THE MEDIA and COVID-19



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Covid-19: Stakeholders Seek Trust Fund for Community Radio Stations



INSTITUTE FOR MEDIA AND SOCIETY

Online Roundtable

THEME:

Community Journalism in the COVID-19 Period: Strides. Challenges. Opportunities.

Participants: Community Media Managers, Advocates & Scholars

Date: Tuesday 30 June 2020

Stakeholders of community radio across Nigeria have called for a special trust fund to help sustain the stations as they battle to survive the financial crunch brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The stakeholders, who included managers, producers, heads of programme, news of community radio stations across the country, advocates and scholars, made the call during an online roundtable organized by the Institute for Media and Society, IMS, on Tuesday, 30 June, 2020.

The roundtable had the theme: Community Journalism in the COVID-19 Period: Strides, Challenges, and Opportunities. The conference was moderated by Dr Abiodun Ogidan of Unilag Radio and Mrs Miriam Menkiti, senior journalist and founding member of NCRC.

In his opening remarks, the Executive Director of IMS, Dr. Akin Akingbulu, thanked the participants for their attendance and urged everyone to contribute and proffer solutions to the challenges facing community radio stations in the country.

In the first session with the topic; *Background Perspectives: The Nigerian Media Industry in the COVID-19 Period*, Dr. Akingbulu noted that community radio broadcasting was marking its fifth anniversary in 2020 with resilience and a level of professionalism having commendably passed through a major national event, namely the 2019 general election in Nigeria and remarkably handling current global *COVID-19* pandemic.

Akingbulu noted that though community radio stations played limited role during the elections due to statutory regulations, many are playing important role on the COVID-19 pandemic because the media as front liners in the coverage, reportage and dissemination of information are key to the understanding, control and containment of Corona Virus.

He said that while giving wide coverage to COVID-19 related issues through jingles, drama presentation, discussions and interviews, for example, journalists have contracted the virus and some have died in the course of the discharge of their duties.

He said, "Journalists' rights have been violated while on duty for COVID-19 coverage. Some have been sacked, suspended and banned from covering activities at governor's office.

Media houses have faced regulatory sanctions by the NBC on COVID-19 as well as a downturn in business. Cut in advertising revenue had led to struggle for survival forcing media houses to adopt some measures like cut in wages, forced vacation, closure of units, reduction of broadcast hours, putting programmes to rest, and reduction in the pages of newspapers."

Dr Akingbulu said these factors have made the media to be "critically fragile" and could lead to threat to media professionalism.

Dr. Abiodun Ogidan who moderated the second session with the topic; *How Community Radio Covered the COVID-19 Pandemic in Nigeria*, asked the participants to share their experiences.

One after the other, all the participants took turns to do so. Many revealed that they have been supporting the COVID-19 cause by producing and disseminating jingles, drama and discussion programmes in local languages and dialects. They also reported that jingles from the government and the National Centre for Disease Control, NCDC and some international organisations were adapted to local languages and disseminated for free.

Mrs Menkiti handled the third session with the topic: *The Challenges for the Community Radio in the Fight Against COVID-19*.

In their responses, the participants lamented the high cost of running their stations as most of them run on generators in the absence of lack of public power supply. Other challenges comprised sustained pay for staff, composed mainly of volunteers, lack of mobility and transportation, particularly during the enforcement of the lockdown by security personnel, insecurity in some localities, where banditry, kidnapping and criminality had been recurring for some time.

The last session; *Mapping The Way Forward:* Overcoming Challenges, Returning to Sustainability, also moderated by Dr Ogidan, attracted suggestions from participants and

invited guests. These included the use of solar energy as a sustainable alternative to public power supply and use of generator, need for NBC, NCDC and other government agencies to support the broadcast of jingles with funds, sustainability through monthly government subvention, explore regulated advertisement as source of funding and the institution of an independent Trust Fund.

In his contribution, a community radio advocate, Obinna Chukwuzie, advised the operators of community radio stations to do information needs assessment before the dissemination of any information and tailor their programmes to local needs because the messages from the NCDC and other government agencies might be too generic to elicit attention of their listeners.

Group Seeks Transparency, Total Overhaul of Electoral System

In another development, interest groups attending a virtual town hall meeting on electoral reform on Tuesday called for the speedy amendment of the Electoral Act to ensure that the 2023 general election is devoid of malpractices that have marked the conduct of various elections in the country since the down of democracy in 1999.

Discussing the topic, *Electoral Reform:*Stakeholders Seek Transparency, Total
Overhaul of System, hosted by YIAGA Africa
in conjunction with European Center for
Electoral Support, ECES, on Channels
Television, the Chairman of INEC, Prof.
Mahmood Yakubu said the use of technology,
conduct of political parties, and judicial
processes, have posed challenges to the
conduct of free and fair elections in the
country.

He lamented the failure to penalize electoral offenders as a major motivation for electoral malpractices and called for the establishment of an Electoral Offence Commission.

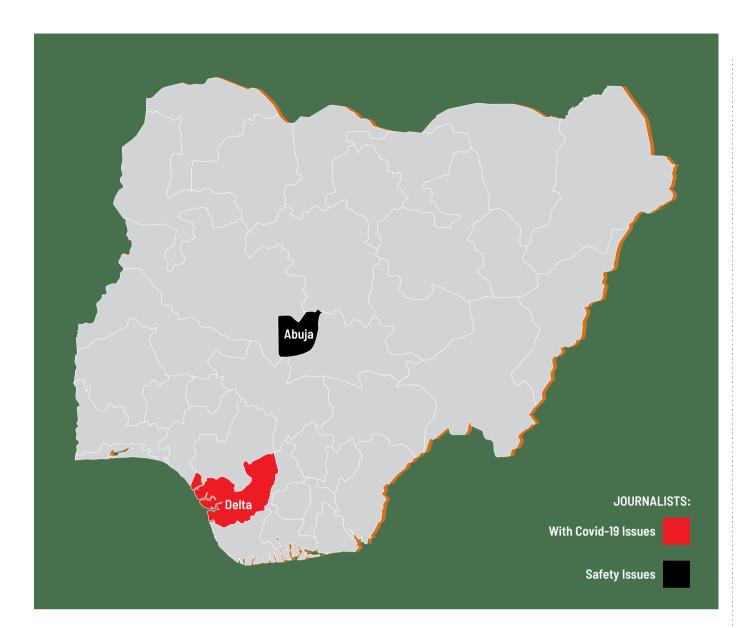
A former Deputy Senate President, Senator Ike Ekweremadu assured Nigerians that the amended Electoral Act Bill would be passed on or before December 2020 and said the laws in the country are not the problem but their implementation.

Senator Opeyemi Bamidele, Chairman Senate Committee on Judiciary also said the Senate was committed to passing the Electoral Act Bill as soon as circumstances allow.

On his part, the Executive Director of the Institute for Media and Society, Dr, Akin Akingbulu, who was a studio guest in the Lagos station of the TV, called for the inclusion of security of journalists on election duty, transparency in campaign funding and equitable access for all political parties to the media in the amended Electoral Act.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Journalists' Safety on the Frontlines; Inside Media Business; Policy and Regulation





NUJ Tasks Journalists on Corona Virus Protocols

s frontliners covering Covid-19, the Nigeria Union of Journalists, (NUJ) on Monday, tasked members in Nasarawa state to observe all Coronavirus (COVID-19) protocols outlined by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), during the council's election scheduled for Thursday.

This was contained in a statement signed by Mr. Wilson Bako, 'Zone-D' National Vice President of NUJ and made available to newsmen in Lafia.

According to the statement, any member who breached the COVID-19 protocols during the election will be disenfranchised, reminding them that as role models they need to show examples.

He urged members to use facemasks, adding that the union would provide hand sanitizer, soap and running water at the venue of the election also ensure strict compliance to the physical distancing directive.

The election is for new officials into the various positions of NUJ, Nasarawa State Council supervised by national officers of the union.

It said that the election would hold at the NUJ Press Centre Lafia along Makurdi Road, by 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 2.

Bako explained that only duly registered journalists would be allowed to participate in the election.

He advised members of the union come along with their professional identity card in order to participate in the election.

Urging journalists who have not paid their dues to do so and come with their identity cards to the venue, he called on the leadership of all chapels to mobilize their members to the venue early in order to ensure orderly coordination in line with the COVID-19 protocols.

Group Raises Alarm Over Health Condition Of Delta Journalist Who Tested Positive For COVID-19

r. Theophilus Onojeghen, the journalist who tested positive for COVID-19 last week in Warri, the Delta State capital has deteriorated in health, according to a group, the Conference for Human Right, which raised the alarm on his condition during the week. The group is known as Conference for Human Rights.

National Coordinator of the group, Omes Ogedegbe in a statement on Monday also urged the government to seriously look into the increasing incidents of viral infections in the state with a bid to tackling it headlong.

On Onjegehen, Ogedegbe said, "Our brother and friend, Theophilus Onojeghen, the Managing Editor of Delta Today online media, submitted his blood sample for testing after he came in contact with somebody who later became positive for COVID-19 on Monday 23/6/2020 and sadly it came back positive. It was then we realized there are no isolation centers in Delta State as the Health Commissioner told him to self-isolate in his house knowing he has a wife and son.

"On Saturday 28th June 2020, Mr. Theo became terribly sick and was having difficulty breathing, his wife was forced to raise an alarm and serious pressure was mounted on the NCDC officers who reluctantly arrived two hours later to their home."

The group called on officials of the Commission to test his wife and son for coronavirus before it is too late, fearing that the journalists may have infected them during his prolonged stay at home.

Rep Chases Journalists Out of Covid-19 Probe

mild drama occurred Friday at the National Assembly, when a member of the House of Representatives from Oyo State, Rep. Adedeji Olajide, a member of the House of Representatives from Oyo State on Friday threw caution to the wind and chased journalists out of a public hearing organized by the House.

The venue was at the chamber of the National Assembly, Abuja, during the public hearing organised by the House of Representatives ad hoc committee on COVID-19 investigating indigenous medical research in the fight against COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in the country.

The event had in attendance the Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire, Minister of state for Health, Senator Olorunimbe Mamora, the Director General of NCDC, Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu and other heads of agencies and parastatals under the health ministry.

Following observation by a House member that the meeting room was overheated due to overcrowded, the Sergeant-at- arms was directed to decongest the room.

Instead of allowing the sergeant-at-arms to discharge on the orders of the chairman by preventing more people from entering the hearing room, Rep. Olajide, took over the functions of a sergeant-at-arms and began walking out journalists and guests out of the hearing venue.

He ordered the sergeant -at -arms to forcefully remove any journalists or guest who dares to question his hostile behaviour, resulting in protest by journalists covering the hearing and an eventual walk-out.

However, to placate the aggrieved journalists, a member of the ad hoc committee, Rep. Aniekan Umannah from Akwa Ibom State, intervened and pleaded with the journalists to forget about the embarrassment and continue with the coverage of the investigative hearing.

Majority of the House correspondents frowned at the behaviour of the first time House member from Oyo State, who in the last one year has neither sponsored a bill or a motion on the floor of the House.

Responding, Olajide said, "The venue was filled to capacity, the plea was not heeded and it was at this point that I, as a member of the committee, rose to the occasion by pleading with people sitting towards the back of the venue, who were neither committee members nor officials of the MDAs expected at the event, to kindly excuse the gathering.

"I was made aware of the fact that some of these people were reporters but the fact that many of their colleagues were in front recording, I figured that it would be possible to share recordings and write stories after transcriptions must have been done.

"It is not in my character to be unruly with anyone, let alone members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm,"

"I have always held journalists in high esteem and consider them as partners in progress in the task of nation-building."





Nigerians Call for Pay-As-You-Go Digital Satellite Services

igerian subscribers to the Digital Satellite Television (DStv) service, owned by South Africa's multinational company, MultiChoice, have insisted that the Federal Government must compel the firm to introduce a Pay-as—You-Go service in the country.

This call comes on the heels of a directive last week by the Federal House of Representatives, compelling MultiChoice to immediately suspend the recent tariff hike across all its bouquets.

Despite official directive on the company to suspend the hike in tariffs, MultiChoice had reportedly increased tariffs across board earlier this month. The Pay TV firm had in a text message to users, said that effective June 1, 2020, it would implement 7.5 percent VAT on all DStv services.

This invariably means that it was not prepared to shoulder the 2.5 per cent increase in value added tax (VAT), from five to 7.5 per cent, which was legitimized by the signing of the 2019 Finance Act by President Muhammadu Buhari.

In 2018, Naspers, a multinational Internet group, headquartered in South Africa, claimed that MultiChoice had a total subscriber base of 13.5 million viewers, with Nigeria accounting for 40 per cent of that figure.

However, as at November 2019, during the presentation of its maiden financial results after listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, the report showed that MultiChoice subscriber base across Africa was 15.1 million. South Africa accounted for 7.4 million, while the rest of Africa had 7.7 million.

But some of the subscribers in Nigeria, who spoke with The Guardian at the weekend, insisted that the Federal Government must find a way to compel MultiChoice, owners of DStv and GOtv, to introduce the Pay- As- You -Go service.

Lagos-based Gbenga Akindele, who recently downgraded his subscription, said something must be done about MultiChoice. "Most Nigerians are paying for services that they are not using. I have been a Premium subscriber for many years, but I have not benefitted anything from the company.

"The worst is that, most times, I am on the road, which means my subscription is just burning off because the people at home too are out. When the message for tariff hike came last month, from N15, 800 to N16, 200, I downgraded to Compact Plus; enough of the exploitation!'

On her part, Benedicta Agom, a resident of Abuja, said: "As much as we don't want tariff hike, we also want Pay- As –You- Go. MultiChoice should know that there is no disposable income again in this country. We subscribe to the service because of the children. It is no more sustainable to keep increasing tariff, when Nigeria remains the largest market."

Agom said the services are poor, "any slight thunderstorm, the signal will disappear. On GOtv, if an aeroplane is flying, the service will go off, and we are still paying for bad services. The Nigerian authorities should look into this."

The National President, Association of Telephone, Cable TV and Internet Subscribers (ATCIS), Sina Bilesanmi, in an interview, noted that Nigerians were generally being exploited by MultiChoice and other players in the PayTV market.

Bilesanmi argued that the fact that they were stuck with monthly prepaid subscription model against the peoples will meant that the company was exploitative.

"Here is why: When you do your subscription today, and you travel for the next 30 days such that you have not enjoyed your subscription, it will have expired before your return, and when you come back, you'll have to do another subscription to have access to their services.

"This is why ATCIS, as the only subscriber advocacy body in the country, has been canvassing that these PayTV operators should introduce another model known as, Pay-As-You-Go or Pay Per View," he stated.

Broadcast Industry Players Shaken By MultiChoice's Decision to Drop EPL, Champions League rights

n a swift reaction to the ongoing move by government to streamline its activity within the ambits of statutory regulation,
Multichoice, through its subsidiary,
SuperSport, which owns broadcast rights for the EPL in Nigeria and most of the rest of Africa, on Thursday said it was considering not renewing the rights for the EPL and the UEFA Champions League when they come up for renewal at the end of the 2020/21 football season.

Stakeholders in Nigerian broadcast industry have described the decision by satellite broadcast outfit, Multichoice, to reconsider its hold on the English Premier League (EPL) and the UEFA Champions League as a reflection of the state of the economy.

The company blamed the hostile operating environment in terms of the fall in value of the Naira against other currencies and the rising cost of international sports rights.

"It is becoming impossible to maintain many of these sports rights, especially the EPL, for Nigeria. The recent fall of the naira against the dollar has equally not helped matters," it said, in a statement, adding

"Rights for the African continent used to be bought singly, but this changed in 2007 when a competitor, backed by the federal government, forced the EPL to excise Nigeria from the rest of Africa. Now, the cost of the rights for Nigeria has risen to almost the same with the rest of the continent put together, while the number of subscribers in Nigeria is only about one quarter of the rest of the continent."

It put the running costs at about \$250 million to get the EPL rights and about 100 million euros for the UEFA Champions League.

"The results show that percentage increase in expenses exceed a percentage increase in revenues, an indication that while it is spending more on its operations, it is not making enough to keep up," it added.

Reacting to the development, Managing Director of Hotsports/HS Media, an independent and sports marketing company



and official media partner of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Taiye Ige, told the Guardian it was a sad reality of the times 'we are in.' According to Ige, it is a problem caused by now rested HiTV, which came and made unsustainable bids for the contents in an effort to monopolise the market.

"Before HiTV came to the scene, Nigeria and Africa were seen as one," Ige lamented. "But they came and said Nigeria should be separate. They accepted to pay the same amount Africa as a whole was paying. Today, they are no longer here, but the problem is still with us. Where is the market? Which Nigerian bank will support you with this kind of money?"

Ige accused the Nigerian Broadcast Corporation (NBC) of also being part of the problem, when he insisted, "They just sit down and make laws without thinking of the implication. They said that nobody should have exclusive rights to any content, but they did not look at the cost of getting contents."

When contacted, Multichoice's major competitor, StarTimes, said the development has opened the doors for other outfits to bid for the rights. It added, however, that they would study the situation to know the best way to approach it.

A StarTimes senior official, who pleaded anonymity, said "our operations are geared towards getting quality contents for our subscribers. We are currently looking at the possibilities and will come up with a decision at the right time."

Former Sports Manager at Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Mr. Paul Ogazi, said the national broadcaster could take up the challenge with the backing of the Federal Government. Ogazi, who recalled that NTA was broadcasting EPL before the advent of pay television, said, "With government's support and aggressive marketing, NTA can do it. If they get corporate sponsorship, they can pool resources with other outfits to take up the rights.

"When I produced the EPL, all the stations came together under BON. We had a marketing group headed by OSMI to source for commercials and share the percentages.

"NTA and its partners may decide on the type of production, whether it would be central production or studio by studio. When we did it, we had a central studio, where the other partners sent their analysts every match day.

"To get it right, there must be accountability and everybody must be on the same page."



NBC, Board Split Over New Broadcasting Code

he recently promulgated 6th code by the management of the National Broadcasting Organisation, NBC, to streamline broadcasting in the country has caused a split between the Board and management.

Reacting to wide spread concerns raised by stakeholders, Ikra Bilbis, chairman of the commission's board, in a notice called for the papers on the amendments of the code.

"The board of the National Broadcasting Commission sat to review the various positions and resolved that fresh invitations be extended to all stakeholders in the industry especially those with genuine observations aimed at improving the quality of Broadcasting in Nigeria," he said in a notice issued on his behalf by Salihu Bamidele Aluko, a lawyer.

According to him; "Position papers in respect of the proposal amendments should please be submitted to reach the following e-mail addresses not later than 9th of July, 2020." Armstrong Idachaba, acting director-general of the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), has disowned a call for position papers on the amendments to the 6th edition of the country's broadcasting code by the board of the commission.

But in a notice on Monday, Ating Director General of the NBC, Prof Armstrong Idachaba said the call by the board for submission of position papers did not have the endorsement of the commission.

The acting DG said the amendments are final because they have gone through the "necessary processes" and that anyone wishing to make an input should wait until the next review of the code.

He said; "The amendment to the 6th Edition of the Code, we must reiterate, is consequent to the presidential approval for the reform of the National Broadcasting Commission," he said.

He said; "The amendments went through the necessary processes culminating in a public presentation to critical stakeholders on the 26th of March, 2020, at L'eola Hotel, Lagos. The amendment, as released, is therefore final. Any group wishing to make further inputs will exercise such views at the next Review of the Code."

Some of the amendments to the code are registration of web/online broadcasting services and restriction of exclusive contents on platforms.

Also, broadcast content must have 75

percent input from Nigerians. The code provides for sub-licensing of all broadcast contents as well.

The NBC is made up of a board of commissioners appointed by the president as a policy-making body. The DG of the commission is a member of the board.

FG Directs MultiChoice to Suspend Hike In Tariffs

he Acting Director General of Nigerian Broadcasting Commission, NBC, Mr.

Armstrong Idachaba, has ordered the management of MultiChoice, to suspend the implementation of its new hiked tariffs on different bouquets on its Digital Satellite Television, DSTV. The directive came on the heels of the meeting with an ad hoc committee looking into the operations of the cable service provider.

Besides, the Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, also disclosed Federal government's plan to break the Sporting rights monopoly of DSTV.

The duo spoke at the National Assembly, while briefing members of an Ad Hoc Committee looking into the hike in tariffs. "I want to agree, with the Committee and call on DSTV to suspend the hike in tariffs", Idachaba, said when pushed by the Committee.

Earlier, Alhaji Mohammed told lawmakers that he already signed a code to break the monopoly of MultiChoice in the country, saying, "our amendments to the Broadcasting Act, will affect the break in the monopoly of MultiChoice.

"Amendments to Section 628 of the Broadcasting Act, is in our broad national interest," he said.

FG Targets \$1.1bn From Spectrum, TV Licenses' Sale

he Federal Government is targeting the sum of \$1.1 billion from sale of television licences, digital access fees and spectrum once the analogue to digital switch over has been completed and running.

Briefing newsmen yesterday after the virtual Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting chaired by President Muhammadu Buhari, the Minister of

Policy and Regulation



Lai Mohammed, Minister of Information and Culture

Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, said his ministry would also create at least 2 million jobs by 2023 once the plan comes on stream.

He said; "The number one job creator under the Ministry of Information and Culture is the Digital Switch Over (DSO) in broadcasting, which is set to create one million jobs in the next three years through the manufacturing of settop-boxes (decoders) and TV sets, TV and Film production, as well as TV and online advertising and data, among others.

He said the DSO would also fetch \$100 million from the collection of TV licences and Digital Access Fees, as well as \$1 billion from the sale of the spectrum that would be vacated once the Analogue to Digital migration has been completed.

"We have so far rolled out the DSO in five states (Enugu, Osun, Kwara, Kaduna and Plateau states) as well as the Federal Capital Territory. We are now set to extend the rollout to all parts of the country," he said, adding,

"Also, the ongoing reform of the broadcast and advertising industries is aimed at strengthening the industries so they can live up to their billing and generate more job opportunities. In the broadcast industry, the reform will, among others, propel revolutionary advantages in the area of promoting entrepreneurship in the local industry.

"As for the advertising sector, bringing Nigeria's TV advertisement market to what it should be, which is three times its current size, could result in additional \$200-\$400 million revenue to the industry, in addition to creating thousands of jobs.

"Then, of course, the Cultural Industries Centres, which are scattered all over the country, are capable of creating 500,000 jobs within the next three years, just as we can have some 100,000 jobs from the restoration of our museums, especially in Lagos, Plateau and Kwara."



Editor's Note

hat better way to create awareness and make the desired impact about a subject as important to democratic governance as electoral reform than by conducting stakeholders' forum to generate ideas and create a supportive platform?

That is the import of the several virtual town hall meetings Civil Society Organizations, the Media, Scholars and other public figures have been organizing for the past few weeks as the governorship elections in Edo and Ondo states approach.

The latest outcome of these outings is captured in detail in our opening page. You will love the different angles to the story.

As a prominent profession among those that now make- up the last defense against coronavirus as the viral infection enters community stage, journalists are ever faced with the threat of contracting the disease. It is good the Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ, has taken the challenge to enforce the standing protocols on it members. Still, journalists are under constant neglect and threat in the course of doing their job. You will find details of these stories on the inside page.

The recent Code 6 announced by the National Broadcasting Commission, NBC, to streamline broadcasting in the country has been generating such diverse reactions from stakeholders and the informed public that it appears to have acquired a life of its own to hit at any direction. This fire this time is at the Commission itself.

That is the interesting dimension to the controversial Code 6 we bring you in this edition. During the week, the NBC board decided it had had enough of the continuous critical reactions from the various interest groups in the country. It called on the management to suspend the code and allow for input from stakeholders. Miffed by the sudden volte- face, the management led by Acting Director General of the Commission kicked against the move and declared that no amendment would be allowed for now, except later during another review.

Another argument that has raged for days deals with the hike in fees by MultiChoice, Nigeria, owners of Dstv and Gotv. Nigerians, their elected representatives and appointed officials have weighed in, prompting the Federal Government to suspend the fee hike.

In a swift reaction, the company retaliated by suspending rights to relay European Premier League, a hit with many Nigerians. The ding- dong affair is on. We serve you the latest in the developing story.

Happy reading.

The Editor

Institute for Media and Society, Nigeria

NCDC Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by State, July 3, 2020

States Affected	No. of Cases (Lab Confirmed)	No. of Cases (on admission)	No. Discharged	No. of Deaths
Lagos	10,823	9,060	1,631	132
FCT	2,020	1,377	608	35
Oyo	1,432	717	703	12
Kano	1,257	228	977	52
Edo	1,203	662	498	43
Delta	1,149	737	387	25
Rivers	1,114	389	687	38
Ogun	898	270	609	19
Kaduna	818	236	570	12
Katsina	578	114	441	23
Bauchi	512	34	466	12
Gombe	511	123	369	19
Borno	501	35	433	33
Ebonyi	438	78	357	3
Plateau	393	164	219	10
Ondo	353	223	110	20
Imo	352	296	50	6
Abia	351	141	207	3
Enugu	342	169	164	9
Jigawa	318	1	308	9
Kwara	269	118	142	9
Bayelsa	234	96	123	15
Nasarawa	213	92	113	8
Sokoto	152	16	121	15
Osun	148	94	48	6
Niger	116	64	45	7
Akwa Ibom	104	48	54	2
Adamawa	89	36	47	6
Kebbi	81	16	58	7
Zamfara	76	0	71	5
Anambra	73	7	57	9
Benue	65	34	30	1
Yobe	61	5	48	8
Ekiti	43	1	40	2
Taraba	19	9	10	0
Kogi	4	3	0	1

Highlights

- On the 2nd of July 2020, 626 new confirmed cases and 13 deaths were recorded in Nigeria.
- No new state has reported a case in the last 24 hours.
- Till date, **27,110** cases have been confirmed, **10,801** cases have been discharged and **616** deaths have been recorded in 35 states and the Federal Capital Territory.
- The **626** new cases are reported from 20 states Lagos (193), FCT (85), Oyo (41), Edo (38), Kwara (34), Abia (31), Ogun (29), Ondo (28), Rivers (26), Osun (21), Akwa Ibom (18), Delta (18), Enugu (15), Kaduna (13), Plateau (11), Borno (8), Bauchi (7), Adamawa (5), Gombe (4), Sokoto (1)

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