

IN THIS ISSUE

NHRC PRONOUNCES NAP AS A TRANSFORMATIVE POLICY DOCUMENT, HOLDS INTER-AGENCY CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP **Page 1-2**

REUTERS ALLEGATIONS: FG TO ESTABLISH IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ON NORTH EAST REPORT **Page 1-3**

NHRC CELEBRATES WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATES IN NIGERIA **Page 2**

UNREGULATED AI THREATENS HUMAN RIGHTS OJUKWU WARNS **Page 3**

NHRC, THELEMA LION FOUNDATION EMPOWER VULNERABLE WOMEN **Page 4**

NHRC PRONOUNCES NAP AS A TRANSFORMATIVE POLICY DOCUMENT, HOLDS INTER-AGENCY CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP

The Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Dr. Tony Ojukwu OFR, SAN has identified the National Action Plan (NAP) for the promotion and protection of human rights



L- R Chairman of Police Service Commission (PSC) DIG Hashimu Argungu, Deputy Chairman House Committee on Human Rights Hon. Mudashiru Lukeman, ES NHRC Dr. Tony Ojukwu, OFR, SAN

as a transformative policy document that deserve support of all stakeholders.

The NHRC Chief Executive Officer who stated this at Inter-Agency Consultative Workshop on the Implementation of the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Nigeria, noted that the NAP stands out as a comprehensive policy document that could be used to deepen human rights protection in Nigeria.

According to him, the development of the NAP involved extensive

consultations with MDAs and the civil society organizations, led by the Commission. Its focus is to address gaps, promote, protect and enforce human rights in compliance with national and global human rights standards.

Ojukwu seized the opportunity to appreciate the Federal Government of Nigeria on behalf of the NHRC for the

adoption of the NAP and for enabling the Commission to serve as the secretariat.

Speaking further, he said "We are grateful to the Foreign, Development and Commonwealth of the United Kingdom and the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) for their support in hosting the inter-Agency consultative workshop. "And

Continued on Page 2 →

REUTERS ALLEGATIONS: FG TO ESTABLISH IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ON NORTH EAST REPORT

The Federal Government has assured Nigerians and the international community of its readiness to establish an implementation committee to review the report of the Special Independent Investigative Panel on Human Rights Violations in Counter-Insurgency Operations in the North East (SIIP NORTH-EAST).

The government further stated that



L- R Solicitor General of the Federation and Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Justice, Mrs Beatrice Jeddy Agba mni, Hon. AGF & Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef Fagbemi (SAN), ES NHRC Dr. Tony Ojukwu OFR, SAN, Chairman of the Defunct (SIIP North-East), Justice Abdul Aboki San

the committee will also be saddled with the responsibility of developing

appropriate recommendations for execution to ensure the promotion,

protection and enforcement of human

Continued on Page 3 →

NHRC CELEBRATES WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATES IN NIGERIA

As Nigeria marks the 2025 International Women's Day, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has honored several women activists for their tireless efforts in promoting women's rights and empowerment in Nigeria. The awardees include: Sa'adatu Mahdi, Secretary General of WRAPA Yeye Bunmi Dipo-Salami, Executive Director of BAOBAB Ene Ede, Gender Specialist Dr. Uju Agomoh, Founder/ Executive Director of PRAWA Prof. Joy Ezeilo, Professor of Law and Womens' Rights Activist Engr. Dr. Mrs. Janet Febisola Adeyemi, President of WIMIN.

These women have demonstrated exceptional dedication to advancing women's rights, challenging stereotypes, and promoting equality and inclusion in Nigeria.

The NHRC's recognition of their contributions serves as a testament to the impact of their work.

At the event, the Executive Secretary of the Commission Dr. Tony Ojukwu OFR



ES NHRC Dr. Tony Ojukwu, OFR, SAN flanked by awardees, stakeholders and staff of NHRC during the IWD celebration at the NHRC Headquarter

SAN, noted that despite efforts to promote laws and policies supporting women's rights, there remains a significant gap between policy and implementation.

He stressed that domestication of the Maputo Protocol has the potential to create a more equitable society where women can fulfill their aspirations and contribute to national development.

He also regretted that the 35% affirmative action for women's representation is gradually becoming a difficult task to

achieve.

In response, the awardees reaffirmed their commitment to continuing their advocacy work, challenging stereotypes, and promoting equality and inclusion in Nigeria. They acknowledged the importance of collaborative efforts in advancing women's rights and empowerment.

The award ceremony was part of the Commission's activities to commemorate International Women's Day. ●

► **Continued from Page 1**

NHRC PRONOUNCES NAP AS A TRANSFORMATIVE POLICY DOCUMENT, HOLDS INTER-AGENCY CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP

to all our partners, especially the Ministries, Departments and Agencies upon whose mandate the implementation of the National Action Plan has fallen unto". Dr. Ojukwu said.

The Human Rights Advocate recalled that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993) recommends that each member nation of the UN develop a National Action Plan to systematically advance human rights.

He stated that this workshop therefore seeks to introduce the NAP to a broad spectrum of implementing partners and agencies; clarify the roles and responsibilities of key actors in the implementation process; create inter-agency collaboration in ensuring the effective implementation; identify challenges and opportunities for advancing human rights through the NAP framework and to strengthen partnerships with critical stakeholders, including development partners.

Also, the Chairman of the House Committee on Human Rights, Hon. Abiola Peter Makinde appreciated the foreign partners supporting Nigeria's human rights development.

The Chairman who was represented at the occasion by his Deputy, Hon. Mudashiru Lukeman stated that "we must stand

against unfairness and call for collective improvement to ensure justice and respect for all".

Similarly, the Chairman of Police Service Commission (PSC), DIG Hashimu Argungu said that the PSC is a strong advocate of human rights in that it stands against all forms of human rights violations, particularly the parade of suspects.

He pointed out that parading suspects amounts to violation of the law and that stakeholders should work together to stop such practices in the interest of justice.

In the same vein, he picked holes with the practice of the Nigerian Judiciary issuing bail conditions where sureties must be Directors who owe properties in highbrow areas like Maitama, Abuja.

In his submission, the Executive Director, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), Dr. Clement Nwankwo commended the efforts of the National Assembly Committees on Human Rights in advancing human rights in the country.

He observed that while certain amendments are proposed, the Police still parade suspects while displaying the same arms, ammunitions and armlets reportedly seized from suspects. He declared that such act is unlawful since suspects are presumably innocent until proven guilty.

Referring to the removal of the Rivers State Governor, Sim Fubara by declaration of State of emergency in the State, he stated that removing elected leaders without recourse to the Constitution and rule of law remains illegal and unacceptable.

In his presentation of the NAP Document, the Senior Human Rights Adviser to the Executive Secretary of the NHRC, Mr. Hilary Ogbonna emphasized the need for effective legal reforms to enhance the enjoyment of human rights in Nigeria.

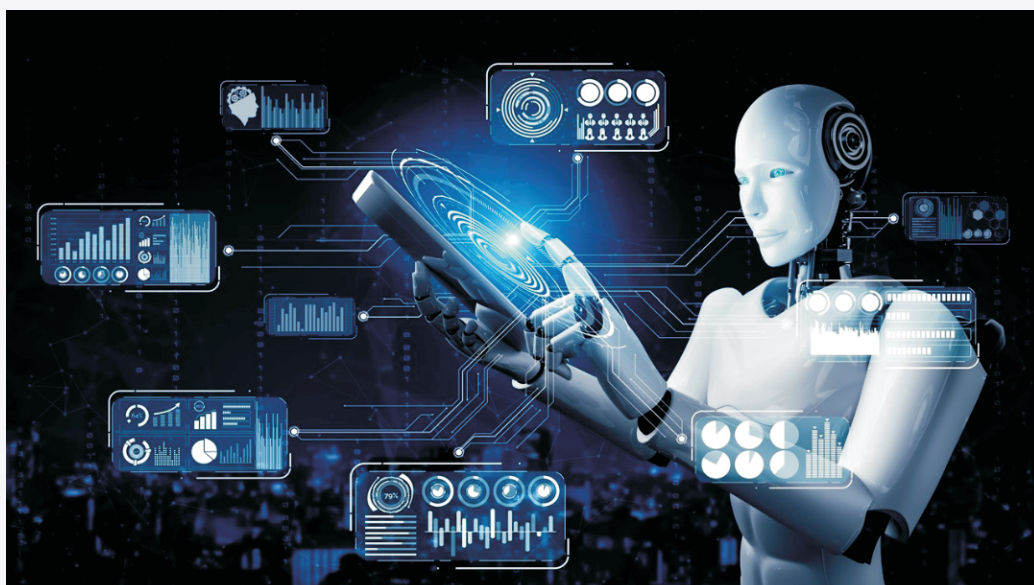
The Erudite lawyer noted that all rights are interrelated and therefore should be attended to in a holistic manner, saying that the right to life cannot be fully realized without the right to health care and food. He said the NAP highlights the enjoyment of more rights when compared to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended.

In her goodwill message, the British Deputy High Commissioner to Nigeria, Gill Lever lauded Nigeria's commitment to human rights saying that effective implementation of the NAP will strengthen democracy.

"We are ready to collaborate with Nigeria to implement the NAP. Human Rights should not be aspirational; leaders must be held accountable. Human rights remain the cornerstone of every progressive society", the British Envoy said. ●

UNREGULATED AI THREATENS HUMAN RIGHTS - OJUKWU WARNS

The Executive Secretary of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Dr. Tony Ojukwu OFR SAN has urged stakeholders to prioritize ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI) governance, warning that unregulated AI development can exacerbate inequalities, invade privacy, and infringe on human rights. The Executive Secretary who handed down this warning during a stakeholders' conference on Human Rights Dimensions of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Challenges and Opportunities in Africa, emphasized the need for robust ethical frameworks to safeguard fundamental freedoms and prevent potential abuses. He highlighted the risks associated with AI, including algorithmic bias, job displacement, and cybersecurity threats. The convener of the conference who is also the President of the International Network for Corporate Social Responsibility (IN-CSR),



Mr. Eustace Onuegbu emphasized the need to address the unique challenges of AI in developing nations, particularly as it relates to business and cultural dimensions, taking into consideration the respect for human rights.

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi, a member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human

Rights, stressed the need for a legally binding framework to ensure users have access to justice when their rights are violated or threatened.

Other stakeholders, including representatives from NITDA, NCC, Paradigm Initiative, and CITAD, acknowledged AI's transformative potential while emphasizing its risks. ●

► **Continued from Page 1**

REUTERS ALLEGATIONS: FG TO ESTABLISH IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ON NORTH EAST REPORT

rights in Nigeria in line with the provisions of the law.

The Honourable Attorney General of the Federation (HAGF) and Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN made this disclosure when the Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Dr. Tony Ojukwu, OFR, SAN, submitted the report of the Panel to the Minister in the company of the Chairman of the SIIP NORTH-EAST, Justice Abdu Aboki (rtd), Members of the Panel and Directors of the NHRC.

The Attorney General reaffirmed the federal government's commitment to maintaining the delicate balance between national security and human rights and enhancing "our legal and institutional frameworks to ensure that the rights of all citizens are protected while addressing security threats".

According to the Chief Law Officer of the Federation, "the Nigerian government remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding human rights, the rule of law, and the principles of justice, even as we confront the grave challenge of insurgency in the North East".

The legal luminary observed that Nigerian armed forces have fought valiantly and professionally to restore peace and security, and the government has continuously strengthened mechanisms to ensure that military operations are conducted with the highest regard for human rights and international

humanitarian law.

"Following allegations made by Reuters in 2022 regarding human rights violations during counter-insurgency operations including claims of forced abortions, extrajudicial killings, and sexual and gender-based violence, the Nigerian government took immediate steps to investigate these serious accusations", the Minister said.

Besides, he noted that it was in recognition of the importance of transparency, accountability, and adherence to Nigeria's obligations under international law that the government, through the National Human Rights Commission, constituted this Special Independent Investigative Panel to thoroughly examine the claims.

"This decisive action highlights our commitment to due process and the protection of human rights within our security framework", he added.

He further stated that the findings of the Panel chaired by the retired Supreme Court Justice will provide significant insights to further strengthen policies and operational frameworks, pointing out that the government is keenly aware of the evolving challenges in integrating human rights principles into security operations. Also, the Honourable Minister said that the report of the Panel would serve as an important tool in refining existing protocols, addressing any identified gaps,

and ensuring continued compliance with human rights standards and contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the nation's armed forces.

In his statement during the presentation of the report, the Executive Secretary of the NHRC, Dr. Tony Ojukwu OFR, SAN told the Honorable Minister that "the work of the Panel reflects a major contribution by the National Human Rights Commission in on-going efforts to ensure accountability to any form of human rights violations associated with conflict in insurgency".

"The panel's report, in particular its findings and recommendations offer both clarity and a call to action. They underscore the complexities and human costs of counter-insurgency operations in the North East" and the need for a blueprint for meaningful reform.

Similarly, in his speech at the occasion, the Chairman of the SIIP NORTH-EAST, Honourable Justice Abdu Aboki (rtd) stated that "despite the difficulties faced, including the non-appearance of Reuters, who reported the allegations and lack of cooperation from certain international organizations including the International Committee of the Red Cross and Medecins Sans Frontieres - who were key to our investigations in the North East - the Panel remained committed and carried out its mandate with the highest level of diligence, impartiality, and adherence to principles of justice and fairness". ●

NHRC, THELEMA LION FOUNDATION EMPOWER VULNERABLE WOMEN

In commemoration of International Women's Day, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Thelema Lion Foundation have provided empowerment tools to women as they hosted the 2025 Women Arise Symposium.

The event, themed "Accelerating Action Towards Uplifting Vulnerable Women in Nigeria," brought together stakeholders to address the challenges faced by vulnerable women and children.

Dr. Tony Ojukwu OFR, SAN, Executive Secretary of the NHRC, represented by the Director of Legal Services and Enforcement Hajia Rabi

Anwal, emphasized the importance of protecting vulnerable populations.

He commended Thelema Lion Foundation's humanitarian efforts and called for collective action in building a society where women and children can thrive.

The Founder of the Foundation, Dr. Ifeoma Agu, highlighted the organization's

achievements, stating that they have included grinding machines, sewing machines, and cash grants, aimed to foster financial independence and self-sufficiency.

According to Dr. Agu, the foundation aims to uplift an additional 2,500 women in 2025.

A major highlight of the event was the presentation of empowerment gifts to selected beneficiaries. The gifts, which

included grinding machines, sewing machines, and cash grants, aimed to foster financial independence and self-sufficiency.

The Women Arise Symposium is an annual initiative dedicated to support and empower vulnerable women across Nigeria.

The event reinforces commitment of both organisations to economic empowerment and social upliftment.

The successful symposium demonstrated the power of collaboration and collective action in driving positive change for vulnerable women in Nigeria.



STATE OFFICES AT A GLANCE

Abia State Office: No. 9, Item Street, Off Calabar Road, Umuahia, Abia State. Tel: 0803 3473732	Benue State Office: MDGs Office Complex, Kaunum Acka Street, Old GRA, Makurdi. Tel: 081 36730830	Ekiti State Office: Behind New CBN Office Complex, Off New Iyin Road Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State. Tel: 0803 7038224	Kano State Office: Plot 313, Gyadi-Gyadi, New Hospital Road, Opp. Mal. Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano, Kano State. Tel: 0803 2833051	Nasarawa State Office: Behind Angel Academy, Off Alkali Street, Off Jos Road, Lafia, Nasarawa State. Tel: 0803 3427443	Rivers State Office: 203 Bonny Street, Port-Harcourt, Rivers State. Tel: 08036747115
Abia State Office: Hon. Maduka Enemuoh, Street, Agu-Awka, Adjacent to Peace Corps Building, Enugu/ Onisha Expressway, Tel: 0803 3766058	Borno State Office: No. 4, Bama Road, Maiduguri, Borno State. Tel: 0806 7833036	Enugu State Office: No. 3, Ezeagu Street, New Haven, Enugu, Enugu State. Tel: 0803 7722569	Katsina State Office: No. 103, Nagogo Rd, Near Old Nitel Office GRA, Katsina, Katsina State. Tel: 0803 1166282	Niger State Office: Abdullahi Kure House, Muazu Mohammed Rd, (Old Airport Road), Minna, Niger State. Tel: 0803 3365395, 0807 4186745	Plateau State Office: Plot 12677, Laminga/Liberty Dam Rd, Opp. Civic Registration Office, Rikkos Village, Jos. Tel: 0803 6849686
Akwa Ibom State Office: No. 160m Nwaniva Rd Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. Tel: 0803 7876516 0817 2681929	Cross River State Office: No. 43, Mekenge Layout, Off Marian Road Calabar, Cross River State. Tel: 0803 6755179 0817 5722286	Gombe State Office: No. 68, 69 & 70, Ground Floor, 362, 363 & 364 3rd Floor, Federal Secretariat Complex Behind Motor Park, Gombe, Gombe State. Tel: 0703 0584926	Kebbi State Office: Abubakar Musa Garkuwa Street, Geshe Phase 1, Birnin-Kebbi. Tel: 0806 5829312	Ogun State Office: Road M, House No. 6 Olrungso Apo Community, Pepsi, Abeokuta, Ogun State. Tel: 0802 3649253 0704 9937170	Sokoto State Office: No. 46 Garba Nadam Road, Gowan, Nama Area, Adjacent UDUTH Sokoto, Sokoto State. Tel: 0806 1575389
Adamawa State Office: 1st Floor, Office No. 175- 175b, Federal Secretariat Road, Yola, Adamawa State Tel: 0703 1831522 0802 5498292	Delta State Office: No. 10, Maryam Babangida Way, Opp. State Universal Basic Education Board, (SUBEB), Asaba, Delta State. Tel: 0803 9463100	Imo State Office: Port Harcourt Road Avenue Junction, Owerri Imo State. Tel: 0706 1148314	Kogi State Office: Extreme End, Ojo Close, Phase 2, Before WHO Office, Lokoja, Kogi State. Tel: 0803 3645844	Ondo State Office: Road M, House No. 6 2nd Gate, Oba-Ile Housing Estate, Old Airport Road, Akure. Tel: 0803 6307849	Taraba State Office: Magarmi Road, Hiwen Jalingo, Taraba State. Tel: 0803 2862220
Bauchi State Office: No. 20, Old Airport Road, GRA, Bauchi, Bauchi State. Tel: 0802 3400439	Ebonyi State Office: 61, Nnorom Street (Old State Secretariat) Mile 50, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State. Tel: 0813 0011525	Jigawa State Office: Ibrahim Aliyu Bypass, Along Federal University, Opp. Awaji Global Service Filling Station Dutse, Jigawa State. Tel: 0803 0637049	Kwara State Office: No. 3 Old Jebba Road, Opposite Ministry of Agriculture Ilorin, Kwara State. Tel: 0706 8468408	Osun State Office: Block L Plot 33, Oroki Housing Estate, Oshogo, Osun State. Tel: 0803 4949444	Yobe State Office: Federal Secretariat Complex, 1st Floor, Opposite YBC, Gusau Road, Damaturu, Yobe State. Tel: 0803 5332628
Bayelsa State Office: Ground Floor, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan Federal Secretariat Complex, Oso-Bow Lake, Yenegoa, Bayelsa State. Tel: 0803 5424022	Edo State Office: No. 185 Pedrochi House Sapele Road, After Dumez Junction, Benin City, Edo State. Tel: 0901 4329537 0806 9319592	Kaduna State Office: Baron House, Muh'd Buhari Way, Formerly No. 14 Waff Rd, Kaduna, Kaduna State. Tel: 0803 7739448	Lagos State Office: 17, Balogun Street, Off Kudirat Abiola Way, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos State, Tel: 0803 7213380	Oyo State Office: Room 129/130, First Floor Federal Secretariat Complex, Agodi GRA, Ikoloba Ibadan, Oyo State. Tel: 0703 1555539	Zamfara State Office: No. 109/110 Zamfara Trade Centre GRA, Opp. Filoworld Office, Sokoto Road, Gusau, Zamfara State. Tel: 0706 4315164

Abuja Metropolitan Office: No. 8, Sina Balogun Close, Off Galilee Street, Karu, Abuja. Tel: 0803 5956068

Human Rights Institute Office: Tonimas Estate, 2201, Cadestral Zone, Liberty Road, Katampe, Abuja. Tel: 0803 6329968

X: @NhrcNigeria Facebook: NHRC Nigeria Instagram: @nhrcnigeria Toll Free: 08006472428 Toll Free Short Code: 6472

Editorial Board Editor

Fatimah Agwai Moh'd

Correspondents

Ivy Acka

Bernadette Ako

Stephanie Ayuba

Halima Ahmed (Sub-Editor)

Jenny T. Torhee

Mebrim Kenneth (Sub-Editor)

Ruth Yamta

Audiovisual

Julius Agribe

Gregory Omanakwa Akor

Joy Imeh Sunday

Farida Anaba

Secretary

Mathew Shemang