



POLIO UPDATE

JULY 2011

HAPPY NEW ROTARY YEAR

On behalf of the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee (NNPPC), I wish all Rotarians worldwide a Happy New Rotary Year 2011-2012... a year we are all called to "Reach within to Embrace Humanity".

I congratulate and welcome on board our Rotary leaders on their assumption of offices on July 1, 2011 and in particular welcome our District Governors

Kennedy Ejakpomewhe - District 9110

Lawrence Okwor - District 9125

Yinka Babalola - District 9140

It is our belief, hope and trust that with their exemplary devotion to the cause of Rotary and experience in Rotary matters, they will not only lead our districts to help realize Rotary's goal of global polio eradication but more, specifically, will support and participate in all programmes aiming to end polio transmission in Nigeria this Rotary year.

In the same vein, I also wish to welcome our PolioPlus Team – the NNPPC members, Zonal Representatives (ZR), Districts PolioPlus Chairmen (DPPC) and States PolioPlus Representatives (SPPR).

These are:

NAME	TITLE
Sagab Ahmed	Vice Chair NNPPC
Tolu Omatsola	Secretary
Sam Olayiwola	Treasurer
PDG Somo Omoniyi	Public Relations Adviser
Lanre Shoyinka	D9110 PolioPlus Chair
Abdullahi Ibrahim	D9125 PP Chair & ZR
Chika Ekwueme	D9140 Polio Chair
Yakubu Ndanusa	Zonal Representative
Kingsley Orukpe	Zonal Representative
Isaiah Bajah	Zonal Representative
Abubakar Aburime	Zonal Representative
Alex Awurum	Zonal Representative

Special Representative: Mike Omotosho

COMING EVENTS

28th – 31st July 2011 -

SIPDs in 11 States (Bauchi, Borno, Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, Jigawa, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe, Zamfara)

7th & 8th September, 2011:

22nd Expert Review Committee (ERC) Meeting in Abuja – Transcorp Hilton.

INDEPENDENT MONITORING

BOARD (IMB) REPORT

The Independent Monitoring Board for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative met from June 30 – 1 July, 2011 and in their

report as concerns our country Nigeria, two of the important things that need to be done locally and globally include:

- Interruption of transmission in Kano and the surrounding north-west areas of Nigeria by end 2011
- Interruption of type 3 poliovirus globally by end 2011

The Board stated that the GPEI is not on track to interrupt polio transmission by the end of 2012. However, the board believes polio transmission is still possible,, in the near-term, if there is enhanced political commitment, secure funding, strengthened technical capacity, and if the other issues identified in their report are swiftly tackled.

ON NIGERIA -

The board recognized that there was a loss of momentum as a result of the country's elections which has caused their optimism to wane a little since their April 2011 report.

It however commended the leadership of the programme in Nigeria for clearly remaining determined. According to the report ...“there are positive signs. The country's government is showing greater commitment to eradicating polio. This has been visibly demonstrated through the recent allocation of federal funds to the endeavour. The emergency action plan presented to us is strong.”...

The report also on Kano stated ...
“Kano is a major worry. It has low routine immunization coverage, persistence of all three types of circulating polio virus, and is the geographical link between the north-east and the north-west. Kano remains a smouldering risk that could yet undermine the whole eradication effort.”

Call to Rotary:

The board recommends that Rotary International pilots the use of a short team-based checklist by vaccination teams at the start and finish of each vaccination day. The items on the checklist should reflect the accepted best practices that are taught to teams. The day's work should not start or finish until the team has talked through the checklist, and committed to each of its items.

CONGRATULATIONS.....

PROF. C.O. ONYEBUCHI is back...

Our congratulations go to **Prof. C. O. Onyebuchi Chukwu**, a Rotarian, on his return to office as the Honourable Minister of Health of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

..... And Dr Muhammad Ali Pate is Minister of State for Health....

We also congratulate our dear friend, **Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate**, the erstwhile Executive Director/CEO, NPHCDA, on his appointment to the elevated position of the Minister of State for Health.

Acting Executive Director/CEO for NPHCDA announced....

We welcome the announcement of **Dr. Emmanuel Adebayo Abanida** as the Acting Executive Director/CEO of NPHCDA. He takes over from Dr Pate.

We wish them all successful term of office and pray that their tenure brings an end to polio in Nigeria.

DR PATE LEADS HIGH LEVEL ADVOCACY TEAM (HiLAT) TO KANO

The new Minister of State for Health, **Dr Muhammad Pate** led the HiLAT team on its first official advocacy visit to Kano state on Thursday 21st July, 2011.

It was also the first official visit of the Minister to the state.

In the team were representatives of WHO, UNICEF, USAID, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation amongst others. NNPPC Chairman **Busuyi Onabolu** and the Vice- Chairman **Sagab Ahmed** were also in the team.

The Team first met with Heads of Interim Management of VHR LGAs (Bichi; Dawakin-Tofa; Gezawa; Kumbotso and Tofa); and through the Minister impressed on them that we know the problem is localized and requires local solutions... we are here to understand your perspectives and advocate to you that together we must intensify and finish this polio fight. If we fail in Kano the entire world would have failed...

In their response, the chairmen raised the issues of the absence of basic social infrastructures at local and community levels as major challenges for them and the state but promised to do all to support the programme. They called for the establishment of more health facilities nearer the people.

The team thereafter met with the State Governor His Excellency **Dr. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso** where the Minister complimented the Governor on his good track records in the polio eradication effort and called the visit not an advocacy call but to rub minds with the converted to find solutions to the polio outbreaks in some of the state's LGAs. He said more than 80% of all polio cases in the state this year were all unimmunized children. He then, amongst other prayers, called on the governor to ensure that the State and Local Governments Task Forces created for the purpose of ensuring all

families bring out their children for immunization.

In his response Governor of Kano State, H.E Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso expressed his willingness to give all necessary political commitment to the eradication of polio and promised to support all the affected LGAs to stop transmission as quickly as possible. He however expressed concerns on the funding of the initiative.

The team later visited Kumbotso ward where the last polio victim resides.

EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORT AS AT 22ND JULY, 2011

- As at July 22, 2011 Nigeria has 23 cases of wild poliovirus in 6 States compared to 6 cases in 4 States for the same period in 2010.
- Total number of circulating vaccine derived poliovirus (cVDPV2) is 12 in 6 States compared to 10 cases in 6 States for the same period in 2010.

The fourfold increase in number of wild poliovirus cases over the same period last year - 23 cases to 6 - is a reversal of the gains we made and which the whole world acknowledged.

It is time we woke up from our slumber, take the bull by the horn and get back on track to ending polio now.

In the words of our national anthem,

'Arise O Compatriots...'

Let's do it!



**'BUSUYI ONABOLU
CHAIRMAN**

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