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AGF LATEEF FAGBEMI, SAN COMMISSIONS NHRC KEBBI STATE OFFICE

The federal government has urged the citizens and other stakeholders to collaborate and support the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) considering its crucial roles in laying the cornerstone of human rights protection in Nigeria.

The Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice,

Prince Lateef Fagbemi (SAN) who made this statement at the official inauguration of the NHRC Office in Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State observed that the Commission has not only championed the full enjoyment of human rights in the country but it has been working relentlessly to maintain an enviable human rights record at the global scene.



Newly commissioned NHRC Building in Kebbi State

Speaking on the imperatives of the NHRC having its own Office, the Minister recalled that the Commission was established pursuant to UN Resolution 48/134 of 20th December 1993 as well as the Paris Principles for the establishment of National Human

Rights Institutions.

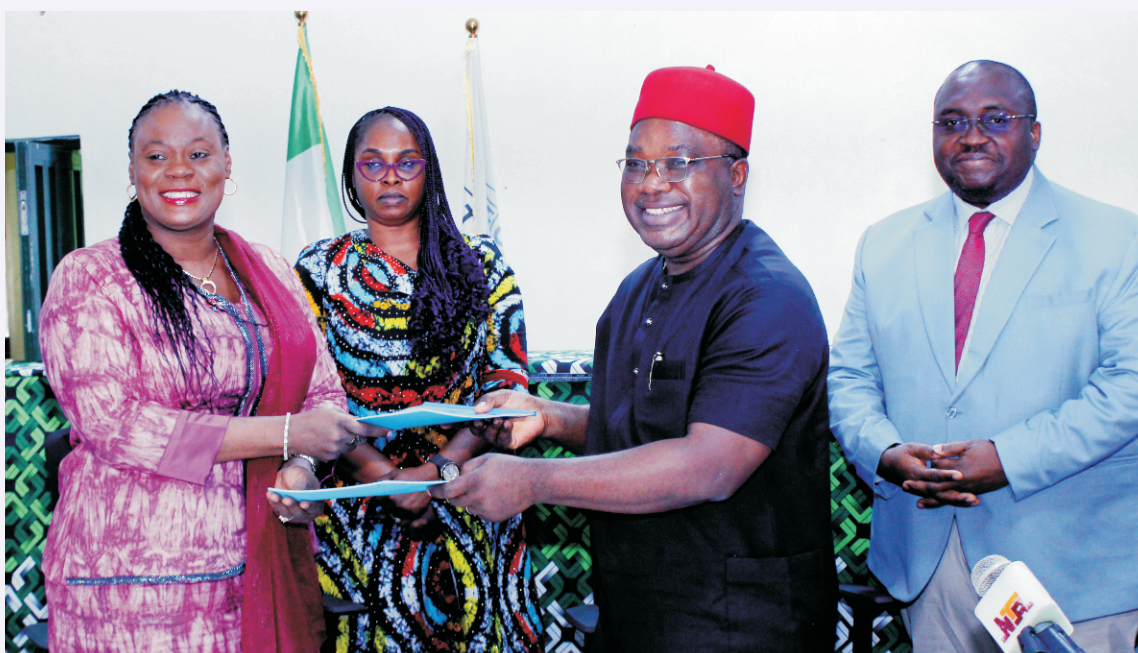
Under the Paris Principles, the AGF noted, the NHRC is expected to be independent in the execution of its mandate, structure and operations.

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NHRC, NACA SIGN MoU TO STRENGTHEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEALTH POLICIES

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in collaboration with the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) and support from Global Fund organised an inaugural Access to Justice Coordination Forum as part of its implementation of the Global funds grant cycle 7 (GT7).

Speaking at the Access to Justice Coordination Forum held at the Commission's headquarters, the Executive Secretary NHRC Dr. Tony Ojukwu OFR, SAN reiterated its



L-R Dr. Temitope Ilori DG NACA, PA to the DG of NACA, Dr. Tony Ojukwu, OFR, SAN ES NHRC, and Hilary Ogbonna, Senior Human Rights Adviser to the Executive Secretary NHRC during the signing of the MoU between NHRC & NACA

commitment to protecting the rights of all individuals, regardless of their vulnerability, in a bid to foster a more just and inclusive society.

The Director General of NACA hailed the

collaboration as a significant milestone in the fight against the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV/AIDS. She noted that the partnership would enable NACA to leverage its expertise to build a more inclusive society

across Nigeria.

Adding to the discussion, the Country Director of UNAIDS, Dr. Leo Zekeng, represented by Oluwa Fisayo Fakayode, stressed that access to justice require

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HUMAN RIGHTS DASHBOARD: KILLING OF MILITARY PERSONNEL, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS & CHILD ABANDONMENT STILL HIGH IN JANUARY 2025

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Situation Dashboard recorded 169,850 complaints of human rights violation in January 2025, indicating over one thousand percent increase in comparison to January 2024 edition of the human rights dashboard. The Commission's observatory shows a resurgence of Boko Haram in the North-East, banditry and insurgency in the North West, violence and criminalities in the South East, all assuming alarming dimensions that impact on human rights. The Executive Secretary of the NHRC, Dr. Tony Ojukwu OFR, SAN who delivered a speech at the presentation of January, 2024 edition of the Dashboard decried the increasing complaints of human rights violations across the nation, calling for an urgent action by the government and other duty bearers to stem the ugly tide. However, all hope is not lost as the learned Silk recalled the "revival of the local government through their new autonomy is a game changer", as the government at the grassroots level are financially empowered to

put in place policies and programmes that will enhance human rights protection.

According to the Chief Human Rights Officer of the Commission, "Our responsibility is not just to document human rights violations but to drive real, lasting change in governance, security, and social justice.

Besides, the Human Rights Advocate stated that "our duty is to ensure that these voices are not just heard, but that tangible action follows".

The Executive Secretary reiterated that 2025 is a milestone year for the National Human Rights Commission as it marks its 30th anniversary of its establishment. We have witnessed over the last three decades, a human right trajectory which indicates progress even though at a slow pace.

"We must not give up as governments at national and state level continue to adopt legal, policy and institutional frameworks to achieve human rights for all", he added.

He also expressed gratitude to the NHRC partners, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human

Rights (OHCHR) for their continued and unwavering support.

In his presentation, the Senior Human Rights Adviser to the Executive Secretary, Mr. Hilary Ogbonna stated that there was more than one hundred percent decrease in complaints from December 2024 to January 2025.

According to the Senior Human Rights Adviser, the January 2025 dashboard showed that child abandonment was the highest in terms of violations across the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria, followed by killings.

Across the thematic areas, violations against the law enforcement agents and human dignity was the highest while spousal abandonment was top in violations against women.

Borno was the topmost State in the number of killings amounting to 69, and other issues in focus include killing of military and law enforcement personnel, extrajudicial killings as well as death by communal clashes and death by accident. It will be recalled that there were cases of tanker explosions in Niger and Enugu state last month (January) resulting in the death of many citizens.●

NHRC EBONYI STATE OFFICE, PARTNERS INTERVENE AS MAN BEATS WIFE TO DEATH

Ebonyi State Office of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has intervened into the alleged killing of a woman by her husband by escalating the incident to the State Command of the Nigeria Police Force for thorough investigation and other necessary action in accordance with the law.

The NHRC State Coordinator, Onyekachi Okorie who reported the alleged beating to death of the woman by her husband to the Police also attended the burial ceremony of the deceased woman.

Prior to the burial, the Coordinator collaborated with relevant stakeholders in the State to ensure the arrest of the suspect who is currently remanded in prison custody from where he attends his trial for willful homicide. According to the Coordinator, the burial was



marked with emotional moments as the little children of the deceased wept uncontrollably as they witnessed the sad event confirming that they have been untimely rendered motherless by their own father.

The event was attended by the Police, the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of

Education, Ministry of Health, the Media, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and other agencies and organisations who are stakeholders in the fight against gender violence and other human rights violations.

The burial presented a veritable opportunity to sensitise the mourning community on the need to jettison all forms of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), which has severally resulted in the untimely deaths of many citizens.

The Commission is therefore using the opportunity to remind citizens that the government has made efforts to stop violence in the society. For instance, the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act, 2015 is an extant legislation in Nigeria to guard against violence in the country.●

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NHRC, NACA SIGN MoU TO STRENGTHEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEALTH POLICIES

collaborative efforts so that victims can access it without hindrance. "Justice is not a privilege for a few but a right for all," she stated.

Similarly, Alexander Chimbaru, a representative from the World Health Organization (WHO), highlighted that while his organization has achieved 96% access to healthcare in Nigeria, key populations still face stigma and discrimination. He reaffirmed WHO's continued support in the fight against

these challenges, emphasizing the need for collective efforts to ensure that no one is left behind.

A major highlight of the inauguration event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the NHRC and NACA.

The agreement aims to establish a legal framework for collaboration between the two organizations, focusing on advocacy, policy

reforms, and the protection of human rights, particularly the rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS as well as Key Population.

The MoU is expected to enhance efforts in addressing human rights concerns related to HIV/AIDS, discrimination, and access to healthcare, reinforcing the commitment of both institutions to fostering a just and equitable society.●

EMIR OF GWANDU RECEIVES NHRC'S DELEGATION IN HIS PALACE

Emir of Gwandu, His Highness Major General Muhammadu Iliyasu Bashir (rtd) has lauded the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for commissioning its new State office in Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State, saying that the initiative will ease the filing of human rights complaints and their resolution in good time.

The Royal Father stated this when the Chairperson Governing Council of the NHRC, Dr. Salamatu Hussaini Suleiman (FICMC), and the Executive Secretary, Dr. Tony Ojukwu led other Members of the Council, Directors and other staff of the Commission in the courtesy visit to the Emir Palace.

The Traditional Ruler expressed optimism in general. She therefore solicited for the human rights violations to the new office and that there will be increased human rights cooperation of the Emir in popularising the not to resort to taking the laws into their awareness following the establishment of presence of the Commission in the various hands.

the NHRC State office in Kebbi State even as communities under his emirate through his Councillors.

he urged the citizens of the State to take The Chairperson who was a former Minister Emir for creating time to receive the NHRC of Women Affairs and Social Development team in his Palace, pledging the commitment

Earlier, the Chairperson had told the Emir and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs at of the staff of the Commission in dealing with that the Commission is fully committed to different times, used the occasion to urge the cases of human rights violations in the State.◉

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AGF LATEEF FAGBEMI COMMISSIONS NHRC KEBBI STATE OFFICE, RALLIES STAKEHOLDERS SUPPORT

He noted that "this independence is further Chairperson, Governing Council National "Additionally, the non-justiciability of guaranteed under Section 6(3) of the Human Rights Commission, Dr. Salamatu Chapter 2 of the Constitution is also a major National Human Rights Commission Hussaini Suleiman noted that the NHRC was hurdle we must overcome because a great (Amendment) Act, 2010 ("NHRC Act"), supported by the Budget Office of the percentage of rights abuses and violations which provides that in carrying out its Federation and the National Assembly from revolve around the issues under this mandate and operations, the Commission 2009. Chapter", the Executive Secretary said.

shall not be subject to the control of any According to the former Minister of Women He therefore reiterated the fact that "human authority or person" Affairs, the Commission embarked on the rights are not mere privileges; they are the

He therefore reiterated the principles of construction and completion of nine new bedrock of our collective well-being. As State independence and accountability as Offices. The Kebbi State Office actors collaborating with the Commission, enshrined in the NHRC Act, which are critical commissioned is among those awarded so we bear the duty to protect and promote to the work of the NHRC, as they allow the far while others will be awarded as funds these rights in our State "

Commission to carry out its responsibilities become available. The NHRC Chief Executive Officer gave

without any interference. The Chairperson used the opportunity to kudos to his former Boss, Dr. Bukhari Bello, a "The Federal Government, therefore, appeal to the federal government for further former Executive Secretary of the NHRC, the supports the Commission in its role to support in areas such as adequate funding, Hon. Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef promote and safeguard human rights, which construction of the remaining 22 State Fagbemi (SAN) who he said was also also aligns with the Renewed Hope Agenda Offices, resourcing the Human Rights Fund physically present to commission the NHRC of this administration, under the able under the Act, amendment of the Act in line Lagos State Office in 2024, while his leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, with the observations made by the Sub- predecessor, Abubakar Malami (SAN) committee on Accreditation that reviewed approved the Kebbi Office project in 2020.

He said the President is strengthening the the status of the NHRC in 2023 among other In his remarks, the Executive Governor of fabrics of human rights saying that this was things. Kebbi State, Dr. Nasir Idris pledged the

unequivocally demonstrated at the onset of Also, she commended the Kebbi State commitment of his administration to support this administration when the Boards of all government for providing the land on which the reforms in the justice sector which parastatals were dissolved and the attention this structure is built and for providing an according to him is geared towards the of Mr. The President was called to the special enabling environment for the Commission's protection and enforcement of human rights nature of the Board of the Human Rights State Office to carry out its job. in Nigeria.

Commission. In his statement at the occasion, the The Governor who was represented at the "Mr. President, due to his predisposition to Executive Secretary of the NHRC, Dr. Tony occasion by the Secretary to the State respecting human rights, directed that the Ojukwu OFR, SAN stated that the Government (SSG), Alhaji Yakubu Bala Board of the Human Rights Commission be Commission under his watch would focus on promised to provide at least one project immediately restored and the Board has the legal framework provided by the vehicle to ease the work of the Commission continued to enjoy the full cooperation and Nigerian Constitution, which instrument is in addition to ensuring that the new Office is support of the Federal Government of committed to upholding the rights of connected to the national grid for power Nigeria till date", the Chief Law Officer of the everyone in Nigeria. supply.

federation said. The learned Silk however reechoed the Other dignitaries at the event were the Chief Additionally, he hinted that the Governor of challenges that militate against the Judge of Kebbi State, Justice Umar Kebbi promised to provide at least one (1) realization of human rights in the country, Abubakar, Chief Judge of Sokoto State, operational vehicle to the office of NHRC in which includes ignorance of rights and legal Justice Mohammed Sifawa, Emir of Gwandu, Kebbi State, through the State Justice Sector procedures, lackadaisical attitudes towards Members of Kebbi State House of Assembly, Reforms Team. human rights, hindering the access to and the Attorney General of Kebbi State and Commissioner for Justice.◉

Earlier in her welcome statement, the justice among others.



Members of the Governing Council during visit to the Emir of Gwandu

CLIMATE CRISIS, A HUMAN RIGHT EMERGENCY - UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mohammed Malik Fall has described climate crisis in Africa as more than just an environmental issue, saying it is a human rights emergency.

The UN Envoy made this assertion at the 2025 Regional African Human Rights Academic Conference which held in Abuja.

Fall emphasized that rising temperatures, extreme weather events and environmental degradation were having severe consequences on vulnerable populations within the African region.

He highlighted that climate change disproportionately affects Communities in Africa already facing Socio-Economic challenges, thereby escalating issues relating to human rights of persons in those communities.

He therefore called for urgent action to address climate - related challenges and ensure that policies prioritize justice for those most affected.

In his welcome address the Executive Secretary, National Human Rights Commission, Dr. Tony Ojukwu OFR, SAN said the event served as an important platform for dialogue and collaboration in the ongoing efforts to address climate change.

Speaking further, Ojukwu stated that the NHRC recognizes that climate change is threatening lives and livelihoods, the very essence of human dignity, and the fall outs of this challenge mostly affect vulnerable communities, particularly those who are marginalized and impoverished.

"As a Commission, we have established a climate change unit with the aim of promoting advocacy, building a community of practice of

human rights and climate change, as well as facilitate collaboration and networking, to address the undeniable impact of climate change on human rights" he said.

In his remarks, the Chief host of the conference, Professor Festus Ukwueze, Dean Faculty of Law, University of Nigeria Nsuka (UNN) stated that the theme of the 2025 conference *Human Rights, Environment and Climate Change: Access to Environmental and Climate Justice Within the Continental and Regional Human Rights Systems in Africa*, had been carefully chosen to focus on the intersectionality of environmental degradation, climate change and human services.

According to Professor Ukwueze, the earth had been witnessing climate change caused by human activities sadly leading to droughts, wildfires, floods, hurricanes, including increasing temperatures which are not only becoming more frequent but more intense.

"The attendant implication is threat to the enjoyment of globally recognized freedoms and rights including the right to life, health, food, development and adequate standard of living for individuals and communities not only presently but for the future generations" he added.

The Regional Director of the Raul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law for Africa, Rakel Larsen expressed



L- R Hilary Ogbonna - Senior Human Rights Adviser to the ES NHRC, Ituarte Lim, Dr. Tony Ojukwu OFR, SAN, ES NHRC Prof. Joy Ezeibo SAN, Prof. Festus Ukwueze, Rakel Felkech (Director Walinber) Fuentes Alejandra, Anthonia Nwabueze and Gilford Kimathi at the 2025 Regional African Human Rights Academic Conference which held in Abuja.

optimism that contributions and inputs of participants at the conference will be valuable in coming up with policies that will alleviate the human rights challenges associated with climate change within the African region.

The Director General and Chief Executive of the National Council on climate change Secretariat, Dr Nkiruka Madueke, declared the conference open and presented copies of the Nigeria's Climate Change Act 2021 to the Executive Secretary NHRC, congratulating him for creating the climate change unit, which she noted, was in fulfilment of the Climate Change Act 2021.

According to the DG, the comprehensive legislation was aimed at addressing climate change and its impact on the country. She said Nigeria has a unique opportunity to be a leading voice in climate change justice.

The 2025 Academic conference was organised by the Raul Wallenberg Institute, the Faculty of Law, University of Nigeria Nsuka in collaboration with the NHRC with participants from across the globe.

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