, Nasarawa State;
- Research-based collaboration with the National Centre for Technology Management with Headquarters at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (OAU-NACETEM) sponsored by a Canadian Agency, International Development Research Centre on evaluation of the impact of SAED and reinvigorating it for greater impact.
- Commencement of partnership with Access Bank Plc on the “**Lion's Den**” business plan development competition amongst Corps members.

- Conduct of the pilot phase of the “**Transforming Nigeria Youth Initiative**” business plan development competition among Corps members by the Enterprise Development Centre, Pan-Atlantic University.
- Launch of partnership with Leventis Foundation Nigeria on Youth Empowerment in Sustainable Agriculture.

#### v. **REINVIGORATION OF THE NYSC VENTURES**

In pursuit of one of the Director-General's Agenda, Management is reinvigorating the various NYSC Ventures with the following feats achieved so far:

- 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.
- The Scheme is revamping the NYSC Garment Factories located in Minna, Niger State and Mgbaku, Anambra State.
- The operations of the NYSC Farm Settlements across the country are being enhanced, especially with supply of equipment and other necessary inputs to the farms located in the FCT as well as Bauchi, Kebbi and Oyo States.
- As a result of sustained advocacy by the Director-General, the Scheme has been given back the NYSC farmland at

Ezillo, which was hitherto taken by the Ebonyi State Government.

- Procurement of tractor for farming operations at the NYSC farm Ezillo, Ebonyi State.
- Initiation of partnerships with the National Agricultural Land Development Agency (NALDA), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute (ARMTI), the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM) and the National Cereals Research Institute (NCRI) on the training of Corps members and Staff as well as deployment of modern farming techniques and equipment.
- Resuscitation of the moribund NYSC Feed Mill, Lagos, which is now ready to start production of animal feeds.
- Construction of new poultry pen at NYSC Farm, Kwali, FCT.
- Graduation of sixty-eight Corps members among the first batch of Soil Doctors and Extension Service Workers trained by the National Agricultural Land Development Authority in collaboration with Borno State Government as part of the thousands planned for the entire country.

**vi. REGISTRATION OF NYSC VENTURES WITH THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

In a bid to give impetus to the revenue generation drive of the present Management through unhindered operation of the NYSC Ventures, a number of them were registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission. They are the NYSC Garment Factory, Mgbakwu, Anambra State; NYSC Garment Factory, Minna, Niger State; NYSC Rice Mill, Ezillo, Ebonyi State; NYSC Bakery and Water Factory, Kubwa, Abuja; NYSC Feed Mill, Ipaja, Lagos State as well as the NYSC Entertainment Company Limited, which comprises the NYSC National Band, NYSC National Cultural Troupe and the NYSC Movie (NYSCwood).

**vii. 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 inscribe date of birth on the Certificate of National Service beginning with the 2019 Batch 'A' Corps members. The inscription of the date of birth on Exclusion Letters also commenced from the 2019 Batch 'C' Service Year.

**viii. 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. 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 been supplied and Nuraddeen trained on their usage. With this development, he can now effectively perform normal tasks as done with natural limbs.
- c. The Director-General 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.

## **ix. 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. Similar feat was achieved with the elevation of officers across all levels and cadres in the 2021 promotion exercise. 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.

#### **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. Following Government's endorsement of measures put in place by the Scheme for safe resumption of Orientation Courses, the 2020 Batch 'B' Streams 1A , 1B, and 2 as well as the 2021 Batch 'A' Stream 1 were all conducted successfully. Also, the 2020 Batch 'A' Stream 1 Corps members, whose Orientation Course was suspended in March 2020 as a result of the pandemic, were recalled to Camp to complete their training by spreading them in convenient numbers to join the three streams of the 2020 Batch 'B' Orientation Course.

#### **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. The Area Offices are now headed by substantive Directors and are fully functional, especially with effective supervision of State Secretariats in all operations of the Scheme.

### **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. However, in bid to ensure compliance with the COVID-19 prevention protocols, Management again suspended the parade with the hope of resuming same when the situation improves.

### **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 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. RESUSCITATION OF WEEKLY NYSC TELEVISION AND RADIO PROGRAMMES**

In a bid to sustain the wide publicity being enjoyed by the Scheme, the present Management has resuscitated the weekly magazine programme, NYSC Half Hour, on NTA International Channel 251 and the Armed Forces Radio, Abuja. The programme showcases the Scheme's activities to Nigerians and the rest of the world.

**xv. PRODUCTION OF NYSC MOVIE**

As part of his innovative strides, the Director-General initiated the NYSC Movie (NYSCWood) as yet another platform for harnessing the potentials of Corps members. The first main movie titled 'A Call to Service' is currently undergoing post-production work. Apart from its entertainment function, it will also serve 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. NYSC has also made a novel contribution to voter education through the production of a short film 'The Return.' The film, whose cast comprises mainly serving Corps members, sensitizes Nigerians on the need to shun violence during elections.

**xvi. 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.

## **xvii. 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 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.

## **xviii. SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF THE 2018 AND 2019 PRESIDENT'S NYSC HONOURS AWARD CEREMONY**

In line with the Scheme's programme of activities, the combined 2018 and 2019 President's NYSC Honours Award Ceremony was successfully conducted on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 with His

Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari GCFR presiding through the virtual platform. Former Head of State General Yakubu Gowon, high ranking public officials and other invitees also joined the programme virtually. A total of one hundred and ten Ex-Corps members were conferred with the Award.

#### **xix. 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 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 publication that will provide clear and elaborate highlights of the contribution of NYSC to national unity and development from inception to date. Accordingly, eight books have been written detailing activities of the Scheme in the areas of education, health, community development, elections, national census and national integration amongst others. The Publications will help researchers and other stakeholders to gain clearer insights into the programmes and accomplishments of the Scheme.

#### **xx. APPOINTMENT OF NYSC TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES**

In apparent recognition of the contributions of NYSC to National Development, the Federal Government appointed the Scheme to the Technical Working Group on the Mambilla Hydro-Electric Power Project and the Presidential Steering Committee on Alternate School Programme.

**xxi. EXECUTION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ECOLOGICAL PROJECTS IN SOME NYSC ORIENTATION CAMPS**

Concerned about the growing threats of erosion in some Orientation Camps across the country, the Director-General sought the help of the Federal Government in tackling the problem. Happily, the Government granted the request through the deployment of the Ecological Fund to tackle the menace, and eight camps have been approved as beneficiaries in the first phase of the intervention. Already, work is in progress in Cross River, FCT, Nasarawa and Taraba Orientation Camps.

**xxii. DEVELOPMENT OF FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR NYSC**

Out of his determination to ensure that the Scheme stays in tune with its core mandate and the need to flow with the current trend in global best practices, the Director-General set up a committee to chart a developmental pathway for the Scheme in the next five years. The development plan is visionary with assessment of the Scheme's goals and objectives. The PRS Department was also mandated to reduce the committee's report to standard planning template.

**xxiii. SECURING OF ICT CENTRE FOR NYSC RIVERS STATE SECRETARIAT FROM NITDA**

As a result of the Director-General's interface with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), the Agency provided a well-equipped Computer Centre for the NYSC Rivers State Secretariat. This has helped to escalate the Scheme's ICT drive for efficiency while deepening the proficiency of Staff and Corps members in information technology.

**xxiv. 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.”

**xxv. INITIATION OF FAREWELL PARADE FOR OUT-GOING DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

As part of the innovations brought into NYSC operations, Brigadier General S Ibrahim initiated the idea of farewell parade for out-going Chief Executives of the Scheme. The parade to be conducted by Corps members in Abuja will be a mark of honour for an out-going Director-General and, at the same time, serve as another avenue for increasing the visibility of the Scheme.

**xxvi. INITIATION OF ANNUAL LAUNCH OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (CDS) ACTIVITIES AND INSTITUTION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S CDS AWARDS**

The idea of annual launch of Community Development Service (CDS) activities and institution of the Director-General's CDS Awards is intended to reinvigorate this Cardinal Programme of the Scheme, and spur both the Corps members and the CDS field

officers to greater performance. The maiden Awards Ceremony and launch of the CDS activities took place on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 in Abuja with several high-ranking public officials and key partners of the Scheme among dignitaries in attendance.

#### **xxvii. INTRODUCTION OF DEADLINE FOR REPORTING FOR NATIONAL SERVICE**

Management has introduced deadline within which Prospective Corps Members must report for National Service upon receipt of the Call-Up Letter.

#### **xxviii. ESTABLISHMENT OF NYSC MUSEUM**

The Director-General initiated the establishment of the NYSC Museum for effective preservation of the Scheme's records, artifacts and legacies, including Corps members' inventions and fabrications. Work on the museum, which is domiciled in the Directorate Headquarters, is progressing steadily.

#### **xxix. INTRODUCTION OF NATIONWIDE LIVE BROADCAST TO CORPS MEMBERS**

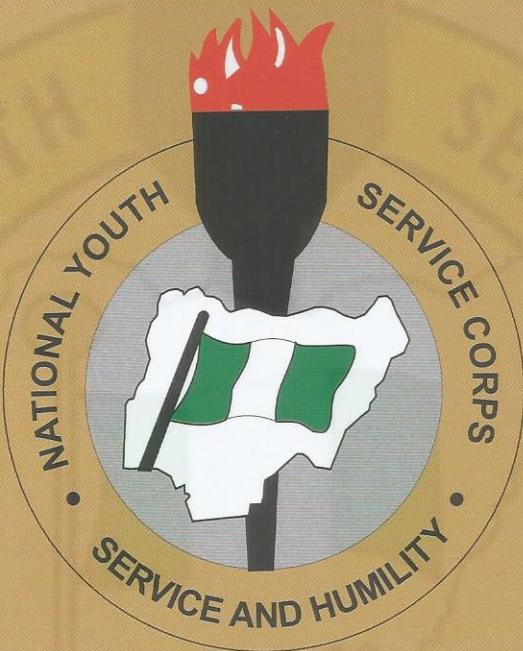
Drawing from the experience of the Scheme with video conferencing as one of the steps taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Director-General conducted the first ever nationwide address to Corps members in all the 37 Orientation Camps via video conference. He has sustained this initiative by periodically holding virtual meeting with both Corps members and NYSC State Coordinators. Management has also equipped the Area Offices with appropriate ICT hardware to enable them have seamless participation in virtual meetings.

### **xxx. 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;
- 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; and
- d. ***The Military and Society in Africa*** presented to the Course 29 of the National Defence College, Abuja.

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