



NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENT DOCTORS

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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28th September 2024

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 44TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE OF THE NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENT DOCTORS (NARD) HELD BETWEEN 23RD – 28TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE.

PREAMBLE

The Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) held her Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Scientific Conference between the 23rd and 28th of September 2024. The Association of Resident Doctors (ARD) Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Abeokuta, and Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro, Abeokuta, co-hosted the event.

The Opening Ceremony and Scientific Conference took place on Thursday, 26th September 2024 at the Telemedicine Hall, Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta, with the theme: **“The Evolving Roles of Doctors in Healthcare Management and Nation Building”**. The subthemes were **“Building a Resilient Health Workforce: Embracing Climate-Centric Practices”** Presented by Dr. Ishaq Salako, Minister of State for Environment and **Bridging the Mental Health Gap Amidst Economic Downturn & Brain Drain in Nigeria** Presented by Prof. Olayinka Atilola, Consultant Psychiatrist and past NARD President. Notable attendees include:

- His Excellency Prince Dapo Abiodun, Executive Governor of Ogun State (represented by Dr. Tomi Coker, Hon. Commissioner for Health).
- Chief Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR, Former President of Nigeria and Chairman of the Occasion.
- Oba (Dr.) Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo III, The Alake of Egband and Royal Father of the Day.
- Prof. Bala Audu, President of the Nigeria Medical Association (represented by Dr. Benjamin Olowojebutu, First Vice-President).
- Dr. Tayo Lawal, Special Adviser to the Ogun State Governor on Health.
- Prof. Adewale Abdul-Samiu Musa-Olomu, The Medical Director, Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta.
- Dr. Paul Agboola, Provost and Medical Director, Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro, Abeokuta.

ACTIVITIES

Some of the activities carried out during the weeklong program include:

- Courtesy visits to Chief Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR, Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Governor of Ogun State, the Medical Director of FMC, Abeokuta, and the Medical Director and Provost of Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro, Abeokuta.
- National Officers' Committee and Extended National Officers' Committee meetings
- The Doctors' Reach Out Program (T-DROP) including free medical outreach in Abeokuta and donation of clothes, foodstuff, and building materials to Blessed Assurance Orphanage home, Ikenne, Ogun state.

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- The business session of the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- National Officers' Committee (NOC) Elections.
- Press Conference.

OBSERVATIONS

1. The AGM observed with dismay the non-payment of the 2024 MRTF to some members and outstanding 2023 MRTF.
2. The AGM noted the non-payment of accoutrement allowance arrears by some CMDs and the failure of the Federal government to include the accoutrement allowance in salaries as approved.
3. The AGM expressed dismay at the government's failure to pay the arrears of the upwardly revised CONMESS and other outstanding salary arrears.
4. The AGM condemned the high-handedness of Dr. Olatunde Alabi, CMD of Federal Teaching Hospital (FTH) Lokoja, regarding welfare issues and undue victimization of Resident Doctors.
5. The AGM criticized the anti-resident policies of Prof. John Akintunde Okeniyi, the CMD of OAUTHC Ile-Ife, including recurring unwarranted salary deductions, stoppage of call meals, and other detrimental welfare policies hampering service delivery in the hospital.
6. The AGM expressed concerns over the persistent manpower gap in most hospitals.
7. The AGM noted with dismay the continued abduction of Dr. Ganiyat Popoola.
8. The AGM expressed sorrow over the disaster caused by floods in Borno state and other adjoining states, leading to loss of lives and properties.
9. The AGM commended His Excellency, Governor Douye Diri of Bayelsa State for domesticating the Medical Residency Training Act (MRTA).

RESOLUTIONS

After deliberations on the observations made, the AGM resolved as follows:

1. The AGM calls on the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria to expedite the payment of the outstanding MRTF and adhere to agreements made during the stakeholders' meeting conducted by the Federal Ministry of Health.
2. The AGM demands that all Chief Medical Directors/Medical Directors of hospitals to clear the arrears of the accoutrement allowance and urges the Federal government to expedite the commencement of the payment of the allowance through IPPIS as approved in June 2024.
3. The AGM urges the Federal government to take swift action on the payment of the arrears of the upwardly revised CONMESS and other outstanding salary arrears.
4. The AGM resolved that the CMD of OAUTHC Ile-Ife and the CMD of FTH Lokoja must cease their high-handedness towards Resident Doctors and other staff.
5. The AGM demands that the CMD of OAUTHC Ile-Ife immediately reverse all policies detrimental to the welfare of doctors, rectify all improper salary deductions, and ensure the payment of all outstanding salary arrears.
6. The AGM mandates the NARD NOC to monitor the situation at FTH Lokoja and OAUTHC Ile-Ife closely with a plan to review the situation after five (5) working days.
7. The AGM calls for continued engagement with the Ministry of Health to ensure prompt waivers for tertiary health institutions to mitigate the ongoing brain drain.
8. The AGM, having reviewed efforts to ensure the safe release of Dr. Ganiyat Popoola, demands that security agencies and government authorities do more to bring her home to her family safely as soon as possible.

9. The AGM extends its sympathy and prayers to the flood disaster victims in Borno State and adjoining states and calls on the government and all well-meaning Nigerians to support affected communities in reconstruction and rehabilitation.
10. The AGM urges all state governors and the FCT minister to domesticate the Medical Residency Training Act and ensure the payment of MRTF to all Resident Doctors working in their states.

ELECTIONS

During the AGM, elections were held, resulting in the following leaders for the 2024/2025 Executive Committee year:

- **President:** Dr. Osundara Tope Zenith
- **First Vice-President:** Dr. Abdulrauf Tajudeen
- **Second Vice-President:** Dr. Ebueburho Majirie Maxwell
- **Secretary General:** Dr. Odunbaku Kazeem Oluwasola
- **Assistant Secretary General:** Dr. Nwakpakpa Ebenezer Nkwagu
- **Treasurer:** Dr. Ajibade-Oduyebo Kafayat
- **Financial Secretary:** Dr. Nimi Ngo Briggs
- **Public Relations Officer:** Dr. Omoha Amobi
- **Editor:** Dr. Uzairu Abdullahi
- **Deputy Editor:** Dr. Muwafaq Umar
- **Immediate Past President:** Dr. Dele Abdullahi Olaitan
- **Immediate Past Secretary General:** Dr. Anaduaka Obinna Christopher

ARD Federal Teaching Hospital Katsina won the bid to host the 2025 NARD Annual General Meeting and 2025/2026 NARD Secretariat.

APPRECIATION

The AGM expresses gratitude to the following distinguished Nigerians for their support:

1. His Excellency Senator Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, President of Nigeria.
2. His Excellency Kashim Shettima, Vice President of Nigeria.
3. His Excellency Distinguished Senator Godswill Akpabio, Senate President.
4. His Excellency Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives.
5. His Excellency Prince Dapo Abiodun, Executive Governor of Ogun State.
6. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR, Former President of Nigeria
7. Prof. Ali Pate, Honourable Minister of Health and Social Welfare.
8. Dr. Tunji Alausa, Honourable Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare.
9. Dr. Ishaq Salako, Honourable Minister of State for Environment.
10. Ms. Kachollom Daju, mni, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Services.
11. Mrs. Esther Walson-Jack OON, mni, Head of Civil Service of the Federation.
12. Chief Ekpo Nta, Esq., Chairman, National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission.
13. Mrs. Oluwatoyin Madein, Accountant General of the Federation.
14. Mr. Tanimu Yakubu, Director General, Budget Office of the Federation.
15. Dr. Fatima Kyari, Registrar/CEO, Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria.
16. HRM Oba (Dr.) Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo III, Alake of Egbaland.
17. Prof. Bala Audu, President, Nigerian Medical Association.
18. Prof. Peter N. Ebeigbe, President, National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria.

19. Prof. Adewale Abdul-Samiu Musa-Olomu, CMD, Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta.
20. Dr. Paul Agboola, Provost and Medical Director, Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro, Abeokuta.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Long live NMA!

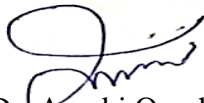
Long live NARD!



Dr. Osundara Tope
President



Dr. Odunbaku Kazeem Oluwasola
Secretary-General



Dr. Amobi Omoha
Public & Social Secretary