

news

FG pledges healthcare transformation, advanced diagnostic medicine

Kazeem Biriowo | Abuja

THE Federal Government has pledged a robust health sector transformation as it emphasised on diagnostic medicine and collaborative pathology advances in Nigeria.

It said these align with the key priorities and initiatives of the government's four-point agenda promises, which is significant advancements in governance, population health outcomes, the healthcare value chain, and health security.

The Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof Muhammad Ali Pate, disclosed this at a three-day joint 3rd African Assembly of the International Academy of Pathology (IAP) and 14th Conference of the West African Division of IAP, (WADIAP), on Thursday in Abuja.

The conference which was organised by the International Academy of Pathology had the theme, 'Evolutionary Trends in Modern Pathology Practice', while the sub-themes are: The Role of Pathology in Personalised Cancer Care.

The conference also highlighted the Value of Artificial Intelligence in Anatomical Pathology practice, Multi-specialisation in Pathology practice in low and medium-income settings, Biorisk Management (BRM) in the era of emerging and re-emerging infections and finance management dexterity in pathology in low-income settings.

Pate, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Daju Kachollum, stressed the key priorities and initiatives of the government's four-point agenda.

He said that a focal point of the government's strategy was the emphasis on unlocking the healthcare value chain, particularly in diagnostic medicine.

"This includes a strong push for local manufacturing of health products, such as drugs, vaccines, laboratory reagents, and equipment," she said.

While speaking further, the minister cited Professor Martin Hale's insights on the future of pathology labs in the next decade, urging a critical examination of these advancements for Africa.

Acknowledging challenges within the medical community, he urged professionals to avoid rivalry, stressing that efficiency and service quality are compromised when interprofessional conflicts persist.

"The Ministry of Health plans to conduct a diagnostic inquiry into interprofessional rivalry, to foster cordial working relationships and enable environments for better healthcare service delivery," she said.

Despite economic challenges, he said that the gov-

ernment was resolute in its commitment to positive changes in the health sector.

"Concrete actions and strategies are being implemented to improve the welfare of health workers in Nigeria, demonstrating a proactive approach to overcoming fiscal constraints," she said.

He said the assurance of support from ECOWAS, as articulated by the chairman, President Bola Tinubu, highlights a broader dedication to regional health improvement.

"The commitment to bi-

lateral and multilateral co-operation aims to enhance healthcare delivery across the region.

"The declaration of the third joint International Academy of Pathology African Assembly signifies a collaborative effort to advance pathology and healthcare.

"This assembly aligns with the broader goal of fostering cooperation and knowledge-sharing among pathologists and healthcare professionals."

The president of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Dr. Uche

Ojinmah, emphasised the urgency for pathologists to take over hospital laboratories.

He said the call for increased collaboration among pathologists reflects the desire for a more entrenched and broadly participatory practice of pathology.

The Director General, National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (NICRAT), Prof Usman Malami Aliyu, emphasised the Institute's pivotal role in spearheading efforts for global cancer improvement, including leadership in prevention, diagnosis, research, and

treatment.

Aliyu underscored responsibilities such as policy drafting and collaboration with the government for effective implementation.

He said that the institute recognised the significance of pathologists, the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation unit, and the commitment to qualified personnel highlight its comprehensive approach to managing cancer and contributing to policy-driven decisions in the country.

Prof. Martin John Hale, IAP President, called for initiating

the third African Assembly of the IAP, emphasising its integral role in education activities and regional collaboration.

Hale, who is also the converter IAP Africa Assembly and President South Africa Division, mentioned the successful past meetings hosted by different commissions demonstrate the continuity and significance of these gatherings.

He underscored the importance of anatomical pathology in future healthcare and the need for adaptation to new paradigms.

73 cases of child molestation recorded in Oyo —Police Commissioner

As Makinde donates N100,000 each to 10 GBV survivors

By Wale Akinselure

THUS far, a total of 73 cases of child molestation have been recorded in Oyo State this year.

Sixty-two out of the 73 cases have been charged to court, with 83 suspects being prosecuted, while the remaining 11 are under investigation.

Commissioner of Police, Adebola Hamzat made this disclosure while speaking with journalists after a meeting with the wife of the Oyo State governor, Mrs Tamunomini Makinde, at the office of the wife of Oyo State Governor, Ibadan, on Thursday, as part of events marking 16 days of activism against Gen-

der-Based Violence (GBV).

Whether those behind molestation are parents or relatives, neighbours, Hamzat said the police treated cases of child molestation as criminal matters.

Hamzat vowed that the police command would not sweep under the carpet cases of child molestation, and would ensure justice for the survivors or victims.

He, however, enjoined parents to be more circumspect and effectively safeguard their children and wards against predators.

Hamzat said: "We have got a lot of cases, especially molestation of children by relatives. We have about 73 cases we have recorded this

year and we have sent about 62 cases to court. They are still being prosecuted. 11 are under investigation.

"For the 62 cases sent to court, we have 83 suspects. They are also standing trial. In Oyo State, any case of child molestation be it by the father, brother, shall never be swept under the carpet. We shall attend to it the way it should be attended to as criminal matters, and we shall pursue it to the last, that justice is delivered to the survivors or victims if they die.

"The era where you think being members of family you can do anything unlawful and go has gone.

"No family connection whatsoever shades you; if you commit anything gender based violence whether to your child, relation, the law will take its course. The police will never allow such a case to be swept under the carpet. If you commit crime, the law will take its course and you shall face the full wrath of the law."

Addressing some of the GBV survivors, wife of the

Oyo governor, Tamunomini Makinde, said victims of GBV must speak up and report to appropriate authorities so that the perpetrators do not go unpunished.

She stressed that the fight against GBV required the involvement of all and sundry in the society.

While committing to providing financial support for survivors of GBV, she donated a cash of N100,000 each to 10 survivors of GBV ranging between the ages of three and 23, brought to her office.

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CHANGE OF REGISTRAR NOTIFICATION Lagos; 28 November 2023 Beta Glass Plc (the "Company") wishes to inform its valued shareholders, investing public, and key stakeholders that the Company has appointed a new registrar, Greenwich Registrars and Data Solutions Limited.