



The Diaspora Legislative Review

(January 2025 Edition)

Office Of The Special Adviser to the President Of The Senate
On Diaspora & NGOs.

Cover Story:

Senator Godswil Akpabio - A Unifying Force.



Introduction

In the vibrant political landscape of Nigeria, few leaders have emerged with the charisma, vision, and determination to effect meaningful change alike Senator Godswil Akpabio, the President of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Taking on this pivotal role amid a myriad of challenges, Akpabio has not only proven his mettle as a leader but has also succeeded in unifying the Senate, steering it towards a new direction while maintaining a constructive relationship with the presidency.

Achievements as President of the Senate

Since assuming office, Senator

Akpabio has prioritized legislative efficiency and accountability. Characterized by an open-door policy, he has fostered an environment conducive to collaboration and dialogue among senators, facilitating a sense of camaraderie that had been lacking in previous administrations. His leadership style promotes inclusivity, ensuring that all voices within the Senate are heard and considered.

Under his guidance, the Senate has made significant strides in passing critical legislation aimed at advancing the nation's infrastructure, security, and economic growth. Notable among these achievements is the

expeditious passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill, a landmark legislation poised to diversify Nigeria's economy and attract foreign investment. Additionally, Akpabio's commitment to enhancing Nigeria's educational system has led to the introduction of reforms aimed at improving funding for educational institutions, teacher training, and curriculum development.

Unifying the Senate Amid Challenges

One of the most commendable aspects of Senator Akpabio's presidency is his ability to unify the Senate despite political divisions and challenges. His adeptness at



Nigerian populace.

Defending His Relationship with the Presidency

Amidst his accomplishments, Senator Akpabio has faced scrutiny regarding his relationship with the presidency. Critics have accused him of being subservient to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, claiming that his alignment with the executive branch compromises the Senate's independence.

However, Akpabio has consistently defended this relationship as one grounded in mutual respect and shared objectives. He argues that a collaborative rapport with the presidency is essential for achieving legislative goals that benefit the entire country.

In a political environment often characterized by antagonism and division, Akpabio's ability to maintain a constructive dialogue with the executive branch ensures that the Senate's interests are represented while fostering an atmosphere of cooperation rather than conflict. This pragmatic approach serves to stabilize governance and advance national development objectives, countering allegations of subservience.



Conclusion

Senator Godswil Akpabio's tenure as President of the Senate marks a transformative period in Nigerian politics. His achievements in unifying the Senate, driving legislative innovation, and fostering a collaborative relationship with the presidency underscore his commitment to national progress. As he continues to face challenges both within and outside the Senate, Akpabio remains steadfast in his vision for Nigeria a vision rooted in unity, resilience, and progress for all.

His leadership serves as a testament to the potential of constructive politics in shaping a brighter future for Nigeria.



fostering bipartisan cooperation has enabled the Senate to confront pressing national issues with a united front. This collaborative spirit has been instrumental in navigating contentious debates and

arriving at consensus-driven solutions. By prioritizing the collective interest of the nation, Akpabio has effectively transformed the Senate into a body focused on delivering tangible benefits to the

Transforming Nigeria's Future: The Commitment of Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN)

In a nation where food insecurity and malnutrition pose significant threats to the well-being of its citizens, particularly children, the Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) stands as a beacon of hope. This esteemed non-governmental, non-profit alliance brings together a multitude of organizations dedicated to the transformative vision of making Nigeria a country where every citizen has guaranteed access to nutritious food and a solid foundation for a healthy life.

A Unified Approach to Nutrition Security

CS-SUNN operates on the principle that collaboration and collective action are essential to tackling the complex issues surrounding malnutrition. The alliance comprises various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, community groups, and private sector partners, all united in their quest to improve nutritional outcomes across the nation. By fostering partnerships and creating synergies among diverse entities, CS-SUNN amplifies efforts aimed at establishing sustainable solutions to Nigeria's nutrition challenges.

Key Contributions to Nutrition in Nigeria

1. Advocacy and Awareness

Campaigns:

CS-SUNN actively engages in advocacy to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and the urgent need to address malnutrition. Through campaigns and initiatives aimed at educating communities and policymakers, the organization works tirelessly to prioritize nutrition on the national agenda. Their efforts have helped to mobilize resources and support for programs targeted at vulnerable populations, especially children.

2. Capacity Building:

The organization is committed to enhancing the skills and knowledge of local stakeholders involved in nutrition interventions. By organizing training sessions, workshops, and seminars, CS-SUNN ensures that healthcare workers, community leaders, and government employees are well-equipped with the necessary tools to implement effective nutrition programs. This capacity-building approach empowers local entities to take ownership of nutrition initiatives in their areas.

3. Data Collection and Research:

CS-SUNN recognizes that evidence-based decisions are crucial in addressing nutritional issues. The alliance engages in research and data collection to identify the specific challenges faced by different communities. By analyzing trends and patterns in nutrition, CS-SUNN guides the development of targeted interventions that can effectively meet the needs of the population.

4. Partnerships with Government and Stakeholders:

Collaboration with government bodies is fundamental to CS-SUNN's mission. The organization works closely with various ministries to influence policy development and implementation related to nutrition. Through these partnerships, CS-SUNN advocates for the integration of nutrition into broader health and development policies, ensuring that nutrition remains a priority at the national level.

5. Promotion of Food Security Initiatives:

Understanding that nutrition security is closely linked to food security, CS-SUNN has initiated

programs aimed at enhancing food production and improving access to diverse and nutritious foods. By supporting local farmers and encouraging the cultivation of nutrient-rich crops, the organization fosters a sustainable food system that contributes to the overall nutrition landscape of the country.

Commitment to Nigeria's Children

At the heart of CS-SUNN's mission is a deep commitment to ensuring that all Nigerian children have access to adequate nutrition.

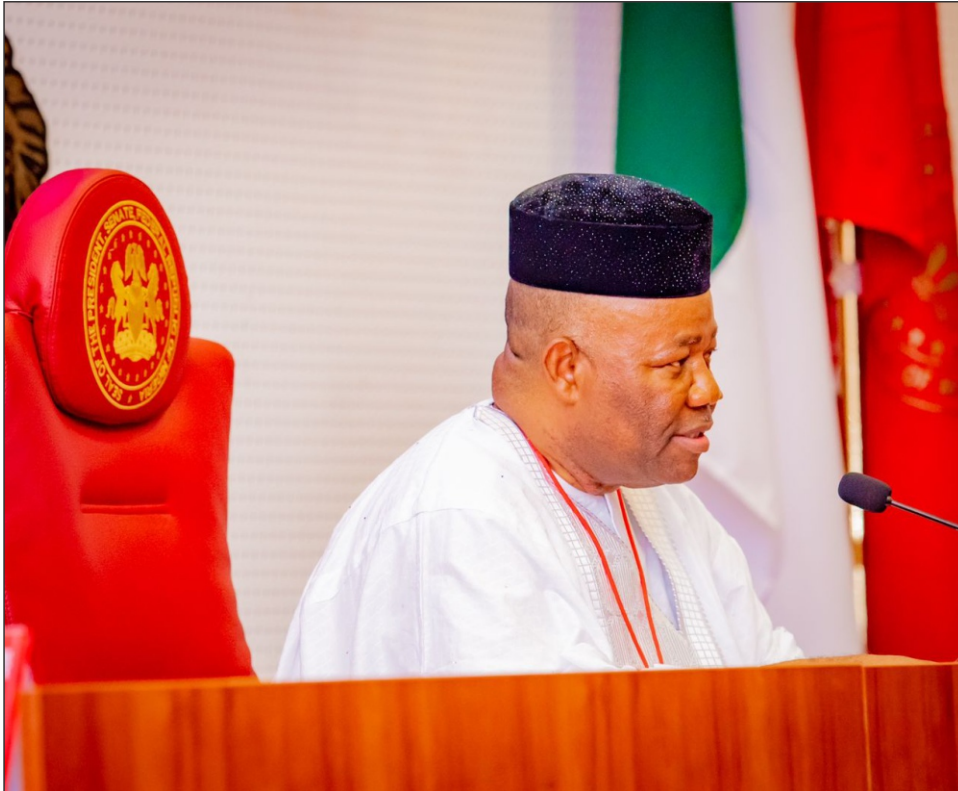
Recognizing that proper nutrition in early childhood is vital for growth, development, and lifelong health, CS-SUNN focuses on interventions specifically designed to target this vulnerable group. The organization engages in community-based nutrition programs, school feeding initiatives, and campaigns to promote breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices.

By championing these initiatives, CS-SUNN helps to reduce rates of stunting, wasting, and micronutrient deficiencies among Nigerian children. The organization believes that empowered and nourished children are the future leaders of Nigeria, capable of contributing positively to the nation's growth and development.

Conclusion

The Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) continues to play a pivotal role in the fight against malnutrition and food insecurity in Nigeria. Through its unwavering commitment to collaboration, advocacy, and sustainable interventions, CS-SUNN is not only transforming the nutritional landscape of the country but also ensuring that every citizen—especially children—has the opportunity to thrive.

As Nigeria faces ongoing challenges related to nutrition, the work of CS-SUNN serves as a powerful reminder that collective action and dedicated leadership can pave the way towards a healthier, more prosperous future for all Nigerians. By fostering a culture of nutrition security, CS-SUNN is indeed building a foundation for a brighter tomorrow.



Message from the Senate President

By:
In a significant address to the nation, the President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio, shared a message highlighting the Senate's commitment to addressing key issues facing Nigeria. He spoke about the roles of leadership, unity, and collaboration in ensuring the nation's growth and stability. Senator Akpabio emphasized the importance of creating an environment where citizens can thrive. He stated, "Our goal is to foster collaboration and inclusivity in all we do. Together, we can ensure that every Nigerian has the opportunity to succeed."

The Senate President highlighted

several ambitious initiatives that the current Senate aims to implement, especially in areas such as:

- 1. Healthcare Improvement:** Enhancing accessibility to healthcare services across the nation to combat prevalent health issues and improve the general well-being of Nigerians.
- 2. Educational Reforms:** Implementing policies that ensure quality education for all, which is vital for the country's human capital development.
- 3. Agricultural Support:** Promoting initiatives that support farmers and boost food security in Nigeria, especially in rural communities.

4. Strengthening the Economy: Focusing on policies that promote economic growth, generate employment, and encourage investments. Senator Akpabio urged for collective efforts from both the lawmakers and the public to achieve these goals. "Our commitment to these initiatives requires the backing of every Nigerian. Together, we can create a prosperous future," he said. The Senate President also called for unity among Nigerians, stressing that collaboration is essential in overcoming challenges. "We must put aside our differences and work together. Our diversity is our strength, and with collective effort, we can build a better Nigeria."

As the 10th Senate embarks on its legislative agenda, the leadership under Senator Akpabio is determined to make impactful changes that resonate with all Nigerians. The message serves as a call to action for citizens to engage actively in the nation-building process and support the Senate in its mission to foster growth, development, and peace.

For more updates on the Senate's initiatives and activities, please follow our official channels and stay informed.

The Role of International NGOs in Promoting Peace and Development in Nigeria: Focus on USAID

Nigeria, a nation rich in cultural diversity and natural resources, continues to confront numerous challenges that hinder its progress towards sustainable development and peace. Amidst the complexities of these issues, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have emerged as crucial partners in fostering development and promoting stability. Among these organizations, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) stands out for its significant contributions to health, agriculture, education, and human capital development in Nigeria.

Promoting Health and Well-being

In the realm of public health, USAID has been a pivotal force in addressing critical health challenges in Nigeria. With a focus on combating infectious diseases, maternal mortality, and malnutrition, USAID implements a range of programs tailored to improve healthcare access and outcomes.

One of the agency's primary initiatives is the provision of support for maternal and child health services. By training healthcare workers, supplying essential medical equipment, and enhancing the capacity of healthcare facilities, USAID has significantly reduced maternal and child mortality rates. Additionally, USAID has played a vital role in the fight against malaria and HIV/AIDS, implementing prevention programs and expanding access to treatment and care, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Furthermore, USAID's work in promoting family planning and reproductive health has empowered women and families to make informed choices regarding their health. By improving health outcomes, these initiatives not only enhance individual well-being but also contribute to broader community stability and growth.

Empowering Agriculture and Food Security

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of Nigeria's economy, employing a significant portion of the population. USAID recognizes the potential of agricultural development in promoting economic growth and food security and has embarked on several initiatives to strengthen this critical sector.

Through programs such as Feed the Future, USAID aims to boost agricultural productivity and improve food security among vulnerable populations. The agency provides farmers with access to training, innovative farming techniques, and resources that enhance crop yields and sustainability. By facilitating access to markets and financial services, USAID helps farmers increase their income and invest in their communities.

Moreover, USAID's focus on agro-entrepreneurship fosters economic opportunities for rural youth and women, creating pathways for job creation and reducing youth unemployment. By investing in agricultural development, USAID not only addresses food security but also enhances community resilience and fosters peace.

Advancing Education and Human Capital Development

Education is a fundamental driver of development and peace.

Recognizing this, USAID has invested heavily in improving the quality of education in Nigeria, particularly for marginalized groups. The agency has implemented programs aimed at increasing access to quality education, enhancing teacher training, and developing inclusive curricula that cater to diverse learning needs.

Through initiatives like the Nigeria Reading and Access Program, USAID has worked to improve literacy rates among children, especially in northern Nigeria where educational access has historically

been limited. By collaborating with local stakeholders, USAID fosters community involvement in educational initiatives, creating sustainable change.

Investing in education also aligns with human capital development, which is essential for Nigeria's long-term growth and stability. By equipping the youth with the skills and knowledge needed to participate in the workforce, USAID helps prepare a generation that can drive Nigeria's economy forward and promote peace and stability.

Promoting Peace and Social Cohesion

In addition to economic and social development, USAID emphasizes the importance of peace and social cohesion in Nigeria. The agency implements programs aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict and fostering collaboration among diverse communities.

Through initiatives focused on conflict prevention, reconciliation, and community dialogue, USAID helps to build trust among ethnic and religious groups, mitigate tensions, and promote peaceful coexistence. By empowering communities to address their grievances collectively, USAID plays a crucial role in creating a more stable and peaceful environment.

Conclusion

The role of international NGOs, particularly USAID, in promoting peace and development in Nigeria is undeniable. Through targeted interventions in health, agriculture, education, and human capital development, USAID contributes significantly to enhancing the well-being of Nigerians and fostering community resilience. These initiatives not only address immediate challenges but also lay the groundwork for long-term stability and growth.

As Nigeria continues to navigate its complex socio-economic landscape, the support of international NGOs will be essential in fostering collaboration, addressing pressing needs, and ultimately realizing the vision of a prosperous, peaceful nation. The collective efforts of the Nigerian government, local organizations, and international partners like USAID will be key to unlocking Nigeria's vast potential and ensuring a brighter future for all its citizens.

COMMENTS

Reader Opinions on the Launch of the Legislative Diaspora Review

1. Chinedu Okafor, Businessman, London

"The establishment of the Legislative Diaspora Review is a fantastic initiative. It provides a vital link between the Nigerian diaspora and the 10th Senate, fostering greater understanding and collaboration. I'm excited to be more informed about legislative actions and to share insights from abroad."

2. Amaka Nwankwo, Community Activist, New York

Thank you for launching the Legislative Diaspora Review! This platform will empower us as diasporans to engage effectively with our representatives back home. Understanding the activities of the Senate will help us contribute meaningfully to discussions around national development."

3. Tunde Adebayo, Educator, Toronto

As a Nigerian in the diaspora, I appreciate the creation of the Legislative Diaspora Review. It is crucial for strengthening ties between us and our government. This initiative will keep us in the

loop on Senate activities while encouraging active participation in national matters."

4. Fatima Mohammed, Nurse, Manchester

The Legislative Diaspora Review is a much-needed resource for Nigerians abroad! I look forward to being able to keep track of legislative changes and the 10th Senate's agenda. Empowering the diaspora is a step in the right direction."

5. Emeka Ibe, Engineer, Seattle

Launching the Legislative Diaspora Review is a commendable move. It facilitates transparency and allows us, the diaspora community, to engage meaningfully with our government. Now we can better align our contributions to the ongoing national discourse."

6. Sade Olabode, Entrepreneur, Dubai

Iam delighted about the introduction of the Legislative Diaspora Review! This bulletin will bridge the information gap, allowing us to understand the workings of the 10th Senate and provide feedback from our experiences abroad as Nigerians."

7. Kofi Anyanwu, Research Scientist, Berlin

The Legislative Diaspora Review represents a significant step in strengthening relations between the Senate and the diaspora. It gives us the opportunity to learn about the Senate's initiatives and advocate for policies that reflect the interests of Nigerians abroad."

8. Ngozi Uche, Philanthropist, Atlanta

I commend the formation of the Legislative Diaspora Review! It is imperative for diasporans to have a say in legislative activities impacting our communities back home. I look forward to reading about the 10th Senate's efforts and engaging in constructive dialogue."

9. Olawale Johnson, Artist, Paris

The Legislative Diaspora Review is an excellent initiative that will foster a more inclusive approach to governance. We need such platforms to enable the diaspora to remain actively involved in Nigeria's progress while understanding Senate affairs."

10. Chinaza Nwosu, IT Consultant, San Francisco

Thank you for creating the Legislative Diaspora Review. Information is power, and this bulletin will empower us to contribute towards our country's future effectively. Understanding the 10th Senate's agenda is crucial for all Nigerians regardless of where they reside."

11. Peace Alabi, Social Worker, Toronto

I wholeheartedly support the launch of the Legislative Diaspora Review! This initiative will keep the diaspora engaged and informed, fostering a stronger connection with the 10th Senate's activities. We are eager to play our part in Nigeria's growth."

12. Jide Afolabi, Financial Analyst, London

The establishment of the Legislative Diaspora Review is an innovative idea that caters to the needs of Nigerians overseas. It will undoubtedly enhance our understanding of the Senate's legislative processes and deepen our engagement with home affairs."

13. Eleanor Odum, Non-profit Director, New Jersey

The launch of the Legislative Diaspora Review is a promising development! I appreciate the effort to bridge the gap between the diaspora and the Senate, enabling us to stay updated on legislative matters that affect us directly."

14. Chukwuemeka Eze, Lawyer, Australia

It is commendable to see the Legislative Diaspora Review being launched. This

initiative shows that the Senate values our input and seeks to foster a dynamic relationship with the diaspora, which can only lead to positive change for Nigeria."

15. Bola Amusan, Environmentalist, Cape Town

The Legislative Diaspora Review is a welcome addition for Nigerians living abroad. It empowers us to stay informed about legislative issues, making it easier to advocate for environmental and social policies that benefit our communities."

16. Nneka Ikegwu, Technology Specialist, Boston

I commend the launch of the Legislative Diaspora Review. Having direct access to information about the 10th Senate's activities will allow diasporans to contribute more effectively to discussions about our nation's future."

17. Obinna Okonkwo, Medical Doctor, Houston

The introduction of the Legislative Diaspora Review is a strategic move to enhance collaboration between the 10th Senate and Nigerians in the diaspora. I am looking forward to actively participating in discussions based on the guidance from the bulletin."

18. Zainab Musa, Human Rights Advocate, Lagos

I am excited about the Legislative Diaspora Review. This platform will serve as a vital connection between us and the Senate, ensuring that our voices as diasporans are heard and considered in legislative matters that impact Nigeria's human rights landscape."

19. Damilola Adebisi, Author, Johannesburg

The Legislative Diaspora Review is an initiative that reflects the importance of the diaspora in national discourse. I appreciate the effort to keep us informed, and I believe this will pave the way for more collaborative efforts with the 10th Senate."

20. Ifeoma Chukwu, Journalist, Nairobi

I wholeheartedly support the creation of the Legislative Diaspora Review! It is an essential tool that will empower diasporans with the information they need to engage and participate in Nigeria's legislative process actively."

These imaginary comments illustrate a diverse array of voices commending the creation of the Legislative Diaspora Review and emphasize the importance of fostering cooperation between Nigerians in the diaspora and the 10th Senate for the benefit of national development.



Mrs. Unoma Akpabio – A Pillar of Humanitarian Effort and Inspiration



Early Life and Background

Mrs. Unoma Akpabio, the wife of the President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio, is a woman of remarkable resilience and compassion. Born in Nigeria, she has dedicated her life to the service of her community and her country. Her educational background and personal experiences have shaped her into a strong advocate for social justice and humanitarianism, making her a role model for women in leadership across Nigeria.

A Visionary Humanitarian

Mrs. Akpabio is best known for her extensive humanitarian efforts that have significantly impacted the lives of countless Nigerians. Deeply committed to the welfare of the underprivileged, she has launched and supported various initiatives aimed at addressing pressing societal issues, particularly those affecting women and children.

One of her notable projects is the “Unoma Akpabio Foundation”, which focuses on providing healthcare, education, and vocational training for women and children in disadvantaged communities. The foundation recognizes that

empowering women is crucial for societal progress and works tirelessly to ensure that women have access to the resources and support they need to thrive. Through this initiative, Mrs. Akpabio has not only provided financial assistance but has also fostered a sense of community and solidarity among women.

Impact on Education and Health

Mrs. Akpabio's commitment to education is evident in her efforts to provide scholarships and support educational institutions in Nigeria. By emphasizing the importance of education as a means of empowerment, she has encouraged young girls to aspire towards academic excellence and professional success. Her advocacy for education has generated awareness about the challenges faced by girls in accessing quality education, inspiring both local and international support for initiatives aimed at improving girls' educational opportunities.

In addition to her work in education, Mrs. Akpabio has made significant strides in the healthcare sector. Her initiatives have addressed critical health issues affecting women and children, including maternal health, child nutrition, and disease prevention. By partnering with healthcare organizations and professionals, she has organized health camps and awareness programs that have provided essential medical services to underserved populations.

Role Model for Women in Leadership

Mrs. Unoma Akpabio stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration for

Nigerian women in leadership. Her dedication to service exemplifies the transformative power of compassionate leadership. She not only champions causes affecting the marginalized but also demonstrates that leadership is about making a tangible difference in the lives of others.

Her approach to leadership is characterized by empathy, humility, and a relentless pursuit of social justice. She encourages women to step into leadership roles, emphasizing that their voices and contributions are vital to national development. Mrs. Akpabio's work

foundation and advocate for policies that support women's rights and welfare at both national and global levels.

Conclusion

In a country where the voices of women are often underrepresented in leadership, Mrs. Unoma Akpabio shines as a role model for public service and humanitarianism. Her tireless efforts to improve the lives of Nigerians, particularly women and children, underscore the critical need for compassion and commitment in leadership. As she continues to inspire change, her exemplary work serves as a call to action for Nigerian



reflects the notion that effective leadership transcends titles and positions; it is about serving the people and fostering an inclusive society.

Recognition and Future Endeavors
Her relentless dedication to humanitarian causes has garnered recognition both locally and internationally. Mrs. Akpabio's work has not only earned her accolades but has also positioned her as a key figure in discussions around women's empowerment and social change.

Looking towards the future, Mrs. Akpabio is committed to expanding her philanthropic efforts and creating lasting impacts in various sectors. She aims to broaden the reach of her

women to embrace leadership roles and contribute meaningfully to the development of their communities and the nation as a whole. In recognizing and supporting figures like Mrs. Akpabio, we take a significant step toward fostering a more equitable and prosperous Nigeria for all

The Role of Legislative Aides in Strengthening Relationships with the Nigerian 10th Assembly and Their Contributions to the National Economy

As the Nigerian 10th Assembly endeavors to address the myriad challenges facing the nation, the role of legislative aides has become increasingly vital. These professionals serve as critical links between elected representatives and their constituents, as well as facilitators of legislative business. Their contributions extend beyond traditional roles; they play an essential part in strengthening relationships within the Assembly and enhancing the national economy.

1. Facilitating Communication:

One of the primary roles of legislative aides is to facilitate communication between senators and their constituents. They are tasked with gathering input from the public on various issues, including economic policies, healthcare, education, and infrastructure. By effectively relaying this information to their principals, they not only ensure that the concerns of the electorate are heard but also enable legislators to make informed decisions based on the needs of the people.

This function is crucial in a democratic context, as it promotes transparency and accountability, fostering a stronger connection between the Assembly and the populace. Enhanced communication ultimately contributes to a more engaged citizenry, which can positively influence the economic prospects of the nation.

2. Policy Research and Analysis

Legislative aides conduct in-depth research and analysis on proposed bills and policies, providing essential information that informs legislative decisions. By analyzing the economic implications of different initiatives, they can help lawmakers craft legislation that encourages investment, stimulates job creation, and enhances overall economic growth.

In the context of the Nigerian 10th Assembly, aides can identify sectors in need of support or reform, such

as agriculture, manufacturing, and technology. Their insights can lead to the development of targeted policies that maximize economic potential and uplift various segments of society.

3. Support in Lawmaking Process:

Aides play a crucial role in the legislative process by assisting in drafting bills, scheduling meetings, and organizing committee hearings. Their behind-the-scenes work helps ensure that legislative sessions run smoothly and effectively, allowing the Assembly to focus on pressing issues that affect the nation.

In this capacity, they facilitate discussions around economic policies that can spur growth. For example, when addressing laws related to taxation, trade, or investment, legislative aides can help shape legislation that balances the need for revenue generation with the need for economic competitiveness.

4. Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement:

Legislative aides are often involved in advocating for specific legislative issues or the interests of particular constituencies. They organize outreach activities, engage with stakeholders, and build coalitions to support policy initiatives. This advocacy is essential for rallying support around economic policies that can drive growth.

By participating in stakeholder engagement, aides ensure that the voices of businesses, non-governmental organizations, and community members are amplified within the Assembly. This engagement can include discussions on improving the business environment, infrastructure development, and access to credit, all of which contribute to a robust national economy.

5. Monitoring Legislative Developments

Aides are responsible for keeping track of legislative developments and policy changes that impact their

areas of focus. By monitoring trends in the national and global economy, they can advise their principals on emerging issues and opportunities. This ongoing assessment allows legislators to be proactive rather than reactive in addressing economic challenges. For instance, aides can inform their senators about international trade agreements, investment opportunities, or shifts in economic policy that may necessitate a legislative response.

6. Community Development Initiatives

Many legislative aides are involved in community development initiatives that align with the goals of their legislators. This may include organizing educational programs, economic empowerment workshops, and health campaigns that directly benefit constituents. By fostering local development, legislative aides contribute to the nation's economy on a grassroots level. These initiatives can lead to increased entrepreneurship, workforce development, and community engagement—all of which are essential for economic resilience and growth.

Conclusion:

Legislative aides play a multifaceted role in enhancing the effectiveness of the Nigerian 10th Assembly. Through facilitating communication, conducting research, supporting the legislative process, advocating for stakeholders, monitoring developments, and initiating community programs, these aides contribute significantly to shaping policies that strengthen the national economy. As the Assembly navigates complex challenges, the insights and efforts of legislative aides will be increasingly vital in laying the foundation for sustainable growth and improved living standards for all Nigerians. Their efforts embody the spirit of public service and underscore the importance of collaborative governance in driving progress.

The Need for a Diaspora Conference in Nigeria: Emphasizing the Importance of Diaspora in Supporting President's Agenda of Renewed Hope

In an increasingly interconnected world, the role of the diaspora community has become paramount in shaping the economic, social, and political landscapes of their home countries. Nigeria, with one of the largest diasporas globally, stands to benefit immensely from the active participation of its citizens living abroad. In light of President Bola Tinubu's agenda of "Renewed Hope," it is essential to convene a comprehensive Diaspora Conference in Nigeria that focuses on the critical contributions of Nigerians in the diaspora towards national growth, stability, and development.

1. Harnessing the Power of the Diaspora

The Nigerian diaspora is a treasure trove of skills, expertise, and resources. With millions of Nigerians residing in different parts of the world, there is an opportunity to leverage their diverse talents and experiences. By holding a Diaspora Conference, the Nigerian government can create a platform for dialogue and collaboration between government officials and diaspora members. This engagement will not only strengthen connections but also foster innovative ideas that align with the President's vision for national renewal.

2. Economic Contributions and Investment Opportunities

A central theme of the conference should be the diaspora's substantial economic contributions. Remittances from Nigerians abroad have become a significant source of foreign exchange, often outperforming traditional exports. In recent years, these remittances have contributed billions of dollars to the national economy, aiding

local businesses and stimulating economic growth.

By encouraging Nigerian expatriates to invest back home, the conference can serve as a conduit for economic empowerment.

Investors can learn about opportunities in various sectors such as technology, agriculture, and renewable energy, which align with the President's agenda. Through workshops, networking sessions, and investment forums, participants will gain insights into how they can contribute to building a more vibrant economy.

3. Knowledge Transfer and Skills Development

Another critical aspect of the diaspora's involvement is knowledge transfer. Diaspora Nigerians possess unique insights gained from their experiences in diverse environments, including advanced educational systems and innovative industries. The conference can facilitate skill-sharing sessions and training programs where members of the diaspora can impart knowledge to local professionals, which will enhance local capacities, improve workforce skills, and boost productivity.

Additionally, creating partnerships between educational institutions in Nigeria and those abroad can further enrich the learning experience for Nigerian students, preparing them for competitive global job markets.

4. Policy Advocacy and Civic Engagement

The diaspora community has a significant role to play in influencing policy decisions and promoting civic engagement in Nigeria. Many diaspora members are actively involved in advocating for positive change and democratic governance in their home country. The conference can serve as a platform to discuss issues that matter to both citizens in Nigeria and those abroad.

Key topics could include governance reforms, human rights,

and social justice in all areas where the diaspora can lend their voice and influence. By fostering collaboration between Nigerian leaders and diaspora representatives, the conference can enhance advocacy efforts that align with the "Renewed Hope" agenda.

5. Cultural Exchange and Unity

The proposed conference would also promote cultural exchange and unity among Nigerians, both at home and abroad. By celebrating the diverse cultures, traditions, and achievements of the diaspora, the conference can strengthen national pride and a sense of belonging. This unity can galvanize support for the President's agenda, creating a collaborative environment where all Nigerians are invested in the country's prosperity.

6. Building Stronger Networks

Lastly, the conference will provide an opportunity for networking among participants. Establishing strong connections between diaspora members and local stakeholders can create a robust support system for Nigerian initiatives. By building relationships across borders, diasporans can effectively mobilize resources and support, making it easier to implement projects that align with the President's goals.

Conclusion

The proposed Diaspora Conference in Nigeria represents an essential step towards harnessing the collective potential of Nigerians living abroad. Fostering engagement with this vast community is crucial to actualizing the President's agenda of "Renewed Hope." By capitalizing on the economic contributions, knowledge, advocacy, and cultural richness of the diaspora, Nigeria can embark on a transformative journey towards sustainable growth and development. In this era of globalization, the active involvement of the diaspora is not just beneficial; it is a necessity for a brighter future for Nigeria. Through

dialogue and collaboration, we can create an inclusive framework that empowers every Nigerian, both at home and abroad, to contribute to our shared national destiny..

Editorial: Embracing the Diaspora: The 10th Assembly's Agenda and the Call for Cooperation

As the Nigerian 10th Assembly begins its work, the significance of engaging the diaspora community cannot be overstated. With millions of Nigerians living abroad, the diaspora represents a vital resource of knowledge, expertise, and investment potential, all of which are critical to the nation's growth and development. The Assembly, under the leadership of Senate President Godswill Akpabio, has a historic opportunity to strengthen ties with this influential community. However, for this to be successful, cooperation between the Assembly and the diaspora is essential. The agenda of the 10th Assembly places emphasis on several pressing issues, including economic revitalization, social equity, and good governance. By explicitly incorporating the diaspora into this agenda, the Assembly recognizes that Nigerians living abroad are not just distant citizens, but active stakeholders in the nation's progress. Their contributions in the form of remittances, investments, and advocacy are invaluable and have the potential to drive sustainable development.

The Unique Potential of the Diaspora

Nigerians in the diaspora possess a diverse range of skills and experiences that can directly contribute to various sectors back home. They have established themselves across industries such as technology, healthcare, education, and finance, making them a wealth of knowledge and resources for Nigeria. The 10th Assembly's

proactive stance on diaspora engagement reflects an understanding that benefiting from this pool of talent requires open channels of communication, trust, and understanding.

Moreover, the diaspora is not just an economic force. They are also cultural ambassadors, enhancing Nigeria's image on the global stage. Their positive contributions to their host countries can help counteract negative stereotypes and foster a more nuanced narrative about Nigeria. By aligning the diaspora's efforts with the Assembly's objectives, both parties can create a more favorable environment for collaboration, ultimately benefiting the nation as a whole.

The Need for Cooperation

However, to truly harness the potential of the diaspora, cooperation will be the cornerstone of success. The 10th Assembly must prioritize establishing frameworks that facilitate meaningful dialogue and engagement with diasporans. This can be achieved through regular forums, consultations, and collaborative projects that allow for the exchange of ideas and strategies.

Furthermore, the Assembly must cultivate a culture of inclusivity and appreciation for the diaspora's contributions. Many diaspora Nigerians have expressed feelings of disconnect from the political processes back home, often due to a lack of recognition of their potential impact. The Assembly can bridge this gap by actively seeking diaspora input in crafting policies that reflect their needs and aspirations.

Addressing Misunderstandings

It is also essential to address any misconceptions that may arise regarding the intentions of the Assembly and the government toward Nigerians abroad. Various stakeholders have urged for patience and understanding as the Assembly works toward implementing its agenda. As the President of the Senate and his team

strive to foster an environment conducive to economic growth and stability, it is crucial that the diaspora recognizes their role as partners in this journey.

Non-governmental organizations and experts can play pivotal roles in these efforts, promoting awareness and understanding among diaspora communities regarding the government's policies and goals. Such collaborative advocacy can further strengthen the relationship between the diaspora and the Assembly, encouraging proactive participation in national development.

Conclusion

As the 10th Assembly embarks on its legislative agenda, the inclusion and empowerment of the diaspora must remain at the forefront of its priorities. By embracing the unique contributions of Nigerians abroad and fostering a spirit of cooperation, the Assembly stands to transform potential into tangible progress. This partnership is not merely beneficial; it is essential for building a robust and resilient Nigeria that thrives on the collective strength of its citizens, both at home and abroad. Together, let us work toward a future that reflects the aspirations of all Nigerians, enhancing our nation's growth and prosperity through unity and shared purpose.

Achievements of Senator Opeyemi Bamidele: A Dedication to Progress and Development

Senator Opeyemi, a prominent figure within the National Assembly, has made substantial contributions to the legislative landscape and community development in his region. His leadership and commitment to public service have resulted in numerous achievements that have positively impacted the lives of his constituents and the nation as a whole. Here, we delve

into the key accomplishments that underscore his tenure as Senate Leader.

1. Legislative Reform and Policy Initiatives

As Senate Leader, Senator Opeyemi has championed several critical legislative reforms aimed at improving governance and enhancing the quality of life for citizens. His focus has been on creating a transparent and accountable government through the introduction of innovative policies that promote good governance.

This initiative has garnered bipartisan support, demonstrating Opeyemi's ability to collaborate across party lines to achieve common goals.

2. Economic Development Programs

Understanding the need for economic resilience, Senator Opeyemi has spearheaded various programs aimed at boosting local economies. His initiatives focus on job creation, support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and attracting foreign investments. One of his hallmark achievements in this area is the Economic Reform, which has successfully facilitated loans and grants for startups and local businesses, significantly reducing unemployment in his constituency. The program has resulted in the establishment of new businesses and has created thousands of jobs.

3. Education Advocacy

Senator Opeyemi believes that education is a fundamental right and a key driver of national development. He has made significant strides in advocating for educational reforms and increased funding for educational institutions. Under his leadership, the Senate has passed the educational bill, which aims to provide schooling for the out of school children, e.g., increase access to quality education, improve school infrastructure, etc. In addition, he has initiated

scholarship programs that have allowed numerous students from underserved communities to pursue higher education, empowering the next generation with the tools needed for success.

4. Healthcare Improvements

Access to quality healthcare is another critical area of focus for Senator Opeyemi. He has been instrumental in advocating for healthcare reforms, including the expansion of healthcare facilities and the improvement of medical services. Through his efforts, the Senate approved the health care initiative and funding programme aimed at reducing unemployment and provide quality health care to Nigerians.

Additionally, his advocacy led to community health programs that provide resources and education on preventive healthcare practices, significantly improving health outcomes in his constituency.

5. Infrastructure Development

Senator Opeyemi has also prioritized infrastructure development, recognizing its essential role in economic growth and quality of life. He has played a pivotal role in securing funding for critical infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, and public transportation systems. The completion of these projects has drastically improved connectivity and accessibility for residents, fostering greater economic activity in the region.

6. Community Engagement

A hallmark of Senator Opeyemi's leadership is his unwavering commitment to community engagement. He regularly holds town hall meetings, listens to constituents' concerns, and actively involves them in the legislative process. This open communication has fostered trust and accountability, allowing his constituents to feel heard and represented in the Senate.

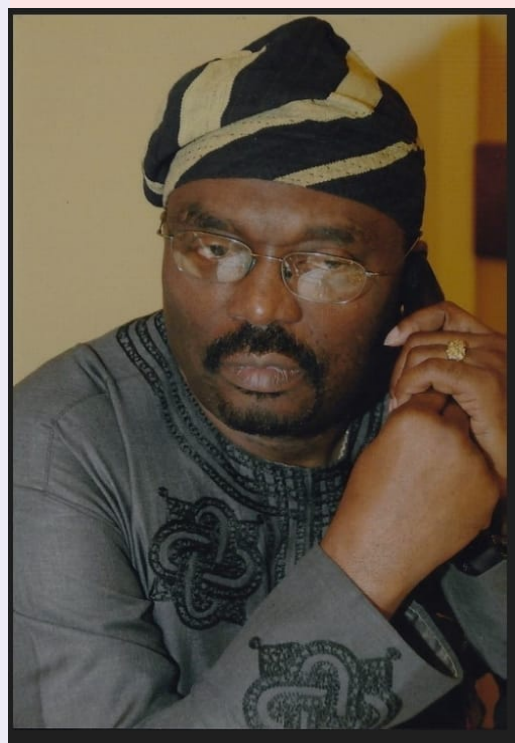
Conclusion

Senator Opeyemi's tenure as

Senate Leader has been marked by significant achievements that reflect his dedication to public service and his desire to create a better future for his constituents and the nation. His initiatives in legislation, economic development, healthcare, education, and infrastructure exemplify a leader committed to comprehensive and sustainable progress. As he continues to serve, the impact of his work resonates in the lives of many, setting a standard for leadership in the National Assembly and beyond. Through his vision and tenacity, Senator Opeyemi has proven to be a catalyst for positive change, advocating for a brighter future for all

Personality Profile: Professor Shaffideen Adeniyi Amuwo

Professor Shaffideen Adeniyi Amuwo is a distinguished Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus from the University of Illinois at Chicago, whose life and career reflect a deep commitment to both his mother country, Nigeria, and the broader diaspora community. With a notable career spanning several academic and administrative roles, he has



dedicated his expertise to improving public health and empowering future generations of health professionals.

A Bridge Builder and Nation Builder:

Professor Amuwo is widely celebrated as a "bridge builder" and a "nation builder extraordinaire," embodying a vision that sees the diaspora as an integral part of Nigeria's development narrative. His efforts to unify the Nigerian diaspora reflect his belief in the power of collaboration and shared purpose. By fostering connections among Nigerians abroad, he encourages collective action toward common goals, enhancing the influence and visibility of the diaspora in the realm of policy and development.

His impressive tenure at UIC left an indelible mark on the institution, bringing in over \$40 million in research and training grants. He was a catalyst for nurturing young people of African descent who are dedicated to "saving lives" and "preventing illnesses," cultivating a new generation of health professionals poised to make a significant impact both in the U.S. and Nigeria. This legacy of mentorship aligns with his overarching mission of nation-building through education and healthcare advancement.

A Commitment to Nigeria and Its future:

His recent transition from academia to a more direct involvement in Nigerian affairs illustrates his unwavering love for his mother country. As Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Nigerian Islamic Association in Chicago and a member of the Lagos State University Governing Council, Professor Amuwo actively engages in initiatives that promote social welfare and governance in Nigeria. His consultancy in establishing a Center for Disease Control and Prevention for the Lagos State Government is a testament to his commitment to improving public

health infrastructure, ensuring better health outcomes for Nigerians. He is not only a voice for the diaspora but serves as a vital link between Nigeria and its citizens abroad. His active participation in public health missions, which have provided medical supplies and services worth over \$40 million to African countries, underscores his dedication to uplifting the continent while also projecting a positive image of Nigeria.

A Legacy of Humility and Generosity:

Beyond his professional achievements, Professor Amuwo attributes much of his character his humility, steadfastness, and gentle spirit to his upbringing and the influences of his family. This foundation of generosity and kindness has made him a respected figure among his peers and an inspiring mentor to countless students and professionals. His roots in the royal family of Eletu Iwashe and his lineage linked to prominent Lagosian leaders further enrich his narrative, connecting him deeply to the cultural and historical fabric of his homeland.

In a world that often emphasizes individualism, Professor Shaffideen Amuwo stands out as a figure of unity, bridging gaps not only within the Nigerian diaspora but also between Nigeria and the global community. His efforts in advocating for the diaspora, coupled with his love for his mother country, contribute significantly to projecting the image of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration as one that values inclusivity and collaboration. Through his unwavering dedication to public health, education, and community service, Professor Amuwo is forging a path that inspires others to contribute to Nigeria's progress, reminding us all of the power of service, unity, and love for one's homeland.

Akpabio Distributes Empowerment Items to Constituents

On Monday, Senate President Godswil Akpabio distributed items valued at billions of naira through his empowerment programme to constituents in the Akwa Ibom North West Senatorial District. The event featured the distribution of business grant and various items, buses, tricycles, farm equipment, vulcanizing, machines, grinding machines, computers, and more. Additionally, 10 paramount rulers from the district each received a sports utility vehicle, while over 500 students were awarded scholarships and bursaries. Senator Akpabio emphasized that the distributed items and grants would enhance economic activities, improve livelihoods, and boost the overall well-being of beneficiaries. He expressed gratitude to his constituents for their support during the recent elections, noting that

over 119,000 of the 160,000 votes for President Bola Tinubu in Akwa Ibom came from his district. Akpabio praised President Tinubu for establishing development commissions, which he believes will accelerate grassroots development in the country. He encouraged continued support for Tinubu's administration, highlighting the president's commitment to the South South and South East regions. The programme was well-attended by Senators, traditional rulers, religious leaders, and various community groups, all showing their support for the Senate President. Senate Minority Leader Abba Moro commended Akpabio's leadership and His ability to garner bipartisan support in the 10th National Assembly, Minister of Petroleum Ekperikpe Ekpo asserted that Akpabio had fulfilled the mandate of his constituents, earning their desire to see him re-elected for continued effective representation





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